

**Guilt and Public Confession
in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter"**

**A Thesis
In Partial Fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana
Pendidikan Degree in English Teaching**



By:

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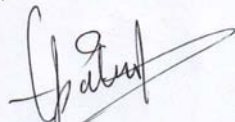
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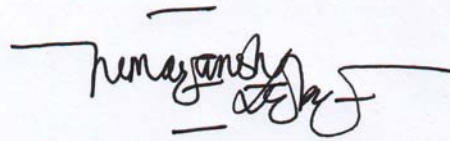
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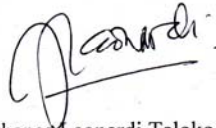
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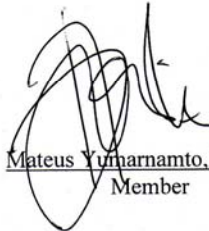
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ABSTRACT

WAHYUNI, LIA. 2009. Guilt and Public Confession in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter". Strata 1 Thesis, the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya. Advisors: Drs. Antonius Gurito and Drs. B. Himawan Setyo, M. Hum

Key words : Novel, Guilt, Public Confession

The writer is interested in literature as she enrolled Contemporary Literature class. She likes reading a story, which is about values and morality. Therefore, she encounters Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel, *The Scarlet Letter*. A character of the novel, Arthur Dimmesdale interests the writer to do more research. The writer is going to study the character of Arthur Dimmesdale. Dimmesdale knows he is guilty and agonized. He wants God's forgiveness and he realizes that only public confession can save him. This is not easy for him being the spiritual leader of a congregation. It would be very ironical. This increases his agony or spiritual suffering.

Thus, the writer is going to emphasize the study on the Arthur Dimmesdale's guilt and public confession. They are formulated in the following questions: (1) How does Arthur Dimmesdale's guilt torture him physically and mentally? And (2) How does Arthur Dimmesdale's guilt leads him to revealing his secret through public confession?.

In conducting this study, the writer uses content analysis and literary analysis (physical traits, dialogue, actions, and opinions analysis). As the writer gets the specific data about Dimmesdale's guilt and public confession, she arranges the conversations made by the character and the events in the novel that she has already collected in a chronological way. Then, she analyzes them to find out guilt and public confession in Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter".

After analyzing the data the writer finally comes to some interesting findings as follows:

- a. Guilt gnaws someone physically and mentally
- b. Guilt leads someone to repayment as punishment of his wrongdoing, which can be formed as public confession.

Based on conclusion and discussion the writer would like to put forward some suggestions. The writer suggests that:

1. the students read more of Nathaniel Hawthorne writings which contains valuable lesson related to values and morality.
2. the students read more some similar novels which have vast vocabulary and specific terms related to certain religion, tradition, and culture.