

ABSTRACT

This study examines the character of Steve Harrington from *Stranger Things* seasons 1 and 3 to analyze how American masculinity is shifting. This research examines at the social and cultural aspects of Steve's shifting masculinity in the series. This research to understand masculine identity with a focus on adolescent life, friendship, romance, and workplace in American culture, this study uses Raewyn Connell's hegemonic masculinity theory. This study using a qualitative descriptive approach, this study analyses dialogue, situations, and character interactions from a few selected episodes from both seasons. The study's overall findings, Steve Harrington's character represents a transition from a typical hegemonic vision of masculinity to one that is more relational and mature. His transformation is an example of how masculinity is a dynamic social construct influenced by interpersonal connections, societal norms, and personal experiences rather than a static identity. In addition to typical male characteristics, *Stranger Things*' portrayal of American masculinity through Steve's character emphasizes emotional intelligence, empathy, and deep social ties.

Keywords : Hegemonic Masculinity, American Masculinity, Adolescent, Film Analysis, Steve Harrington.

