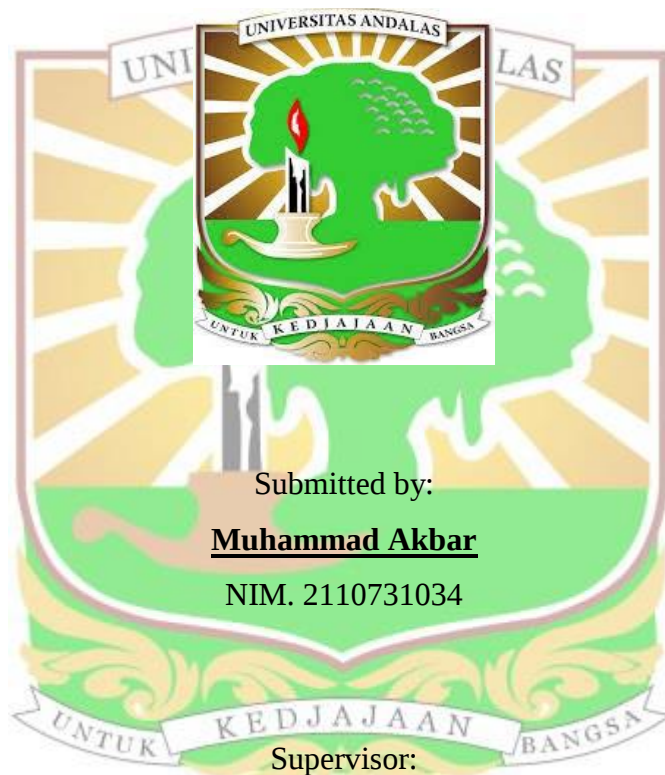


**INTERSECTIONALITY OF GENDER AND CLASS AND THE
REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN
AMANDA BROWN'S *LEGALLY BLONDE*: A FEMINIST
PERSPECTIVE**

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

*Submitted in Partial Fulfillment to the Requirement
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Submitted by:

Muhammad Akbar

NIM. 2110731034

Supervisor:

Rika Handayani, S.S., M.AAPD., M.Hum

NIP. 198110252005012003

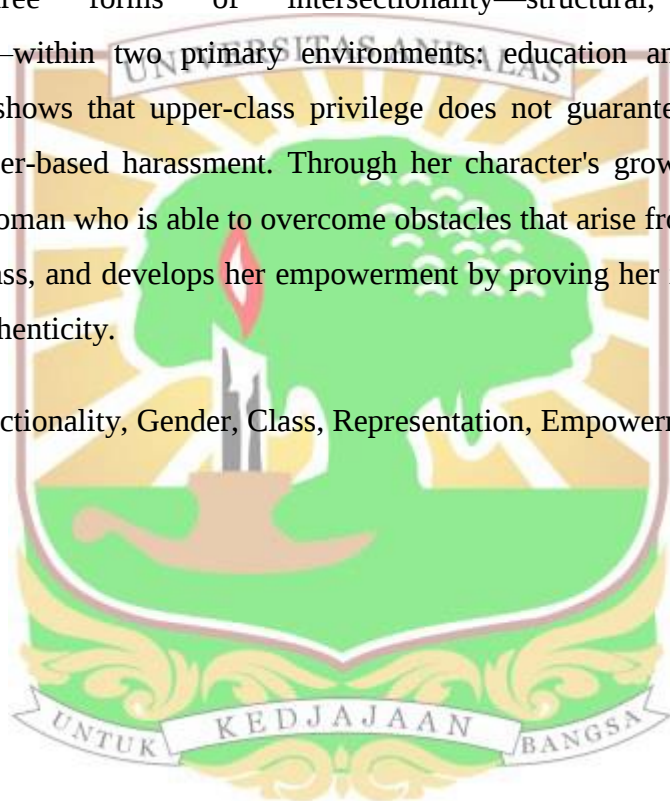
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ABSTRACT

This thesis examines the intersectionality of gender and class that shapes the representation of women's empowerment in Amanda Brown's novel *Legally Blonde*. This study focuses on how gender and class intersect and shape opportunities and discrimination against the main character, Elle Woods. The writer uses qualitative methods and applies Liberal Feminist Theory, Kimberlé Crenshaw's Intersectionality Theory and Stuart Hall's Representation Theory. The findings reveal that Elle experiences three forms of intersectionality—structural, political, and representational—within two primary environments: education and the workplace. Additionally, it shows that upper-class privilege does not guarantee protection from sexism and gender-based harassment. Through her character's growth and resistance, Elle portrays a woman who is able to overcome obstacles that arise from the intersection of gender and class, and develops her empowerment by proving her intellectual ability, empathy, and authenticity.

Keyword: Intersectionality, Gender, Class, Representation, Empowerment.



ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini mengkaji tentang interseksionalitas gender dan kelas yang membentuk representasi pemberdayaan perempuan yang terdapat pada novel *Legally Blonde* karya Amanda Brown. Penelitian ini berfokus terhadap bagaimana gender dan kelas saling bersinggungan dan membentuk opportunity dan diskriminasi terhadap karakter utama, Elle Woods. Penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif dan mengaplikasikan Teori Feminisme Liberal, Teori Interseksionalitas Kimberlé Crenshaw, dan Teori Representasi Stuart Hall. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan Elle mengalami tiga bentuk interseksionalitas yaitu struktural, politis, dan representasional pada dua lingkungan utama: pendidikan dan tempat kerja. Selain itu, menunjukkan bahwa privilege kelas atas tidak menjamin perlindungan terhadap seksime dan pelecehan berbasis gender. Lewat perlawanan pertumbuhan karakter, Elle seorang wanita yang mampu mengatasi rintangan yang muncul dari persimpangan gender dan kelas, dan membentuk pemberdayaannya lewat kemampuan intelektual, empati, dan keaslian diri.

Kata kunci: Interseksionalitas, Gender, Kelas, Representasi, Pemberdayaan.

