

**SUBALTERN PERSPECTIVES ON ROMANCE AND POWER IN KEVIN
KWAN'S 'CRAZY RICH ASIANS**



An Undergraduate Thesis

**Submitted as a partial fulfilment of the requirements
for Bachelor of Literature Degree**

Gilang Aprillio Surya Birki

1709010010

FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES AND COMMUNICATION

UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH PURWOKERTO

2024

**SUBALTERN PERSPECTIVES ON ROMANCE AND POWER IN KEVIN
KWAN'S 'CRAZY RICH ASIANS**



An Undergraduate Thesis

**Submitted as a partial fulfilment of the requirements
for Bachelor of Literature Degree**

Gilang Aprillio Surya Birki

1709010010

FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES AND COMMUNICATION

UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH PURWOKERTO

2024

APPROVAL SHEET

This is to justify that this graduating paper entitled "SUBALTERN PERSPECTIVES ON ROMANCE AND POWER IN KEVIN KWAN'S *Crazy Rich*

Asians by Gilang Aprillio Surya Birki has been approved by the advisor and the head of English Department to be examined by the board of examiners.

Purwokerto, August 1st 2024

Head of English Department

Advisor



Sulasih Nurhayati, S.S., M.Hum.
NIK.2160274



Dr. Widya Nirmalawati, S.S., M.A.
NIK.2160370

VALIDATION SHEET

SUBALTERN PERSPECTIVES ON ROMANCE AND POWER IN KEVIN KWAN'S

CRAZY RICH ASIANS

An Undergraduate Thesis

by

Gilang Aprillio Surya Birki

1709010010

has been examined and approved by the Board of Examiners as one of the requirements for *Sarjana Sastra* degree on 9th August 2024

THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

First Examiner



Titik Wahyuningsih, S.S., M.Hum.

NIK. 2160272

Second Examiner



Asih Ernawati, S.S., M.Hum., Ph.D.

NIK. 2160209

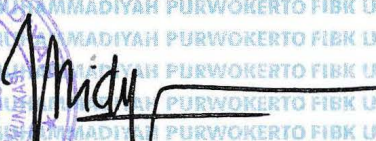
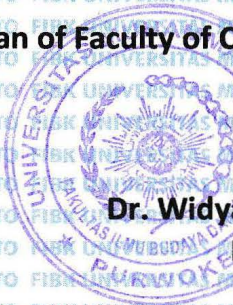
Chairperson



Dr. Widya Nirmalawati, S.S., M.A.

NIK. 2160370

**Legalized by
the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences and Communication**



Dr. Widya Nirmalawati, S.S., M.A.

NIK. 2160370

STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

Name : Gilang Aprillio Surya Birki

StudentNumber : 1709010010

I the undersigned researcher who write this undergraduate thesis entitled "SUBALTERN PERSPECTIVES ON ROMANCE AND POWER IN KEVIN KWAN'S *Crazy Rich Asians*" hereby attest and affirm that all the construction in this thesis has not been previously submitted and published for a degree or publication in any institutions and any affiliation. If later, it indicates an unoriginality or plagiarized someone else` work in the past before this work has been published. The undersigned researcher will be ready to be punished and sanction.

Purwokerto, August 2024



Gilang Aprillio Surya Birki

**HALAMAN PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI
THESIS
UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS**

Sebagai sivitas akademika Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto dan demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, saya yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini:

Nama : Gilang Aprillio Surya Birki
NIM : 1709010010
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Ilmu Budaya dan Komunikasi
Perguruan Tinggi : Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto
Jenis Karya : Skripsi

Menyetujui untuk memberikan Hak Bebas Royalti Noneksklusif (*Non-exclusive Royalty-Free right*) kepada Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto atas karya ilmiah saya yang berjudul:

