

## ABSTRACT

ELISABETH INATYAS S.W (2010). **A Study of Character and Plot to Convey the Theme as Seen in Amy Tan's *The Kitchen God's Wife***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

*The Kitchen God's Wife* by Amy Tan was written in 1991. The novel tells about the woman named Winnie Louie with her struggle in her life. *The Kitchen God's Wife* mostly describes about Winnie's past life and how she can survive to continue her miserable life.

This thesis has three objectives. The first is to find out the description of the character, Winnie Louie. The second is to know how the plot described in the story. And the third is to know the contribution of character and plot to convey the theme of the story.

This thesis is a library research. The main source was taken from the novel, *The Kitchen God's Wife* by Amy Tan. The additional sources were taken from books and other sources related to the study. The writer conducted the New Criticism Approach in analyzing this novel because this approach examines a literary work through its intrinsic element without taking notice on extrinsic element. To help analyze this thesis, the writer needs some theories. The theories that are needed are the theory of character and characterization, theory of plot, and theory of theme. This study also includes some stages. They are the primary data collection, close reading, supporting data collection, problem formulations finding, analysis making, and conclusion drawing.

After analyzing the character and plot, it can be concluded that the analysis has contributed to reveal the theme of the story. The character analysis is done to know the characterization of the character. From the analysis of the character, the writer finds Winnie Louie is a woman who is really patient and tough. Although she has many problems, she does not try to run away. Winnie tries to get her happiness. And the plot in the novel has a function to show the structure of the story. The plot is divided into three parts, the beginning, the middle, and the end. From the plot, it can be seen how Winnie faces her problems that come to her life. By analyzing the character and the plot, the writer finds the theme of the story is **“Patience and persistence will bring someone into happiness”**

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Novel karya Amy Tan ditulis pada tahun 1991. Novel tersebut menceritakan seorang wanita bernama Winnie Louie dengan segala bentuk perjuangan di hidupnya. Novel ini banyak menceritakan tentang masa lalu Winnie dan bagaimana dia dapat bertahan serta melanjutkan kehidupannya yang bisa dikatakan cukup menyedihkan.

Skripsi ini mempunyai tiga tujuan. Yang pertama adalah untuk menemukan penggambaran dari tokoh, Winnie Louie. Kedua untuk mengetahui bagaimana plot digambarkan. Dan yang ketiga adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana tokoh dan plot menyampaikan tema.

Skripsi ini merupakan penelitian kepustakaan. Sumber utama dari skripsi ini diambil dari novel *The Kitchen God's Wife* karya Amy Tan. Sumber-sumber tambahan lainnya diperoleh dari buku-buku dan berbagai sumber yang berhubungan dengan penelitian. Penulis menggunakan pendekatan New Criticism karena pendekatan ini menguji suatu karya sastra melalui unsur-unsur yang ada di dalam karya sastra tersebut tanpa memperhatikan unsur-unsur di luar karya. Untuk menganalisis skripsi ini, penulis membutuhkan beberapa teori. Di antaranya teori karakter, plot, dan tema. Beberapa langkah yang dilakukan dalam studi ini yaitu pengumpulan data utama, pembacaan mendalam, pengumpulan data pendukung, perumusan masalah, analisis, dan pengambilan keputusan.

Setelah menganalisis karakter dan plot, dapat disimpulkan bahwa hasil analisis tadi mendukung serta membantu dalam menentukan tema cerita. Analisis tokoh digunakan untuk mengetahui penokohan dari tokoh dalam cerita. Dan analisis plot memiliki fungsi untuk menunjukkan alur cerita. Plot dibagi menjadi tiga bagian, yaitu bagian awal/pembuka, tengah, dan akhir. Dari analisis plot, dapat dilihat bagaimana Winnie menghadapi semua permasalahan dalam hidupnya. Dengan melakukan analisis tokoh dan alur cerita, penulis menemukan tema cerita yaitu **“Kesabaran dan kegigihan akan membawa seseorang pada kebahagiaan”**.