

**THE RING OF POWER MANIFESTED IN J.R.R. TOLKIEN'S
THE LORD OF THE RINGS AND RICHARD WAGNER'S *THE
RING OF NIBELUNG***

THESIS

**BY
HENI PURWATI
NIM 0911110043**



**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA
2013**

TABLE OF CONTENT

	Page
TITLE PAGE	i
DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP	ii
SUPERVISORS' APPROVAL	iii
BOARD OF EXAMINERS CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
ABSTRACT	vi
ABSTRAK	vii
TABLE OF CONTENT	viii
LIST OF APPENDICES	ix
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.1.1. John Ronald Reuel Tolkien and his Literary Works.....	2
1.1.2. The Lord of the Rings: A Brief Description.....	4
1.1.3. Richard Wagner and His Opera.....	5
1.1.4. The Ring of Nibelung Opera: The Synopsis.....	6
1.2 Problems of the Study	7
1.3 Objectives of the Study	7
1.4 Significance of the Study	8
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHOD	
2.1. Theoretical Framework.....	9
2.1.1. Comparative Literature.....	9
2.1.2. Theme.....	10
2.1.3. Thematic Analysis.....	11
2.2. Previous Studies.....	12
2.3. Research Methods.....	13
2.3.1. Choosing the Object of the Study.....	13
2.3.2. Analyzing and Interpreting the Data.....	14
CHAPTER III FINDING AND DISCUSSION	
4.1. The Origin of the Rings.....	17
4.2. The Power of the Rings.....	23
4.3. The Weakness and the Destruction of the Rings	40
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS	
5.1 Conclusion	43
5.2 Suggestions	45
REFERENCES	46
APPENDICES	48

ABSTRACT

Purwati, Heni. 2013. **The Rings of Power Manifested in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* and Richard Wagner's *The Ring of Nibelung***. Study Program of English, Department of Language and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Sri Herminingrum; Co-supervisor: Arcci Tusita

Keywords: Ring of Power, comparison, similarity, dissimilarity.

Authors across time and nations may have the similarities in their works. Comparative Study is the field of study which examines the similarities and the dissimilarities between two literary works. However, there are authors who are influenced by another person who is not a writer. For example, English author John Ronald Reuel Tolkien is inspired by a German Composer, Richard Wagner. Thus, the idea of Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* shares some similarities and dissimilarities with Wagner's *The Ring of Nibelung* becomes the problem of this research. The aims of this research are to analyze and interpret how those works share similarities and dissimilarities. This study uses thematic analysis theory because it analyses how the literary works are compared based on their theme. The theme of the two objects is that the one Ring which has the power to rule the world, thus the comparison is based on the Ring of Power. The data of this study is the trilogy *The Lord of the Rings* novels and the English version script of *The Ring of Nibelung* operas.

This study reveals that there are five similarities and three differences between the "Two Rings of Power". The similarities are that first, both literary works have similar theme; second, both the Rings are passed many bearers; third, the tales mention about the God's existence; fourth, is that the Rings are similar in appearance or shape; and the last is that both Rings are evil. On the other hand, the differences between *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Ring of Nibelung* are the origin of the Rings of Power, the symbolization of the Gods and the source power of the Rings.

The writer suggests that the next studies, especially when they will be focused on the comparison between *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Ring of Nibelung*, to trace back their roots of inspiration because they may come from same sources. It is also possible for future researchers to investigate the novels by using other theories, for example the myth theory. The two works can also be approached by using different analysis subject that is the intrinsic aspects in them.

ABSTRAK

Purwati, Heni. 2013. **The Rings of Power Manifested in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* and Richard Wagner's *The Ring of Nibelung***. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: (I) Sri Herminingrum (II) Arcci Tusita
Kata Kunci: *Ring of Power*, perbandingan, persamaan, perbedaan.

Penulis-penulis lintas waktu dan lintas negara bisa saja memiliki beberapa kesamaan dalam karya-karya mereka. Sastra Bandingan adalah bidang kajian yang mempelajari persamaan dan perbedaan antara dua karya sastra. Namun, ada penulis-penulis yang terinspirasi oleh orang lain yang bukan penulis, contohnya penulis Inggris John Ronald Reuel Tolkien yang terinspirasi dari komposer Jerman, Richard Wagner. Maka, ide bahwa *The Lord of the Rings* karya Tolkien memiliki beberapa persamaan dan perbedaan dengan *The Ring of Nibelung* karya Wagner menjadi rumusan masalah penelitian ini. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisa dan menginterpretasi bagaimana persamaan dan perbedaan antara kedua karya tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori analisis tematik karena penelitian ini menganalisa bagaimana kedua karya tersebut dibandingkan berdasarkan tema. Tema dari kedua objek ini adalah sebuah Cincin yang memiliki kekuatan untuk menguasai dunia, sehingga perbandingan yang dilakukan berdasarkan *Ring of Power* tersebut. Data penelitian ini adalah novel trilogi *The Lord of the Rings* dan skrip versi Inggris opera *The Ring of Nibelung*.

