



**GENDER MEANING AS NARRATED IN TONI MORRISON'S  
*BELOVED* : GREIMAS' ACTANTIAL ANALYSIS**

A Thesis Presented to the English Department,  
Faculty of Letters, Jember University,  
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## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is honorably dedicated to:

1. My beloved father, the late Khusnan, S.Pd, who hasn't a chance to read this dedication. I'm sorry for being late. Rest in Peace, Dad. Thank you for your attention, guidance, inspiration, and patience;
2. my lovely mother, Titik Sumarti, S.Pd, the best mother on earth, who always remains and encourages me to finish my thesis. Thank you for your support and prayer for my success;
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5. Alma Mater.

**MOTTO**

“The more you love, the more love you have to give”  
[Anonymous]

## **DECLARATION**

I hereby state that the thesis entitled **Gender Meaning as Narrated in Toni Morrison's "Beloved": Greimas' Actantial Analysis** is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research described in this thesis have never been submitted for any 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, January 17<sup>th</sup> 2014

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

Jember, January 2014

**(Uswatun Hasanah)**

## SUMMARY

**Gender Meaning as Narrated in Toni Morrison's "Beloved": Greimas' Actantial Analysis;** Uswatun Hasanah, 080110191010; 2014; 70 pages; Faculty of Letters, Jember University

*Beloved* is a novel about an African-American family in the mid 1800's whose beliefs and values have been influenced by the effects of slavery. For the former slaves in the novel, the past is a burden that they desperately try to forget. It is also the story of the character, Sethe, who has escaped from slavery and who is haunted by her own baby daughter, Beloved, whom she has murdered. In the novel, as a female slave, Sethe is one of black women who has been treated badly. Moreover, the story is about how the other characters endure suffering as slaves and as former slaves. Thus, it arises a question of how does the actions of the characters construct the plot of the story. Furthermore, the goal of this study is to know gender meaning in the story that is reflected in Sethe's experience as a female slave.

This analysis uses Actantial Model by A.J. Greimas (1987) to analyze the actions of the characters in the story and also to know the motivation of the characters represented in a story. Greimas breaks down the Actantial Model into 6 actants. There are sender, receiver, subject, object, helper and opponent. Those actants are expected to prove the gender meaning in this novel. Based on the theory, one character can be a subject in one situation or as an object in different situation. Then, I will count how many times a character becomes a sender, a subject, an object, etc. To analyze the text, I divide the novel into several segments. The division of segment is based on the movement of the event in the story. After that, I analyze the acts of the characters in each segment by using Greimas' Actantial Model. The same characters may appear in some segments however the actantial function may be different in each segment. In this case, this thesis uses mixed method because what will be analyzed are from both aspects, qualitative and quantitative. The data are quantitative because there will be numbers to count the actantial functions of characters. The data are also

qualitative because there will be many explanations from the novel about the characteristic of the characters seen from the text and the dialogue in the novel.

The results of the research show that women have important roles in the novel. It defines how Sethe fights for herself to escape from slavery although she is a woman. It is also reflected in another woman characters in the novel. They are strong, powerful and brave and never give up to get the better future. It breaks an opinion that women are always inferior. It proves that women still can do what they want to do, although they are women. The gender meaning as narrated in the story shows that the women have more roles than men. Although they live in paternalistic culture, they still hold on their will. Thus, the stereotype about women that women are weak, submissive, inferior are proven wrong in this novel.



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