



**FRAGILE MASCULINITY CONSTRUCTED BY
AMERICAN WORK CULTURE AS DEPICTED IN
FAIR PLAY (2023)**

A THESIS

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

Submitted by:

Masayu Fania Rayya Fauzi

NIM 13020122120014

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY**

SEMARANG

2026

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer sincerely declares that this thesis entitled “Fragile Masculinity Constructed by American Work Culture as Depicted in *Fair Play* (2023)” is composed independently without using results from other researchers or academic works from any degree of any university. All quotations and materials are taken only from the references listed.

Semarang, 20th May 2026



Masayu Fania Rayya Fauzi

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

But perhaps you hate a thing

and it is good for you,

And perhaps you love a thing

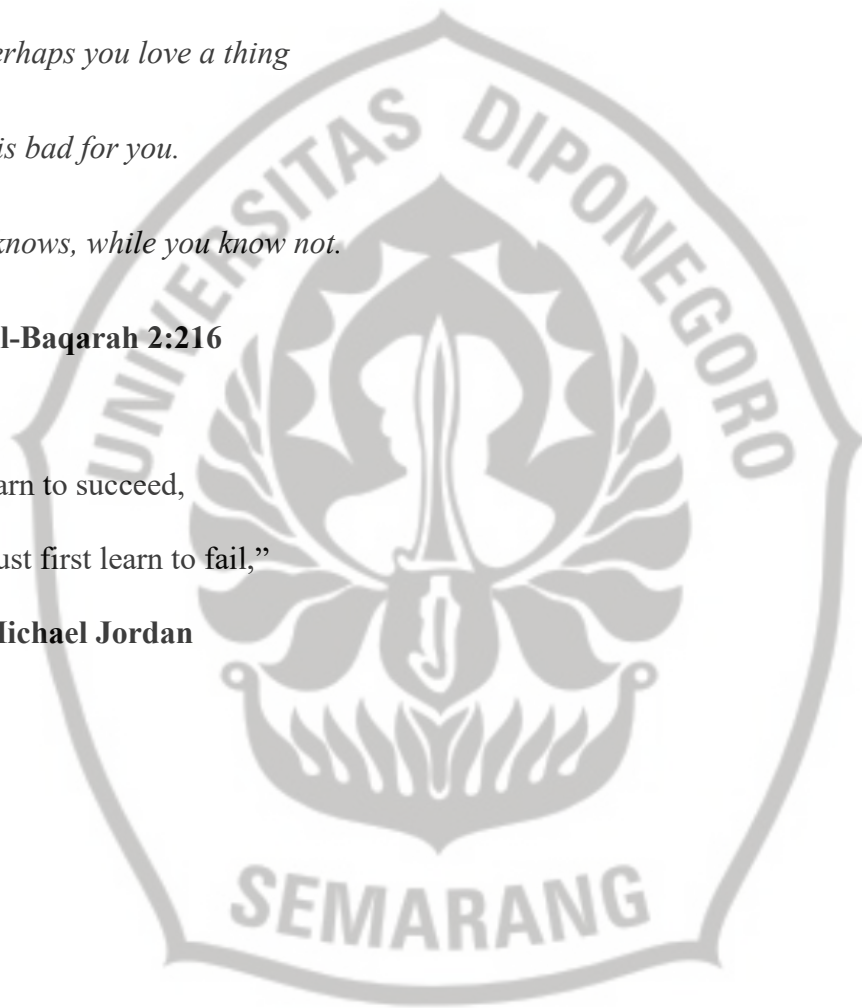
and it is bad for you.

Allah knows, while you know not.

——**Al-Baqarah 2:216**

“To learn to succeed,
you must first learn to fail,”

——**Michael Jordan**



This thesis is dedicated to myself

and to all the people I love,

who have supported me and taken me this far.

Thank you.

APPROVAL

FRAGILE MASCULINITY CONSTRUCTED BY AMERICAN WORK CULTURE AS DEPICTED IN *FAIR PLAY* (2023)

Written by:

Masayu Fania Rayya Fauzi

NIM: 13020122120014

Is approved by the thesis advisor

On 20th May 2026

Thesis Advisor



Sindhy Sintya Mianani S.S., M.Hum.