SUBALTERN PERSPECTIVES ON ROMANCE AND POWER IN
KEVIN KWAN'S 'CRAZY RICH ASIANS

Beserta perangkat yang ada (jika diperlukan). Dengan hak bebas Royalti Noneksklusif ini Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto berhak menyimpan, mengalihmedia/ mengalihformatkan, mengelola dalam bentuk pangkalan data (*database*), merawat dan mempublikasikan tugas akhir saya dengan tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis/pencipta dan sebagai pemilik Hak Cipta. Pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Dibuat di : Purwokerto
Pada tanggal : 19 Agustus 2024
Yang menyatakan,

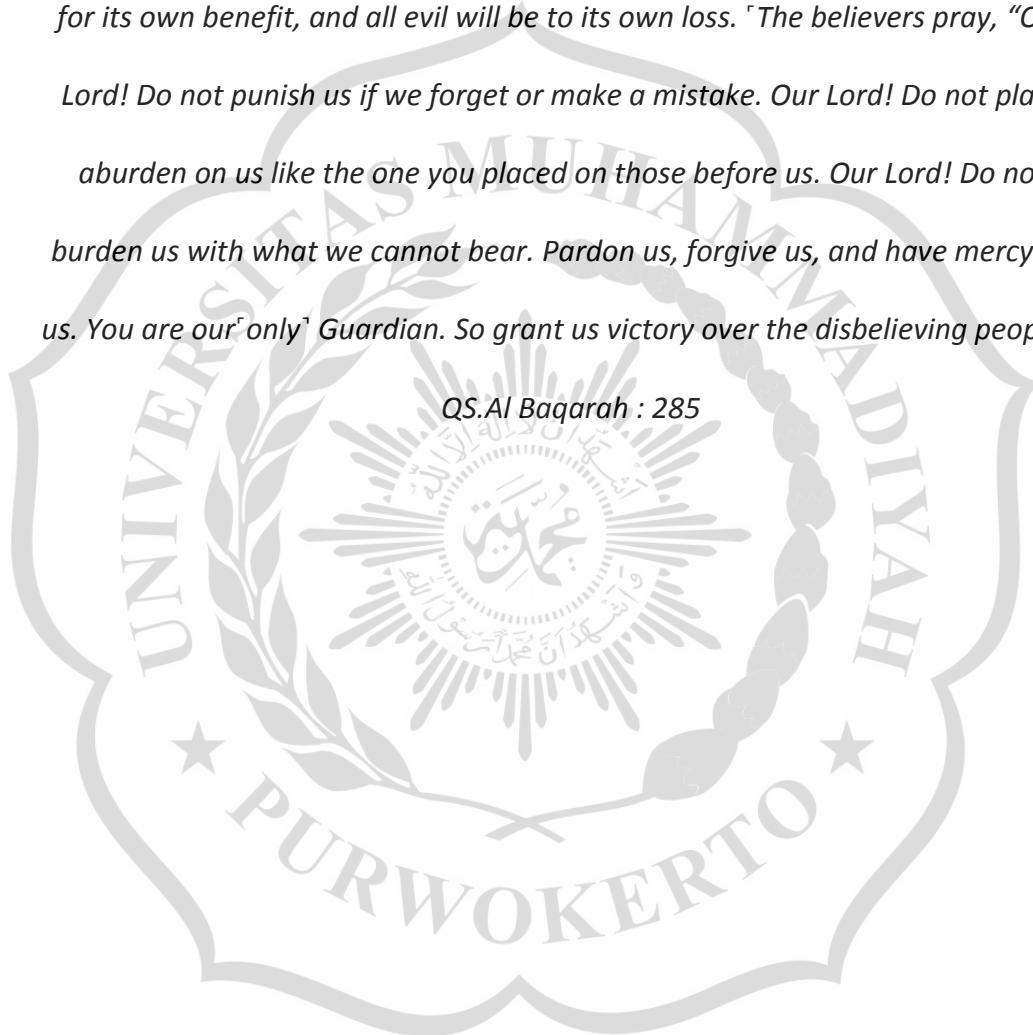


Gilang Aprillio Surya Birki

MOTTO

Allah does not require of any soul more than what it can afford. All good will be for its own benefit, and all evil will be to its own loss. The believers pray, "Our Lord! Do not punish us if we forget or make a mistake. Our Lord! Do not place a burden on us like the one you placed on those before us. Our Lord! Do not burden us with what we cannot bear. Pardon us, forgive us, and have mercy on us. You are our only Guardian. So grant us victory over the disbelieving people."

