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A Semantic Analysis of Connotative Meaning in “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”

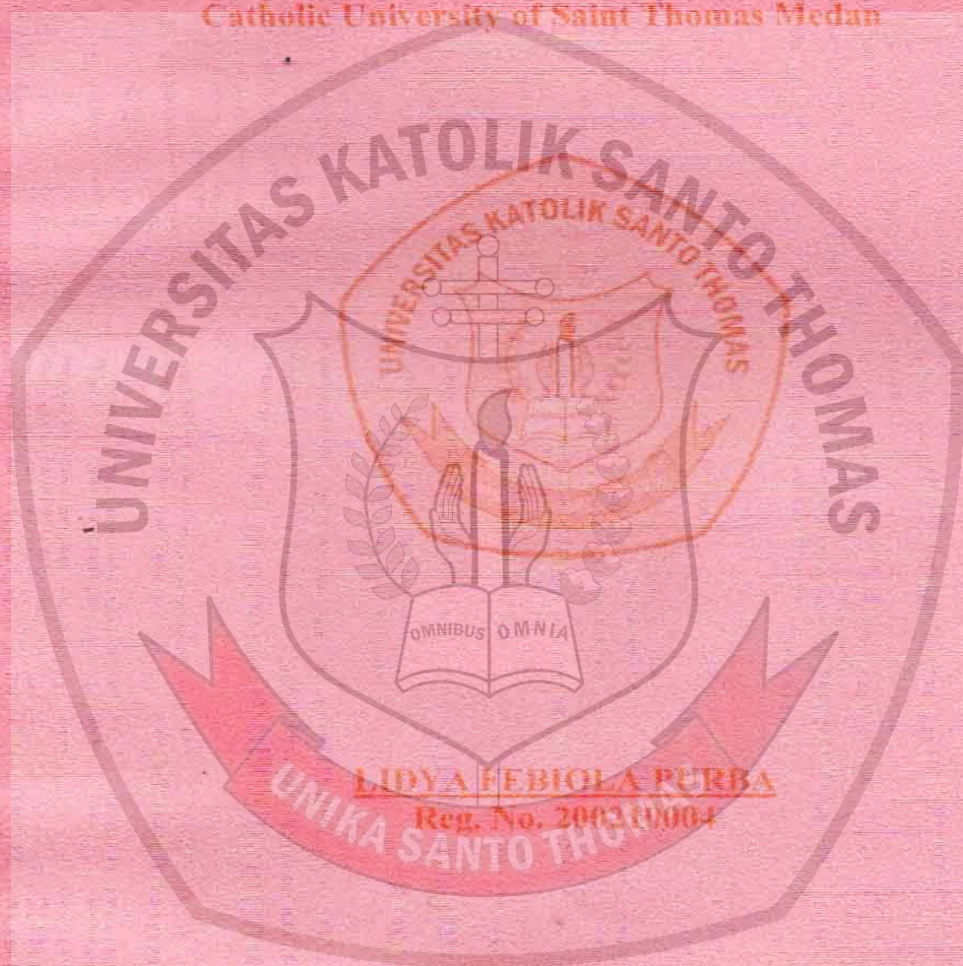
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**A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF CONNOTATIVE
MEANING IN "ALICE'S
ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND"**

