

# **THE STUDY ON THE MAIN CHARACTER OF SINCLAIR LEWIS' MAIN STREET**

## **A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for  
the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in  
English Language Teaching**



**By :**

**RETNO WIDOWATI**

**1213089043**

No. INDUK	244 / 05
TGL TERIMA	17. 7. 96
<del>REVISI</del>	
No. BUKU	FK-ig Wid Sm-1
REPERE	1csatu)

**UNIVERSITAS KATOLIK WIDYA MANDALA SURABAYA**

**FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN**

**JURUSAN PENDIDIKAN BAHASA DAN SENI**

**PROGRAM STUDI PENDIDIKAN BAHASA INGGRIS**

**APRIL, 1996**

## APPROVAL SHEET

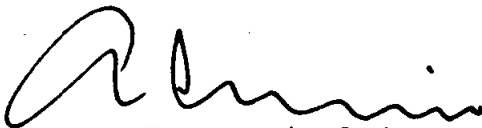
(1)

This thesis entitled THE STUDY ON THE MAIN CHARACTER OF  
SINCLAIR LEWIS' NOVEL MAIN STREET

---

---

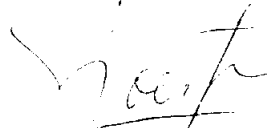
prepared and submitted by Retno Widowati has been approved and accepted as  
partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Sarjana Pendidikan degree in  
English Language Teaching by the following advisors.



Drs. Antonius Gurito

---

First Advisor



Dra. Susana Teopilus, MPd.

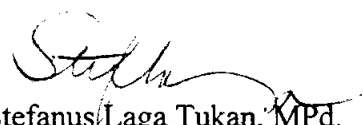
---

Second Advisor


## APPROVAL SHEET

( 2 )

This thesis has been examined by the committee on Oral Examination with a grade of B on April 1, 1996.

  
Drs. Stefanus Laga Tukan, MPd.

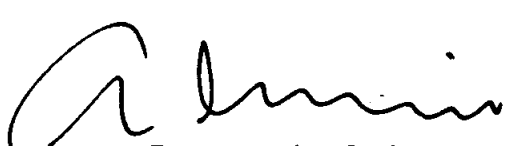
Chairman

  
Drs. B. Budiono, MPd.

Member

  
Dra. Siti Mina Tamah

Member

  
Drs. Antonius Gurito

Member

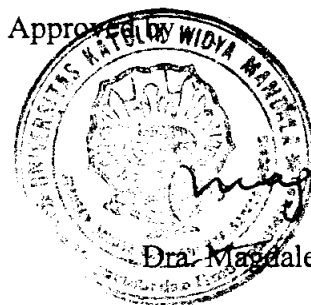
  
Dra. Susana Teopikus, MPd.

Member



Drs. Antonius Gurito

Dean of  
Teacher Training College



Dra. Magdalena I Kartio, MA.

Head of  
the English Department

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, the writer would like to thank the Almighty God for His Blessing, Grace and Mercy during the accomplishment of this thesis.

Besides, the writer is deeply indebted to her advisors, Drs. Antonius Gurito, the first advisor, and Dra. Susana Teopilus, MPd., the second advisor, who have devoted their valuable time, advice, assistance and supported her in finishing this thesis. Without their patience, the writer is sure that this thesis will have never been completed.

The writer would also like to express her deepest gratitude to all the lecturers of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University who have helped her during her study.

The writer's deepest gratitude also goes to her beloved parents, her brother, Priyo, and her beloved husband, for their prayer, love, support and advice to her in finishing this thesis.

Finally, the writer would like to express her sincere gratitude to other persons who have also helped and supported her in finishing this thesis.