Dari hasil penelitian ini diketahui bahwa ada lima persamaan dan tiga perbedaan antara dua *Ring of Power* ini. Persamaan-persamaannya adalah: pertama, kedua karya tersebut memiliki tema yang sama; kedua, *Ring of Power* diwariskan berkali-kali ke banyak Pembawa; ketiga, kedua karya tersebut menyebutkan keberadaan Dewa; kemudian kedua Cincin juga memiliki bentuk yang sama; dan terakhir kedua Cincin memiliki sifat jahat. Sedangkan perbedaan kedua karya ini adalah asal dari kedua *Ring of Power* yang berbeda, simbolisasi Dewa yang berbeda dan sumber kekuatan dari Cincin-Cincin tersebut.

Penulis menyarankan agar penelitian selanjutnya, yang akan membandingkan antara *The Lord of the Rings* dan *The Ring of Nibelung*, dapat dilakukan dengan menelusuri akar inspirasi keduanya karena keduanya mungkin memiliki sumber yang sama. Penelitian selanjutnya bisa juga dengan cara meneliti novel *The Lord of the Rings* menggunakan teori yang lain, contohnya Teori Mitologi. Kedua karya tersebut juga bisa dibandingkan dengan menggunakan analisis yang berbeda, yaitu aspek intrinsiknya.

REFERENCES

- Books by J.R.R. Tolkien.* (2013). Retrieved February 17, 2013 from http://www.tolkienlibrary.com/press/952-Tolkien_Reading_Order.php
- Braun, Virginia Victoria Clarke. (2006). *"Using thematic analysis in psychology". Qualitative Research in Psychology.* Thousand Oaks, California: Sage
- Carpenter, Humphrey. (1977). *Tolkien: A Biography.* New York: Ballantine Books
- Cortius, Jan Brandt. (1971). *Introduction to the Comparative Study of Literature.* Brooklyn College of the University of NY
- Dewi, Candra Puspita. (2011). *Holmes and Poirot's Characterization in Doyle's Valley of Fear and Christie's The Murder of Roger Ackroyd.* Thesis. Malang: Faculty of Culture Studies, Brawijaya University.
- Glazer, Barney G. and Anselm Strauss. (1967). *The Discovery of Grounded Theory: Strategies for Qualitative Research.* New York: Aldine.
- Griffith, Kelley. (2010). [Writing Essays about Literature](#) (8 ed.). Cengage Learning
- Guest, Greg. (2012). *Applied thematic analysis.* Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.
- Harvey, David. (1995) *One Ring to Rule Them All.* FMI Publishing
- Havířová, Tereza. (2005). *"Fairy Tale Elements in J. R. R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings and J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter stories".* Thesis. Brno: Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University.
- Haymes, Edward R. (14 January 2004). *"The Two Rings".* Retrieved September 13, 2013 from <http://de-vagaesemhybrazil.blogspot.com/2008/12/two-rings-tolkien-and-wagner-dc-before.html>.
- J. R. R. Tolkien: A Biographical Sketch.* (1977). Retrieved February 17, 2013 from <http://www.tolkiensociety.org/tolkien/biography.html>
- J. R. R. Tolkien. (2012). *The Fellowship of the Ring.* Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- J. R. R. Tolkien. (2012). *The Return of the King.* Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- J. R. R. Tolkien. (2012). *The Two Towers.* Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- [Lernout, Geert.](#) (2006). *"Comparative Literature in the Low Countries", Comparative Critical Studies (British Comparative Literature) (1): 37–46.*

Retrieved May 10, 2013, from http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/comparative_critical_studies/v003/3.1lernout.html

[Magee, Bryan](#). (2001). *The Tristan Chord: Wagner and Philosophy*. Metropolitan Books.

List of Wagner's works. (2012). Retrieved May 12, 2013 from <http://www.wagneroperas.com/indexwagnerbioportal.html>

Martin, Alain (2008 world literature program). Retrieved February 18, 2013 from <http://bama.ua.edu//wip/cvwl.htm>

Ryan, Gery. W., H. Russell Bernard. (2003). *Techniques to Identify Themes*. University of Florida.

The Ring and The Rings. (2013). Retrieved May 10, 2013 from http://tolkiengateway.net/wiki/Der_Ring_des_Nibelungen

The Literary work of J.R.R. Tolkien. (2013). Retrieved February 17, 2013 from http://www.lord-of-the-rings.org/tolkien/literary_work.html

The Lord of the Rings Book. (2013). Retrieved February 17, 2013 from <http://www.lord-of-the-rings.org/books.html>

Tolkien, Christopher. (1981). *The Letters of J. R. R. Tolkien*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Two Rings to Rule them All. (2013). Retrieved May 12, 2013 from <http://www.the-wagnerian.com/2012/10/two-rings-to-rule-them-all-comparative.html>

Wagner, Richard, tr. William Ashton Ellis. (1994). *The Art Work Of The Future, And Other Works*. Lincoln and London.

Wagner, Richard, tr. Andrew Gray. (1992). *My Life*. New York: Da Capo Press.

Wagner, Richard, tr. Alfred Forman. (1877). *The Ring of Nibelung*. London: Schott & Co.