

**BINARY OPPOSITION GOOD AND BAD CHARACTER IN ANNA  
TODD'S *AFTER***

**A THESIS**

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



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UNIVERSITAS 17 AGUSTUS 1945 SURABAYA**

**2024**

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2024**

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This is to certify that the Sarjana Thesis of Mutiara Stefani Putri Weking entitled **"BINARY OPPOSITION GOOD AND BAD CHARACTER IN ANNA TODD'S AFTER"** has been examined and approved by the thesis Examining Committee as the requirement for Sarjana Degree in English Literature.

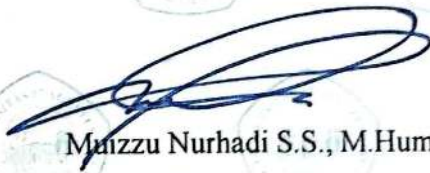
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## **MOTTO**

*Working honesty doesn't make you poor,  
working dishonesty doesn't make you rich.*

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Surabaya, June 2024

Mutiara Stefani Putri Weking

## ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pertentangan biner antara tokoh “baik” dan “jahat” dalam novel *After* karya Anna Todd, dengan menggunakan teori pertentangan biner dan pendekatan dekonstruksi yang dikemukakan oleh Jacques Derrida serta dibantu oleh pendapat Lois Tyson. Dekonstruksi sebagai metode kritis menantang pemahaman tradisional tentang dualitas dan menyoroti ambiguitas dan ketidakstabilan makna. Dalam novel ini, tokoh utama sering dikategorikan sebagai “baik” atau “jahat” berdasarkan perilaku dan pilihan mereka. Namun, melalui analisis dekonstruksi, penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa batasan antara “baik” dan “jahat” tidak bersifat absolut dan sering kali kabur. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif dengan sumber data yang diambil dari novel *After*. Ada dua hasil dari penelitian ini. Pertama, peneliti menemukan pertentangan biner baik yang direpresentasikan oleh Tessa Young, pertentangan biner buruk yang direpresentasikan oleh Hardin Scott, Penampilan Fisik Tessa Young sebagai Tokoh Baik, dan Penampilan Fisik Hardin Scott sebagai Tokoh Buruk. Kedua, membuktikan pertentangan biner yang terungkap dalam cerita *After*. Temuan penelitian ini adalah Tessa Young awalnya merepresentasikan kebaikan, ditandai dengan penampilannya yang rapi dan sifatnya yang peduli, sedangkan Hardin Scott merepresentasikan keburukan, digambarkan melalui tato, pakaian yang tidak rapi, dan perilaku yang kasar. Namun, kesimpulan dari penelitian ini adalah dekonstruksi mengungkapkan bahwa oposisi biner ini tidak mutlak, karena karakter Tessa mulai menyimpang dari kebaikan, dipengaruhi oleh Hardin, yang pada gilirannya mulai menunjukkan potensi untuk perubahan positif ketika bersama Tessa, menggambarkan kompleksitas dan keterkaitan antara kebaikan dan keburukan berdasarkan konteks dan pengalaman.

Kata **kunci**: sesudah, oposisi biner, dekonstruksi, baik dan buruk, strukturalisme.

## ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the binary opposition between “good” and “bad” characters in the novel *After* by Anna Todd, using the theory of binary opposition and the deconstruction approach proposed by Jacques Derrida and assisted by the opinion of Lois Tyson. Deconstruction, as a critical method, challenges traditional understandings of duality and highlights the ambiguity and instability of meaning. In this novel, the main characters are often categorized as “good” or “bad” based on their behavior and choices. However, through deconstruction analysis, this research reveals that the boundaries between “good” and “bad” are not absolute and are often blurred. The method used in this research is a qualitative method with data sources taken from the novel *After*. There are two results from this research. First, the researcher found a good binary opposition represented by Tessa Young, a bad binary opposition represented by Hardin Scott, Tessa Young’s Physical Appearance as a Good Character, and Hardin Scott’s Physical Appearance as a Bad Character. Second, it proves the binary opposition exposed in the *After* story. The finding of this research is Tessa Young initially represents good, characterized by her neat appearance and caring nature, while Hardin Scott represents bad, depicted through his tattoos, sloppy clothing, and rude behavior. However, the conclusion of this research is deconstruction reveals that these binary oppositions are not absolute, as Tessa’s character starts to deviate from good, influenced by Hardin, who in turn begins to show potential for positive change when with Tessa, illustrating the complexity and interrelation of good and bad based on context and experiences.

**Keywords:** *after*, binary opposition, deconstruction, good and bad, structuralism.

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