A THESIS

**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**

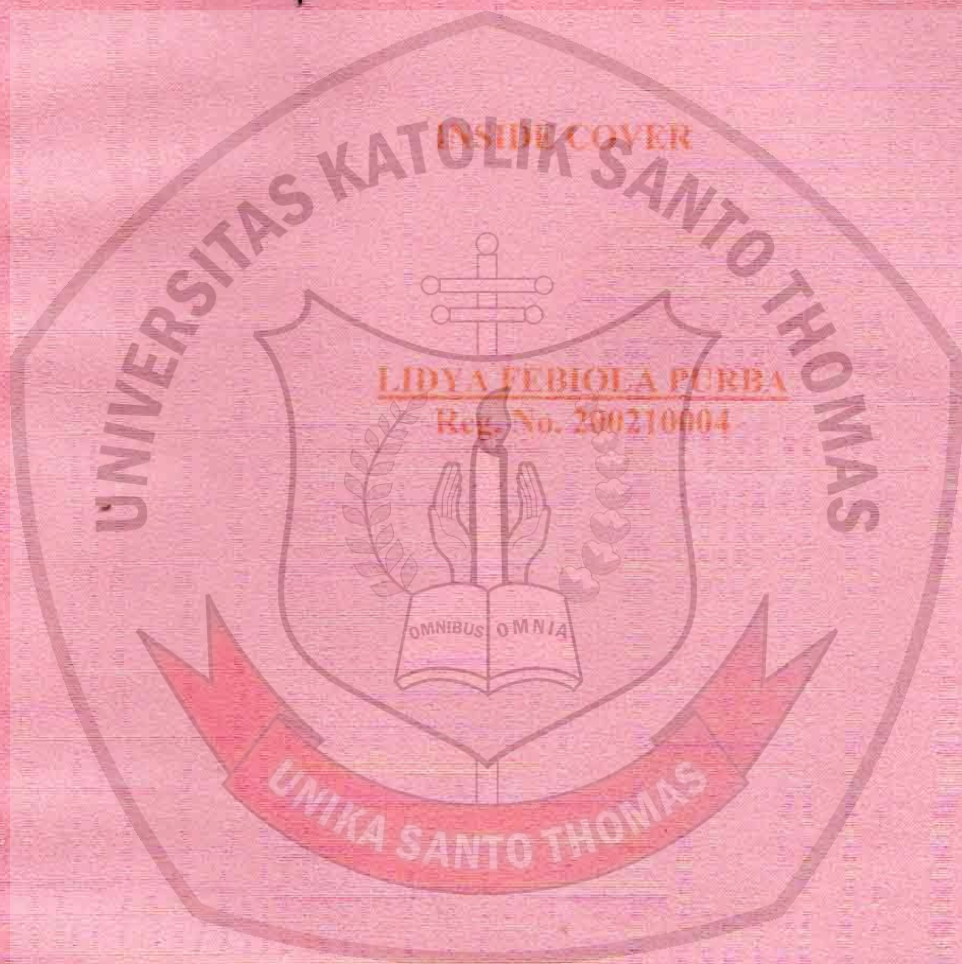


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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
CATHOLICS UNIVERSITY OF SAINT THOMAS
MEDAN
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FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF SAINT THOMAS
MEDAN**

2025

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THIS UNDERGRADUATE THESIS HAS BEEN APPROVED IN JUNE 2025

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Solemnly declare that this thesis entitled **A Semantic Analysis Of Connotative Meaning In “Alice's Adventures In Wonderland”** 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, 24 June 2025

Lidya Febiola Purba

ABSTRACT

Language plays a central role in communication, and its meaning especially connotative meaning adds emotional and cultural depth to texts. This study employs qualitative narrative research using Geoffrey Leech's theory of connotative meaning to analyze Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Through semantic analysis, the study identifies how emotional associations, cultural norms, and subjective interpretations shape the narrative's deeper meanings. The analysis is based on a close reading of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, focusing on words, phrases, and dialogues with connotative meaning. These elements are identified and categorized into emotional, cultural, and subjective types. The study applies Geoffrey Leech's theory of connotation to understand how Carroll's language choices enhance the novel's literary depth. The research identified 75 connotative expressions, classified into three categories: 25 data on emotional associations, 25 on cultural and societal influences, and 25 on subjectivity in meaning. These were conveyed through 33 phrases and 42 clauses, with clauses particularly dominant in subjective interpretations. This breakdown reveals how Carroll uses both compact and complex grammatical forms to encode emotional depth and cultural reflection. In conclusion, the use of connotative meaning in the novel enhances emotional engagement and reveals hidden layers of interpretation. It shows how Carroll's language choices shape readers' understanding of identity, culture, and psychological complexity in the story.

Keywords: semantic analysis; connotative meaning; literary linguistics.

