



**THEME AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS POTRAYED IN  
DISNEY'S *THE LITTLE MERMAID* 1989 AND *THE LITTLE  
MERMAID* 2023: A COMPARATIVE LITERATURE STUDY**

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**



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JOMBANG**

**2024**



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**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

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2024**



## APPROVAL SHEET

This is to certify that the undergraduate thesis of Nurul Faizah entitled *Theme and Social Conditions Portrayed in Disney's The Little Mermaid 1989 and The Little Mermaid 2023: A Comparative Literature Study* has been approved by the thesis supervisor for further approval by the board examiners.

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1. This undergraduate thesis is the sole work of mine and has not been written in collaboration with any other person, nor does it include, without due acknowledgement, the work of any other person.
2. If at a later time it is found that this undergraduate thesis is a product of plagiarism, I am willing to accept any legal consequences that may be imposed to me.

Jombang, July 26. 2024

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## MOTTO

“I see people hate me. I see people talking about me behind my back. I saw people plotting my destruction. And I saw everything they do, just to hate me.

After that, I took off my glasses. And then I can’t see them anymore.

Because my eyes are blurry.

So, I just focus on myself.”

**-Nurul Faizah-**



## DEDICATION PAGE

I dedicate this undergraduate thesis to:

1. God Almighty
2. Rasulullah SAW
3. My Wonderwoman, almh. Kususiyah as my mother, Qorik as my younger brother, and Meseri as my father thank you for the support and all the prayers.
4. My beloved brother and sister who always provide laughter and affection every day.
5. All lecturers of FBBP Unipdu. Thank you very much for your guidance and advice, especially Mrs. Endang Suciati, S.S., M.A and Mrs. Maisarah, S.S, M.Si as supervisors.
6. Thank you, Ari Muhammad Syifa, S.S for helping me find answers to all of my difficulties, particularly when it came to writing my undergraduate thesis.
7. My college friends, especially my classmates who always provide positive energy in my difficult times.



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This undergraduate thesis entitled “Theme and Social Condition Portrayed in Disney's *The Little Mermaid* 1989 and *The Little Mermaid* 2023: A Comparative Literature Study” is submitted as a final requirement for the completion of an undergraduate degree in English Literature, Faculty of Business, Languages and Education, University of Pesantren Tinggi Darul ‘Ulum Jombang.

In preparing this thesis, many people have provided motivation, advice, and support to the writer. On this valuable occasion, the writer would like to express her gratitude and appreciation to everyone who supports the completion of my thesis. They are:

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8. To my classmates who have accompanied me for four years, hopefully we can meet again in the best destiny.





9. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Stray Kids. Their songs have inspired and rebuilt my spirit, and their motivation has kept me running to achieve my precious dreams.

Last but not least, I realise that this research is not perfect but I hope that this study will be useful for everyone who needs this study. For the readers, I look forward to your critics and suggestions so this study can be better in the future.

Jombang, July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Nurul Faizah



## ABSTRACT

Faizah, Nurul. 2024. *Theme and Social Condition Portrayed in Disney's The Little Mermaid 1989 and The Little Mermaid 2023: A Comparative Literature Study*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Business Languages and Education, Pesantren Tinggi Darul 'Ulum Jombang University. Supervisor I: Mrs. Endang Suciati S.S. M.A. Supervisor II: Mrs. Maisarah S.S M.Si.

The study focused on analyzing the themes and social conditions portrayed in the 1989 and 2023 versions of Disney's \*The Little Mermaid\*. The aims of the study were: (1) to identify the similarities and differences in the themes of the two film versions, particularly Ariel's struggle to become part of the human world, and (2) to examine the differences in the social conditions depicted in the films. The method used in the analysis was a comparative literature approach utilizing Abrams & Harpham's theory of intrinsic elements, focusing on themes and social settings. The data were in the form of scenes and scripts from both film versions. The study found that while the core theme of Ariel's struggle remained consistent, the 2023 adaptation introduced significant changes in social conditions to reflect contemporary values of diversity, inclusiveness, shared responsibility, and community celebration. These changes enhanced the relevance and appeal of the story to modern audiences, demonstrating the power of adaptation in reshaping narratives to fit evolving cultural contexts.

**Keywords:** *The Little Mermaid* (1989, 2023), theme, social condition, intrinsic element, comparative literature.



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