

**THE LOWER-CLASS' RESISTANCE AGAINST THE UPPER-CLASS'  
HEGEMONY IN GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984**



**An Undergraduate Thesis**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for *Sarjana Sastra* Degree**

**Embun Yumna Asy-syiffa**

**2009010024**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM  
FACULTY OF CULTURE SCIENCES AND COMMUNICATION  
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH PURWOKERTO**

**2024**

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**APPROVAL SHEET**

This is to certify that this undergraduate thesis entitled **"THE LOWER-CLASS' RESISTANCE AGAINST THE UPPER-CLASS' HEGEMONY IN GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984"** by **Embun Yumna Asy-syiffa** has been approved by the advisor and the Head of English Department to be examined by the Board of Examiners.

Purwokerto, 20 December 2024

Head of English Department

Advisor



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**VALIDATION SHEET**

**THE LOWER-CLASS' RESISTANCE AGAINST THE UPPER-CLASS' HEGEMONY IN  
GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984**

**An Undergraduate Thesis**

**By**


**Embun Yumna Asy-syiffa**

**2009010024**

**Has been examined and approved by the Board of Examiners as one of the  
requirements for *Sarjana Sastra* Degree on December 30<sup>th</sup> 2024**

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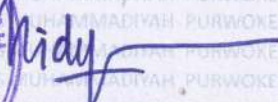
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I, the undersigned researcher of the undergraduatethesis entitled "**THE LOWER-CLASS' RESISTANCE AGAINST THE UPPER-CLASS' HEGEMONY IN GEORGE ORWELL'S 1984**", hereby attest and affirm that the material in this thesis has not been previously submitted and published for a degree in any universities, and to the best of my knowledge, any referenced-quotations are shown in the arrangement of citations and bibliography. If later it can be revealed that this undergraduate thesis contains partly or wholly plagiarized pieces of other intellectual works of any kinds, the researcher will be ready to accept the sanction.

Purwokerto, 20 December 2024



Embun Yumna Asy-syiffa

## MOTTO

Speed is not a measure of success, just go at your own best pace



## DEDICATION

This undergraduate thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents and grandmother, who always listen to my complaints, love me unconditionally, and support every decision I made.



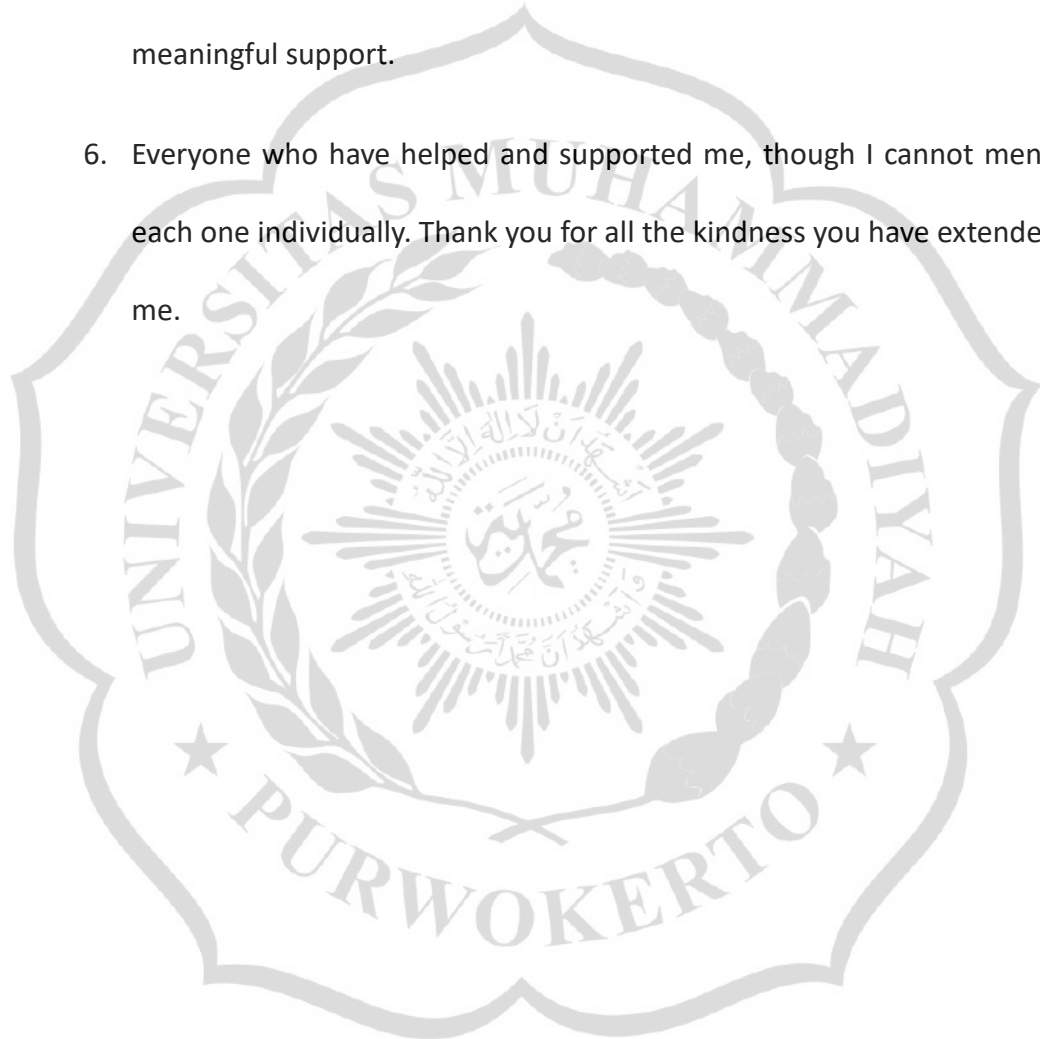
## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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I realize that without the assistance and support of many parties, the completion of this final project would not have been possible. With deep respect and gratitude, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has contributed, either directly or indirectly, to the completion of this thesis. In particular, I would like to express my utmost gratitude to:

