# AN ANALYSIS OF EXPERIENTIAL MEANINGS IN CARL SANDBURG'S POEMS

**A Thesis**

*Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement*

*for the Degree of Sarjana Humaniora*

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT - FACULTY OF HUMANITY**

**ANDALAS UNIVERSITY**

**2022**

# APPROVAL PAGE

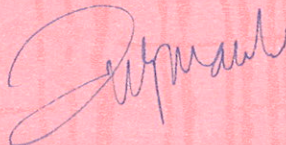An Analysis of Experiential Meanings In Carl Sandburg's Poems

By

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**This thesis was approved for examination on July 2022**
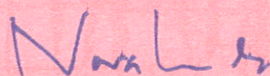
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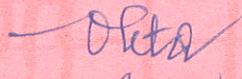
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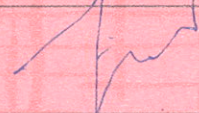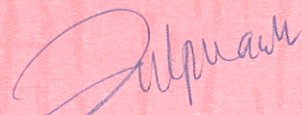Faculty of Humanities – Andalas University

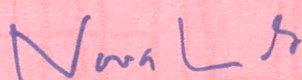**Novalinda, S.S, M.Hum**
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# DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled, **"An Analysis of Experiential Meaning in Carl Sandburg's Poem"** has not been submitted yet, either in the same or different form or idea. There has not been any form or ideas written or published by others except those that are referred to in this thesis and mentioned in the work cited and references.
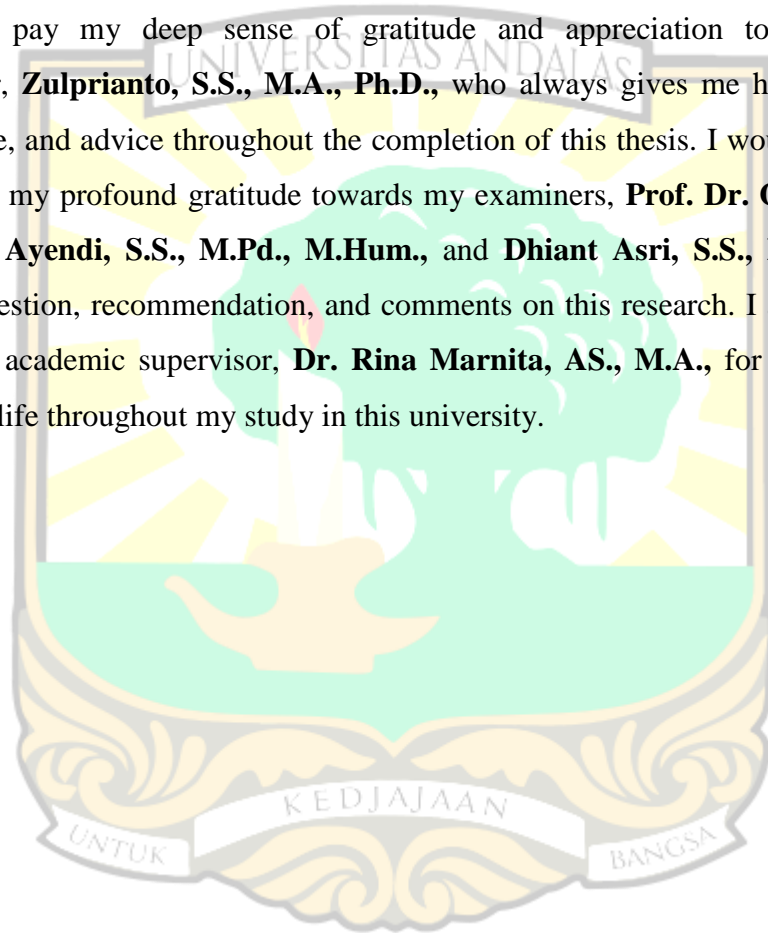
Padang, 15 July 2022

Rika Amelia Danuwijaya

# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*In the name of Allah SWT, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.*

Praise and gratitude to Allah SWT for the abundance of grace, guidance and gifts, and not to forget, my salutation and sholawat to Prophet Muhammad SAW who is the guide of every human being in the pursuit of knowledge.

I pay my deep sense of gratitude and appreciation to my thesis supervisor, **Zulprianto, S.S., M.A., Ph.D.,** who always gives me his guidance, ideas, time, and advice throughout the completion of this thesis. I would also like to express my profound gratitude towards my examiners, **Prof. Dr. Oktavianus, M.Hum., Ayendi, S.S., M.Pd., M.Hum.,** and **Dhiant Asri, S.S., M.Hum** for their suggestion, recommendation, and comments on this research. I also want to thank my academic supervisor, **Dr. Rina Marnita, AS., M.A.,** for guiding my academic life throughout my study in this university.

# DEDICATION PAGE

This thesis I dedicate to myself who had worked hard every day to complete this thesis despite the boredom and temptation. I also want to express my most enormous gratitude to my father (Hendri Dunan), whose shoulders are wider than the ocean, who always provided everything I need. So, I am able to complete my study without any trouble. To the love of my life, my mother (Cicilia Naryani), your presence alone can keep me strong in facing all the hardships. The thought of your existence and your endless love is what makes me confident to keep moving. Last but not least, to my brother Raihan Arkan Danuwijaya who is sometimes nosy but always ready to listen to my every rants and complaint. The greatest miracle that ever happened to me is the fact I was born into this family.

