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Neo-Colonialism in Jessica Hagedorn's *Dogeaters*

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**NEO-COLONIALISM IN JESSICA HAGEDORN'S
*DOGEATERS***

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



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ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES

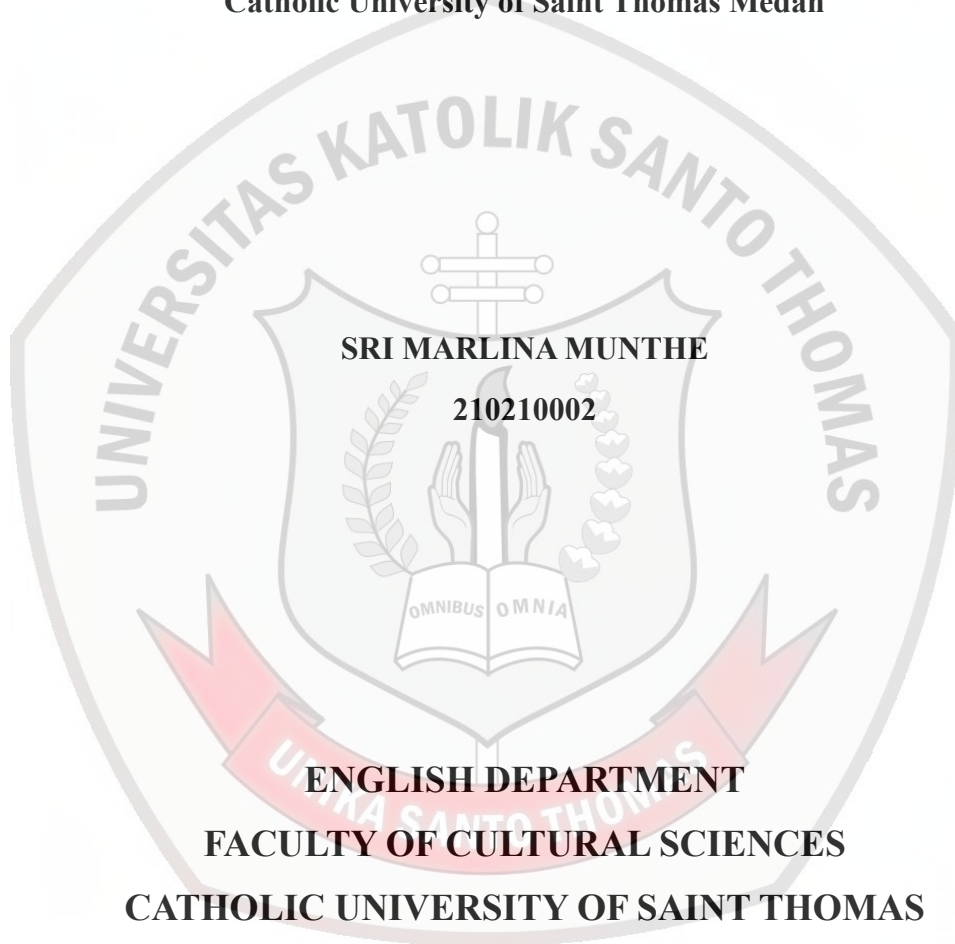
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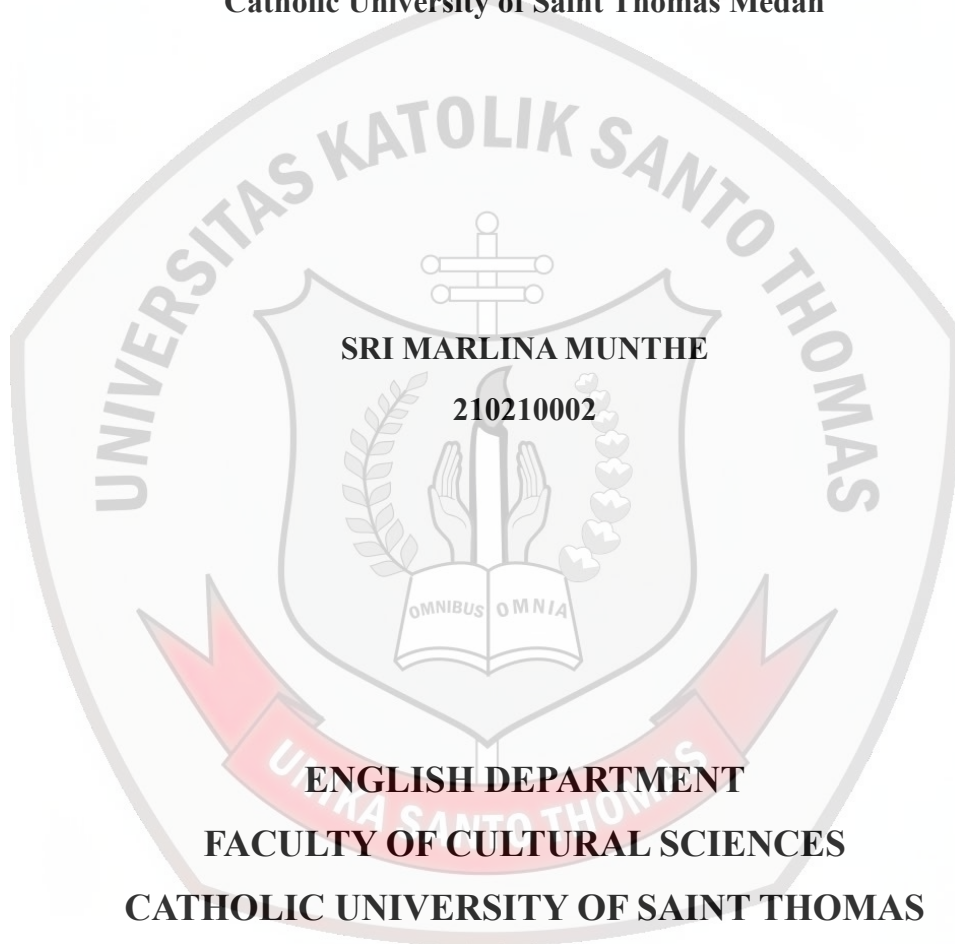
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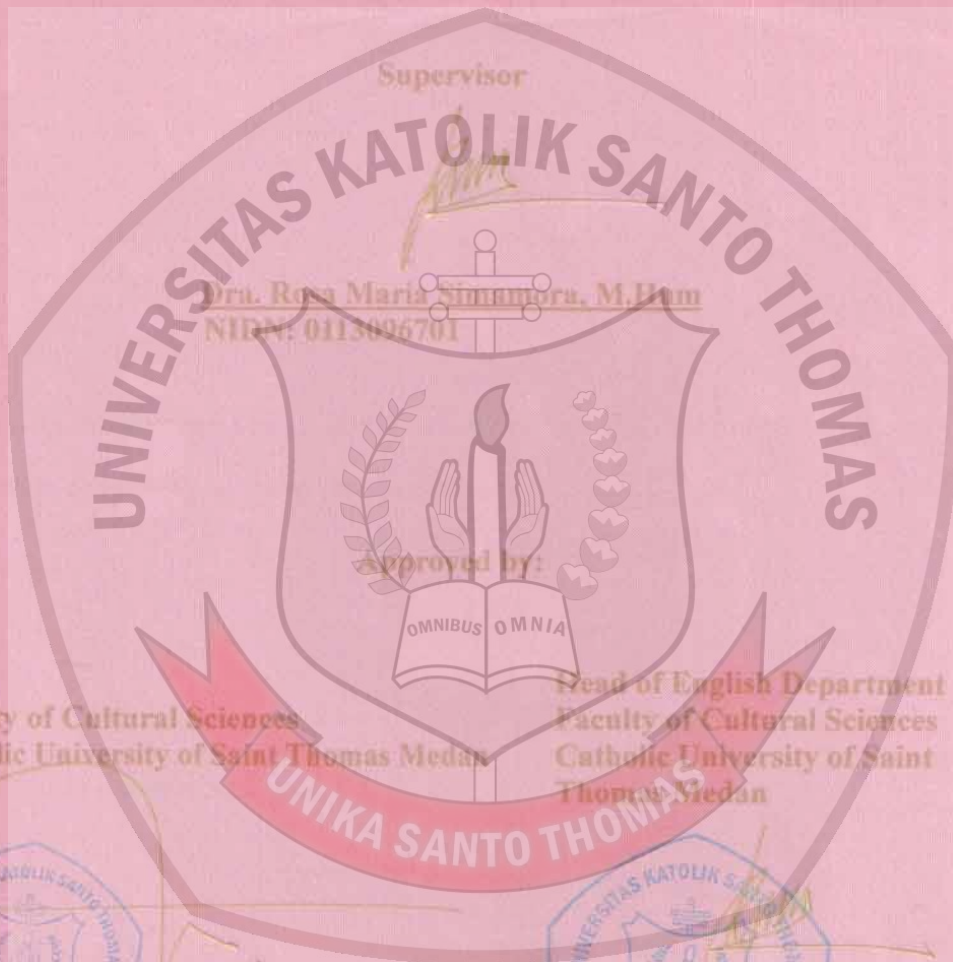
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THIS UNDERGRADUATED THESIS HAS BEEN APPROVED IN JULY 2025



