

**LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY: A WEBERIAN ANALYSIS**  
**IN THE MOVIE *DON'T LOOK UP* (2021)**



**An Undergraduate Thesis**

**Submitted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements**  
**for *Sarjana Sastra* Degree**

**Desiana Resti Damaiyanti**

**1909010034**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM**  
**FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES AND COMMUNICATION**  
**UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH PURWOKERTO**  
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2025**

**APPROVAL SHEET**

This is to certify that this undergraduate paper entitled "LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY: A WEBERIAN ANALYSIS IN THE MOVIE *DON'T LOOK UP* (2021)" by Desiana Resti Damaiyanti has been approved by the advisor(s) and the Head of the English Department to be examined by the Board of Examiners.

Purwokerto, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Head of English Department

Advisor

Sulasih Nurhayati, S.S., M.Hum.

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

NIK: 2160274

NIK: 2160272

**VALIDATION SHEET**

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**by**

**Desiana Resti Damaiyanti**

**1909010034**

**has been examined and approved by the Board of Examiners as one of the  
requirements for *Sarjana Sastra* degree on 28 July 2025**

**THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS**

First Examiner

Second Examiner



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

NIK: 2160370



Asih Ernawati, Ph.D.

NIK: 2160209

Chairperson



Titik Wahyuningsih, S.S., M.Hum

NIK: 2160272

Legalized by the Dean of Faculty of Sciences and Communication



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

NIK: 2160370

## STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

Name : Desiana Resti Damaiyanti

Student of Number : 1909010034

I hereby declare that this thesis entitled "*LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY: A WEBERIAN ANALYSIS IN THE MOVIE DON'T LOOK UP (2021)*" here attest and affirm that the material in this thesis has not been previously conducted or submitted and published for a degree in any university nor journals, and to my best knowledge, any referenced-quotations are shown in the arrangements of citations and bibliography. If, at any point, it is proven that this research is plagiarized or contradicts this statement, both the research and any associated degree shall be rendered invalid.

I make this declaration with full awareness and without coercion from any party.

Purwokerto, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Desiana Resti Damaiyanti

## MOTTO

*"Whoever fights monsters should see to it that in the process the abyss does not gaze back."*

— Friedrich Nietzsche



## DEDICATION

*This thesis is respectfully dedicated to my parents for their unwavering support and sacrifices, and to myself for the resilience and dedication throughout this journey.*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, all praise and gratitude are due to Allah SWT, who has granted me health, strength, and guidance throughout this journey. Sholawat and salam are always extended to the Prophet Muhammad SAW, whose example continues to guide us in every step of life. With the blessings and grace of Allah, I was given the chance and ability to complete this thesis, even with all the challenges along the way. Although this work is far from perfect, I am deeply grateful and proud to have reached this point and completed it in due time.

