



**A MARXIST ANALYSIS: CLASS STRUGGLE AND INDIVIDUAL
AWARENESS REFLECTED IN THE MAIN CHARACTER OF *HOLLER*
(2020) IN THE DEINDUSTRIALIZED AREA OF THE RUST BELT
IN JACKSON, OHIO**

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of The Requirements

For S-1 Degree Majoring in American Studies in The English Department

Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

Submitted by:

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FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG

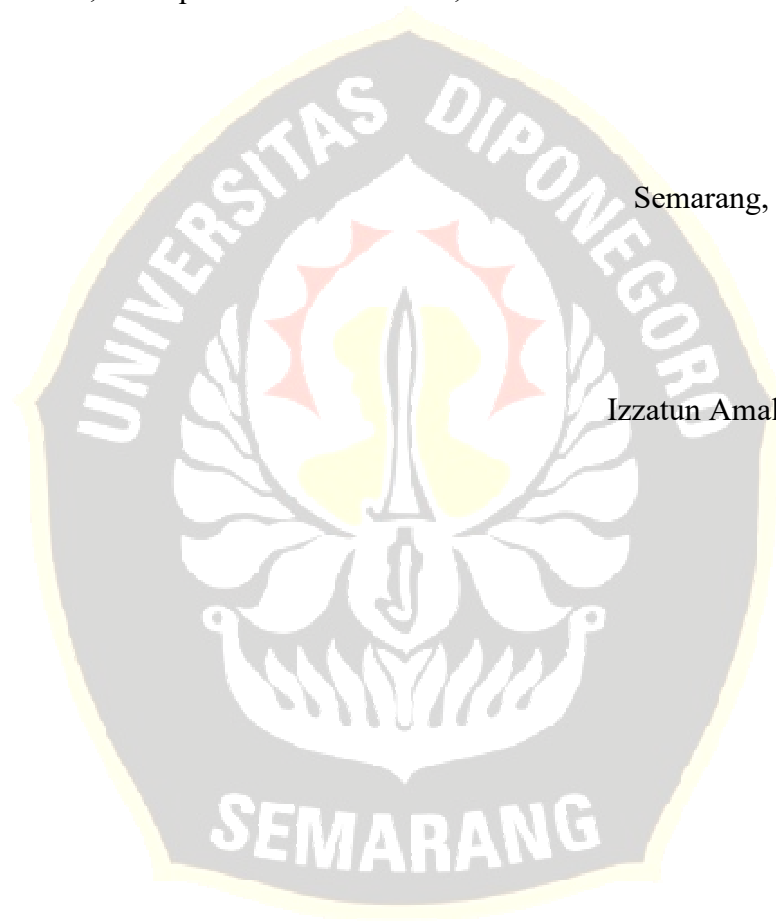
2026

PRONOUNCEMENT

This final project entitled “A Marxist Analysis: Class Struggle and Individual Awareness Reflected in The Main Character of *Holler* (2020) In the Deindustrialized Area of the Rust Belt in Jackson, Ohio” is my own work, and all sources, both quoted and referred to, have been stated correctly.

Semarang, 5 May 2026

Izzatun Amalia Nadhiroh



MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“If you fail, who cares? Just start over.”

— Bang Yedam

“Cause nothing lasts forever and nothing stays the same.”

— 5 Seconds of Summer



This thesis is dedicated to me, myself, and I

My parents

and those whom I love the most

APPROVAL

**A MARXIST ANALYSIS: CLASS STRUGGLE AND INDIVIDUAL
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VALIDATION

A MARXIST ANALYSIS: CLASS STRUGGLE AND INDIVIDUAL AWARENESS REFLECTED IN THE MAIN CHARACTER OF *HOLLER* (2020) IN THE DEINDUSTRIALIZED AREA OF THE RUST BELT IN JACKSON, OHIO

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Semarang, 5 May 2026

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ABSTRACT

The film *Holler* (2020), directed by Nicole Riegel, depicts the lives of the working class in Jackson, Ohio, a city impacted by deindustrialization in the United States' Rust Belt. The purpose of this study is to examine how the film portrays deindustrialization conditions through the lens of historical materialism, to describe the forms of class struggle experienced by the main characters, and to investigate the limitations of individual class consciousness in the context of post-industrial capitalism. This study uses a qualitative, literature-based method with a Marxist perspective, building on Karl Marx's theories of historical materialism and class struggle, as well as Georg Lukács' concept of levels of consciousness. Primary data is sourced from the film *Holler* (2020), while secondary data is obtained from relevant journals, books, and scholarly articles. The results indicate that deindustrialization in Ohio's Rust Belt is cinematically constructed as a material condition shaping the characters' lives, rather than merely a backdrop. Class struggle in this film manifests in three forms: unequal negotiation, accommodation of exploitation, and individual escape as a final act of resistance. The main character Ruth's consciousness remains at the individual level, while Blaze internalizes structural poverty as a personal failure. Both reflect how the material conditions of deindustrialization prevent the formation of the collective class consciousness necessary for structural change.

Keywords: deindustrialization, class struggle, historical materialism, class consciousness, Rust Belt, capitalism, American cinema