

UNVEILING THE STRUCTURES OF FEELING IN ANN PATCHETT'S *TOM LAKE*

A THESIS

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



By:

YAFET KURNIAWAN SANTOSO
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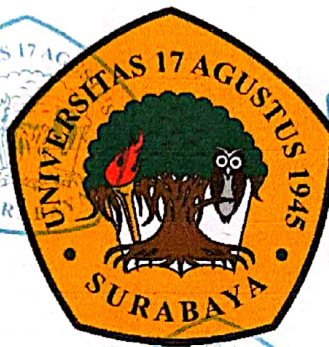
**FAKULTAS ILMU BUDAYA
UNIVERSITAS 17 AGUSTUS 1945 SURABAYA**

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This is to certify that the thesis of **YAFET KURNIAWAN SANTOSO** entitled **"UNVEILING THE STRUCTURES OF FEELING IN ANN PATCHETT'S *TOM LAKE*"** has been approved by the thesis advisor for further approval by the Examining Committee.

Surabaya, 19th June 2025
Advisor,



Mateus Rudi Supsiadji, S.S., M.Pd.

APPROVAL SHEET II

This is to certify that the Sarjana Thesis of **YAFET KURNIAWAN SANTOSO** entitled **"UNVEILING THE STRUCTURES OF FEELING IN ANN PATCHETT'S TOM LAKE"** has been examined and approved by the Examining Committee as the requirement for Sarjana Degree in English Literature.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise and gratitude go to my saviour Jesus Christ for the extraordinary love at all times and the abundant blessings that fulfil my life every day so that I can finish this thesis entitled *Unveiling The Structures of Feeling in Ann Patchett's Tom Lake*. Completing this thesis certainly cannot be separated from the help of various parties, both moral and material. Without the help of various parties, this thesis will not be done. I would like to express my eternal gratitude first, Jesus Christ, because I can only complete this thesis by His grace.

I am enormously grateful to the Mateus Rudi Supsiadji, SS., M.Pd., the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences and my thesis advisor who is always patient and willing to take the time to guide and teach me. He always gives me lots of input and suggestions when guiding me to work in this thesis. He makes me to be more independent, more confident, and gives me so much knowledge and advice to be a better person. I would like to express my gratitude to the Head of English Literature Department Dr. Pariyanto, M.Ed., for guiding and directing me throughout the years so that become a great student of Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya.

I would like to express my next gratitude towards all the lecturers and staff of the Department of English Literature, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya, who have helped me and taught me. They provided useful knowledge inside and outside the class. I would not have been able to reach this point without their help.

I am deeply indebted to both of my parents, my father my super hero Djoko Budi Santoso and my mother Sulis, and also my aunt and grandmother who always encourage me to study more seriously, fight harder and do better. Their prayers made me reach this point. I would also like to thank all my family who always supports me.

I also want to thank all of my friends. Ajimas Dzurinathif, Haikal Darmawan, Moch.Aril Afandik, Fernando Hose, Moch.Rapli Pontoh, Royke Hadrian Askari Sembayu, Habib Aditya Artiansyah, Safira Bella Untari, Grace Natasha Karundeng, Galuh Nastiti, and Fina Yulia Rahmah who always help me and accompanying me in this long journey and completing this thesis. Thank you for your support, effort, prayers, I wish all the best for all of us in the future.

I would also like to thank my Moodbooster, JKT48, especially for my Oshi Michelle Alexandra (Michie), Greesela Adhalia (Greesel), Oline Manuel Chay (Oline), and Hillary Abigail (Lily) who made me excited to work on my thesis so that I can graduate quickly and get a job. And also for my favorite YouTuber DEANKT and Bala-Bala Family who accompanied me while working on my thesis and made me laugh just to relax my brain and body.

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ABSTRACT

This thesis explores how Ann Patchett's *Tom Lake* captures and expresses the unspoken emotional atmosphere of rural American life during the COVID-19 pandemic through the lens of Raymond Williams's theory of the "structure of feeling." Focusing on the novel's portrayal of small-town community, familial labor, and generational memory, the research examines how emotions like longing, resignation, care, and quiet agency shape character identity and social relationships. Using Williams's cultural materialism as a theoretical foundation, the study reveals how *Tom Lake* reflects the lived experiences of individuals whose emotions are deeply entangled with historical and socio-economic change, yet often remain unarticulated. The cherry farm, as both a physical and emotional space, becomes the central site where the past and present converge, offering a poignant setting in which Lara and her daughters navigate memory, loss, and continuity. Through narrative analysis, this thesis argues that Patchett's use of everyday life, particularly under crisis conditions, mirrors the emotional undercurrents of a transitional era. The novel does not dramatize suffering but instead reveals the quiet persistence of meaning and feeling in ordinary routines. The result of this study demonstrates literature's capacity to render the emotional truth of a historical moment visible through subtle, shared, and deeply human experiences.

Keywords: *COVID-19, Cultural Materialism, Rural Life, Structure of Feeling*