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Solemnly declare that this thesis entitled “**Neo-colonialism in Jessica Hagedorn’s *Dogeaters***” is my own work, free from plagiarism. Quotations are referenced following the scientific writing ethics that apply. If it is proven that this thesis contains plagiarism and is deemed to have violated the rules, I am willing to accept the sanctions for the act as outlined in the applicable regulations.

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Sri Marlina Munthe

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Grateful praise to the Almighty God for His grace and mercy, the writer has completed the thesis entitled **Neo-colonialism in Jessica Hagedorn's *Dogeaters***. This thesis is 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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Medan, July 2025

The writer,

Sri Marlina Munthe

ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine and analyze the forms of neo-colonialism depicted in Jessica Hagedorn's *Dogeaters*, which was first published in 1990. The novel was chosen because it explicitly depicts Western influence on the postcolonial Philippines, particularly in cultural and economic aspects. This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical method, with the text of the novel as the main data source. Additional data were obtained from secondary sources, such as literary theory books, scientific journal articles, as well as online and offline literature sources relevant to the topic of neo-colonialism and postcolonial studies. The data collection process was conducted through a thorough reading of the novel and noting important elements related to the issue of neo-colonialism. The findings were then categorized and analyzed using postcolonial literary theories, especially those related to the cultural domination and economic dependence of former colonized countries on former colonizers. The analysis shows that neo-colonialism in *Dogeaters* is manifested in two main aspects: cultural and economic. In the cultural aspect, American and Spanish influence is seen through the use of English and Spanish, the consumption of cultural products such as Hollywood movies and music, the worship of Western technology, Westernized lifestyles, and the shift in local art values. Meanwhile, the economic aspects include the dominance of Spanish and American products in the local market and the dependence on these foreign products. Through a satirical and fragmentary writing style, Hagedorn sharply criticizes the global power structure that continues to prevail in the postcolonial era.

Keywords: *Neo-colonialism, postcolonialism, cultural, economic, lifestyle*

ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji dan menganalisis bentuk-bentuk neo-kolonialisme yang digambarkan dalam novel *Dog eaters* karya Jessica Hagedorn, yang pertama kali diterbitkan pada tahun 1990. Novel ini dipilih karena secara eksplisit menggambarkan pengaruh Barat terhadap Filipina pascakolonial, terutama dalam aspek budaya dan ekonomi. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif-analitis, dengan teks novel sebagai sumber data utama. Data tambahan diperoleh dari sumber sekunder, seperti buku-buku teori sastra, artikel jurnal ilmiah, serta sumber-sumber literatur daring dan luring yang relevan dengan topik kajian neo-kolonialisme dan pascakolonial. Proses pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui pembacaan novel secara menyeluruh dan mencatat elemen-elemen penting yang berkaitan dengan isu neokolonialisme. Temuan-temuan tersebut kemudian dikategorikan dan dianalisis dengan menggunakan teori-teori sastra pascakolonial, terutama yang berkaitan dengan dominasi budaya dan ketergantungan ekonomi negara-negara bekas jajahan terhadap negara penjajah. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa neokolonialisme dalam *Dog eaters* termanifestasi dalam dua aspek utama: budaya dan ekonomi. Pada aspek budaya, pengaruh Amerika dan Spanyol terlihat melalui penggunaan bahasa Inggris dan Spanyol, konsumsi produk budaya seperti film dan musik Hollywood, pemujaan terhadap teknologi Barat, gaya hidup kebarat-baratan, dan pergeseran nilai-nilai kesenian lokal. Sementara itu, aspek ekonomi meliputi dominasi produk Spanyol dan Amerika di pasar lokal dan ketergantungan terhadap produk-produk asing tersebut. Melalui gaya penulisan yang satir dan terpisah-pisah, Hagedorn mengkritik secara tajam struktur kekuasaan global yang terus berlangsung di era pascakolonial.*

Kata kunci: *Neo-kolonialisme, poskolonialisme, budaya, ekonomi, gaya hidup*

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