



**THE PORTRAYAL OF RACIAL HIERARCHY IN *THE AMERICAN  
SOCIETY OF MAGICAL NEGROES* (2024)**

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Undergraduate Thesis  
Majoring American Studies in English Department  
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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**2026**

## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer solemnly declares that this thesis entitled “The Portrayal of Racial Hierarchy in *The American Society of Magical Negroes* (2024)” is the result of her own work and intellectual effort. This thesis has not been submitted, either in whole or in part, for any degree at any other university or institution.

The writer confirms that all sources of ideas, data, statements, and quotations from the works of others have been fully acknowledged and properly cited in the references in accordance with academic standards.

Semarang, 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026



Vania Rizky Ramadhani

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

*There are flowers everywhere for those who want to see them.*

— **Henri Matisse**

*And whoever fears Allah — He will make for him a way out  
and provide for him from where he does not expect.*

*And whoever puts their trust in Allah, then He is sufficient for him.*

— **The Qur'an, At-Talaq (65): 2–3**

*This thesis is dedicated to  
those whose prayers and kindness  
carried me further than they will ever know.*

*Especially to my beloved parents and family,  
thank you for believing in me  
even during moments when I struggled to believe in myself.*

*And to Allah,  
for always making a way where I could not see one.*

*With sincere gratitude, The Writer*

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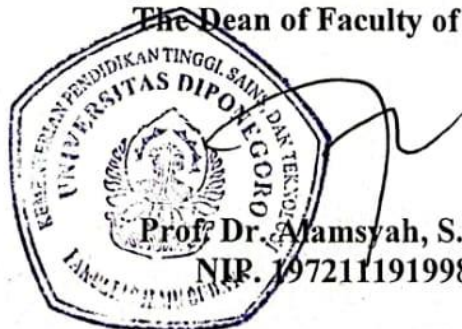


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## ABSTRACT

Racism is deeply rooted in American society, thus giving rise to hierarchy that positions Black as inferior and White as superior. This research explores the portrayal of racial hierarchy in the film *The American Society of Magical Negroes* (2024). The aim of this research is to identify the depiction of racial hierarchy through its characterization and setting, also to understand how the film elaborates the racial conflict in this film within the context of racial hierarchy. Joe R. Feagin's *Systemic Racism: A Theory of Oppression* (2006), specifically his concept of racial hierarchy and the white racial frame, is used as the theoretical framework in this study. The results show that Black characters are placed in subordinate positions, both in public spaces and institutional spaces that work in subtle ways and are considered normal. It forces them to perform service roles as a form of adaptation to an unequal social structure. Conversely, White characters are in dominant position with material power and emotional freedom, creating their interests to be always prioritized. The resulting conflict not only affects interracial relations but also triggers an internal struggle for the main character, leading to resistance against the system's predetermined roles. The conflict culminates in the main character's act of resistance, refusing the role predetermined by the system. This emphasizes that although confrontational steps taken by one Black people will not immediately eliminate racial hierarchies, individual awareness is still needed for broader awareness to challenge existing inequalities.

**Keywords:** Racism, Systemic Racism, Racial Hierarchy