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Parapat, Lovenna Theresia

2025

# Hegemony in Untouchable By Mulk Raj Anand

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**HEGEMONY IN *UNTOUCHABLE***

**BY MULK RAJ ANAND**

**This undergraduate thesis is submitted as partial fulfilment to obtain  
Bachelor Degree at English Department Faculty of Cultural Sciences  
Catholic University of Saint Thomas Medan**



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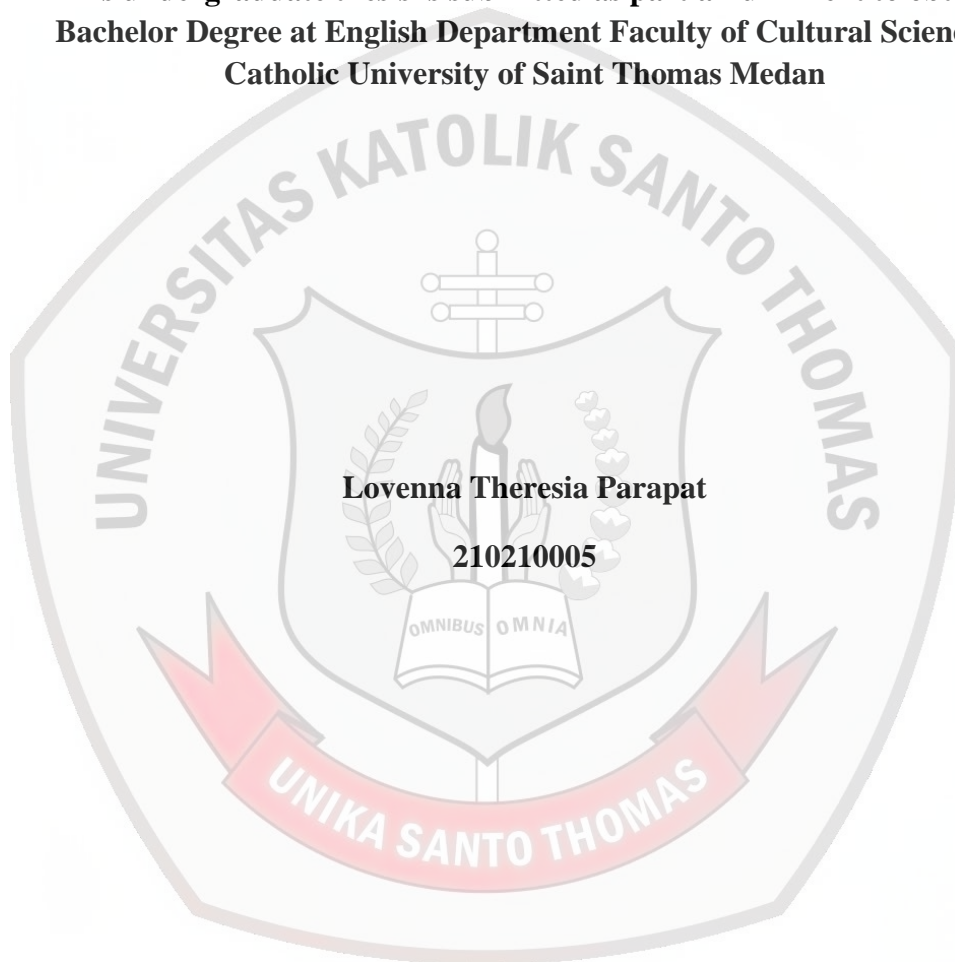
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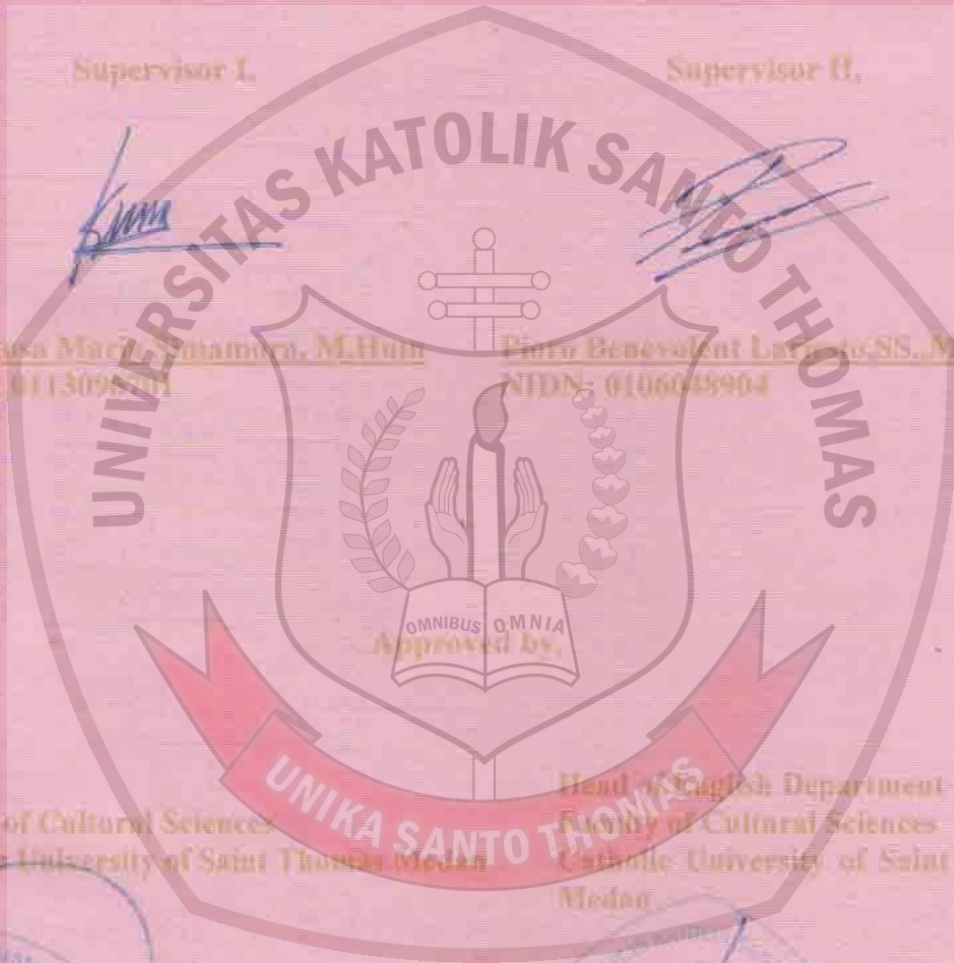
  
