

**SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN ARUNDHATI ROY'S
THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS
A THESIS**

**Presented as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Completing the
Sarjana Degree (S.S) in Department of English Literature**



**Written By:
AHMAD RIFQI SOBIRIN
61112101**

**FAKULTAS SAstra
UNIVERSITAS 17 AGUSTUS 1945 SURABAYA
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APPROVAL SHEET II

This is to certify that the Sarjana Thesis of AHMAD RIFQI SOBIRIN entitled SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN ARUNDHATI ROY'S *THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS* has been examined and approved by the thesis Examining Committee as the requirement for Sarjana Degree in English Literature.

Surabaya, 17 January 2018

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Surabaya, 15 January 2018

Advisor,



DR. Tri Pramesti, M.S.

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Surabaya, 17 Januari 2018

Ahmad Rifqi Sobirin

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ABSTRACT

This thesis presents an analytical study about sociology of literature toward 1997's Man Booker prize of Arundhati Roy's novel *The God of Small Things*. The Social Inequality told in the novel based on the terms of caste becomes the focus of this study. It is then conducted to reveal the questions about what types of social inequality reflected in the novel and how social inequality is explored there.

This thesis applies qualitative descriptive method. The concept of social inequality is used as one of the theories. Besides that, the theory of Marxist literary criticism is also employed as the basic theory which functioned is to examine literary work based on its sociological content.

As the result, the study certainly reveals the types of social inequality. The two types of social inequalities forwarded by Lydia Hiraide, inequality of condition which deals with the age, ethnicity, and gender and inequality of opportunity are clearly shown to have the correlation with the theory of Marxist literary criticism dealing with the oppression of the lower class characters by the upper class characters. Both types of social inequality are explored in the novel as to have intertwined with the concept class. Such discriminations based on inequality of condition received by the lower class characters as like Velutha is actually caused by his lower class position. Velutha's inequality of opportunity is seen to have the relation with his class that the upper class characters as like Mamachi as the owner of the mean of production has a "Superstructure" power to legitimate Velutha's life changes.

Keywords: Social Inequality, The God of Small Things, Marxist Literary Criticism

TABLE OF CONTENT

TITLE PAGE	i
APPROVAL SHEET I	ii
APPROVAL SHEET II	iii
SURAT PERNYATAAN	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	v
ABSTRACT	vi
TABLE OF CONTENT	vii
CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of The Study	1
1.2 Research Question	2
1.3 Objective of the Study.....	2
1.4 Significance of the Study	3
1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study.....	3
1.6 Research Paper Organization	3
CHAPTER II: Review of Related Literature	4
2.1 Previous Studies	4
2.2 Theoretical Framework.....	5
CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHOD	10
3.1 Research Design.....	10
3.2 Research Instruments	10
3.3 Data Source	11
3.4 Data Collection Procedure	11
3.5 Data Analysis Procedure	11
CHAPTER IV: ANALYSIS	12
4.1 The Class of the characters in the novels	12
4.2 Lower Class, Proletariat Class, or Working Class	13
4.2.1 Vellya Papen	13
4.2.2 Velutha	14
4.2.3 Ammu	16
4.2.4 Estha and Rahel.....	17
4.3 Upper Class, Bourgeois Class, or Capitalist Class.....	18
4.3.1 Mammachi	18
4.3.2 Chacko	19
4.3.3 Baby Kochama.....	19
4.4 Social Inequality Displayed in the Novel.....	19

4.4.1 Inequality of Condition Displayed in the Novel	20
4.4.2 Inequality of Opportunity Displayed in the Novel	22
CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION.....	27
BIBLIOGRAPHY	29
APPENDIX I	
APPENDIX II	