



**THE MOTHERHOOD STRUGGLES AND MATERNAL GUILTS
IN MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL'S *THE LOST DAUGHTER* MOVIE**

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements

For S-1 Degree Majoring Literature

In English Department, Faculty of Humanities

Diponegoro University

Submitted by:

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SEMARANG

2023

PRONOUNCEMENT

I truthfully assert that this thesis entitled "The Motherhood Struggles and Maternal Guilts in Maggie Gyllenhaal's *The Lost Daughter* Movie" is written by myself without taking any works from other researchers in any university at the Diploma, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree levels. I also affirm that I do not take any material from other works except from the mentioned references.

Semarang, December 6th, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sabella Rizki Listyorini', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sabella Rizki Listyorini

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“For indeed, with hardship [will be] ease.”

Qur’an [93:5]

“I will no longer go full throttle. Instead, I will walk slowly enjoying every steps of the journey. At my own pace, following my own rhythms.”

Mark Lee

*This thesis is dedicated to
My beloved parents, sister
and those whom I love the most*

APPROVAL

**THE MOTHERHOOD STRUGGLES AND MATERNAL GUILTS
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**THE MOTHERHOOD STRUGGLES AND MATERNAL GUILTS
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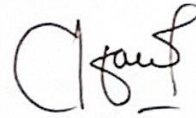
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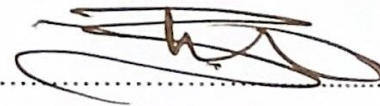
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise be to Allah SWT who has given us His innumerable blessings and great mercies so that this thesis has come to completion. This part is presented to thank all those who have helped and supported me in completing this thesis. This appreciation may never be equal to their help and support.

The deepest appreciation and gratitude are extended to my advisor, Eta Farmacelia Nurulhady S.S., M.Hum., M.A., Ph.D. who has spared her valuable time to patiently give her constructive suggestion and continuous guidance without which I would be doubtful to accomplish this thesis successfully.

My greatest thank also goes to the following:

1. Dr. Nurhayati, M.Hum, as the Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University;
2. Dr. Drs. Oktiva Herry Candra M.Hum., as the Head of the English Department of the Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University,
3. All the lecturers of English Department Diponegoro University who have shared their precious knowledge and their advice that would be remarkable;
4. My parents and sister who have been the biggest supporter and motivations to finish my education;
5. My supportive teacher, Ms. Nindya, my biggest gratitude for your support;
6. My grandmother who gave countless pray and support;

7. My dearest best friends; Raissa, Cindy, Tiara, Zanisya, Annisa, and Ema; thank you for your countless prays and support;
8. All the friends from Class B who always support each other;
9. My dear Johnny Suh and the rest of NCT members who always be my motivations and accompany me through all the hardships in completing this thesis.

This thesis is certainly still in need of improvement, as I realize that it is far from being perfect. Therefore, any kind of suggestion or constructive criticism would always be very welcomed and appreciated. I hope that this thesis will be helpful to those who want to learn more about motherhood struggles and maternal guilt or any other related field in general.

Semarang, December 6th, 2023



Sabella Rizki Listyorini

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ABSTRACT

Amidst the multifaceted responsibilities of motherhood, the pressure to embody the "good mother" often leads to internal conflicts and guilt felt by mothers. *The Lost Daughter* (2021), directed and re-written by Maggie Gyllenhaal, tackles the deep complications of motherhood, utilizes the contrasting journeys of the main characters, Leda and Nina, to portray the prevalent struggles of mothers grappling with societal expectations, personal desires, and maternal guilt. The aims of this study is to analyze and give further explanation regarding motherhood struggles and maternal guilt that occurred in the object of the study, *The Lost Daughter*. This study uses Simone de Beauvoir feminist literary criticism since it exposes women's representation as mothers. Library research and descriptive-qualitative is also used in analyzing the movie. The results of this study highlights how Leda and Nina are fueled by overwhelming responsibilities and a lack of the partners' support. Their internal struggles, including feelings of failure and self-doubt, ultimately pushes them towards self-reflection and reconciliation, which depict relentlessly seeking to navigate the complexities of motherhood and allay the burden of guilt that can manifest in both emotional and physical distress.

Keywords: *maternal guilt, motherhood, personal desires, social expectation, feminist literary criticism*