

**ALIENATION EXPERIENCED BY PEOPLE FROM LOW CASTE IN  
*THE WHITE TIGER* (2008)**

**THESIS**

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain Strata One  
(S1) Degree*



**By:**

**RAHMAT TAUFIK**

**17019054**

**Advisor:**

**Delvi Wahyuni, S.S, M.A**

**NIP. 19820618.200812.2.003**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS  
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG**

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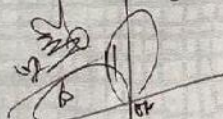
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Judul : Alienation Experienced By People From Low Caste  
In The White Tiger (2008)  
Nama : Rahmat Taufik  
NIM : 17019054  
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris  
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris  
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, 4 September 2023

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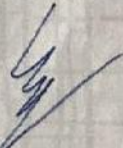
Pembimbing



Delvi Wahyuni, S.S, M.A  
NIP.19820618.200812.2.003

Mengetahui

Ketua Departemen Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris



Desvalini Anwar, S., M.Hum., PhD.  
NIP. 19710525.199802.2.002

HALAMAN PENGESAHAN LULUS UJIAN SKRIPSI

Dinyatakan lulus setelah dipertahankan di depan Tim Penguji Skripsi  
Program Studi Sastra Inggris Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris  
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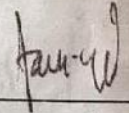
Nama : Rahmat Taufik  
NIM : 17019054  
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris  
Jurusan : Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris  
Fakultas : Bahasa dan Seni

Padang, 4 September 2023

Tim Penguji

Tanda Tangan


1. Ketua : Dra. An Fauzia Rozani S., M.A.

: 

2. Sekretaris : Desvalini Anwar, SS, M.Hum, Ph.D.

: 

3. Anggota : Delvi Wahyuni S.S, M.A.

: 





KEMENTERIAN PENDIDIKAN KEBUDAYAAN  
RISET DAN TEKNOLOGI  
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG  
DEPARTEMEN BAHASA DAN SASTRA INGGRIS  
Jl. Prof. Dr. Hamka Air Tawar, Padang 25131 Tlp. (0751) 447347  
Web: <http://english.fbs.unp.ac.id>



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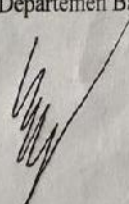
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NIM/ TM : 17019054  
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris  
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Ketua Departemen Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris

  
Desvalim Anwar, S.S., M.Hum., Ph.D.  
NIP.19710525.199802.2.002

Saya yang menyatakan,



Rahmat Taufik  
NIM. 17019054

## ABSTRACT

Taufik, Rahmat (2017). **Alienation Experienced By People From Low Caste In *The White Tiger* (2008)**. Padang: Department of English Language and Literature. Faculty of Language and Art, Universitas Negeri Padang

This study discusses the Novel *The White Tiger* (2008) by Aravind Adiga. The protagonist Balram's journey from poverty to affluence while dealing with a class battle, exploitation, amorality, and the rise of globalization is the subject of *The White Tiger*. Balram, a citizen of dark India, is crushed in a cruelly stratified society. Due to inevitable financial strain, he is unable to continue his schooling. He is forced to work the same as his caste, Halwai (sweet maker) and afterwards as a driver for a wealthy man's son who lives in a cosmopolitan city and is qualified from abroad. The purpose of this research is to expose the issue of alienation experienced by people from low caste in the Novel *The White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga (2008). The issue of alienation refers to the way the character and the people from low caste in India got treated poorly and how the main character get out from it. This analysis is text-based interpretation based on the concept of Marxist literary theory. The result of the study reveals the main character experienced alienation and found way to escape that.

**Key Words: Alienation, Casteism, Poverty, Marxism**

## ABSTRAK

Taufik, Rahmat (2017). **Keterasingan Yang Dialami Oleh Orang Dari Kasta Rendah Dalam *The White Tiger* (2008)**. Padang: Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris. Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni Universitas Negeri Padang

Penelitian ini membahas tentang Novel *The White Tiger* (2008) karya Aravind Adiga. Perjalanan protagonis Balram dari kemiskinan menuju kemakmuran sambil menghadapi pertarungan kelas, eksploitasi, amoralitas, dan kebangkitan globalisasi adalah subjek dari Macan Putih. Balram, seorang warga India yang gelap, dihancurkan dalam masyarakat yang terstratifikasi dengan kejam. Karena tekanan keuangan yang tak terhindarkan, dia tidak dapat melanjutkan sekolahnya. Ia dipaksa bekerja sesuai dengan kastanya, Halwai (pembuat manisan) dan kemudian sebagai sopir anak orang kaya yang tinggal di kota kosmopolitan dan mumpuni yang datang dari luar negeri. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengungkap persoalan keterasingan yang dialami oleh masyarakat kasta rendah dalam Novel *The White Tiger* karya Aravind Adiga (2008). Isu keterasingan mengacu pada cara karakter dan orang-orang dari kasta rendah di India diperlakukan dengan buruk dan bagaimana karakter utama keluar darinya. Analisis ini adalah interpretasi berbasis teks berdasarkan konsep teori sastra Marxis. Hasil penelitian mengungkapkan tokoh utama mengalami keterasingan dan menemukan cara untuk keluar dari hal tersebut.

**Kata Kunci: Keterasingan, Kastaisme, Kemiskinan, Marxisme**

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your feeling and it is not your things, I'm completely okay with that, I was too young to understand all of the silence, time goes by so fast, I wish there was a way to know that you are in the good old days before you actually left them, rest well, may the force be with you. To **my sister (tari)**, thank you for being alive and growing up by my side and always be my sidekick also my different point of view, I'm really sorry if back in the days since elementary until our senior high school year you never beat me academically, but that is okay because you have another blessings in you and we're all know that really well, I always wish you do not grow up and keep being my little baby sister. To **all my friends**, who came and gone, who crossed path with me, also for **everyone** who always there through my high and low. To **Dinda Novia Putri**, who always be there and accompanied me during my lowest part to the point that I think I want to give up, I hope you never have to think about anything as much as I think about you.

