



**A SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS ON THE PUNK ALBUM COVERS:  
GREENDAY AND SEXPISTOLS**

**THESIS**

**MUHAMMAD BAITUL ULUM  
060110101057**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
JEMBER UNIVERSITY  
2011**



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**THESIS**

A Thesis Presented to the English Department  
Faculty of Letters, Jember University  
One of the Requirements to Get the  
Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree  
in English Studies

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2011**

**The thesis is dedicated to:**

1. My beloved parents, Mu'ari and Nurmilah  
- I am really grateful for your everlasting love and affection,
2. My dear sister: Martin Fatnuriyah.
3. My sweetheart, Yasinta Permata
4. My big family of Rhonera English Club
5. My big family of Indonesian Moslem Student Movement
6. My lovely friends

**MOTTO**

**“Today must be better than yesterday”**

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **A Semiotic Analysis on the Punk Album Covers: Green Day and Sexpistols** is an original piece of writing, except the quotation. I certainly certify that the thesis is not a plagiarism and its validity is qualified. Furthermore, the research presented in the thesis has never been submitted for any other degrees or publications. I certify to the best acknowledge that all source used and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledge.

Jember, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2011

The Writer

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## APPROVAL SHEET

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*Muhammad Baitul Ulum*

## SUMMARY

***“A Semiotic Analysis the Punk Album Covers: Green Day and Sexpistols”*; 2011; Muhammad Baitul Ulum; 060110101057; English Department, Faculty of Letters; University of Jember; 44 pages.**

This thesis analyzes the punk album covers. The punk album covers as text are analyzed through the semiotic theory. The analyses describe how the semiotic theory signifies the meaning of the punk album covers. It investigates the levels of meaning such as denotation (denotative meaning), connotation (connotative meaning) and myth because semiotics is a systematic study of signs, sign systems or structure, sign processes and sign functions. This thesis also applies library research in order to get the data and information about matter of discussion and it taken from several books, dictionary, and internet. The data are in the form of qualitative data that have been gathered by conducting. The result of this thesis shows that the punk album covers can be analyzed by the semiotic theory in order to know the intended meaning. The punk album covers as the data represent the ideas and they are colorful, unique, and interesting. In conclusion, the semiotic theory that applied in this thesis shows the interpretation of the punk album covers both the types of sign and the levels of meaning.



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## CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Many searchers talk and discuss about semiotics and language media. Not only because of fundamental philosophical issues that are often debated, but also because there is no single path to dismantle sign practices media. They put it with a simple claim of the adherents of semiotics, which the language of the media contains 'something' mysterious. Semiotics is believed as one of the reference models to reveal the mystery. It is merely for purposes of introduction, and the following sections try to describe briefly some relevant concepts as the starting point of understanding, which is about representation.

Ferdinand de Saussure stated that “language is sign systems that express the ideas” (1990:16). It means that a language is not only articulated in the form of words, numbers, etc but also in the form of object of civilization such as images, musical sounds, movies, gestures, advertisements, etc. They become languages because they have ideas constructed by several signs and it constructs the sign systems of object.

The image on the music album covers are linguistic phenomena and they catch the attention of people on the way because they are published to show the theme of the album. Every single cover album has a hidden meaning behind its picture. Every musical genre also has its own history. Then it is usually used as a symbol and identity of a group band such as a social group that state color and picture of their flag to acknowledge to the world. We refer to punk community which tries to fight of inequality in society.