QS. Al Baqarah : 285



DEDICATION

The author dedicates this thesis to everyone who helped the author relentlessly
to pursue this thesis through to completion.



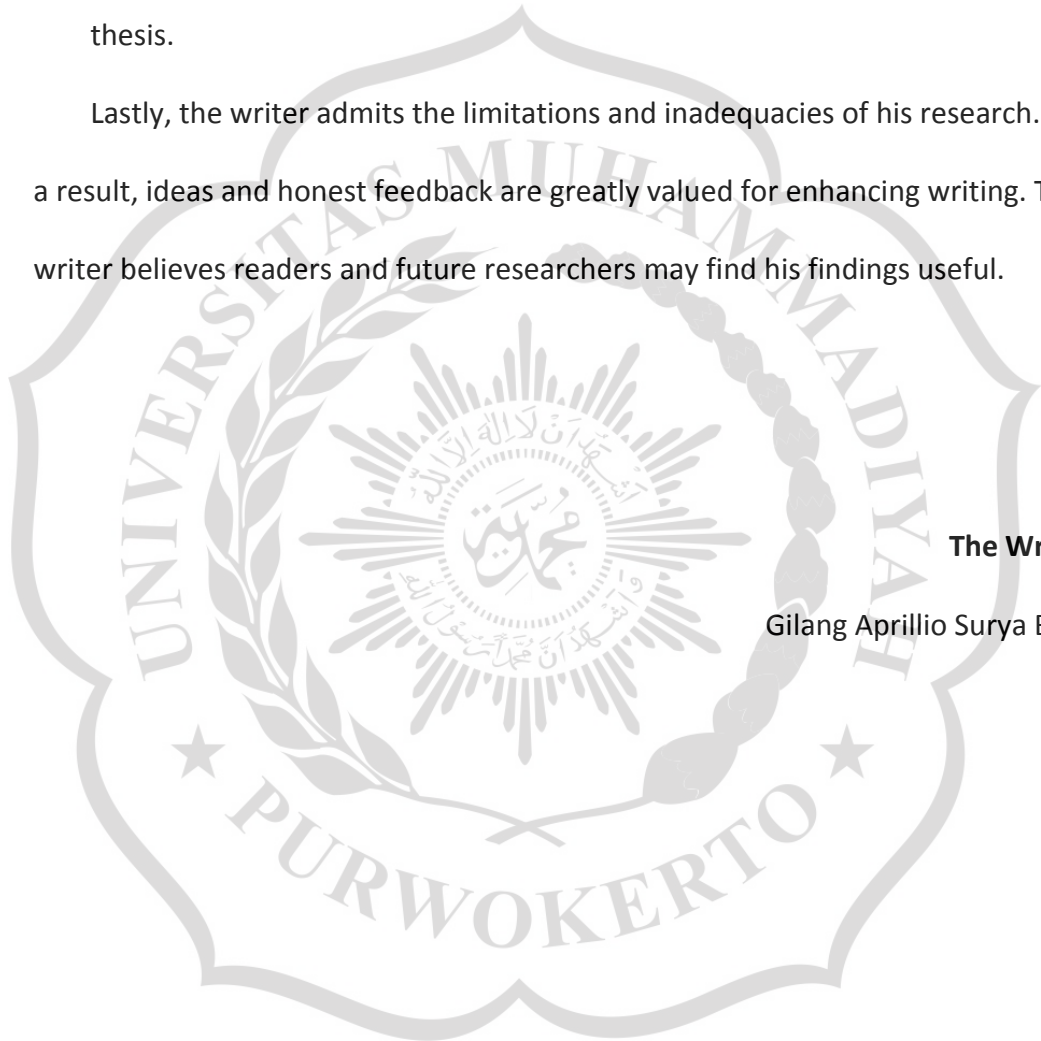
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praise and appreciation are due to Allah, who throughout the writer's life presented upon his ever-lasting mercies and graces and bestowed upon him the knowledge necessary to finish this research. The author also notes that without the assistance and support of those around, his work would not have been completed. Thus, the author would like to express their sincere gratitude to everyone who made a significant contribution to the accomplishment of this work. The author would like to extend his sincere gratitude and appreciation to:

1. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jebul Suroso the Rector of Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto,
2. Dr. Widya Nirmalawati, S.S., M.A., as the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences and Communication Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto, also acted as my thesis supervisor who patiently taught me to write this thesis until it was finished,
3. Sulasih Nurhayati, S.S., M.Hum., as the Head of the English Education Department as well as my examiner, who also gave me a lot of help and insights,
4. All lecturers of the Faculty of Cultural Sciences and Communication at Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto have sincerely given me great things and valuable knowledge in my study,
5. To my dearest friends, acquaintances, and colleagues thank you for any kinds of advice and endless support,

6. To my family, who have pushed me to continue with this degree, thank you for being able to provide both emotional and financial encouragement to ensure I can complete this study before the expelled letter was launched,
7. To the dearest one who motivate me and cheer me up in completing this thesis.

Lastly, the writer admits the limitations and inadequacies of his research. As a result, ideas and honest feedback are greatly valued for enhancing writing. The writer believes readers and future researchers may find his findings useful.



The Writer

Gilang Aprillio Surya Birki

ABSTRACT

Birki, Gilang Aprillio, 1709010010. 2024: Subaltern Perspectives on Romance and Power in KEVIN KWAN'S Novel '*Crazy Rich Asians*'. Undergraduate Thesis for Sarjana Sastra Degree, English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences and Communication, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

This study explores the complex dynamics of gender, power, and identity in elite Singaporean-Chinese society, focusing on Rachel Chu in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*. It employs subaltern theory to examine her marginalization, resistance against familial oppression, and broader societal issues. *Crazy Rich Asians* explores post-colonial feminism and subaltern theory, highlighting the impact of traditional norms on modern gender roles. The study relies on data from the novel's narration, dialogue, and text, analyzed using content analysis and purposive sampling. Data collection involves comprehensive reading, note-taking, and identifying central themes such as power dynamics, gender roles, and cultural expectations. The analysis process includes organizing data, coding, thematic analysis, interpretation, synthesis, and validation to draw meaningful conclusions about the novel's exploration and critique of real-life societal issues. The data primarily consists of textual evidence from the novel, focusing on interactions between Rachel Chu and Eleanor Young. Using subaltern theory, the study analyzes how power, gender, and cultural expectations are portrayed within elite Singaporean Chinese society. Key excerpts from the novel reveal Rachel's systemic marginalization, underscored by her discomfort in grand settings and interactions with Eleanor, who embodies traditional matriarchal authority. Rachel's journey challenges these entrenched norms, highlighting her resistance against patriarchal expectations and illustrating the complex interplay of gender and cultural identity. The analysis provides insights into the societal structures that perpetuate gender inequalities, emphasizing the importance of addressing these issues in contemporary discourse on gender studies and feminist theory.

