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Silaban, Elizabeth Tamaría

2025

# Internalization Of Social Inferiority In Mulk An Raj Anand's Untouchable

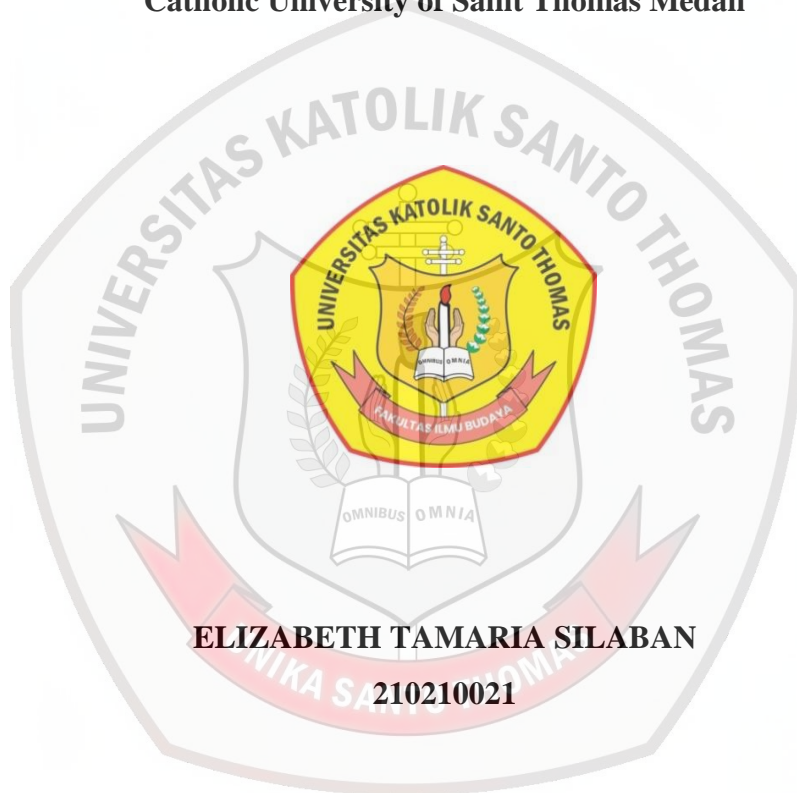
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MULK RAJ ANAND'S *UNTOUCHABLE***

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



**ELIZABETH TAMARIA SILABAN**

**210210021**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES  
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF SAINT THOMAS  
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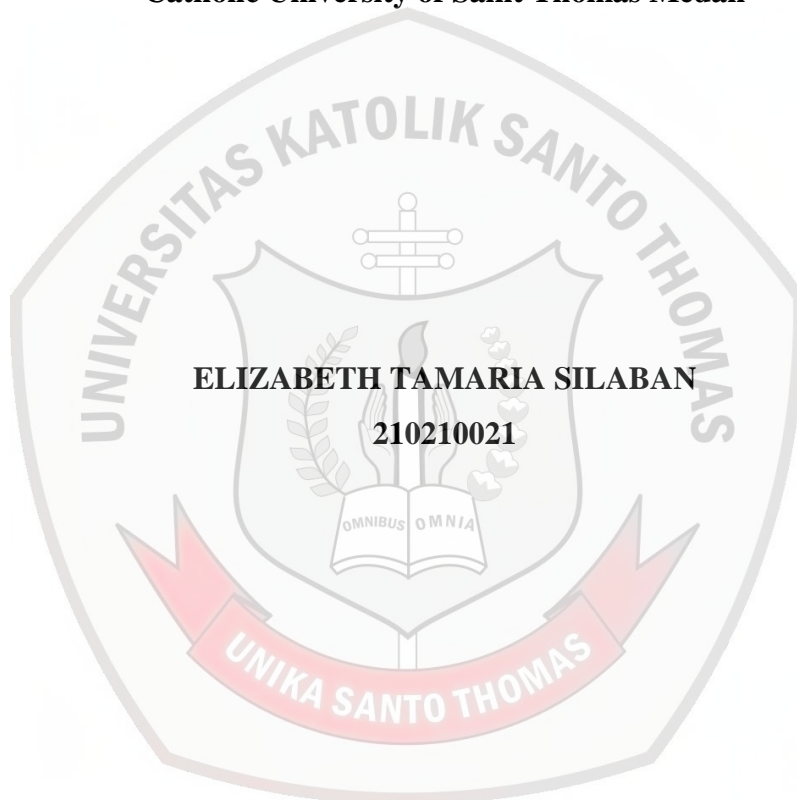


