

ABSTRACT

This thesis research discusses the representation of body image and obesity as a form of social stigma and how the main character overcomes this stigma in American society, by focusing on the character Charlie in the film *The Whale* (2022). This research thesis aims to analyze the portrayal of body image and obesity as social stigma and to examine how the main character negotiates a stigmatized identity through front-stage and back-stage performances. This research thesis uses a sociological approach, which is based on stigma theory and dramaturgical theory proposed by Erving Goffman. The primary data for this research is the film *The Whale* (2022), and the secondary data is derived along with sources from journal articles, books, and other theoretical references. The result of this thesis research shows that the intrinsic aspects discussion exposes Charlie's characterization as a stigmatized individual who experiences both physical and emotional struggles, as well as his internal and external conflicts. The extrinsic analysis includes an analysis of the representation of body image and obesity as sources of social stigma, leading to negative representation, social rejection, and emotional distance. In the stigma seen through Charlie's actions, both in public and in private, where he gives an image of himself in public while showing his weaknesses in private.

Keywords: body image, social stigma, front stage, back stage.