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6. Everyone who have helped and supported me, though I cannot mention each one individually. Thank you for all the kindness you have extended to me.



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## ABSTRACT

Embun Yumna Asy-syiffa. 2024: *The Lower-class' Resistance Against The Upper-class' Hegemony in George Orwell's 1984*. Undergraduate thesis for *Sarjana Sastra Degree*, English Literature Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences and Communication, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

This study examines the resistance carried out by the lower class against the hegemony of the upper class as depicted in George Orwell's novel *1984*. Hegemony, as a form of domination carried out by the ruling class, is criticized through the experiences of characters who try to resist oppressive control. This study aims to (1) analyze Winston's attempts to resist totalitarian control in *1984*, examining the extent to which they succeed or fail, and (2) describe the consequences that lower-class representatives like Winston face from living in a totalitarian society.

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method with the approach of Antonio Gramsci's Hegemony Theory and Michel Foucault's concept of power and resistance to analyze the dynamics of class struggle in the novel.

The results show that lower-class resistance emerged as a result of the totalitarian control exercised by the Party, which used propaganda, surveillance, and coercion to maintain its power. This resistance appears through the rejection of ideological conformity, the struggle for individual freedom, and the actions of lower-class characters such as Winston, who defies the Party's control by writing a diary, entering a romantic relationship, and conspiring with O'Brien against the Party.

**Keywords:** *1984, hegemony, totalitarian, resistance, lower class, upper class*

## INTISARI

Embun Yumna Asy-syiffa. 2024: *Resistensi Kelas Bawah terhadap Hegemoni Kelas Atas dalam Novel 1984 Karya George Orwell*. Skripsi Sarjana Sastra, Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya dan Komunikasi, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

Penelitian ini mengkaji resistansi yang dilakukan oleh kelas bawah terhadap hegemoni kelas atas sebagaimana digambarkan dalam novel *1984* karya George Orwell. Hegemoni, sebagai bentuk dominasi yang dilakukan oleh kelas penguasa, dikritisi melalui pengalaman tokoh-tokoh yang berusaha melawan kontrol yang menindas. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk (1) menganalisis upaya Winston dalam melawan kontrol totalitarian dalam *1984*, serta mengkaji sejauh mana usahanya berhasil atau gagal, dan (2) mendeskripsikan konsekuensi yang dihadapi oleh perwakilan kelas bawah seperti Winston akibat hidup dalam masyarakat totalitarian. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan Teori Hegemoni Antonio Gramsci dan konsep kekuasaan serta resistansi dari Michel Foucault untuk menganalisis dinamika perjuangan kelas dalam novel tersebut.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa resistansi kelas bawah muncul sebagai akibat dari kontrol totalitarian yang dilakukan oleh Partai, yang menggunakan propaganda, pengawasan, dan pemaksaan untuk mempertahankan kekuasaannya. Resistansi ini terwujud melalui penolakan terhadap konformitas ideologis, perjuangan untuk kebebasan individu, serta upaya tokoh kelas bawah seperti Winston menantang dominasi Partai, meskipun penuh risiko dan tekanan dengan perlawanan kecil seperti menulis diary, menjalin hubungan asmara, dan berkomplotan dengan O'Brien untuk melawan Partai.

**Kata kunci:** *1984*, hegemoni, totalitarian, resistansi, kelas atas, kelas bawah

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