



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

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS



Nurul Faizah

NIM: 3320004

**ENGLISH LITERATURE DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF BUSINESS, LANGUAGES, AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF PESANTREN TINGGI DARUL ULUM
JOMBANG**

2024



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

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented to

University of Pesantren Tinggi Darul 'Ulum Jombang

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement

for The Degree of Sarjana in Department of English Literature

By:

NURUL FAIZAH

3320004

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

FACULTY OF BUSINESS, LANGUAGES AND EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF PESANTREN TINGGI DARUL ULUM

JOMBANG

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.

Thesis Supervisors

1. Endang Suciati, S.S., M.A

(Supervisor 1)

2. Maisarah, S.S., M.Si

(Supervisor 2)

Head,

Department of English Literature



NIPY. 11070113223



THE LEGITIMATION OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

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* by Nurul Faizah has been approved by the board of examiners as the requirement for the bachelor degree in English Literature Department in 2024.

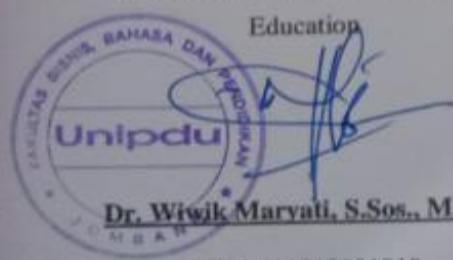
The Board of Examiners:

1. Maisarah, SS, M.Si
(Chair)

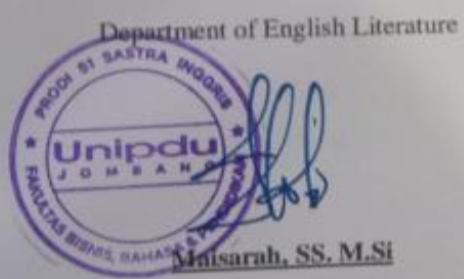
2. Irita fitriana, S.S., M.Hum
(Examiner 1)

3. Binti Qani'ah, S.S., M.Hum
(Examiner 2)

Dean,
Faculty of Business, Languages, and
Education



Head,



DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

Herewith I,

Name : Nurul Faizah

NIM : 3320004

Address : Dsn. Kedawung, Ds. Bicak, Kec. Trowulan, Kab. Mojokerto

declare that :

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

(Nurul Faizah)

NIM. 3320004



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.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Alhamdulillahi rabil 'alamin, the writer expresses her highest gratitude to Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala for the blessing, love, opportunity, health, and grace to complete this undergraduate thesis.

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:

1. First, the author would like to express her deepest gratitude to her beloved parents, almh. Mrs. Almh. Kususiyah and Mr. Meseri for their endless love, prayers, and support.
2. The author would like to thank Dr. H. Muhammad Zulfikar As'ad, M.M.R, as the Rector of Darul 'Ulum Jombang Higher Islamic Boarding University.
3. Dr. Wiwik Maryati, S.Sos, M.S.M, as the Dean of the Faculty of Business, Language and Education.
4. Maisarah, SS. M.Si, as the Head of English Language and Literature Department.
5. Endang Suciati, S.S., M.A. and Maisarah, SS. M.Si. as the supervisors. This thesis would not have been realized without their help, support, and patience.
6. My most beloved best friend, Adinda Nur Sifania. Thank you for being a good friend and understanding me. Let's achieve our dreams and see a better and happier world someday.
7. My dearest Muhammad Haydar Alwi Yahya. Thank you for always listening to my stories patiently, supporting me, and accompanying me.
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 26th, 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.



TABLE OF CONTENS

INSIDE COVER	i
APPROVAL SHEET	Error! Bookmark not defined.
THE LEGITIMATION OF THE BOARD OF EXAMINERSError!	Bookmark not defined.
MOTTO	v
DEDICATION PAGE	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
ABSTRACT	ix
TABLE OF CONTENS	x
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
 1.1 Background of Study	1
 1.2 Statements of the Problem	6
 1.3 Objectives of the Study	6
 1.4 Significances of the Study	6
 1.5 Scope and Limitations	7
 1.6 Research Method	7
 1.7 Definition of Key Terms	9
 1.8 Thesis Organization	9
CHAPTER II RELATED OF LITERATURE	10
 2.1 Theoretical Frameworks	10



2.1.1 Comparative Literature	10
2.1.2 Theme	12
2.1.3 Social Conditions in Literature	14
2.2 Previous studies	16
CHAPTER III FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	18
3.1 Finding	18
3.1.1 The Similarity of the Theme	18
The Difference of the Social Condition	22
3.1.2 Similarities and Differences Applied in <i>The Little Mermaid</i> 1989 and <i>The Little Mermaid</i> 2023	27
3.2 Discussion	29
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	31
4.1 Conclusion	31
4.2 Suggestion	31
REFERENCES	33
TABLE OF SIMILARITIES OF THE THEME IN MOVIE <i>THE LITTLE MERMAID</i> (1989) AND <i>THE LITTLE MERMAID</i> (2023)	36