

ABSTRACT

Dyah Ayu Larasati. 2026. *Navigating Adversity: An Intersectional Reading of Lian Gouw's Only a Girl and Min Jin Lee's Pachinko within a Postcolonial-Feminist Framework* Yogyakarta: The Graduate Program in English Language Studies. Sanata Dharma University.

This thesis examines how intersectionality enriches a postcolonial-feminist analysis of *Only a Girl* by Lian Gouw and *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee, focusing on how characters navigate colonialism, patriarchy, and identity across different generations. Set in the Dutch East Indies and Japanese-occupied Korea and Japan respectively, the novels center on two female protagonists - Carolien and Sunja - whose lives are shaped by gender, race, class, and colonial power.

Employing theories from Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak, bell hooks, Mina Roces, and Kimberlé Crenshaw, this study investigates how essentialist stereotypes and gendered power structures both constrain and are challenged by these women. Chapter III reveals that Carolien's alignment with Dutch norms through mimicry grants her temporary access to privilege but reinforces colonial hierarchies, while Sunja resists through pragmatism rather than direct confrontation, illustrating how resistance is contextually shaped by one's social positioning. Chapter IV explores how stereotypes - such as loyal colonial subject or the sacrificial mother - are imposed, negotiated, or complicated through intersectional pressures. Carolien's privileges are conditional and collapse with political change, while Sunja's structural exclusions as a Zainichi Korean in Japan force her into roles that are both expected and restrictive.

Theoretically, this thesis argues that aligning intersectionality with postcolonial feminism challenges the tendency to homogenize the experiences of colonized women. It shows how identity is not static but shaped by shifting systems of power. Intersectionality complements postcolonial theory by revealing how overlapping categories - such as gender, race, and class - create distinct forms of vulnerability and resistance. Ultimately, this interdisciplinary approach provides a more flexible, context-sensitive framework for analyzing how colonized women experience, endure, and negotiate structural oppressions.

Keywords: intersectionality, postcolonial-feminism, Asian women, colonialism, patriarchy, mimicry, resistance, *Only a Girl*

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Tesis ini menganalisis bagaimana pendekatan interseksionalitas memperkaya analisis pascakolonial-feminis terhadap novel *Only a Girl* karya Lian Gouw dan *Pachinko* karya Min Jin Lee, dengan fokus pada bagaimana karakter perempuan menjalani kehidupan di bawah kolonialisme, patriarki, dan konstruksi identitas lintas generasi. Berlatar di Hindia Belanda dan Korea serta Jepang pada masa pendudukan Jepang, kedua novel ini berpusat pada dua tokoh utama perempuan—Carolien dan Sunja—yang kehidupannya dibentuk oleh persinggungan antara gender, ras, kelas, dan kekuasaan kolonial.

Dengan menggunakan teori dari Edward Said, Gayatri Spivak, bell hooks, Mina Roces, dan Kimberlé Crenshaw, penelitian ini menyoroti bagaimana stereotip esensialis dan struktur kekuasaan gender dapat menekan sekaligus ditantang oleh para tokoh perempuan. Bab III menunjukkan bahwa peniruan (mimicry) budaya Belanda oleh Carolien memberinya akses sementara terhadap privilese, namun sekaligus memperkuat hierarki kolonial. Sementara itu, Sunja menunjukkan bentuk perlawanan yang bersifat pragmatis, bukan konfrontatif, yang dibentuk oleh posisi sosialnya sebagai perempuan Korea kelas pekerja. Bab IV mengeksplorasi bagaimana stereotip—seperti subjek kolonial yang setia atau ibu pengorbanan—tidak hanya diterapkan secara pasif, tetapi juga dinegosiasikan dan dipertanyakan melalui tekanan interseksional.

Secara teoritis, tesis ini menyimpulkan bahwa penggabungan antara interseksionalitas dan feminisme pascakolonial menantang kecenderungan untuk menyamaratakan pengalaman perempuan terjajah. Interseksionalitas memperlihatkan bagaimana kategori sosial seperti gender, ras, dan kelas berinteraksi secara kompleks untuk menciptakan bentuk kerentanan dan perlawanan yang berbeda. Pendekatan ini menawarkan kerangka analisis yang lebih fleksibel dan kontekstual dalam memahami bagaimana perempuan dalam sistem kolonial menegosiasikan identitas dan kekuasaan.

Kata kunci: interseksionalitas, feminisme pascakolonial, perempuan Asia, kolonialisme, patriarki, mimicry, perlawanan, *Only a Girl*, *Pachinko*