DECONSTRUCTING AMERICAN STEREOTYPES IN THE WHITE LOTUS SEASON 2

FINAL ASSIGNMENT

A Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Applied Foreign Language Bachelor Degree

by

Nadira Febiela Rosyadi

40020519650030

BACHELOR OF APPLIED FOREIGN LANGUAGE

VOCATIONAL COLLEGE

DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

2023

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Name : Nadira Febiela Rosyadi

Student's ID : 40020519650030

Signature :

Dates : 4 August 2023

APPROVAL SHEET

A FINAL ASSIGNMENT

Deconstructing American Stereotypes in The White Lotus Season 2

by

Nadira Febiela Rosyadi

Student Number: 40020519650030

Semarang, 4 August 2023

Approved by

Supervisor

Fitri Alfarisy, S.Pd., M.Hum.

NIP 199101302019031009

ACCEPTANCE

Name	: Nadira Febiela Rosyadi
Student's ID Number	: 40020519650030
Study Program	: Applied Foreign Language
Final Project/Bachelor Thesis Title	: Deconstructing American Stereotypes in The White Lotus Season 2

Accepted by

Board of Examiners

Applied Foreign Language Bachelor Program

Vocational College Diponegoro University

1. Fitri Alfarisy, S.Pd., M.Hum. (Chairman) ( )
2. Aditya Nur Patria, S.Hum., M.App.Ling. (Member) ( )
3. Lenggahing Asri Dwi Eko Saputri, M.Pd. (Member) ( )

Semarang, 18 August 2023

Head of Applied Foreign Language Study Program,

Sriwahyu Istana Trahutami, S.S., M.Hum

NIP 197401032000122001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta'ala, the Entirely Merciful that gave me the ability to complete the final assignment titled "Deconstructing American Stereotypes in The White Lotus Season 2" This final assignment was created to fulfill the requirements for the Applied Foreign Language Bachelor Degree at the Vocational School of Diponegoro University. This thesis is dedicated to everyone who has played a significant role in my academic journey and who has provided me with unwavering support throughout this challenging but gratifying process.

1. Prof. Dr. Ir. Budiyono, M.Sc as the Dean of the Vocational School.
2. Ms. Sriwahyu Istana Trahutami, S.S., M.Hum, as Head of Applied Foreign Language Study Program.
3. Mr. Fitri Alfarisy, S.Pd., M.Hum., as the supervisor whose guidance and expertise have been essential in shaping this research journey.
4. To my parents, whose unwavering confidence in my abilities has been a driving force for my pursuit of knowledge. I will be forever grateful to you for the sacrifices you have made and the understanding you have shown.
5. To my siblings, Ka Sarah and Ira, who have been a constant source of support and love for me throughout my life.
6. To Helen, Shelva, Dea, Jelita, Fira, Kamila, Audrey, Anggi, Alma, Nida, Chella and Amrina, who have been supporting friends and making this academic path more joyful and less stressful.
7. To my treasured friends from back home, Wita and Syifa, whose consistent support and assistance have been significantly helpful to me.
8. All parties that cannot be mentioned individually have provided support and encouragement to finish this thesis smoothly.

Semarang, 30 July 2023

Nadira Febiela Rosyadi

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ABSTRACT

This study employs Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to examine American stereotypes portrayed in American media. Characters from the second season of the acclaimed television series The White Lotus are analyzed, with a focus on their physical appearance, personalities and sociocultural aspects. The primary objective is to determine if American media still perpetuates common stereotypes of its own people in a recent TV show. The research employs a qualitative descriptive methodology to provide a thorough analysis. The characters' physical appearance is analyzed based on ethnicity, fashion choices and physical characteristics, while their personalities and sociocultural contexts are analyzed using Norman Fairclough's CDA. The findings reveal a diverse representation of American ethnicity among the characters, although a large proportion of them are portrayed as white. The series' textual analysis shows Americans as sociable, arrogant, open and straightforward while also perpetuating the stereotype of Asian Americans as boring. The accurate representation of white characters as wealthy aligns with historical data; however, the increasing wealth among other racial groups highlights the need for broader representation. Furthermore, Portia's Generation Z identity has a significant influence on her style preferences, as evidenced by an analysis of her fashion choices and statements from a sociocultural perspective. In conclusion, this research sheds light on the persistence of American stereotypes in American media and highlights the significance of critically analyzing media portrayals in order to promote more accurate and inclusive portrayals of diverse communities.

Keywords: American Stereotypes, Critical Discourse Analysis, The White Lotus Season 2