



**REPRESENTATION OF SOCIAL CLASS THROUGH
STANDARD AND NON-STANDARD ENGLISH USED
IN F. H. BURNETT'S *THE SECRET GARDEN***

A THESIS

**In of the Requirements for Bachelor Degree in English
Department Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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PRONOUNCEMENT

I honestly state that this thesis is written by myself without taking any works from other researchers in any university, in diploma degree, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree. I also ascertain that I do not take any material from other works except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 23rd August 2023



Risma Nabilah Rahmaniah

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

What goes too long unchanged destroys itself. The forest is forever because it dies and dies and so lives.

Ursula Le Guin

Never get tired of trying, and never think it is impossible to conquer your fault.

Louisa May Alcott

*This thesis is dedicated to
my beloved family and myself,
who albeit wobbly, keep on walking*

APPROVAL

REPRESENTATION OF SOCIAL CLASS THROUGH STANDARD AND NON-STANDARD ENGLISH USED IN F. H. BURNETT'S *THE SECRET*

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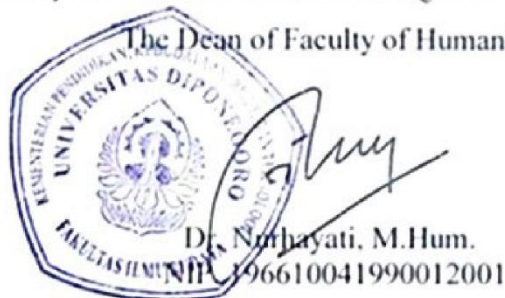
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I recognize that there is room for improvement in this thesis, as I am well aware of its imperfections. Therefore, I welcome and highly appreciate any recommendations and helpful advice. At long last, I hope that this thesis will be informative to those who are interested in studying linguistics through literature, particularly through novels that delve into the themes of social class and language variety.

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Risma Nabilah Rahmaniah

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ABSTRACT

Non-standard English (NSE) and standard English (SE) are parts of language variety. SE is privileged and usually used by the upper-class, while NSE is typically acquired from home and is usually used by the lower class. Language variety, including SE and NSE, is not only present in verbal communications but also in novels. The aims of this study are to (1) identify the NSE and SE used in *The Secret Garden* (1911) novel, (2) describe the characters' motives on using NSE, and (3) describe the characters' motives on using SE. This study focuses on the utterances of Mary, Colin, Archibald Craven, Mrs. Medlock, Martha, Dickon, and Ben Weatherstaff, which represent different social classes. The data in this study were collected from *The Secret Garden* (1911) e-book. This study uses the descriptive qualitative method and purposive sampling technique, analysed using the theories of Holmes (2013), Azzar (1993), Freeborn (1995), and Saunders (1990). The results of the study show that NSE includes different grammatical and vocabulary features in comparison to SE. Lower-class characters use more NSE than those from higher classes. The possible motives on using NSE include environment, poverty and education, as well as solidarity. The possible motive on using SE is politeness.

Keywords: language variety, non-standard English, social class, solidarity, politeness

