



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

**THESIS**

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**FACULTY OF LETTERS**

**JEMBER UNIVERSITY**

**2012**



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**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

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## 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.*
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- ❖ *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

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## APPROVAL SHEET

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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.

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