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Solemnly declare that this thesis entitled "**Hegemony In Untouchable By Mulk Raj Anand**" is my own work, free from plagiarism. Quotations are referenced in accordance with scientific writing ethics that apply. If it is proven that this thesis contains plagiarism deemed to have violated the rules, I am willing to accept sanctions for the act in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Medan, 25 June 2025



Lovenna Theresia Parapat

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Grateful praise to the Almighty God for His grace and mercy, the writer has successfully completed the thesis entitled **Hegemony in *Untouchable* by Mulk Raj Anand**. submitted as one of the requirements to obtain a Bachelor's degree in English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Catholic University of Saint Thomas Medan.

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The writer hopes that this thesis will be beneficial to the field of English Department. The writer acknowledges that this thesis is far from perfect. Therefore, constructive feedback and criticism from readers are welcomed.

Medan, 25 June 2025

The writer,

Lovenna Theresia Parapat

## ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the social hierarchy and marginalization in Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable* through the theory of Cultural Marxism, especially Antonio Gramsci's concept of hegemony. This study uses a qualitative narrative method with a descriptive approach. Data collection is conducted through several steps, namely reading and understanding the novel thoroughly, noting relevant quotations, collecting supporting theoretical references, and classifying the data into categories. Data analysis uses Miles and Huberman's framework, which includes data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. The results of the study show that the social hierarchy in the novel is reflected through the caste system that places the main character, Bakha, as an "untouchable." Marginalization is seen in the restrictions on Bakha's access to education, work, health services, and places of worship. Hegemony is formed through the dominance of ideology and cultural institutions that make injustice accepted as normal, even by those who are oppressed. This study shows that *Untouchable* not only depicts social inequality, but also makes readers aware of how ideology works to maintain an unequal power structure. Through this study, readers are expected to be more critical of social injustice that is hidden in culture and social systems.

**Keywords:** *hegemony, social hierarchy, marginalization, cultural marxism*



## **ABSTRAK**

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis hierarki sosial dan marginalisasi dalam Untouchable karya Mulk Raj Anand melalui teori Marxisme Budaya, khususnya konsep hegemoni Antonio Gramsci. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode naratif kualitatif dengan pendekatan deskriptif. Metode yang digunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui beberapa langkah, yaitu membaca dan memahami novel secara menyeluruh, mencatat kutipan yang relevan, mengumpulkan referensi teoritis pendukung, dan mengklasifikasikan data ke dalam kategori-kategori. Analisis data menggunakan kerangka kerja Miles dan Huberman, yang meliputi reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa hierarki sosial dalam novel tercermin melalui sistem kasta yang menempatkan tokoh utama, Bakha, sebagai “kaum tak tersentuh.” Marginalisasi tampak dalam pembatasan akses Bakha terhadap pendidikan, pekerjaan, layanan kesehatan, dan tempat ibadah. Hegemoni terbentuk melalui dominasi ideologi dan institusi budaya yang membuat ketidakadilan diterima sebagai hal yang wajar, bahkan oleh mereka yang tertindas. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Untouchable tidak hanya menggambarkan ketimpangan sosial, tetapi juga menyadarkan pembaca tentang cara ideologi bekerja mempertahankan struktur kekuasaan yang timpang. Melalui kajian ini, pembaca diharapkan dapat lebih kritis terhadap ketidakadilan sosial yang terselubung dalam budaya dan sistem.*

**Kata kunci:** *hegemoni, hirarki sosial, marginalisasi, marxisme budaya*

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