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# Obsession With Physical Immortality in Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray

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**OBSESSION WITH PHYSICAL IMMORTALITY IN  
OSCAR WILDE'S *THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY***

**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**



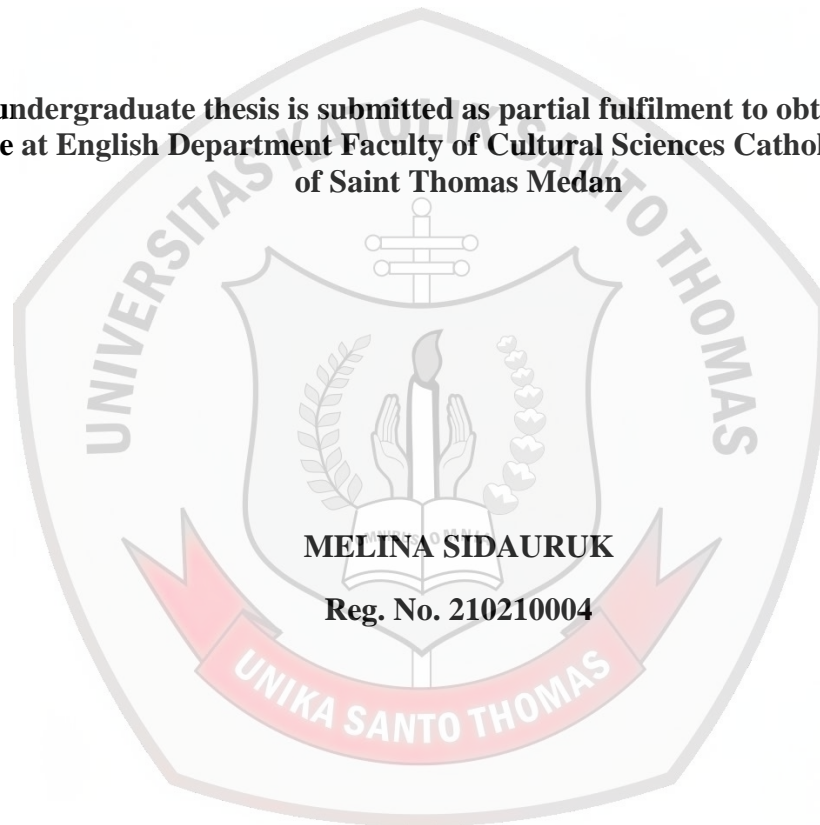
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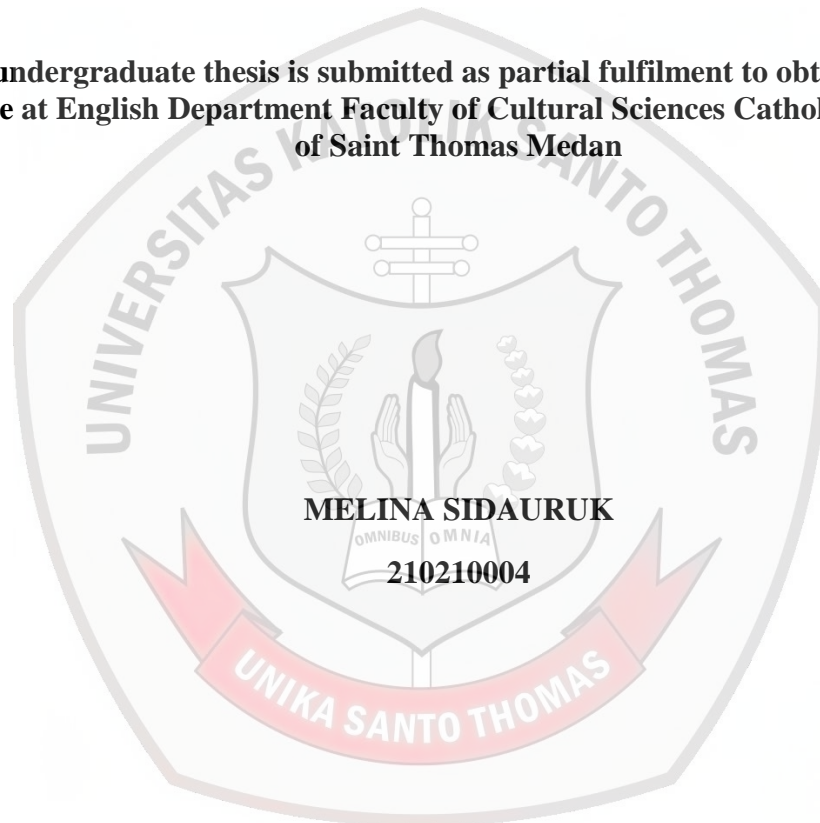
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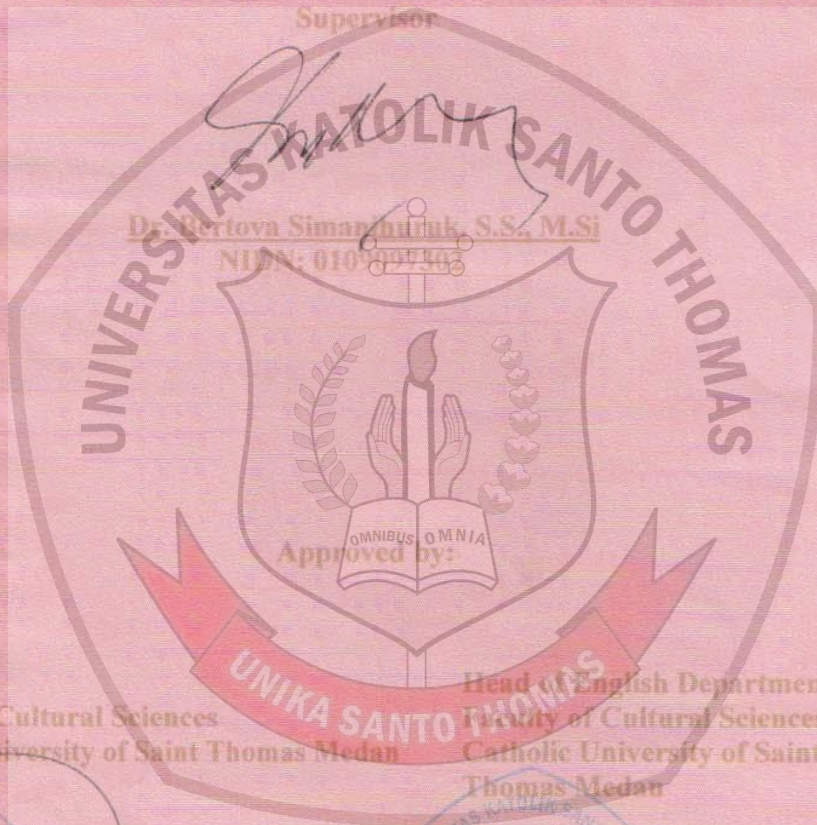