ABSTRAK

*Bahasa memainkan peran sentral dalam komunikasi, dan maknanya—terutama makna konotatif—menambahkan kedalaman emosional dan budaya dalam teks. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian naratif kualitatif dengan mengacu pada teori makna konotatif dari Geoffrey Leech untuk menganalisis novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* karya Lewis Carroll. Melalui analisis semantik, penelitian ini mengidentifikasi bagaimana asosiasi emosional, norma budaya, dan interpretasi subjektif membentuk makna yang lebih dalam dalam narasi. Analisis ini dilakukan dengan membaca cermat novel *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* karya Lewis Carroll, berfokus pada kata, frasa, dan dialog yang mengandung makna konotatif. Unsur-unsur bahasa tersebut diidentifikasi dan diklasifikasikan ke dalam kategori emosional, budaya, dan subjektif. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori makna konotatif dari Geoffrey Leech untuk memahami bagaimana pilihan bahasa Carroll memperkaya kedalaman sastra dalam novel tersebut. Penelitian ini menemukan 75 ekspresi konotatif yang diklasifikasikan ke dalam tiga kategori: 25 data tentang asosiasi emosional, 25 tentang pengaruh budaya dan sosial, serta 25 tentang subjektivitas makna. Ekspresi ini disampaikan melalui 33 frasa dan 42 klausa, di mana klausa secara khusus dominan dalam interpretasi subjektif. Rincian ini menunjukkan bagaimana Carroll menggunakan bentuk gramatikal yang ringkas maupun kompleks untuk menyampaikan kedalaman emosional dan refleksi budaya. Kesimpulannya, penggunaan makna konotatif dalam novel ini meningkatkan keterlibatan emosional dan mengungkap lapisan makna tersembunyi. Hal ini menunjukkan bagaimana pilihan bahasa Carroll membentuk pemahaman pembaca tentang identitas, budaya, dan kompleksitas psikologis dalam cerita.*

Kata kunci: analisis semantik; makna konotatif; linguistik sastra.

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

Medan, 23 June 2025

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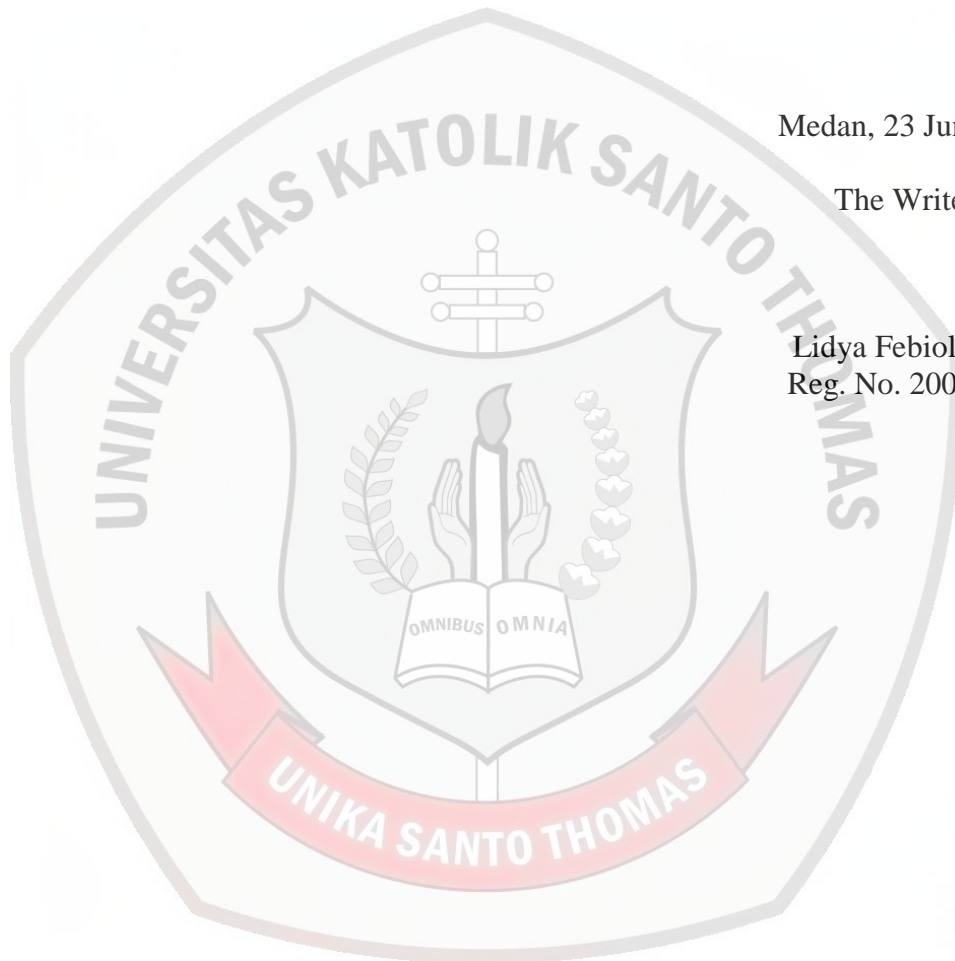


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