



**THE REPRESENTATION OF CHILD ABUSE IN SAPHIRE'S  
*PUSH* AS THE PORTRAIT OF HARLEM SOCIETY IN 1980s**

**THESIS**

**ROHMA HARDINI HARI**

**NIM 060110191007**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
JEMBER UNIVERSITY**

**2012**



**THE REPRESENTATION OF CHILD ABUSE IN SAPHIRE'S  
*PUSH* AS THE PORTRAIT OF HARLEM SOCIETY IN 1980s**

**THESIS**

A Thesis Presented to English Department, Faculty of Letters,  
Jember University, as One of the Requirements to Obtain the Award of  
Sarjana Sastra (SS) Degree in English Studies

**ROHMA HARDINI HARI**

**NIM 060110191007**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
JEMBER UNIVERSITY**

**2012**

## DEDICATION PAGES

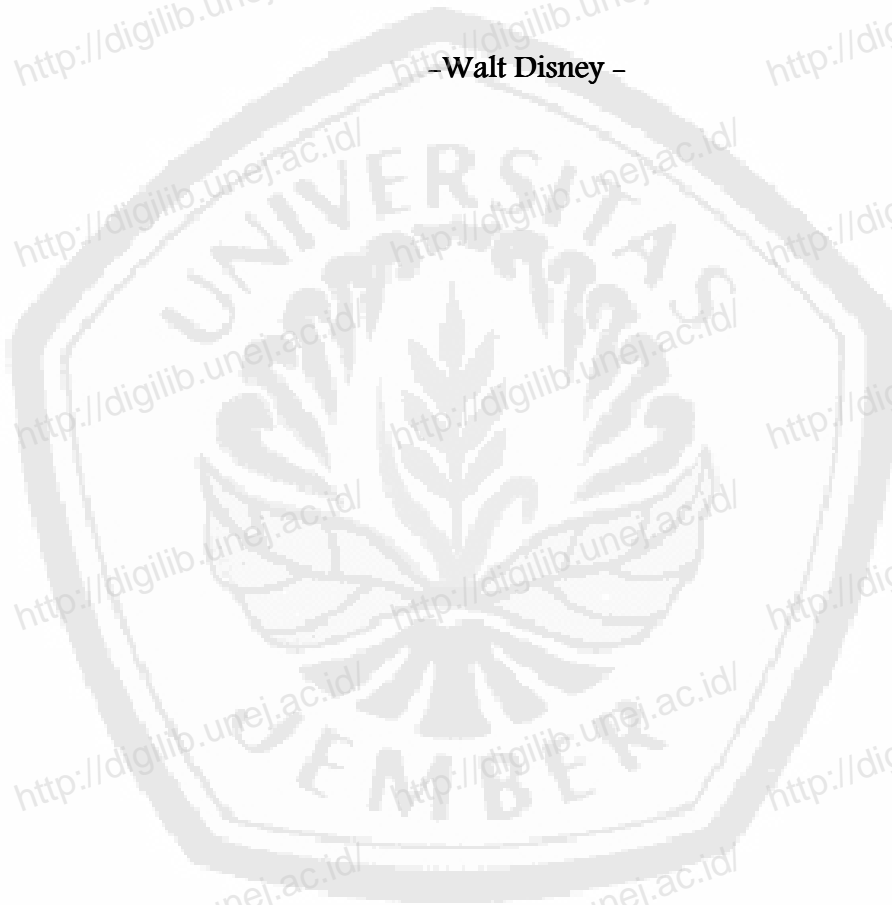
In the deepest sincerity of my heart, this thesis is dedicated to:

- ❖ *My beloved father, Siswono who has supported me. Thank you for gen that you've given to me. I love you, Papa.*
- ❖ *My beloved mother, Wilujeng Hartatik who always gives me the best advice, love, support, trust and a lot of prayers. Thank you for telling me not to give up for the future. My love for you is deeper than the depth of any ocean. You are the reason for my smile. I am very proud to have you, Mama Ndut.*
- ❖ *My dearest sister, Dina Novita 'Di'. Thank you for being my inspiration, giving me trust and opportunity to continue my study. Big love for you from the deepest of my heart.*
- ❖ *My dearest aunty, Yut Aminingsih who always supports me. Thank you for every food and beverage that you make for me whenever I return home.*
- ❖ *My lovely 'Little Monsters', Kakak Ayu 'Boneng' and Mas Bima 'Mr. Galau'. Thank you for 'Tunada' predicates that you've given to me. It's seems like my other 'enthusiasm' to do my thesis. I love you, dude.*
- ❖ *My Almamater.*

