



**BLACK EXISTENTIALISM EXPRESSED IN  
KENDRICK LAMAR'S ALBUMS**

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for S-1 Degree Majoring American Studies in the English  
Department, Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

I honestly confirm that the thesis entitled “Kendrick Lamar’s Albums through The Lens of Black Existentialism” has been accomplished by myself without taking any results from other students in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in Diploma degree of any university. I ascertain that there’s no quotation taken from any publication other than from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 08<sup>th</sup> June 2023



Vincentius Kevin Krisnawan Wicaksono

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*God walks beside us in our lives. So when you die and look back at the path your life takes, you will find another set of footprints next to your own.*

***Subarashiki Hibi ~Furenzoku Sonzai***

*This thesis is dedicated to*

*My beloved family,*

*Hip-Hop music artists, and all the people that motivated me*

**APPROVAL**  
**KENDRICK LAMAR'S ALBUMS THROUGH**  
**BLACK EXISTENTIALISM**

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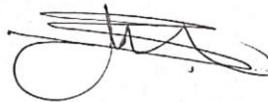
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Improvement for this thesis is unquestionably needed since the writer himself realizes his imperfection. Hence, any constructive criticism and suggestion will always be appreciated. Finally, as to what thesis is written for, the biggest hope is that this small study can be helpful to those who are studying Kendrick Lamar’s work or hip-hop music in general.

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## ABSTRACT

This study is concerned with the voice in Kendrick Lamar's *Good Kid M.A.A.D City* and *To Pimp a Butterfly*. The writer's fondness of hip-hop has brought him to much attention to the message that the two albums contain. This study applies textual method and it adopts W.E.B. Du Bois's concept of black existentialism theory. The analysis covers into two levels of speech: denotative and connotative. The result of the analysis shows that there is a message about pleading for awareness of racism equality in the two albums.

Keywords : Lyric, Hip-hop, Voice, Black Americans, Racial Equality.