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CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF SAINT THOMAS  
MEDAN  
2025**

**APPROVAL SHEET**

**THIS UNDERGRADUATED THESIS HAS BEEN APPROVED IN JULY 2025**

**Supervisor**



**Dra. Rosa Maria Simamora, M.Hum.**  
**NIDN: 0113096701**

**Dean**  
**Faculty of Cultural Sciences**  
**Catholic University of Saint Thomas Medan**

**Head of English Department**  
**Faculty of Cultural Sciences**  
**Catholic University of Saint Thomas Medan**



**Dra. Jon Pieter Situmorang, S.S., M.Hum., Ph.D**  
**NIDN: 0110056201**



**Dra. Rosa Maria Simamora, M.Hum**  
**NIDN: 0113096701**

THIS UNDERGRADUATE THESIS HAS BEEN APPROVED AND  
ASSESSED BY THE EXAMINING BOARD OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT,  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF  
SAINT THOMAS MEDAN ON 31 JULY 2025

Based on the Decree of Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences,  
Catholic University of Saint Thomas Medan

No : 1089/UKS-B.Ak/A.40/2024

Date : 31 July 2025

The Thesis Examining Board

Chairperson : Dra. Rosa Maria Simamora, M.Hum

Members : 1. Piro Benevolent Lariesto, SS., M.Hum  
2. Dr. Bertova Simanihuruk, S.S., M.Si

## AUTHENTICITY STATEMENT

I, the undersigned,

Name : Elizabeth Tamaría Silaban  
Place/Date of Birth : Bandung, 19 April 2002  
Student Number : 210210021  
Major : English Literature  
Faculty : Faculty Of Cultural Sciences

Solemnly declare that this thesis entitled “**Internalization of Social Inferiority in Mulk Raj Annand’s *Untouchable***” 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, 30 July 2025

Elizabeth Tamaría Silaban

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grateful praise to the Almighty God for His grace and mercy so the writer has successfully completed the thesis entitled **Internalization of Social Inferiority in Mulk Raj Annand's *Untouchable***. 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.

In this valuable opportunity, the writer would like to extend sincere thanks and utmost appreciation to all parties who have assisted and contributed to the completion of this thesis.

1. Prof. Dr. Maidin Gultom, S.H., M.Hum., Rector of Santo Thomas Catholic University, Medan, who provided the opportunity for the writer to study English Literature at Santo Thomas Catholic University, Medan;
2. Drs. Jon Piter Situmorang, S.S., M.Hum., Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, who knowledge the writer during the teaching and learning process in the English Literature Department;
3. Dra. Rosa Maria Simamora, M.Hum., Head of the English Literary Department and thesis supervisor, who provided time, guidance, motivation, knowledge, advice, and encouragement to complete this thesis;
4. Dr. Bertova Simanihuruk, S.S., M.Si., and Pioro Benevolent Lariesto, S.S., M.Hum., as examiners who provided valuable feedback and criticism to improve this thesis;

5. All lecturers of English Department who guided, taught, and shared knowledge during the writer's academic courses;
6. All the administrative staff of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences who supported the completion of the writer's study;
7. To all my classmates in the English Literature class of 2021, especially the five of you who have provided encouragement and friendship throughout the writer's studies;
8. To my beloved parents, Mr. Marsippan Silaban and Mrs. Lamtiur Manullang, and my beloved siblings, Ester Silaban, Kristina Silaban, Albert Silaban, and Betty Silaban, who have always been there to provide endless support, prayers, motivation, and encouragement throughout this journey.

