# THE ANALYSIS OF CHILD ABUSE AS PORTRAYED IN DELIA OWEN'S WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING

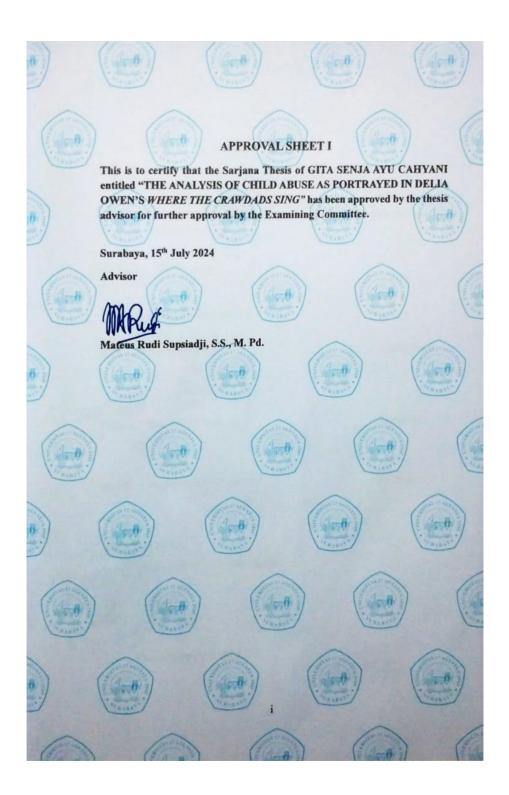
#### **A THESIS**

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



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### MOTTO

To live for the hope of it all (Taylor Swift)

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This thesis may still have many shortcomings. Therefore, criticism and suggestions are highly expected to improve this thesis. The writer also sincerely hopes that this thesis is useful and will add insight to the readers.

Surabaya, 15th July 2024

Gita Senja Ayu Cahyani

### **TABLE OF CONTENT**

APPROVAL S	HEET Ii	
APPROVAL S	HEET IIii	
SURAT PERN	YATAANiii	
мотто	iv	
ACKNOWLEI	DGEMENTv	
TABLE OF CO	ONTENTvii	
ABSTRACT	ix	
CHAPTER I II	NTRODUCTION1	
1.1 Backgrou	and of the Study1	
1.2 Statemen	t of Problems	
1.3 Objective	of the Study3	
1.4 Scope and Limitation3		
1.5 Significat	nce of the Study4	
CHAPTER II	REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE5	
2.1 Previous	Study5	
2.2 Theoretic	al Review6	
2.2.1	Psychology of Literature6	
2.2.2	Child Abuse6	
	2.2.2.1 Physical Abuse	
	2.2.2.2 Emotional Abuse	
	2.2.2.3 Sexual Abuse	
	2.2.2.4 Child Neglect8	
2.2.3	Impact of Child Abuse8	
CHAPTER III	RESEARCH METHOD11	
3.1 Research	Design11	
3.2 Literary	Approach11	
3 3 Data Source		

		I BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR	
BIBLIO APPEN		PHY SUMMARY OF WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING	
		CONCLUSION	33
СНАВ			
			29
4.2	The Im	npact of Child Abuse Toward Kya in Where the Crawdac	ls Sing
	4.1.3	Child Neglect	23
	4.1.2	Emotional Abuse	15
	4.1.1	Physical Abuse	13
			13
4.1	Kind o	of Child Abuse Suffered by Kya in Where the Crawdads	Sing
CHAP	TER IV	ANALYSIS	13
3.6 1	Data Ar	nalysis Procedure	12
3.5 1	Data Co	ollection Procedure	11
3.4 1	Researc	h Instrument	11

#### ABSTRACT

Child abuse occurs when a child is hurt or abused by an adult. This can happen in various ways, impacting the child's body, cognition, and emotions. This study discusses the kind of child abuse and the impact of child abuse in Delia Owens' Where the Crawdads Sing. This study uses the child abuse theory by Christiane Sanderson and takes a psychological approach as it examines real-life phenomena. A qualitative approach is used as a method of research. The analysis reveals that Kya experiences physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect, primarily inflicted by her father and further exacerbated by the abandonment of her parents and siblings. Kya endures physical abuse through beatings and threats from her father, emotional abuse through his dismissive and degrading behavior, and neglect as she is left to fend for herself in extreme poverty and isolation. These abuses have long-term effects on her physical and psychological health. Kya is malnourished because her parents abandoned her. Psychologically, she suffers from deep anxiety and a profound lack of trust as a result of repeated trauma and isolation. In conclusion, Kya's experiences with physical abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect emphasize the severe and lasting impacts of child abuse on an individual's physical and mental well-being. The novel highlights how these traumatic experiences shape Kya's interactions with family and society. Childhood traumatic experience that made Kya become the person who has anxiety.

**Keywords:** child abuse, impact of child abuse, psychological approach