Keywords: *Subaltern, Gender Roles, Romances and Power, Sociocultural, Crazy Rich Asians*

INTISARI

Birki, Gilang Aprillio, 1709010010. 2024: Perspektif Subaltern Tentang Romansa dan Kekuasaan Dalam Novel 'Crazy Rich Asians' Karya KEVIN KWAN. Skripsi. Sastra
Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya dan Komunikasi, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi dinamika kompleks gender, kekuasaan, dan identitas dalam masyarakat elit Singapura-Tionghoa, dengan fokus pada Rachel Chu dalam film "Crazy Rich Asians" karya Kevin Kwan. Tesis ini menggunakan teori subaltern untuk meneliti marginalisasi, perlawanan terhadap penindasan keluarga, dan isu-isu sosial yang lebih luas. "Crazy Rich Asians" mengeksplorasi feminisme pasca kolonial dan teori subaltern, menyoroti dampak norma-norma tradisional terhadap peran gender modern. Penelitian ini mengandalkan data dari narasi, dialog, dan teks novel, yang dianalisis menggunakan analisis konten dan purposive sampling. Pengumpulan data melibatkan pembacaan yang komprehensif, pencatatan, dan identifikasi tema-tema utama seperti dinamika kekuasaan, peran gender, dan ekspektasi budaya. Proses analisis meliputi pengorganisasian data, pengkodean, analisis tematik, interpretasi, sintesis, dan validasi untuk menarik kesimpulan yang bermakna tentang refleksi dan kritik novel terhadap isu-isu sosial dalam kehidupan nyata. Data terutama terdiri dari bukti tekstual dari novel, dengan fokus pada interaksi antara Rachel Chu dan Eleanor Young. Dengan menggunakan kritik psikoanalisis dan teori subaltern, penelitian ini menganalisis bagaimana kekuasaan, gender, dan ekspektasi budaya digambarkan dalam masyarakat elit Tionghoa Singapura. Kutipan-kutipan utama dari novel ini mengungkapkan marginalisasi sistemik yang dialami Rachel, yang di garis bawah oleh ketidaknyamanannya dalam lingkungan yang megah dan interaksinya dengan Eleanor, yang merupakan perwujudan dari otoritas patriarki tradisional. Perjalanan Rachel menantang norma-norma yang telah mengakar ini, menyoroti perlawanannya terhadap ekspektasi patriarki dan menggambarkan interaksi yang kompleks antara gender dan identitas budaya. Analisis ini memberikan wawasan ke dalam struktur masyarakat yang melanggengkan ketidaksetaraan gender, dan menekankan pentingnya membahas isu-isu ini dalam wacana kontemporer tentang studi gender dan teori feminis.

Kata Kunci: *Subaltern, Peran Gender, Romansa dan Kekuasaan, Sosiokultural, Crazy Rich Asians*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL SHEET	iii
VALIDATION SHEET	iv
STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY	v
MOTTO	vi
DEDICATION	viii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ix
ABSTRACT	xi
INTISARI	xii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	xiii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
A.1 Background of the Research	1
A.2 Problem of the Research	4
A.3 Objective of the Research	4
A.4 Significance of the Study	5
A.5 Limitation of the Research	6
A.6 Definition of Key Terms	6
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW	8
B.1 Post-Colonial Feminism and Gender Dynamics	8
B.2 Subaltern Theory and Marginalization	10
B.2.1 Systemic Marginalization	10
B.3 Power Intersectionality and Gender Oppression	13
B.4 Works Patriarchy and Familial Structure	15
B.5 Post-Feminism and Social Expectations	15
B.6 Economic Power & Gender Disparities	18
B.7 Cultural Critique and Modern Literature	19
B.8 Review of Related Research	22

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	24
C.1 Type of The Research	24
C.2 Data and Source of the Data	25
C.3 Method of Collecting the Data	25
C.4 Technique of Collecting the Data	26
C.5 Method of Analyzing the Data	27
CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS	29
D.1 Data Description	29
D.2 Data Analysis	32
CHAPTER V CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS	48
E.1 Conclusions	48
E.2 Suggestions	48
REFERENCES	51