NIP. 199405182024062003

The Head of English Departement



Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Candra, M.Hum.

NIP. 196710041993031003

VALIDATION

FRAGILE MASCULINITY CONSTRUCTED BY AMERICAN WORK
CULTURE AS DEPICTED IN *FAIR PLAY* (2023)

Submitted by:

Masayu Fania Rayya Fauzi

NIM: 13020122120014

Approved by

Strata 1 Thesis Examination Committee

Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

On June 24th, 2026

Chairman,

Dr. Arido Laksono, S.S., M.Hum.

NIP. 197507111999031002

Member,

Dr. Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S., M.Hum.

NIP. 197212231998022001

Member,

Sindhy Sintya Mianani, S.S., M.Hum.

NIP. 199405182024062003

Accepted and Declared in Semarang on June 24th, 2026

The Dean of Faculty of Humanities



Prof. Dr. Alamsyah, S.S., M.Hum.

NIP. 197211191998021002

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise be to Allah SWT, whose blessings and mercy have enabled me to complete this thesis entitled “Fragile Masculinity Constructed by American Work Culture as Depicted in *Fair Play* (2023)”. This part is written to express my gratitude to all those who have supported the completion of this thesis. Such appreciation can never fully represent the help and encouragement they have given, but I sincerely thank everyone who has helped me finish this thesis.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Ms. Sindhy Sintya Mianani, S.S., M.Hum., as my thesis advisor, for her guidance, valuable corrections, and continuous support throughout the process of writing this thesis.

My deepest gratitude also goes to the following:

1. Prof. Dr. Alamsyah, S.S., M.Hum., the Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
2. Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Candra M.Hum., the Head of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University.
3. All lecturers of the English Department, Diponegoro University, especially in American Studies section, who have provided me with valuable knowledge and guidance throughout my study.
4. My beloved parents and my younger sister, thank you for your endless love, prayers, and encouragement. The support has been the greatest strength that helped me finish this thesis.
5. My dearest friends, Naomi and Effie, and all of my college friends, who have supported me throughout my college journey.

6. My high school friends, Denisya, Evana, Ummu, Annisa, Khalishah, Agung, and Aris, thank you for the friendship that has lasted until today.
7. My online friends, OmBurger, Kopanda, Kak Fabian, Kak Adam, Kak Idut, Kak Ojan, and Kak Dey, thank you for spending your time encouraging me and accompanying me in playing Valorant and Roblox during difficult time of writing this thesis.
8. KKN-T 39 Gojoyo friends, especially those at Posko 3, thank you for the memorable experiences and support during our time together.
9. My beloved cat, Meng, who has given all the moral support I needed. May your presence always bring joy.
10. All the people that cannot be mentioned one by one.

The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from perfect. Therefore, constructive criticism and suggestions will be sincerely appreciated. Finally, the writer hopes this work can be useful for readers interested in this research topic.

Semarang, 20th May 2026



Masayu Fania Rayya Fauzi

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE.....	i
PRONOUNCEMENT	ii
MOTTO AND DEDICATION	iii
APPROVAL.....	iv
VALIDATION	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
LIST OF PICTURES	x
ABSTRACT.....	xii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Research Questions.....	3
1.3 Objectives of the Study	4
1.4 Scope of the Study	4
1.5 Previous Studies.....	4
1.6 Research Method	9
1.6.1 Data and the Source of Data	9
1.6.2 Method of Data Collection	10
1.6.3 Method of Approach	10
1.7 Organization of the Writing.....	11
CHAPTER II INTRINSIC THEORITICAL FRAMEWORKS	14
2.1 Narrative Elements	14
2.1.1 Character and Characterization.....	14
2.1.2 Theme	15
2.1.3 Plot.....	15
2.1.4 Settings	15
2.1.5 Dialogue	16
2.1.6 Conflict.....	16

