CULTURAL INDENTITY CONFLICT EXPERIENCED BY JENNY IN LIAN GOUW'S ONLY A GIRL

A THESIS

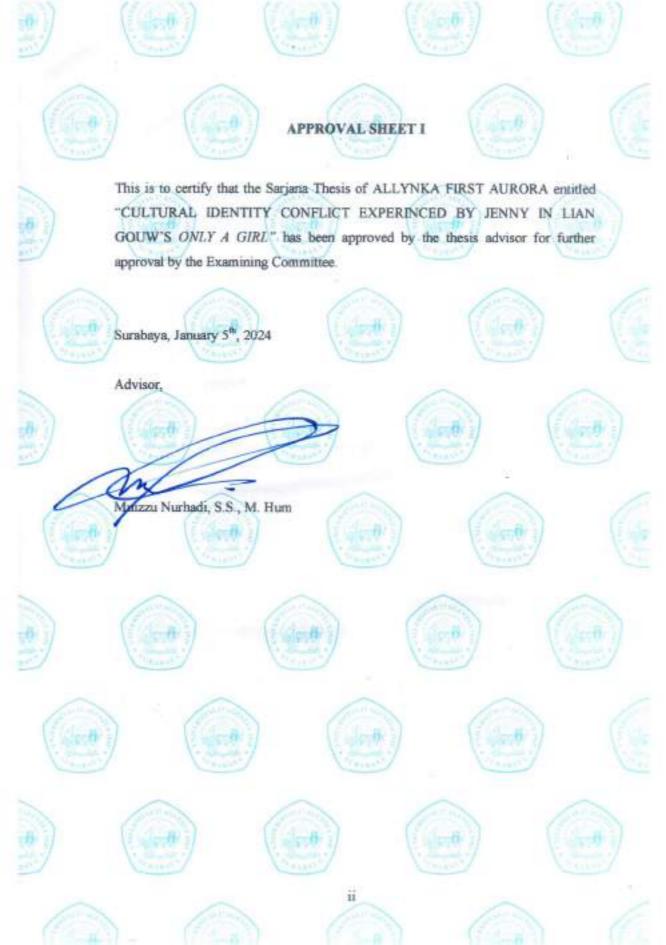
Presented in a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Completing the Sarjana Degree in Department of English Literature



By:

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TABLE OF CONTENT

APPROVAL SHEET I i						
APPROVAL SHEET II iii						
SURAT PERNYATAANiv						
	OWLEDGEMENT					
	E OF CONTENT					
	TER I					
	DDUCTION					
1.1	Background of Study	1				
1.2	Problem Statements of the Study	3				
1.3	Objectives of the Study					
1.4	Scope and Limitation of the Study					
1.5	1					
CHAPTER II						
REVI	EW OF RELATED LITERATURE	5				
2.1	Previous Studies					
2.2	Theoretical Framework					
	2.2.1 Identity	7				
	2.2.2 Cultural Identity	8				
	2.2.3 Cultural Identity Conflict	9				
CHAP	CHAPTER III					
RESE	RESEARCH METHODS					
3.1	Literary Approach	13				
3.2	Research Design 13					
3.3	Data Sources					
3.4	Research Instruments					
3.5	Data Collection Procedures	14				
2.	Data Analysis Procedures					

CHAP	TER I	V	15	
ANALYSIS				
4.1	Cultu	ral Identity Conflict Experienced by Jenny	15	
	4.1.1	Family Factor	16	
	4.1.2	Language Factor		
	4.1.3	The Change of Political Situation		
	4.1.4	School and Friends Factor		
4.2	The In	npact of Cultural Identity Conflict to Jenny's life	29	
	4.2.1	The Changes of Jenny's Worldview	30	
	4.2.2	Life Decision		
CONC	CLUSIC	N	37	
RIRL	RIBLIOGRAPHY			

ABSTRACT

This study is entitled "Cultural Identity Conflict Experienced by Jenny in Lian Gouw's Only a Girl. This study aims to explore and find the conflicts that happen in Jenny's life due to her cultural identity and how these conflicts influence her life decisions and world view in general. It uses a qualitative method as the research design and sociological approach as a literary approach. The result shows there are several conflicts related to cultural identity that Jenny experienced coming from family, language, change of political situation, and also from school and her friends. Jenny comes from a Chinese family but was raised with a Dutch culture, facing difficulties in socializing with Indonesian friends, especially during the post-independence period. Unaccustomed to the use of the Malay language, Jenny encounters many challenges at school. These challenges originate from both friends and teachers who consider her as a foreigner. These conflicts later influence Jenny's perspective on the world and the choices she makes in life. From the results of this study, the findings indicate that the conflicts coming from her family, the unfamiliar language, the change of political situation, and the treatment given by her teachers and friends have significant impact and direct influence on Jenny's life. Therefore, the cultural identity is socially constructed through several conflicts.

Keyword: cultural identity, cultural identity conflicts, impact, social life.