



**THE INFLUENCES OF GILDED AGE TOWARD RATIONALITY  
IN MARGARET SYDNEY'S  
*THE FIVE LITTLE PEPPERS AND  
HOW THEY GREW***

**THESIS**

**Written by:  
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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
JEMBER UNIVERSITY  
2012**





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**THESIS**

A thesis presented to the English Department, Faculty of Letters, University of Jember  
as one of the requirements to obtain the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree in English  
Studies

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**This thesis is dedicated to:**

*My Family*

*for the never ending loves, prayers, supports and affections.*

**MOTTO**

**"A Great Man Can Live with Rational Mindset"**

**(Max Weber)**

## DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled **The Influences of Gilded Age toward Rationality in Margaret Sidney's *The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew*** is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other degree or any publications.

I certainly 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, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2012

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## APPROVAL SHEET

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Finally, the writer hopes that this thesis will be useful for all people and may the knowledge gotten from the writing of this thesis can also useful for the writer. For the last, the writer bags your pardon for many mistakes in this research. Hopefully this success in writing the thesis will be the beginning of the success of the writer.

Jember, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Kurnia Indrastuti

## SUMMARY

**“The Influence of Gilded Age towards Rationality in Margaret Sidney’s *The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew*”; 2012; Kurnia Indrastuti; 040110101112; English Department, Faculty of Letters; 60 pages.**

In this thesis, the writer wants to analyze the American social condition during the Gilded Age. This condition is affected by the Second industrial revolution occurred in 1870-1914. The writer’s analysis is emphasized on the influence of the condition towards rationality of society, especially as social action and relation.

*The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew* is a novel published in 1882. The Peppers family is the major characters in Margaret Sidney’s novel. They live at Badgertown, an urban area in America, with their difficulties and poverty. They also have many relations with the other people such as the neighbors, King’s family, and minister.

There are some problems to discuss. The first problem is: how the novel reflected American social condition during the Gilded Age. The second problem is: what are the influences of American social condition towards rationality as social action. And for the last problem, what are the influences of American social condition towards rationality as social relation.

Then, to analyze this thesis, the writer uses a sociological approach to analyze the social condition related to the novel and the reality. Sociological approach discusses about the social reflection. Furthermore, this thesis uses inductive method. It means the discussion begins with American social condition, and those particular things come into rationality as the general thing.

The writer concludes that American social condition has the positive and negative influences towards social rationality. Moreover, the rationality is based by social action. Then, the social relation is also influenced by the rationality.

***Keywords: Gilded Age, rationality, social action, social relation.***

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