



**THE PORTRAYAL OF CULTURAL IDENTITY OF
MEXICAN-AMERICAN IN THE MOVIE *A DAY WITHOUT A
MEXICAN* (2004)**

A THESIS PROPOSAL

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for

**The Bachelor Degree in English Department Faculty of Humanities
Diponegoro University**

Submitted by:

Alya Cantika Army Haq

13020121140141

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG

2025

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly states that this thesis was personally written by the writer and was not taken from any other researchers' works at any university, whether at the diploma, S-1, S-2, or S-3 degrees. Furthermore, the writer confirms that all materials presented in this thesis are exclusively drawn from the referenced sources and not from any other works.

Semarang, 24 May 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alya Cantika Army Haq', written in a cursive style.

Alya Cantika Army Haq

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“It is not allowable for the sun to reach the moon, nor does the night overtake the day, but each, in an orbit, is swimming.”

— **QS. Yasin (36:40)**

"His command is only when He intends a thing that He says to it, 'Be,' and it is."

— **QS. Yasin (36:82)**

*This thesis is dedicated to My beloved parents, sister,
And those who have provided unwavering support to me.*

APPROVAL

THE PORTRAYAL OF CULTURAL IDENTITY OF MEXICAN- AMERICAN IN THE MOVIE *A DAY WITHOUT A MEXICAN* (2004)

Written by:

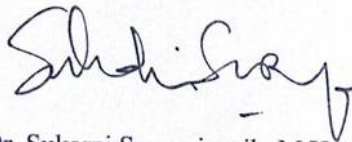
Alya Cantika Army Haq

NIM. 13020121140141

Is approved by the thesis advisor

On 24th May 2025

Thesis Advisor



Dr. Sukarni Suryaningsih, M.Hum.

NIP. 197212231998022001

The Head of English Department



Dr. Oktiva Herry Chandra, M.Hum.

NIP. 196710041993031003

VALIDATION

THE PORTRAYAL OF CULTURAL IDENTITY OF MEXICAN- AMERICAN IN THE MOVIE "A DAY WITHOUT A MEXICAN" (2004)

Submitted by:

Alya Cantika Army Haq

13020121140141

Approved by

Strata I Thesis Examination Committee
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

On December 18, 2025

Chairman

Arido Laksono, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 197507111999031002



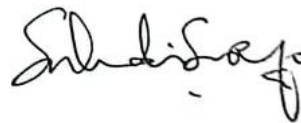
Member

Sindhy Sintya Mianani, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 199405182024062003



Member

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



Accepted and declared in Semarang on December 18, 2025

The Dean of Faculty of Humanities
Prof. Dr. Alamsyah, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 197211191998021002



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While I acknowledge that this thesis may still have areas for improvement, I welcome and value any constructive criticism and suggestions to enhance its quality. Ultimately, I hope this thesis will be a valuable resource for readers seeking knowledge on the topic discussed in this research. It will prove beneficial to their learning experience.

Semarang, 24 May 2025



Alya Cantika Army Haq

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ABSTRACT

This thesis aims to explore the cultural identity of Mexican-Americans and the acculturation experienced by the characters in the movie *A Day Without a Mexican* (2004), directed by Sergio Arau. *A Day without a Mexican* (2004) is a fiction movie that portrays the impact of the Mexican-American influence in social, economic, and political condition in California. The story revolves around the mysterious disappearance of Mexican-American in California due to a mysterious fog that spreads over the California and caused chaos in daily life along with crucial sectors such as politics and the economy. This thesis applies Stuart Hall's cultural identity perspective that provides a framework to understand how cultural identity is not fixed essence, but rather constructed historically and culturally through cultural interaction and acculturation. The writer conducts library research applying an objective approach through narrative and cinematography elements in analyzing *A Day Without a Mexican* (2004) movie. The writer concludes that since cultural identity can be constructed and reshaped, there is a significant change in the sense of belonging and family values of the characters portrayed in the movie. Furthermore, the movie reflects cultural acculturation, particularly through interracial marriage and the integration of Mexican cultural elements into American society.

Keywords: *Mexican-American, cultural identity, family values, cultural acculturation.*