



**FROM BRAINWASHING TO RITUAL ABUSE BY THE
AMERICAN CULT COMMUNITY IN *APOSTLE* (2018)
MOVIE**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for The Bachelor
Degree Majoring American Cultural Studies in English
Department Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

Written by:

Elandri Septin Ariyudha

NIM 13020119120018

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

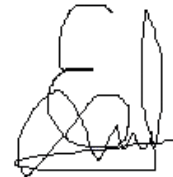
SEMARANG

2023

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly affirms that the thesis titled "*From Brainwashing to Ritual Abuse by The American Cult Community in Apostle (2018) Movie*" was created independently by the writer without the use of data from any university studies for S-1, S-2, and S-3. In addition, the writer assures that there is no research or writing other than that cited in the article's reference.

Semarang, November 16th 2023



Elandri Septin Ariyudha

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“And that each person will only have what they endeavoured towards, and that ‘the outcome of’ their endeavours will be seen ‘in their record’, then they will be fully rewarded, and that to your Lord ‘alone’ is the ultimate return ‘of all things’.”

QS. An – Najm: 39 – 42

“If my life is going to mean anything, I have to live it myself”

Rick Riordan

“Cry out loud once, then look in the mirror and shake it off. I’ve cried like that before and others will have times like that too. Cheer up. You’re not alone.”

SHINee’s Kim Jong Hyun

*This thesis is dedicated to myself,
my beloved family, and my friends*

APPROVAL

**FROM BRAINWASHING TO RITUAL ABUSE BY THE AMERICAN
CULT COMMUNITY IN *APOSTLE (2018)* MOVIE**

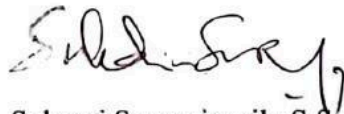
Written by:

Elandri Septin Ariyudha

13020119120018

is approved by thesis advisor
on November 16th 2023

Thesis Advisor



Dr. Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 197212231998022001

The Head of English Department



Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Candra, M.Hum.
NIP. 196710041993031003

VALIDATION

**FROM BRAINWASHING TO RITUAL ABUSE BY THE AMERICAN
CULT COMMUNITY IN *APOSTLE (2018)* MOVIE**

Submitted by:

Elandri Septin Ariyudha

13020119120018

Approved by:

Strata I Thesis Examination Committee

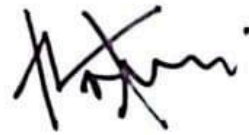
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

On December 22nd, 2023

Chair Person

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

NIP. 1975071199031002



Member

Rifka Pratama, S.Hum., M. A.

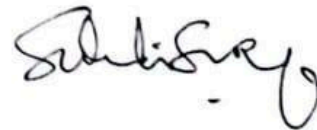
NPPU. H.7.199004282018071001



Member

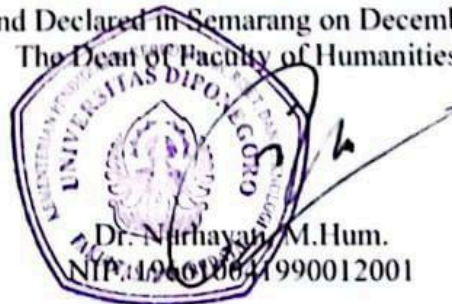
Dr. Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S., M.Hum.

NIP. 197212231998022001



Accepted and Declared in Semarang on December 22nd, 2023

The Dean of Faculty of Humanities,



Dr. Nurhayati, M.Hum.

NIP. 196010641990012001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Praise be to Allah SWT who has bestowed all His grace and guidance so that the writer can complete the thesis entitled "*From Brainwashing to Ritual Abuse by The American Cult Community in Apostle (2018) Movie*". The writer dedicated this section to thank all people who has helped and supported the writer so that this thesis can be completed well.

The writer would like to address deepest and sincere gratitude to Mrs. Dr. Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S., M.Hum. as a thesis supervisor who has taken the time to provide very valuable advice, guidance and knowledge. Without her guidance, this thesis would not have been possible to complete.