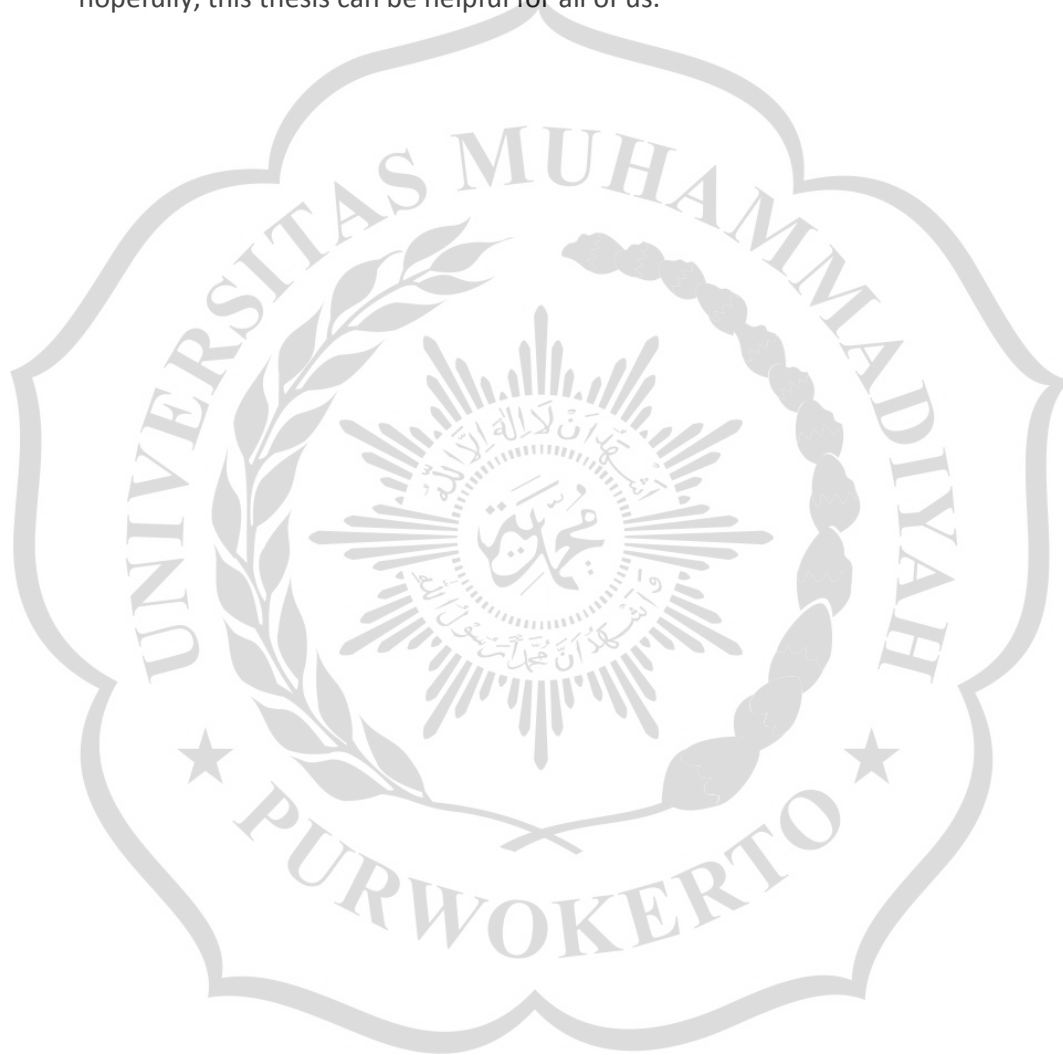
Through this acknowledgement, I would like to sincerely dedicate this thesis to all those who have continuously prayed for me, supported me, and encouraged me throughout the process of finishing this final work:

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unsure, but still trying. Thank you for not giving up, for learning, unlearning, and becoming. I'm proud of you. This one's for you.

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Nama : Desiana Resti Damaiyanti  
NIM : 1909010034  
Program Studi : Sastra Inggris S1  
Fakultas : Ilmu Budaya dan Komunikasi  
Perguruan Tinggi : Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto  
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## ABSTRACT

Damaiyanti, Desiana R, 1909010034. 2025: *LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY: A WEBERIAN ANALYSIS IN THE MOVIE DON'T LOOK UP (2021)*. Undergraduate Thesis for Sarjana Sastra Degree, English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences and Communication, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

This research analyzes the portrayal of legitimate authority and its distortion in the film *Don't Look Up* (2021) through the lens of Max Weber's theory of authority. The study focuses on three types of authority, traditional, charismatic, and legal-rational, and explores how each one is represented and misused by the characters in the film. Using a textual analysis approach supported by cinematographic elements, this research shows how the film satirically exposes the abuse of power within political and institutional settings, especially in times of crisis. The findings reveal that *Don't Look Up* critiques how authority, even when it appears legitimate, can be manipulated when it is driven by personal interest, media image, and bureaucratic inefficiency. Traditional authority is reflected in nepotistic leadership, charismatic authority in media-driven influence, and legal-rational authority in systems that follow rules but ignore responsibility. The film ultimately portrays how these distorted forms of power contribute to institutional failure. This study hopes to encourage a deeper understanding of how power operates not only in fiction but also in real-world governance.

**Keyword:** *Legitimate Authority, Weberian Theory, Political Satire, Bureaucratic Inefficiency, Film Analysis*

## INTISARI

Damaiyanti, Desiana R, 1909010034. 2025: *OTORITAS YANG SAH: ANALISIS WEBERIAN DALAM FILM DON'T LOOK UP (2021)*. Skripsi untuk Gelar Sarjana Sastra, Jurusan Bahasa Inggris. Fakultas Ilmu Budaya dan Ilmu Komunikasi, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto.

