

SYMBOLISM IN HANYA YANAGIHARA'S NOVEL *A LITTLE LIFE*: NEW CRITICISM

AN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH THESIS

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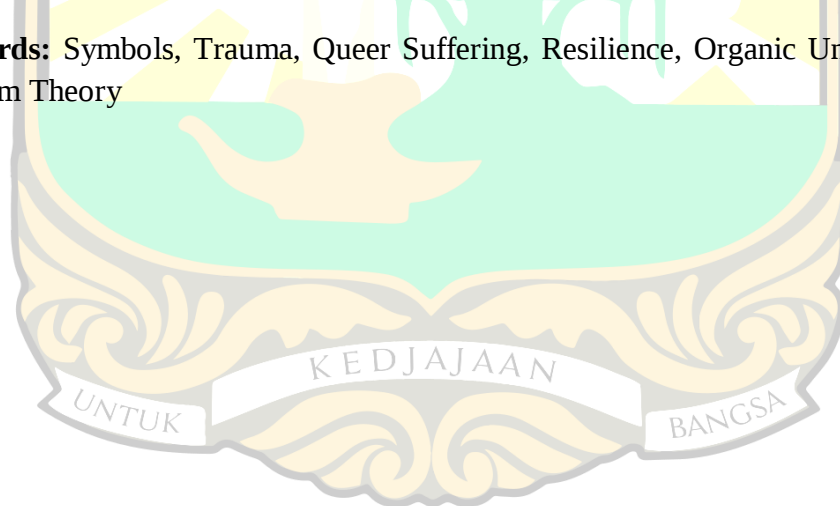
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ABSTRACT

A Little Life is a novel by Hanya Yanagihara published in 2015. The novel describes how traumatic experiences in the past significantly affect the mental and physical condition of the main character, Jude. This study aims to identify the symbols that form an organic unity in the development of the novel's central themes. This research uses the close reading method with the New Criticism approach introduced by John Crowe Ransom. The results of the analysis show that there are various important symbols in the novel that collectively reinforce the themes and messages conveyed. These include scars, razors, books, mirrors, wheelchairs, ice cream, Willem's presence, blood, the color brown, bathrooms, paintings, long-sleeved clothes, and Jude himself. All these symbols are interconnected and work in concert to build an organic unity in the literary work, which ultimately reinforces the main themes of trauma, resilience, queer suffering, and friendship.

Keywords: Symbols, Trauma, Queer Suffering, Resilience, Organic Unity, New Criticism Theory



ABSTRAK

A Little Life adalah sebuah novel karya Hanya Yanagihara yang diterbitkan pada tahun 2015. Novel ini menggambarkan bagaimana pengalaman traumatis di masa lalu secara signifikan mempengaruhi kondisi mental dan fisik karakter utama, Jude. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi simbol-simbol yang membentuk kesatuan organik dalam pengembangan tema sentral novel tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode close reading dengan pendekatan New Criticism yang diperkenalkan oleh John Crowe Ransom. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa terdapat berbagai simbol penting dalam novel yang secara kolektif memperkuat tema dan pesan yang disampaikan. Simbol-simbol tersebut antara lain bekas luka, pisau cukur, buku, cermin, kursi roda, es krim, kehadiran Willem, darah, warna cokelat, kamar mandi, lukisan, baju lengan panjang, dan Jude sendiri. Semua simbol ini saling berhubungan dan bekerja sama untuk membangun kesatuan organik dalam karya sastra, yang pada akhirnya memperkuat tema utama trauma, ketahanan, penderitaan yang aneh, dan persahabatan.

Keywords: Symbols, Trauma, Queer Suffering, Resilience, Organic Unity, New Criticism Theory