2.2 Cinematography.....	17
2.2.1 Camera Distance (Shot).....	17
2.2.2 Sound.....	19
CHAPTER III EXTRINSIC THEORITICAL FRAMEWORKS	20
3.1 Masculinity	20
3.1.1 Masculinity Theory	20
3.1.2 Masculinity in American Society	24
3.2 American Work Culture.....	28
3.2.1 Individualism and the Self-Made Man.....	28
3.2.2 A Driven People	29
3.2.3 Results-Oriented.....	29
3.2.4 Achievement-Based Identity	29
3.2.5 Time Matters	30
3.2.6 Straight Talk.....	30
3.2.7 No Excuses	30
CHAPTER IV RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS	31
4.1 Intrinsic Elements	31
4.1.1 Narrative Elements	30
4.1.1.1 Characters and Characterization.....	30
4.1.1.2 Theme	36
4.1.1.3 Plot.....	37
4.1.1.4 Settings	41
4.1.1.5 Conflict.....	45
4.2 Extrinsic Elements	49
4.2.1 The Role of American Work Culture in Shaping Luke's Fragile Masculinity.....	49
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION.....	64
REFERENCES.....	66

LIST OF PICTURES

Picture	2.1	Extreme Long Shot.....	17
Picture	2.2	Long Shot.....	17
Picture	2.3	Medium Long Shot.....	18
Picture	2.4	Medium Shot.....	18
Picture	2.5	Close up Shot.....	18
Picture	2.6	Medium Close up Shot.....	18
Picture	2.7	Extreme Close up Shot.....	19
Picture	4.1	Close-Up on Luke's Expression.....	32
Picture	4.2	Close-Up on Luke's Expression	32
Picture	4.3	Emily Receiving Praises From Campbell.....	33
Picture	4.4	Emily Overhearing Rumor About Luke's Promotion....	33
Picture	4.5	Emily Apologizing to Luke.....	34
Picture	4.6	Campbell Insulting Emily.....	34
Picture	4.7	Campbell Insulting Emily.....	34
Picture	4.8	Long-Shot on Campbell.....	35
Picture	4.9	Rory Insulting Emily.....	35
Picture	4.10	Rory Insulting Emily.....	35
Picture	4.11	Rory Mocking Emily.....	36
Picture	4.12	Luke's Expression of Displeasure.....	37
Picture	4.13	Emily Engages with Superior.....	37
Picture	4.14	Emily Being Assaulted by Luke.....	38
Picture	4.15	Luke's Aggressive Expression.....	38
Picture	4.16	Luke and Emily.....	39
Picture	4.17	Luke Watching Motivational Course.....	39
Picture	4.18	Luke's Notes and Book.....	39
Picture	4.19	Luke Apologizing to Emily.....	40
Picture	4.20	Apartment.....	41
Picture	4.21	Wall Street.....	41
Picture	4.22	One Crest Capital Office.....	41
Picture	4.23	Upscale Manhattan Bar	41
Picture	4.23	Luke's Homescreen.....	43
Picture	4.24	Luke Mentioning '2009'.....	41
Picture	4.25	Digital Trading Screens.....	44
Picture	4.26	The Use of Smartphone.....	44
Picture	4.27	Male-Dominated Environment.....	45
Picture	4.28	Luke Celebrating the Rumor.....	46

Picture	4.29	Luke Congratulating Emily.....	46
Picture	4.30	Luke Watching Emily from a Distance.....	46
Picture	4.31	Luke Refuses the Intimacy.....	46
Picture	4.32	Luke's Messy Appearance.....	48
Picture	4.33	Campbell's Expression.....	48
Picture	4.34	Luke Refuses Emily's Help.....	49
Picture	4.35	Luke Refuses Emily's Help.....	49
Picture	4.36	Emily Questioning Luke.....	50
Picture	4.37	Emily Questioning Luke.....	50
Picture	4.38	Luke Humiliates Himself.....	51
Picture	4.39	Luke Humiliates Himself.....	51
Picture	4.40	Luke's Ambition.....	53
Picture	4.41	Luke's Ambition.....	53
Picture	4.42	Luke Begging on His Knees.....	56
Picture	4.43	Campbell Introducing Derek.....	57
Picture	4.44	Campbell Introducing Derek.....	57
Picture	4.45	Campbell Talking About Luke.....	58
Picture	4.46	Campbell Talking About Luke.....	58
Picture	4.47	Call from Rory.....	59
Picture	4.48	Call from Campbell.....	59
Picture	4.49	Luke's Overtime.....	59
Picture	4.50	Brutal Professional Critique.....	60
Picture	4.51	Brutal Professional Critique.....	60