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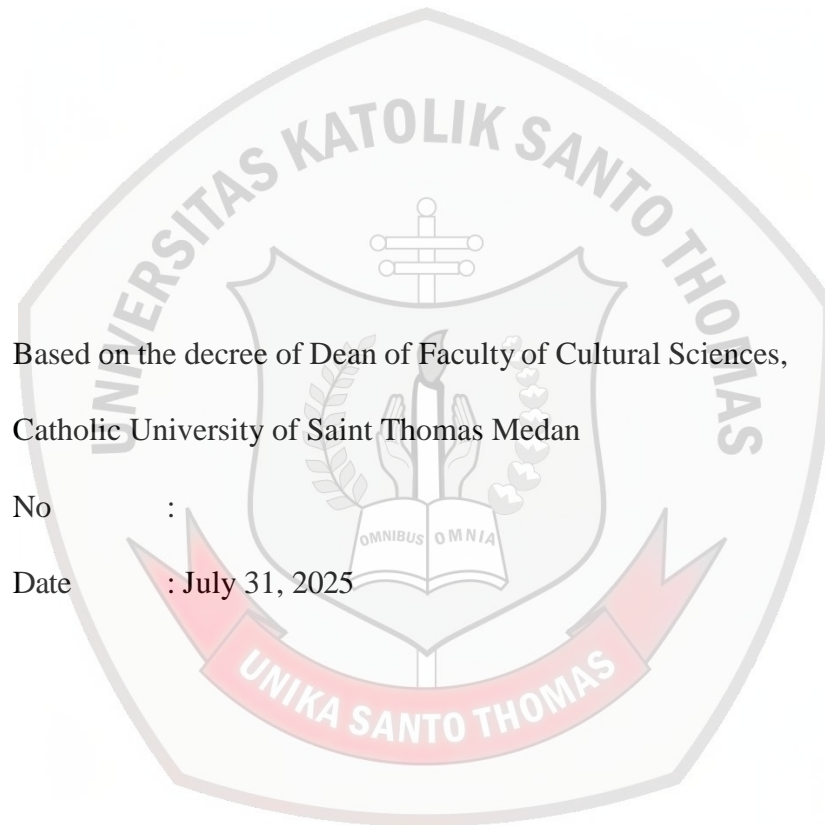
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solemnly declare that this thesis entitled “**Obsession with Physical Immortality in Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray***” is the author’s own work, free from plagiarism. Quotations are referenced in accordance with scientific writing ethics that apply. If it is proven that this thesis contains plagiarism deemed to have violated the rules, the author is willing to accept sanctions for the act in accordance with the applicable regulations.

