

ABSTRACT

GABRIELLA NUGRAHANI ARUMINGTYAS. **The Significance of Love and Money in Geisha's Life as Reflected through the Characterization of the Main Characters and Conflicts in Kafu Nagai's *Geisha in Rivalry***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2010.

This undergraduate thesis examines Kafu Nagai's novel entitled *Geisha in Rivalry*. The novel is interesting to discuss because it deals with the life of geisha that is different from the life of common people. The novel presents the rivalry among the geisha in Shimbashi district in order to get the money and love.

There are three problems to be discussed in this study. The first is the description of the main characters: Komayo, Kikuchiyo, Rikiji, Hanasuke and Yoshioka. The second is the description of conflicts that are undergone by the main characters. The third is the importance of love and money in geisha's life that are reflected through the characterization of the main characters and main character's conflicts.

The writer used the library research in collecting the data. The socio-cultural historical approach is employed as the approach in this thesis because the writer studies the social condition and cultural condition of geisha in Japan society in early 20th century. By this approach, the writer will be able to get the understanding of the society's habits and manner of the geisha in early 20th century.

As a result of the study, the writer concludes, first, there are five main characters in the novel. They are Komayo, Kikuchiyo, Rikiji, Hanasuke and Yoshioka. Komayo, Kikuchiyo, Rikiji and Hanasuke are described as Shimbashi geisha who are trapped in a rivalry among geisha in Shimbashi district in order to get the money and love. Yoshioka is described as a man who enjoys geisha's service. Yoshioka also described as a man who colored the rivalry among geisha in Shimbashi district. Second, the conflicts which are undergone by the main characters, both are external and internal conflicts. Third, through characterization of the main characters and the main character's conflict in relation with the importance of love and money, it is reflected in the novel that the geisha always try to get both of the money and love in their life. The money is important to fulfill their physical need and the love is very important for their emotional aspect. The ideal geisha should be the geisha who can reach the success in economic aspect or the money and the success in relationship with the opposite sex or the love. However in the fact, it is hard for a geisha to get success in both of the economic aspect and the emotional aspect. They have to choose one of them and make the decision as a focus of their life's goal.

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Tesis ini membahas novel karangan Kafu Nagai yang berjudul *Geisha in Rivalry*. Novel tersebut menarik untuk diteliti karena membahas kehidupan geisha yang berbeda dari kehidupan orang pada umumnya. Novel tersebut menampilkan persaingan antara geisha di distrik Shimbashi demi mendapatkan uang dan cinta.

Ada tiga rumusan masalah yang dibahas dalam penelitian ini. Pertama, gambaran tentang karakter tokoh-tokoh utama: Komayo, Kikuchiyo, Rikiji, Hanasuke dan Yoshioka. Kedua, gambaran tentang konflik-konflik yang dialami oleh tokoh-tokoh utama. Ketiga, pentingnya cinta dan uang dalam kehidupan geisha tercermin melalui gambaran tentang karakter tokoh-tokoh utama dan melalui konflik-konflik yang dialami oleh tokoh-tokoh utama.

Penulis menggunakan penelitian pustaka dalam pengumpulan data. Pendekatan sosio-kultural historikal digunakan sebagai pendekatan dalam tesis ini karena penulis membahas keadaan social dan budaya geisha di masyarakat Jepang pada awal abad ke 20. Dengan pendekatan tersebut, penulis dapat memahami kebiasaan dan perilaku geisha pada awal abad ke 20.

Sebagai hasil penelitian, penulis menyimpulkan, pertama, ada lima tokoh utama dalam novel. Yaitu Komayo, Kikuchiyo, Rikiji, Hanasuke dan Yoshioka. Komayo, Kikuchiyo, Rikiji dan Hanasuke digambarkan sebagai geisha di distrik Shimbasi yang terlibat persaingan untuk memperebutkan uang dan cinta. Yoshioka digambarkan sebagai pria yang menikmati pelayanan geisha. Yoshioka juga digambarkan sebagai pria yang mewarnai persaingan diantara geisha di distrik Shimbashi. Kedua, konflik-konflik yang dialami tokoh-tokoh utama, baik konflik internal maupun eksternal. Melalui melalui gambaran tentang karakter tokoh-tokoh utama dan melalui konflik-konflik yang dialami oleh tokoh-tokoh utama tercermin pentingnya cinta dan uang bagi geisha. Geisha selalu berusaha mendapatkan keduanya. Uang penting untuk memenuhi kebutuhan fisik mereka sedangkan cinta diperlukan untuk mengisi kebutuhan emosional mereka. Geisha yang ideal adalah geisha yang mampu mendapatkan cinta dan uang. Namun pada kenyataannya, sangat sulit bagi seorang geisha untuk mendapatkan kesuksesan di kedua bidang, bidang keuangan dan emosional. Mereka harus memilih satu diantaranya dan menjadikannya fokus tujuan hidup mereka.