The writer also conveys the deepest gratitude to the following

1. Dr. Nurhayati, M.Hum., as the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University;
2. Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Candra, M.Hum., as the Head of the English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University;
3. All lectures of English Department, who have generously shared their valuable knowledge and wisdom while the writer studied at Diponegoro University;
4. My parents, the late Papa Triyudo Prihantono and Mama Sundariasih who have educated and raised the writer and provided motivation, material, love and prayers and also my older sister, Virginia Septin Ariyudha who constantly offers assistance and solutions when the writer is having difficulty finishing the thesis so that it can be done properly;

5. My close friends, the “*Ndri Family*” Afifatuz Zahra, Mia Rahmawati Rumadi, and Dian who always share joy and support in every situation, and also Kartika Nur Laili who has given the writer's lot of affection and motivation to finish this thesis.
6. All my friends of English Department'19 especially those who are in class A for all the laughs and memories which has been shared together;
7. Super Junior, Dreamcatcher, ENHYPEN's Heeseung, and Kepler's Chaehyun who are K-pop Idol that have accompanied and encouraged the writer to finish this thesis by their songs.
8. As well as all parties that the writer cannot mention one by one;
9. The last but not least, myself, who have worked hard and never given up so that this thesis can be completed well.

The writer realizes that this thesis has many mistakes and is far from perfect. Therefore, the writer expects criticism and suggestions in order to achieve an excellent thesis result. The writer hopes that this thesis will be helpful to readers who want to learn more about themes relevant to this thesis.

Semarang, November 16th 2023



Elandri Septin Ariyudha

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER	i
PRONOUNCEMENT	ii
MOTTO AND DEDICATION	iii
APPROVAL	iv
VALIDATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vi
TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF PICTURES	xii
ABSTRACT	xiv
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Background of the Study.....	1
1.2. Research Problems.....	3
1.3. Scope of the Study.....	3
1.4. Aims of the Study.....	3
1.5. Previous Studies.....	4
1.6. Research Method.....	6
1.6.1. Data and Source of Data.....	6
1.6.2. Method of Collecting Data.....	6
1.6.3. Method of Approach.....	7
1.7. Organization of the Study.....	7
CHAPTER II: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	9
2.1. Intrinsic Aspects.....	9
2.1.1. Narrative Elements.....	9
2.1.1.1. Theme.....	9
2.1.1.2. Character and Characterization.....	9
2.1.1.3. Setting.....	10
2.1.1.4. Conflict.....	10
2.1.2. Cinematic Elements.....	10

2.1.2.1. Camera Shot.....	10
2.1.2.2. Camera Angle.....	14
2.1.2.3. Mise-en-scene.....	16
2.1.2.4. Sound.....	17
2.2. Extrinsic Aspects.....	18
2.2.1. Religion.....	18
2.2.1.1. Cult.....	18
2.2.1.2. Sect.....	20
2.2.2. Brainwashing of Cult Religion.....	22
2.2.3. Ritual Abuse.....	24
CHAPTER III: DISCUSSION	26
3.1. Intrinsic Analysis.....	26
3.1.1. <i>Apostle (2018)</i> 's Theme.....	26
3.1.2. Character.....	26
3.1.2.1. Thomas Richardson.....	26
3.1.2.2. Prophet Malcolm.....	27
3.1.2.3. Quinn.....	30
3.1.3. Setting.....	30
3.1.3.1. Setting of Place.....	30
3.1.3.2. Setting of Time.....	31
3.1.4. Conflict.....	32
3.1.4.1. Internal Conflict.....	32
3.1.4.2. External Conflict.....	32
3.2. Extrinsic Analysis.....	33
3.2.1. The Creeds of the Cult.....	33
3.2.1.1. The Implementation of the Prohibition of Religious Norms.....	33
3.2.1.2. The Use of Symbols.....	34
3.2.2. The Causes to Join the Cult in <i>Apostle (2018)</i>	36
3.2.2.1. The Promises to Alleviate Poverty.....	36
3.2.2.2. The Perspective to Use Natural Resources.....	39