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Melina Sidauruk

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Grateful praise to the Almighty God for His grace and mercy, the writer has successfully completed the thesis entitled **Obsession with Physical Immortality in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*** 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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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, July 2025

The writer

Melina Sidauruk

## ABSTRACT

This study examines the obsession with physical immortality in Oscar Wilde's novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory, specifically focusing on the concepts of id, ego, and superego. The research aims to identify the underlying factors that drive this obsession and analyze its detrimental effects on psychological stability, moral integrity, and social relationships. Using a qualitative narrative approach, the novel serves as the primary data source, supplemented by relevant secondary literature. The results show obsession stems from the dominance of the id which continuously pursues pleasure and eternal youth. This obsession is further exacerbated by social pressure internalized through his superego, creating unresolved psychological conflicts. The negative impact of this obsession is seen in three main aspects. Psychologically, personality disintegration occurs, characterized by anxiety and paranoia. Socially, obsession leads to isolation and an inability to build healthy relationships with others. Research suggests that the obsessive pursuit of physical immortality, when driven by uncontrollable desires and social pressures, is ultimately self-destructive. These findings are relevant not only in a literary context but also in contemporary discussions about mental health and beauty standards in modern society. From a broader perspective, this study offers an analytical framework for understanding various forms of contemporary obsession rooted in an imbalance between the id, ego, and superego. Similar patterns can be observed in the obsession with material success, popularity, or other pursuits of perfection, often at the expense of psychological well-being and human relationships. Thus, this study not only contributes to literary and psychological studies but also offers a critical lens for interpreting various contemporary socio-cultural phenomena.

***Keywords: obsession, physical immortality, psychoanalysis, id-ego-superego***

## **ABSTRAK**

Penelitian ini meneliti obsesi terhadap keabadian fisik dalam novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* karya Oscar Wilde dengan menggunakan teori psikoanalisis Sigmund Freud, yang secara khusus berfokus pada konsep id, ego, dan superego. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor mendasar yang mendorong obsesi ini dan menganalisis efeknya yang merugikan terhadap stabilitas psikologis, integritas moral, dan hubungan sosial. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan naratif kualitatif, novel ini menjadi sumber data utama, dilengkapi dengan literatur sekunder yang relevan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan obsesi berasal dari dominasi id yang terus menerus mengejar kesenangan dan awet muda. Obsesi ini semakin diperparah oleh tekanan sosial yang diinternalisasi melalui superego, sehingga menciptakan konflik psikologis yang tidak terselesaikan. Dampak negatif dari obsesi ini terlihat dalam tiga aspek utama. Secara psikologis, terjadi disintegrasi kepribadian yang ditandai dengan kecemasan dan paranoid. Secara sosial, obsesi menyebabkan isolasi dan ketidakmampuan untuk membangun hubungan yang sehat dengan orang lain. Penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pengejaran obsesif terhadap keabadian fisik, ketika didorong oleh keinginan yang tidak terkendali dan tekanan sosial, pada akhirnya akan merusak diri sendiri. Temuan ini relevan tidak hanya dalam konteks sastra tetapi juga dalam diskusi kontemporer tentang kesehatan mental dan standar kecantikan dalam masyarakat modern. Dari perspektif yang lebih luas, penelitian ini menawarkan kerangka kerja analitis untuk memahami berbagai bentuk obsesi kontemporer yang berakar pada ketidakseimbangan antara id, ego, dan superego. Pola yang sama dapat diamati pada obsesi terhadap kesuksesan materi, popularitas, atau pengejaran kesempurnaan lainnya, yang sering kali mengorbankan kesejahteraan psikologis dan hubungan antarmanusia. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini tidak hanya berkontribusi pada studi sastra dan psikologi, tetapi juga menawarkan lensa kritis untuk menginterpretasikan berbagai fenomena sosial-budaya kontemporer.

***Kata kunci: obsesi, keabadian fisik, psikoanalisis, id-ego-superego***

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