

**THE STRUGGLE AND THE EFFECTS OF BEING  
TRANSGENDER AS DEPICTED IN  
JULIE ANNE PETERS' *LUNA***

**THESIS**

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## ABSTRACT

Abidati, Alvita. 2013. **The Struggle and The Effects of Being Transgender as Depicted in Julie Anne Peters' Luna.** English Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: M. Andhy Nurmansyah; Co-supervisor: Fredy Nugroho Setiawan.

Keywords: transgender, society, depression, mood disorder.

Transgender is a gender identity disorder. To be accepted by the society that believes gender stereotypes of both male and female, transgender tries to be the opposite gender by changing his or her appearance. Unfortunately, many of them are still getting alienated and mocked. These treatments surely affect transgender psychology such as feeling depressed and committing suicide. In this study, the researcher identifies how is the struggle of transgender in dealing with negative treatments from the society and the effects of those treatments toward his psychological condition, as represented by Luna, in Julie Anne Peters' *Luna*.

This research uses qualitative method because it is aimed to analyze and explain the meaning of the message inside the novel. Therefore, by using qualitative design of research, the writer needs to collect the text from the novel to be analyzed. The study uses sociological approach and queer theory to help the writer understands more about transgender. The writer also uses psychological approach and mood disorder concept to analyze the psychological effects of society negative treatments toward transgender psychology, represented by Luna.

The result of the study shows that Liam is a transgender, named Luna. Every time he comes out as Luna, she gets some negative treatments such as bullying, mocking, transphobia and harassment. These treatments affect Liam's psychology and make him feels depressed and thinks of committing suicide. However at the end, Liam, can encourage himself after meeting another transgender who supports him to be transgender and to do sex reassignment surgery. Gradually he has her new identity developed.

For the next researchers, the writer suggests the use of transgender theme and queer theory as an approach can be applied in another novel and the other genres of literary works to enrich the study of queer gender and sexuality in the literature.

## ABSTRAK

Abidati, Alvita. 2013. **Perjuangan dan Efek Sebagai Seorang Transgender Seperti yang Tergambar di Novel Julie Anne Peters *Luna***. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: (I) M. Andhy Nurmansyah; (II) Fredy Nugroho Setiawan.

Kata kunci: transgender, masyarakat, depresi, *mood disorder*.

Transgender adalah kelainan identitas gender. Untuk diterima masyarakat yang percaya akan stereotipe gender atas laki – laki dan perempuan, transgender kemudian berusaha untuk menjadi lawan jenisnya dengan mengubah penampilan fisiknya. Sayangnya, banyak dari mereka yang akhirnya dihina dan dikucilkan. Perlakuan seperti ini pastinya mempengaruhi kejiwaan transgender seperti merasa depresi dan bunuh diri. Di penelitian ini, peneliti mengidentifikasi bagaimana perjuangan seorang transgender dalam menghadapi perilaku negatif masyarakat dan efeknya terhadap kondisi kejiwaannya, seperti yang tergambar pada *Luna*, di novel *Luna* karya Julie Anne Peters.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif karena penelitian ini ditujukan untuk menganalisa dan menjelaskan arti dari pesan yang terdapat di dalam novel. Oleh karena itu, dengan menggunakan desain kualitatif, penulis perlu mengumpulkan teks novel untuk dianalisa. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan sosiologis dan teori *queer* untuk membantu penulis memahami transgender. Penulis juga menggunakan pendekatan psikologis dan konsep *mood disorder* untuk menganalisa efek kejiwaan dari perilaku negatif masyarakat terhadap transgender yang direpresentasikan oleh *Luna*.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Liam adalah seorang transgender yang bernama *Luna*. Setiap kali dia tampil sebagai *Luna*, dia mendapat perlakuan negatif dari masyarakat seperti ejekan, penindasan, *transphobia* dan kekerasan. Perlakuan ini mempengaruhi kejiwaan Liam dan membuatnya merasa depresi dan berpikir untuk bunuh diri. Namun pada akhirnya dia mampu menyemangati dirinya setelah bertemu dengan transgender lain yang mendukungnya untuk menjadi transgender dan melakukan operasi perubahan alat kelamin. Secara perlahan identitas barunya terbangun.

Untuk peneliti selanjutnya, penulis menyarankan penggunaan tema transgender dan teori *queer* sebagai pendekatan bisa diterapkan di novel lain dan di karya sastra jenis lain untuk memperkaya penelitian tentang gender dan seksualitas yang berbeda di kesusastraan.

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