

## ABSTRACT

KARINA, LAUREN. (2020). **Censorship and Homophobia: A Comparative Study of Oscar Wilde's Original and Censored Versions of *The Picture of Dorian Gray***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the author's only novel, was initially quite different in its early version. In fact, Oscar Wilde had to censor quite a bit of its contents prior to releasing it as a full novel. It was Wilde's effort to mask and erase some contents that were less acceptable for the Victorian public's eye, which is the homoeroticism contained within the pages of the early drafts of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The final result is a book that is canonically heterosexual, yet still somewhat contains subtle queer undertones here and there. To the Victorians, however, the book was passable enough—that is, before it was used as partial evidence against Wilde in his trial for his sexual orientation.

There are two problems to configure in this thesis: the first one aims to unravel the basic figuration of the main characters in both editions of the novel and relate them to Oscar Wilde's life, and the second one, which answer serves as the ultimate conclusion to this thesis, aims to figure out how Wilde dealt with societal homophobia in the textual level in order to get the novel published.

The study is conducted mainly with library research both in the form of physical and digital sources. The steps in conducting the study will be done by first utilizing Theory of Character & Characterization to unravel the figuration of the three main characters, continued by the use of Queer Theory to unravel the sheer queerness and homoeroticism contained within the two versions of the novel, and to relate the reasoning behind the novels' narrative choices in terms of the author's personal life, mainly the fact that he was a homosexual.

The final result of the study concludes to two things: Firstly, Wilde created the three main characters with the intention to criticize the society of the Victorian Era (ex: Lord Henry's views, Dorian's effeminacy). Secondly, Wilde did consciously change the contents of the novel between the original and the censored, though even in the censored version he still managed to insert homoerotic elements implicitly. He added more heterosexual narrative to convince unsuspecting readers that the characters are heterosexual, yet at the same time he added homoerotic undertones in forms of symbolisms that can only be realized upon observation into the author's personal life.

**Keywords:** *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, homoeroticism, uncensored, Oscar Wilde.

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*The Picture of Dorian Gray* karya Oscar Wilde, novel satu-satunya karya penulis ini, dalam versi awalnya sangat berbeda. Oscar Wilde mensensor sebagian dari konten cerita tersebut sebelum mempublikasikannya sebagai novel. Wilde berusaha untuk menutupi dan menghapus konten yang dinilai kurang senonoh di mata masyarakat abad Victoria, yaitu homoerotisme yang terkandung dalam draf awal *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Hasilnya berupa sebuah buku yang secara standar memiliki plot heteroseksual, namun tetap mengandung elemen *queer* samar di beberapa bagian. Walaupun begitu, bagi masyarakat zaman Victoria, buku tersebut cukup bisa diterima—sebelum kemudian digunakan sebagai salah satu bukti untuk menjatuhkan Wilde dalam sidang tentang homoseksualitasnya.

Ada dua permasalahan yang akan dibahas dalam tesis ini: pertama, figurasi dasar ketiga karakter utama dari kedua versi novel akan dikuak dan dihubungkan Dengan kehidupan Wilde, dan kedua, penulis akan mencari tahu bagaimana Wilde menangani homophobia secara tekstual sehingga novel ini bisa terbit.

Studi ini dilakukan dengan studi pustaka baik dalam bentuk fisik maupun digital. Studi akan dilakukan dengan pertama-tama menggunakan Theory of Character & Characterization menguak penokohan ketiga karakter utama, kemudian Queer Theory untuk menguak elemen *queer* dan homoerotisme yang terkandung dalam kedua versi novel, serta untuk menghubungkan plot novel dengan kehidupan pribadi sang penulis, terutama dengan homoseksualitasnya.

Hasil akhir dari studi ini berupa dua kesimpulan; Wilde menciptakan ketiga tokoh utama untuk mengkritisi masyarakat pada zamannya. Kedua, Wilde secara sadar mengubah konten novelnya dari original ke versi disensor, dan ia masih memasukkan homoerotisme dalam versi yang disensor secara implisit. Ia menambahkan narasi heteroseksual untuk meyakinkan pembaca bahwa plot novelnya heteroseksual, namun di saat yang sama ia menambahkan homoerotisme implisit dalam bentuk simbolisme yang hanya dapat disadari setelah menelaah kehidupan pribadi sang penulis.

**Kata kunci:** *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, homoeroticism, uncensored, Oscar Wilde.