**MOTTO**

*“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”*

**-Walt Disney -**



## DECLARATION PAGE

I hereby state that this thesis entitled: “*The Representation of Child Abuse in Sapphire’s Push as the Portrait of Harlem Society in 1980s*” is an original piece of writing. I declare the analysis and the result described in this thesis have never been submitted for any degree or any publications. I clarify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, June 19<sup>th</sup> 2012

The Examinee

Rohma Hardini Hari

NIM 060110191007

## APPROVAL SHEET

The thesis entitled *The Representation of Child Abuse in Sapphire's Push as the Portrait of Harlem Society in 1980s* has been examined in front of the examiners at Faculty of Letters, Jember University on:

Day : Tuesday

Date : June 19<sup>th</sup> 2012

Place : The Faculty of Letters, Jember University

Secretary

Chairman

Agung Tri Wahyuningsih, S.S., M.Pd.  
NIP. 197807232003122001

Drs. Imam Basuki, M.Hum  
NIP. 196309041989021001

The members:

1. Drs. Hadiri, M.A.  
NIP. 194807171976031003 (.....)
2. Hat Pujiati, S.S., M.A.  
NIP. 198009082005072001 (.....)
3. Dra. Supiastutik, M.Pd.  
NIP. 196605141998032001 (.....)

Approved by

The Dean,

Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A.  
NIP.19590918198821001

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all I am thankful to Allah Swt., the Almighty and most worthy of praise, for blessing me to finish my study and this thesis. Then I would like to thank those who support me to finish my thesis:

1. Drs. Syamsul Anam, M.A., the Dean of Faculty of Letters and Drs. Albert Tallapessy, M.A. PhD, the Head of English Department for giving me permission to compose my thesis.
2. Drs. Hadiri, M.A., my first advisor for thoroughness and promptness in reviewing my thesis in progress.
3. Hat Pujiati, S.S., M.A., my second advisor for the time guiding, helping, correcting, giving advices patiently for my thesis, and being my great teacher for me. Much love for you, Mbak..!
4. The lecturers in English Department, Faculty of Letters who have given me the valuable knowledge during my academic years.
5. All of my friends in English Department, Faculty of Letters in the class of 2006, for their friendship.
6. The Faculty and the Central librarians of Jember University who have lent me valuable books and references during my study.
7. Dr. H. Sukidin, M.Pd and family, who teach me about life. I take many life lessons from your advice.
8. My lovely brothers Maz Irul and Eko 'Paijo'. Thank you for all experiences that you have given to me.
9. Ayah Gombloh's family who gives me a lot of spirit, love and advices patiently when I fell down. Thank you become my little family in Probolinggo.
10. My sweetest 'besty frenzy' and my lil' famz in Jember, Eneng Tyaz Pengacau, A.D. 'Memey' Todani, Neng Wieq Ramandhari, Nax, Pak Dhe Ndreex Prayoga, Bebeb Coky, Nyunyun 'Noey', Beybi Pance, Arief 'Domba', Dedy 'Crutz', Mas Bordez. Thank you for your support, your shoulder to cry and also being part of

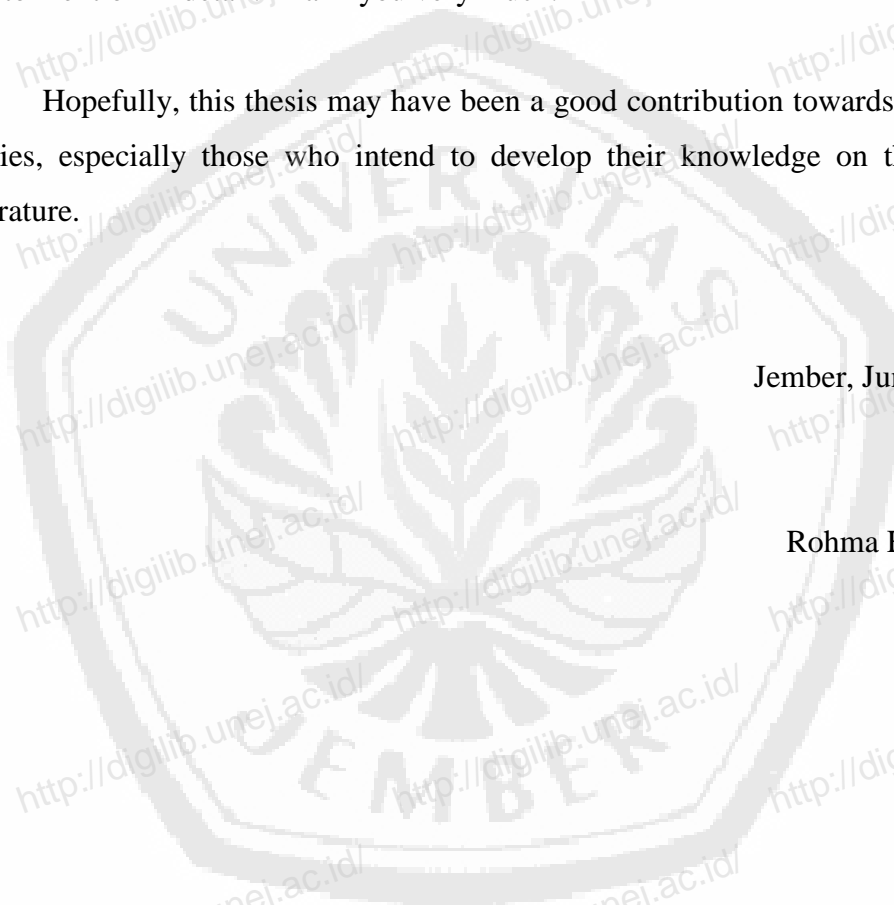
my life. Thanks for your spirit during writing of this thesis. Much love for all of you!

