

**THE TRAGIC DOWNFALL OF THE MAIN  
CHARACTER IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S PLAY  
CORIOLANUS**

**A THESIS**

**As Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in  
English Language Teaching Faculty**



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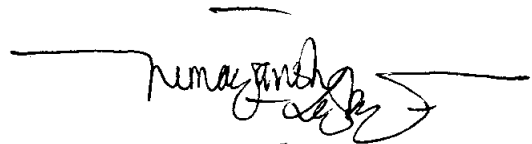
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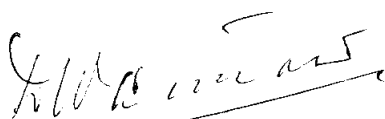


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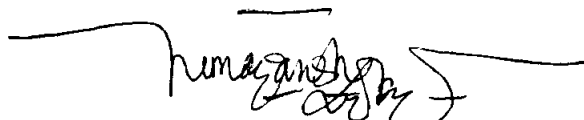
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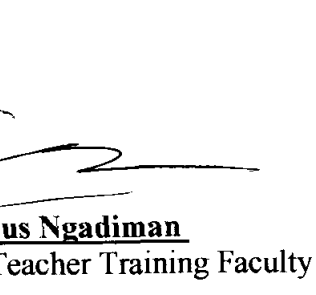



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## ABSTRACT

**Koesdianing, Anissa. 2003. The Tragic Downfall of the Main Character In William Shakespeare's Play Coriolanus. Thesis. Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris. Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan. Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Surabaya.**

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Key Term: literature, drama, character, downfall, Coriolanus.

Literature is language well used. The main function of literature is for understanding and communication. Literature also helps to find meaning, to express it and to share it with others. Drama is the part of the literature that the writer is interested in. The writer feels that the interaction between the characters in drama is more alive than the other forms of literature such as story, novel, or poem.

On the basis of the above facts, the writer is interested in analyzing one of Shakespeare's tragic plays, entitled Coriolanus. The tragic life of Coriolanus arises the writer's curiosity to know more about it. Thus, the writer wants to find out the causes of Coriolanus' downfall and the other characters' contribution to his downfall. This study is a literary research and it is considered a qualitative research. Using phenomenological perspective methods, this study finally finds out that:

1. Coriolanus' arrogance has caused his downfall. Coriolanus' childhood give big influence in developing his maturation. His tenet has aroused an egoistic, which bring him to many enemies. Coriolanus is too blind to see that his position in the society is fragile because he focuses too much in how to please his mother and his pride. His unwillingness to manage his emotion has sent him to a worst life.
2. There are several characters who have contributions to Coriolanus' downfall. Volumnia as his mother, plays the dominant part in Coriolanus' life. These two people have a same ambition in life, but there are some events when Coriolanus' pride is in contrast with Volumnia's will. The citizens dislike Coriolanus, because Coriolanus always insult them as an unworthy people. Meanwhile, there are also the two tribunes who felt that their career is in jeopardy because of Coriolanus' success. The last is the Volscian general who creates a conspiracy with his friends to destroy Coriolanus because of jealousy. They, the two tribunes and the Volscian general, know exactly how to make Coriolanus becomes uncontrolled, and that is by humiliating him in public.

The writer reckons by analyzing Shakespeare's drama Coriolanus, she can have a better interpretation of the playwright's message by analyzing Coriolanus' character in his work. Coriolanus' anger, jealousy and disappointment are natural feeling. It is a matter of self-control, when a person has a direct contact with public. Each person faces the world with different point of view. To deals with those differences, it needs a compromise with himself and his environment to survive in life.