**Padang, June 2023**

**Rahmat Taufik**



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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of The Research

Alienation is the feeling of being an outsider, or feeling isolated, out of place, or cut off from the outside world. Karl Marx considers alienation from political, anthropological and sociocultural perspectives. Through Karl Marx's philosophical view of economics. He explains how he is isolated from work and other workers in the capitalist mode of production. This definition of alienation is commonly used in contemporary literature, political science, psychology, and sociology. It is the sense of helplessness, isolation, meaninglessness, and oppression experienced by humans. There are some case that caused alienation, one of them is casteism, Casteism is one of the rural social problems, which is very peculiar in India, country of various religions. Some religion is sub-divided into different castes and these castes again into sub-castes, especially Hinduism. The culture of each caste varies though they all belong to one religion. Among these castes, certain are given a high status and others a low status, depending upon their caste occupation (Mandal 2010). According to Sharma ( in Rao, 2017), casteism is a blind group loyalty towards one's own caste or sub-caste, which does not care for the interests of other castes, and seeks to realize the social, economic, political and other interests of its own group. The caste system as it exists today is thought to be the result of developments during the collapse of the Mughal era and the rise of the British colonial government in India (de Zwart 2000). The collapse of the Mughal era saw the rise of powerful men who

associated themselves with kings, priests and ascetics, affirming the regal and martial form of the caste ideal, and it also reshaped many apparently casteless social groups into differentiated caste communities (Bayli 2001).

Alienation is a symptom of the industrial age and capitalism. Workers can only see and participate in part of the work, and have no control or knowledge of the final product. This often describes the adversarial influence between causes, places, events and individuals or groups that are/was in good harmony. The caste system bring many effects to the people in India, especially to the people with the lower caste or also known as The Dalits, they tend to get discrimination and live in eternal loop of poverty because they can not mobilize from their caste. Most Dalits in India also continue to live in extreme poverty, without land or opportunities for better employment or education. With the exception of a minority who have benefited from India's policy of quotas in education and government jobs, Dalits are relegated to the most menial of tasks as removers of human waste and dead animals, leather workers, street sweepers, and cobblers. Dalit children make up the majority of children sold into bondage to pay off debts to upper-caste creditors (Indian Express 2000).

The caste system in India is more or less, same with Marxist social class concept that included alienation, commodification, and reification. In Marxist concept of social class, people from low social class called the proletariat, it is the lowest or one of the lowest economic and social class in society. is the social class of wage-earners, those members of a society whose only possession of significant

economic value is their labour power (their capacity to work) (Marx 1848). In this thesis, author discussed about one of Marxist social class concept; alienation.

The term "alienation" refers to the sensation of being an outsider, as well as feelings of loneliness, strangeness, or a lack of external connections. Political, anthropological, and sociocultural perspectives are all used by Karl Marx to analyze alienation, it is the state or experience of being isolated from a group or an activity to which one should belong or in which one should be involved. In India, Rural people group have been organized based on caste. As stated by Marx (Wright 2008), In term of social class, it is important to remember that social class is a relational concept, the upper and lower classes, they almost lived in separated colonies. The water wells were not shared. Brahmins would not accept food or drink from the Shudras (Wright 2008). The Dalit is a name for people belonging to the lowest stratum castes in India, previously characterised as "untouchable", Dalits were excluded from the four-fold varna system of Hinduism. Dalits usually work as municipal cleaners and domestic workers, lowly jobs. They live in small, squalid quarters provided by the city corporation with no gas or electricity and are paid a little over U.S. \$1 a day. Dalits also breed pigs for Dhaka's minority Hindu and Christian population and work as vendors and rickshaw pullers. It shows that Marxist concept of social class can applied to analyzed the caste system in India (The Times of India 2018).

The novel written by Aravind Adiga entitle "*The White Tiger*"(2008). mainly centers around the subject of casteism. Aravind Adiga has depicted about the two classes in the general public, the upper and lower classes. The main



character in this novel is Balram, who belongs with the lower class family. This novel showed the casteism in India in addition to shows how the lower station individuals go through intense sufferings by the mastery of the high class individuals. The White Tiger analyzes the common Indian caste system and their way of life. For a really long time, position has pretty much every part of Hindu strict and public activity in which each gathering possesses a particular spot in this complicated society. Religion largely pertain to how religion relates to potential changes in the economy, or lack thereof; though he also argued that religion is alienating in its attribution of human qualities to the divine. For Marx, religion legitimates existing social structures, specifically economic conditions. Despite this macro focus, his views make assumptions about the nature of the relationship between class and religion that should be observable among groups of individuals. Marx was famously critical of religion. He believed that social class influences religion in the sense that in a capitalist economy religious institutions will come to serve the purposes of the bourgeoisie. This novel also highlights this point, Balram, the main character being born in a lower caste was tortured by the upper caste people and landlords, it showed that he's been struggling in his low social class since he was born.

## **1.2 Focus of The Problem**

This study focus on alienation experienced by people from low caste in India contained in the novel "*The White Tiger*" (2008) by Aravind Adiga.

## **1.3 Research Questions**

How does the novel *The White Tiger* shows the alienation experienced by people from lower social caste?

#### 1.4 Purpose of the Research

The purpose of the research is aimed to see how the novel *The White Tiger* shows the alienation experienced by people from lower social caste.

#### 1.5 Conceptual Framework