11. All the members of the black hawk (Rajawali) group and all of my friends in Rhonera Jember, thank you for being my nice friends.
12. Everyone who has shared and supported for finishing my thesis that I am not able to mention in detail. Thank you very much.

Hopefully, this thesis may have been a good contribution towards the English studies, especially those who intend to develop their knowledge on the study of Literature.

Jember, June 19<sup>th</sup> 2012

Rohma Hardini Hari





## SUMMARY

*The Representation of Child Abuse in Sapphire's Push as the Portrait of Harlem Society in 1980s*; Rohma Hardini Hari; 060110191007; 2012; 44 pages; English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

A Literary work is a reflection of reality. It depicts some conditions and situations in social life. Novel is kind of literary genre used to depict feeling, perspective, and etc, about several conditions and situations that happen in some eras. In other words, it can be called the representation in literary works is used as a medium to communicate to each other or the society. The representation in the literary work is framed by the discourse. Discourse, here, is used as the framework of knowledge to get the meaning of the representation.

This research analyzes Sapphire's *Push* portraying the situation in 1980s which has racialism as its discourse. The novel tells about child abuse occurred in black community; Harlem. The portrait of child abuse represents the sociological condition in Harlem at that time. The main purpose of the writing this thesis is to find what the ideology that constructs the production of the novel. Therefore, this research uses Stuart Hall's theory of representation.

By taking this research on Hall's theory, this novel has indeed made a new representation on Black in Harlem that Black also can do anything, black is not always cruel, always stupid and un-skilled. This is the ideology brought by the novel; that is anti-racialism. There is no race; there is only an equal human being.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>FRONTISPIECE</b> .....	<b>ii</b>
<b>DEDICATION PAGE</b> .....	<b>iii</b>
<b>MOTTO</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>DECLARATION PAGE</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>APPROVAL SHEET</b> .....	<b>vi</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> .....	<b>vii</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b> .....	<b>ix</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	<b>xi</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 The Rationale</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2 The Problems to Discuss</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1.3 The Goals of Study</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>1.4 The Approaches to Use</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>1.6 The Method of Analysis</b> .....	<b>4</b>
A. The Type of Research .....	4
B. Data Collection and Type of Data .....	5
C. Methods of Analysis .....	5
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>2.1 Previous Studies about Sapphire's <i>Push</i></b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>2.2 Theoretical Reviews</b> .....	<b>11</b>
2.2.1. Stuart Hall's Theory of Representation .....	11
2.2.1.1. Ideology and Hegemony .....	12
2.2.1.2. Encoding/Decoding Process .....	14
2.2.2. The Emergence of Harlem Society .....	16

<b>CHAPTER 3</b>	<b>THE REPRESENTATION OF CHILD ABUSE IN SAPHIRE'S <i>PUSH</i> AS THE PORTRAIT OF HARLEM SOCIETY IN 1980s</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>The Map of Child Abuse in Sapphire's <i>Push</i></b>	<b>20</b>
3.1.1	Harlem as an Environment	20
3.1.2	Family That Rises Precious	29
	A. Economic Condition	30
	B. Educational Background	32
<b>3.2</b>	<b>The Representation of Black in Sapphire's <i>Push</i></b>	<b>34</b>
3.2.1	The Black as Object Violence	34
3.2.2	The Hegemony of the White toward the Black	40
<b>CHAPTER 4</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>		<b>46</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>		
1.	Biography of the Author	
2.	The Synopsis of <i>Push</i>	