The Writer

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
APPROVAL SHEET (1) .....	i
APPROVAL SHEET (2) .....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	iv
ABSTRACT .....	vi
 CHAPTER I      INTRODUCTION .....	 1
1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem .....	4
1.3 Objective of the Study .....	5
1.4 Significance of the Study .....	5
1.5 Limitation of the Study .....	5
1.6 Definition of Key Terms .....	6
1.7 Organization of the Thesis .....	7
 CHAPTER II      REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND STUDY .....	  8
2.1 Review of Related Literature .....	8
2.1.1 Narrative .....	8
2.1.2 Novel .....	9
2.1.3 Character .....	11
2.1.4 Setting .....	13
2.1.5 Discourse Analysis .....	14
2.1.6 Content Analysis .....	15
2.1.7 Literary Analysis .....	15
2.2 Review of Related Study .....	16

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
APPROVAL SHEET (1) .....	i
APPROVAL SHEET (2) .....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	iv
ABSTRACT .....	vi
CHAPTER I      INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background of the Study .....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem .....	4
1.3 Objective of the Study .....	5
1.4 Significance of the Study .....	5
1.5 Limitation of the Study .....	5
1.6 Definition of Key Terms .....	6
1.7 Organization of the Thesis .....	7
CHAPTER II      REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND	
STUDY .....	8
2.1 Review of Related Literature .....	8
2.1.1 Narrative .....	8
2.1.2 Novel .....	9
2.1.3 Character .....	11
2.1.4 Setting .....	13
2.1.5 Discourse Analysis .....	14
2.1.6 Content Analysis .....	15
2.1.7 Literary Analysis .....	15
2.2 Review of Related Study .....	16

CHAPTER III	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....	18
	3.1 The Nature of the Study .....	18
	3.2 Research Data .....	19
	3.3 Research Instrument .....	19
	3.4 The Procedure of Collecting the Data .....	20
	3.5 The Procedure of Analyzing the Data .....	21
CHAPTER IV	THE ANALYSIS ON THE MAIN CHARACTER OF MAIN STREET .....	22
	4.1 The Basic Quality of the Main Character .....	22
	4.1.1 Physical .....	22
	4.1.2 Social Realationship .....	23
	4.1.3 Mental Qualities .....	31
	4.2 The Way the Main Character Sees Herself .....	34
	4.3 The Way the Other Characters See the Main Character .....	37
	4.4 The Way the Main Character is Treated by the Author .....	39
	4.5 Whether or Not the Main Character is Able to Embody the Theme .....	42
CHAPTER V	CONCLUSION .....	43
	5.1 Summary .....	43
	5.2 Suggestion .....	45

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

## APPENDICES

- A. SYNOPSIS OF MAIN STREET
- B. THE BIOGRAPHY OF SINCLAIR LEWIS

## ABSTRACT

Literature is the expression of life and the representation of human action and experience. The literary works are able to reflect the problem of life and also criticize a certain social condition. The writer is interested in analyzing a novel in her thesis because a novel tells a long story and is full of details since it tries to be realistic.

The writer chooses Sinclair Lewis' novel Main Street because she is interested in the story which tells about a woman who is ambitious to change a town and the inhabitants of the town. In the novel, the novelist emphasizes the details of the mediocrity of the American small town and the narrow-mindedness of its inhabitants.

Using qualitative analysis and evaluation parameters, techniques and procedure aided with the principles of discourse analysis, content analysis and literary analysis whenever necessary, this study tries to find out the basic qualities of the main character which cover physical qualities, social relationship and mental qualities. This study also tries to find out the way the main character sees herself, the way the other characters see the main character, the way the author presents the main character, and whether or not the main character is able to embody the theme.

The data analysis results show that :

1. Carol Kennicott as the main character of Main Street is described as an attractive woman in her middle-twenties with her black hair, beautiful skin and eyes, and her slim body. She, however, is described as a woman who is not successful in making nice relationship with her society.
2. Carol is a woman who has strong self confidence.
3. The other characters see Carol as an idealistic, ambitious, and arrogant woman.
4. Carol is presented by the author in dramatic and descriptive presentation and the combination of the two two technique. She is also presented as a 'round' character, and the author treats her sympathetically.
5. Carol is able to embody the theme.

Finally, by studying Lewis' novel Main Street, the writer expects that the other students will be able to understand the whole content of a literary work and to develop their understanding of people's character.