

ABSTRACT

Purnamasari, Cynthia. (2025). **The Influence of Social Environment towards Esperanza's Personality Development in Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street* (1984)**. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

This research discusses the influence of the social environment on the development of Esperanza Cordero's personality in the novel *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. This research is motivated by the complexity of the characters and the way the novelist presents them. The novel *The House on Mango Street* is presented in the form of a series of short stories in each chapter. Not only does it dwell on the internal life of the protagonist Esperanza, but it also explains the details of the lives and pasts of other characters that will more or less influence Esperanza, who is just entering adolescence, in seeing the meaning of her life.

This research will set limits on the social scope that will be analyzed further, which refers to the people around Esperanza's life and the values and beliefs inherent in them. In this study, the researcher formulated three research questions that became the focus to be revealed in the discussion. The first question is "What are Esperanza's characteristics in *The House on Mango Street*?" The second question is "How is Esperanza's social environment presented in *The House on Mango Street*?" Lastly, the third question is "How does the social environment influence Esperanza's personality development?" The objectives of this study are to summarize Esperanza's personality as conveyed at the beginning of the novel, then identify what Esperanza's social environment is like, especially her family, neighbors on Mango Street, and school. Furthermore, this study aims to reveal Esperanza's personality that gradually changes due to the influence of her social environment. The theories used to reveal the first question is *A Glossary of Literary Terms* by Abrams and Harpham, and *Concise Companion to Literature* by James H. Pickering and Jeffrey D. Hoeper. The theories used to answer the second question are *Personality Development* by Elizabeth Hurlock, and *Life-Span Development* by John Santrock.

This research is a library research that uses a qualitative descriptive method. A psychological approach to literature is employed in this study. It entails exploring the behaviors, motivations, emotions, and thoughts of fictional characters in a psychological context. This leads to a deeper appreciation of the diversity of literary works and opens up new ways of interpretation.

In the analysis chapter, the researcher summarizes Esperanza's personality as observant and unconfident. Her family and neighborhood are similar in that they live in poverty and have conservative and patriarchal views. This research highlights how Esperanza's observer trait develops her empathy and sense of responsibility towards her fellow women on Mango Street. In addition, Esperanza also showed a willpower against herself to be more courageous and confident.

Keywords: *Esperanza, personality development, social environment, The House on Mango Street*

ABSTRAK

Purnamasari, Cynthia. (2025). **The Influence of Social Environment towards Esperanza's Personality Development in Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street* (1984).** Yogyakarta: Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Penelitian ini membahas pengaruh lingkungan sosial terhadap perkembangan kepribadian tokoh Esperanza Cordero pada novel *The House on Mango Street* karya Sandra Cisneros. Penelitian ini dilatarbelakangi oleh kompleksitas karakter dan cara penyajian karakter pada novel. Tidak hanya berfokus pada kehidupan internal protagonis Esperanza, tetapi juga menjelaskan detail kehidupan dan masa lalu karakter lain yang sedikit banyak akan mempengaruhi Esperanza, yang baru memasuki masa remaja, dalam memandang makna kehidupannya.

Penelitian ini akan membatasi ruang lingkup sosial yang akan dianalisis lebih dalam, yakni orang-orang di sekitar Esperanza beserta nilai kehidupan dan yang melekat di dalamnya. Terdapat tiga pertanyaan penelitian yang akan menjadi fokus. Pertanyaan pertama, yaitu “Apa karakteristik atau kepribadian Esperanza yang disampaikan pada novel *The House on Mango Street*?” Pertanyaan kedua, “Bagaimana gambaran lingkungan sosial Esperanza pada novel *The House on Mango Street*?” Pertanyaan terakhir, “Bagaimana pengaruh lingkungan sosial di sekitar Esperanza terhadap perkembangan kepribadiannya?” Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah merangkum kepribadian Esperanza seperti yang disampaikan di awal novel, lalu mengidentifikasi seperti apa lingkungan sosial Esperanza. Penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk mengungkap kepribadian Esperanza yang lambat laun berubah karena pengaruh lingkungannya. Teori yang digunakan untuk mengungkap pertanyaan pertama adalah *A Glossary of Literary Terms* oleh Abrams dan Harpham, dan *Concise Companion to Literature* oleh James H. Pickering dan Jeffrey D. Hoeper. Teori yang digunakan untuk menjawab pertanyaan kedua adalah *Personality Development* oleh Elizabeth Hurlock, dan *Life-Span Development* oleh John Santrock.

Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kepustakaan dengan metode deskriptif kualitatif dan pendekatan psikologis. Pendekatan psikologis pada sastra memerlukan eksplorasi perilaku, motivasi, emosi, dan pemikiran karakter fiksi dalam konteks psikologis. Hal ini menumbuhkan apresiasi yang mendalam terhadap keragaman karya sastra dan membuka jalan baru untuk interpretasi.

Pada bab analisis, peneliti merangkum kepribadian Esperanza sebagai pengamat yang tidak percaya diri. Lingkungan keluarga dan tetangganya memiliki kesamaan, yaitu hidup dalam kehidupan yang miskin dan memiliki pandangan konservatif serta patriarkis. Penelitian ini menyoroti sifat pengamat Esperanza berkembang membuatnya memiliki empati dan rasa bertanggung jawab terhadap sesama perempuan di Mango Street. Selain itu, Esperanza juga menunjukkan tekad melawan dirinya sendiri untuk lebih berani dan percaya diri.

Kata Kunci: *Esperanza, personality development, social environment, The House on Mango Street*