



AMERICAN'S PERSPECTIVE OF A GEISHA IN ARTHUR
GOLDEN'S *MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA*

THESIS

Written By

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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF LETTERS

JEMBER UNIVERSITY

2015



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A thesis presented to the English Department, Faculty of Letter, Jember University as ne
of requirement to get the award of Sarjana Sastra degree in English Studies

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DEDICATION PAGE

This thesis is dedicated to:

- My dearest mother, Ninik Kasripah who always encourage me in every step of my study; mentally, financially and always pray for my success,
- My Husband, Andrik Sugiarto and my son Edgar Albyzahir Sugiarto who always guide me in the step of finishing my thesis wisely
- My beloved sister, Dwikhy Viona FE, for the amazing love and support,
- My Almamater

MOTTO

“Identify your problems but give your power and energy to solutions.”

(Tony Robbins)

DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled AMERICAN'S PERSPECTIVE OF A GEISHA IN ARTHUR GOLDEN *MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA* is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis has never been submitted for any other degree or any publications.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, 14 January 2015

The Writer

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5. The librarians of Faculty of Letters and Central Library who have been very kind by giving their service and opportunity to me to borrow some reference of this thesis.

Finally may Allah bless them all for their sincere assistance and endow them with the proper virtue. At least, I do hope this thesis will be a useful contribution to the study of literature.

Jember, 14 January 2015

Nikhy Ria Andrianifah RA
The Writer

SUMMARY

**AMERICAN'S PERSPECTIVE OF A GEISHA IN ARTHUR GOLDEN
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Memoirs of a Geisha is a novel written by Arthur Golden. *Memoirs of a Geisha* is the title of an American novel that claims to write about the life of Geisha in Japanese culture. It tells about a country girl named Chiyo who is sold into a Geisha house and raised to become one of the most famous Geisha before the Second World War. A Geisha is a professional female companion for men in Japan, trained in music, dancing and the art of conversation. The Geisha training is life of virtual slavery, and Chiyo become a maid to a malevolent Geisha called Hatsumono who jealous of Chiyo's beauty, makes her life utterly miserable. One day she meets a wealthy man who comfort them with his friendly face and speaking. She knows that she will never forget him. Two years later, a Geisha called Mameha takes Chiyo under her wing. Chiyo, now renamed Sayuri, becomes a successful Geisha, renowned for her beauty. Then one day she meets the man who had comforted a couple years ago. But life does not run smoothly for Sayuri and there are powerful obstacles that prevent the two from coming together.

This thesis discusses about how the American's perspective of a Geisha is focused on the different perspectives between Western and Orient represented in the novel. Geisha is vastly known as highly skilled entertainers as well as prostitute to most westerns. However, this stereotype is emphasized only in the image of Geisha as prostitute. The attempt is to redefine the image of Geisha in order to get the fullest comprehension of Geisha as existence and cultural product.

The approach used in this discussion is postcolonial approach that is suitable to apply along with the theory. Postcolonialism is generally known as term which analyzes power and political relations in countries administered by colonial powers, although postcolonial criticism revolves wide range of academic areas, including film, philosophy, and sociology. This thesis also applied Edward Said's

theory of Orientalism. This research is indeed qualitative. This research requires that the data from *Memoirs Of Geisha* are interpreted and analyzed for having the best comprehension of the position between the west and the east. The study applies library research which is generated from many postcolonialism issues and its relation to the 'Orientalism. Thus the data are solely taken from reliable materials such as books, papers, articles, and journals. As the result, this thesis is delivered in descriptive way to depict the east and west through orientalism.

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