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

49

BIBLIOGRAPHY

51

LIST OF FIGURES

Picture 2.1 Extreme Long Shot	11
Picture 2.2 Long Shot	12
Picture 2.3 Full Shot	12
Picture 2.4 Medium Shot	13
Picture 2.5 Close Up Shot	13
Picture 2.6 Extreme Close Up Shot	14
Picture 2.7 Low Angle	14
Picture 2.8 High Angel	15
Picture 2.9 Eye-level	15
Picture 2.10 Bird's Eye	16
Picture 2.11 Dutch/Canted Angle	16

LIST OF PICTURES

Picture 3.1 Thomas Richardson	27
Picture 3.2 Thomas threatens Jeremy	27
Picture 3.3 Malcolm as Leader	28
Picture 3.4 Malcolm delivered a sermon at church	28
Picture 3.5 Malcolm shouted for the people of Erisden	29
Picture 3.6 Malcolm threatens to lure out the intruder	29
Picture 3.7 Quinn is just standing	30
Picture 3.8 Quinn after killed Jeremy	30
Picture 3.9 Erisden Island's view	31
Picture 3.10 Erisden Island's Statue	31
Picture 3.11 Erisden Island's Statue from behind	31
Picture 3.12 The Church in Erisden	31
Picture 3.13 Quinn interrogated to Ffion	33
Picture 3.14 Quinn and Ffion fought	33
Picture 3.15 Quinn interrogated to Ffion	34
Picture 3.16 Quinn and Ffion fought	34
Picture 3.17 Erisden Island's Statue	35
Picture 3.18 Erisden Island's Statue From behind	35
Picture 3.19 The Church in Erisden	35
Picture 3.20 The Statue with 'The Exodus'	36
Picture 3.21 Cave Painting	36
Picture 3.22 The little girl hugged woman	37
Picture 3.23 Verification of the new members to Erisden community	37
Picture 3.24 Member of the Congregation	40

Picture 3.25 The lamb trapped on a Erisden boat	40
Picture 3.26 Two people talked about ‘The Goddess’	40
Picture 3.27 Thomas blocked a man who attacked Malcolm	42
Picture 3.28 Malcolm slashed his hand	42
Picture 3.29 Malcolm pressed his bloody hand into Thomas’s	42
Picture 3.30 Erisden failed the goat breeding	43
Picture 3.31 Sign of Erisden’s barren harvest	43
Picture 3.32 The woman slashed	44
Picture 3.33 Blood disappear slowly	44
Picture 3.34 The real looks of “The Goddess”	45
Picture 3.35 Malcolm gives his blood to “The Goddess”	45
Picture 3.36 Quinn screams	46
Picture 3.37 Quinn hold a ceremony to purify Jeremy’s soul	46
Picture 3.38 Purifying Ritual	47
Picture 3.39 Jeremy’s final purifying ritual ceremony	47
Picture 3.40 Quinn stuck a rose petal into Jeremy's hollowed out head	47

ABSTRACT

In this thesis, the writer analyzes cult activity by highlighting the impact of brainwashing activities as a critical element that triggers the emergence of abused rituals, detailing the complexity of the psychological and sociological dynamics involving cult members in *Apostle (2018)* movie. The main focus of this thesis is to show the effect of brainwashing on ritual abuse. The writer uses brainwashing theory addressed by Alexandra Stein to analyze this film. Emile Durkheim's sociological approach is used in this study. The results of this study are the application of cults in society supported by individual psychological pressure carried out by the cult leader. Sociological interactions give rise to brainwashing activities originating from someone who has power, resulting in abuse of rituals such as blood donations in the name of good religious things in the *Apostle (2018)* movie.

Keywords: *Religion, Apostle (2018), Cult, Brainwashing, Ritual Abuse, Emile Durkheim's Sociological Approach*