This thesis is far from perfect. Therefore, constructive feedback and criticism from the reader are welcome.

Medan, July 2025

The writer,

Elizabeth Silaban

## ABSTRACT

This study aims to deal with the factor that contribute to the emergence of internalized feelings of inferiority, such as caste system, as depicted in Mulk Raj Anand's *Untouchable*, published in 1935. This study employs a qualitative method, with the novel serving as the primary data source. Additional data are obtained from various secondary sources such as journal articles, scholarly books, and other literature, both online and offline. The data collection process involves a thorough reading of the novel and the documentation of elements closely related to the research focus. The significant findings are then categorized and analyzed using a postcolonial literary criticism proposed by Frantz Fanon with the concept of the internalization of social inferiority. The objective of this study is to explore how the characters in the novel internalizes social inferiority and perceives it as natural. Through close reading, this study identified several aspects that contribute to the internalization of social inferiority, such as social relationships, the workplace, education, and religion. All of these aspects play a role in instilling feelings of inferiority in the minds of individuals who experience discrimination, lack of access to education, dehumanization of work, and exclusion from religious practices. The results revealed that feelings of inferiority arise not only from external rejection but are also shaped by mindsets that cause individuals to blame themselves and accept unfair treatment as something they deserve. This study emphasizes that individuals who feel inferior must have the courage to confront and reject negative views from their social environment that foster beliefs about being unworthy, dirty, and different from others. Furthermore, this study is expected to increase insight into the psychological impact of social discrimination and encourage awareness and mutual respect to reduce similar injustices in real life.

**Keywords:** *internalization, social inferiority, postcolonial, caste system*

## ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji dan memahami faktor yang berkontribusi terhadap munculnya perasaan inferioritas yang terinternalisasi, seperti sistem kasta, seperti yang digambarkan dalam *Untouchable* karya Mulk Raj Annand, yang diterbitkan pada tahun 1935. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif, dengan novel sebagai sumber data utama. Data tambahan diperoleh dari berbagai sumber sekunder seperti artikel jurnal, buku ilmiah, dan literatur lainnya, baik daring maupun luring. Proses pengumpulan data melibatkan pembacaan novel secara menyeluruh dan dokumentasi elemen-elemen yang berkaitan erat dengan fokus penelitian. Temuan-temuan penting kemudian dikategorikan dan dianalisis menggunakan kritik sastra pascakolonial yang diusulkan oleh Frantz Fanon dengan konsep internalisasi inferioritas sosial. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengeksplorasi bagaimana karakter-karakter dalam novel menginternalisasi inferioritas sosial dan menganggapnya sebagai hal yang alami. Melalui pembacaan secara saksama, penelitian ini mengidentifikasi beberapa aspek yang berkontribusi dalam internalisasi inferioritas sosial, seperti hubungan sosial, tempat kerja, pendidikan, dan agama. Semua aspek ini berperan dalam menanamkan rasa inferioritas dalam benak seorang yang mengalami perlakuan diskriminasi, kurangnya akses pendidikan, dehumanisasi pekerjaan, dan pengucilan dari praktik keagamaan. Hasil penelitian mengungkapkan bahwa perasaan inferior tidak hanya muncul dari penolakan eksternal, tetapi juga dibentuk oleh pola pikir yang menyebabkan mereka menyalahkan diri sendiri dan menerima perlakuan tidak adil sebagai sesuatu yang pantas mereka terima. Penelitian ini menekankan bahwa seseorang yang merasa inferior harus memiliki keberanian untuk melawan dan menolak pandangan negatif dari lingkungan sosial yang menimbulkan keyakinan tentang ketidaklayakan, kotor dan berbeda dari orang lain. Selain itu, penelitian ini diharapkan dapat menambah wawasan tentang dampak psikologis diskriminasi sosial dan mendorong kesadaran serta rasa saling menghormati untuk mengurangi ketidakadilan serupa di kehidupan nyata.*

***Kata kunci: internalisasi, inferioritas sosial, poskolonial, sistem kasta***

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