To these people who help me in every means, I also want to give my appreciation for them:

1. To my precious friends Rifani Indra Putra, Amelia Marisa, Ghina Tsuraya Rahmani, and Nurfebiola, you are the people who have accompanied me at various stages of my life through elementary school until college. Thank you for being my friend in my ups and downs and making my youth memorable.

2. For my friends in Sad+Missqueen who have accompanied me during my studies in English Department, Hafidh, Evi, Fiza, Putri, Samuel, Dinda, Doni, and Tania. Because of you guys, my college years become more fun and full of laughter.

3. My friends that I made at college: Dilla, Nia, Rania, and Novi. You guys are the place where I can ask questions when I face difficulties in studying at this university until the completion of this thesis. Your presence completes my college life.

4. To all lecturers in the English Department who have taught me precious knowledge and played a significant role in building my perception of the English language and literature, and all of my friends in the English Department'18 who are cool and fun. See you on top, guys!

5. Lastly, my biggest thanks to my beloved pet cat, Shiro, and Hoyoverse who has created the Genshin Impact game. Without both of two, this thesis would not exist. You are my place to charge my energy and keep me sane. You are the real MVP!

# ABSTRACT

Finding out the meaning of a poem is one aspect that is often the main objective of reading a poem. This thesis discusses how to interpret poetry by using the theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) which Michael Halliday popularized to find out the meaning and transitivity process in poetry written by Carl Sandburg. The selected poems are *A Million Young Workmen* and *Masses*, both poems discuss social issues in it. Using descriptive statistical methods to see the spread of data obtained from the transitivity analysis process and descriptive qualitative methods to find the meaning of the two selected poems. The results in this thesis found that a total of twenty-three clauses consisting of 15 clauses from *A Million Young Workmen* and 8 clauses from the *Masses.*The findings show that P1 contains a material process (52.63%), mental process (15.79%), verbal process (5.26%), behavioral process (5.26%), and relational process (21.05%). P2 contains a material process (33.33%), mental process (50%), and relational process (16.67%). Proportional to the frequent material process, the most dominating participants in P1 are Actors and Goals with a percentage (17.86%). Meanwhile, in P2, Senser has the percentage (12.5%), and Phenomenon with the percentage (25%). In the Transitivity of Circumstances, P1 and P2 have circumstance location as the most dominant Circumstance of P1 (53.85%) and P2 (66.67%). The result showed that the hallmark of Sandburg's poetry is the use of Circumstance of Location. In addition, by using the data obtained above, the inequality faced by the poor in P1 is indicated by the different values in material and relational Processes carried by the ruling and working class. Whereas in P2, mental Processes play an essential role in our way of appreciating something.

**Keywords:** *Systemic Functional Linguistics, Transitivity, Experiential Meaning, Carl Sandburg*

# ABSTRAK

Menemukan makna sebuah puisi merupakan salah satu aspek yang sering menjadi tujuan utama ketika membaca sebuah puisi. Skripsi ini membahas bagaimana menafsirkan puisi dengan menggunakan teori Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik (LFS) yang dipopulerkan Michael Halliday untuk mengetahui makna dan proses transitivitas dalam puisi karya Carl Sandburg. Puisi yang dipilih adalah *A Million Young Workmen* dan *Masses*, kedua puisi tersebut membahas masalah sosial di dalamnya. Menggunakan metode statistik deskriptif untuk melihat sebaran data yang diperoleh dari proses analisis transitivitas dan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk menemukan makna dari kedua puisi terpilih. Hasil dalam kripsi ini ditemukan bahwa sebanyak dua puluh tiga klausa yang terdiri dari 15 klausa dari *A Million Young Workmen* dan 8 klausa dari *Masses*. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa P1 berisi proses material (52,63%), proses mental (15,79%), proses verbal (5,26%), proses perilaku (5,26%), dan proses relasional (21,05%). P2 berisi proses material (33,33%), proses mental (50%), dan proses relasional (16,67%). Sebanding dengan proses material yang sering muncul, Peserta yang paling mendominasi di P1 adalah Aktor dan Tujuan dengan persentase (17,86%). Sedangkan pada P2 Pengindera memiliki persentase (12,5%), dan Fenomena dengan persentase (25%). Pada Transitivitas Keadaan, P1 dan P2 memiliki keadaan lokasi adalah Keadaan yang paling dominan yaitu P1 (53,85%) dan P2 (66,67%). Data diatas menunjukkan bahwa ciri khas puisi Sandburg adalah penggunaan keadaan lokasi. Selain itu, dengan menggunakan data yang diperoleh di atas. Ketimpangan sosial yang dihadapi kaum pekerja di P1 dapat kita lihat melalui perbedaan nilai-nilai dalam proses material dan relasional yang dibawa oleh kelas penguasa dan kelas pekerja. Sedangkan di P2, proses mental berperan penting dalam cara kita mengapresiasi sesuatu.

**Kata Kunci:** *Linguistik Fungsional Sistemik, Transitivitas, Makna Eksperiensial, Carl Sandburg*