Penelitian ini menganalisis representasi otoritas yang sah (legitimate authority) dan penyimpangannya dalam film *Don't Look Up* (2021) dengan menggunakan teori otoritas dari Max Weber. Penelitian ini berfokus pada tiga tipe otoritas, otoritas tradisional, karismatik, dan legal-rasional, serta mengeksplorasi bagaimana masing-masing tipe tersebut ditampilkan dan disalahgunakan oleh para tokoh dalam film. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan analisis tekstual yang didukung oleh elemen sinematografi, penelitian ini menunjukkan bagaimana film tersebut secara satir mengkritik penyalahgunaan kekuasaan dalam konteks politik dan institusi, terutama dalam situasi krisis. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa *Don't Look Up* mengkritik bagaimana otoritas, meskipun tampak sah, dapat dimanipulasi ketika didorong oleh kepentingan pribadi, citra media, dan inefisiensi birokrasi. Otoritas tradisional tercermin dalam kepemimpinan yang nepotistik, otoritas karismatik dalam pengaruh yang dibentuk oleh media, dan otoritas legalrasional dalam sistem yang mengikuti prosedur namun mengabaikan tanggung jawab. Film ini pada akhirnya menggambarkan bagaimana bentuk kekuasaan yang menyimpang tersebut dapat menyebabkan kegagalan institusional. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat mendorong pemahaman yang lebih dalam tentang bagaimana kekuasaan bekerja, tidak hanya dalam karya fiksi, tetapi juga dalam konteks pemerintahan di dunia nyata.

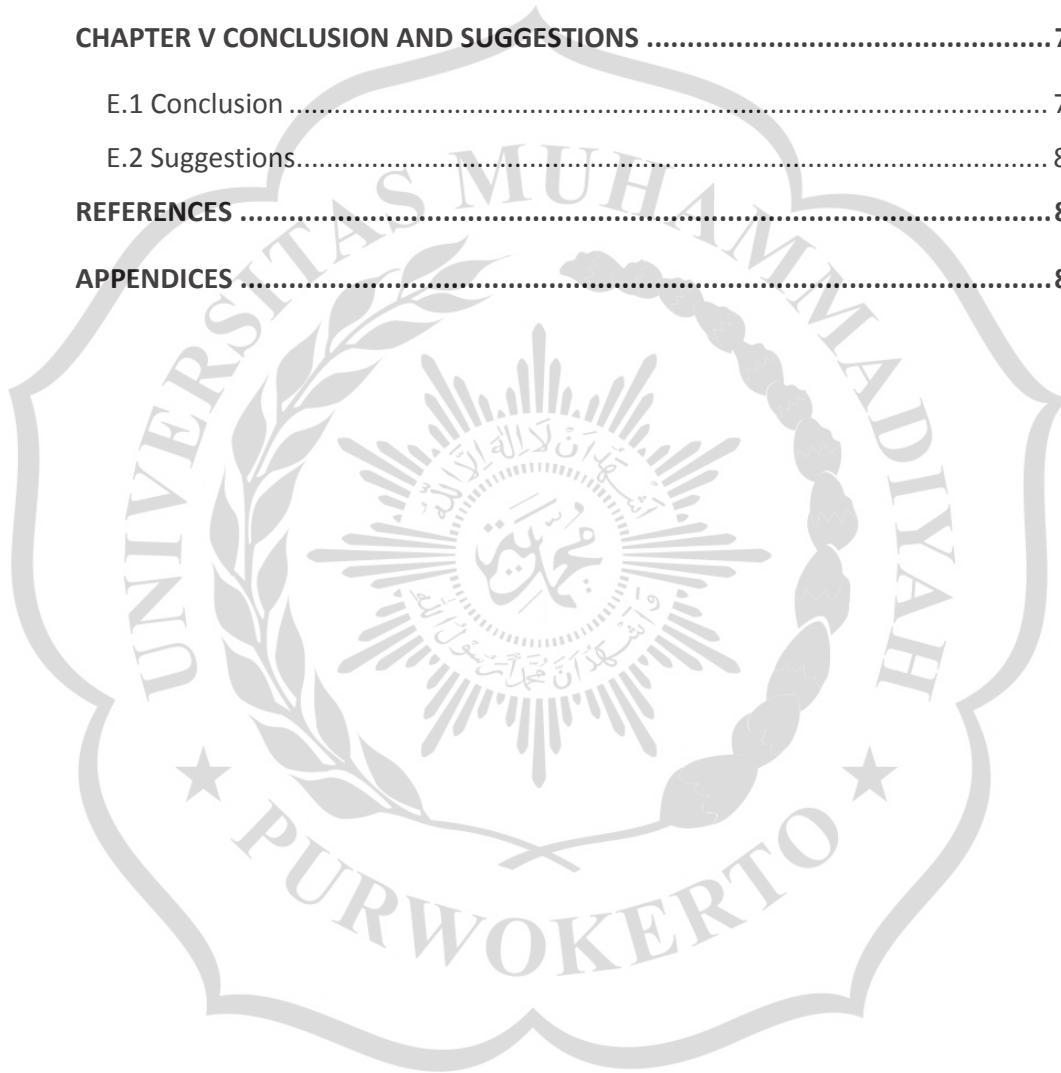
**Kata kunci:** *Otoritas yang Sah, Teori Weberian, Satir Politik, Inefisiensi Birokrasi, Analisis Film*

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