

**ANALYSIS OF CINDERELLA'S IDENTITY
CONSTRUCTION THROUGH RESILIENCE AND
SOCIAL AGENCY IN DISNEY'S CINDERELLA (1950)**

THESIS



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THESIS

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MOTTO

"Steel never becomes a sharp sword without passing through the heat of fire."

(Blacksmith's Principle)

"When a storm changes the direction of the wind, the wise sailor does not blame the sea, but adjusts his sails."

(Law of the Ocean,)

"The only way to find new springs is to have the courage to leave the wells that have run dry."

(Explorer's Advice,)

"Progress is not measured by how fast you run, but by your courage to continue on new paths."

(Socrates)

"If you would conquer high mountain peaks, you must be prepared to give up the comfort of gentle valleys."

(Sir Edmund Hillary)

DEDICATION

By the grace of Almighty God, this thesis was completed through much struggle and prayer. The author proudly dedicates this work, entitled "**ANALYSIS OF CINDERELLA'S IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION THROUGH RESILIENCE AND SOCIAL AGENCY IN DISNEY'S CINDERELLA (1950)**" to:

1. My beloved parents and sister, grandmother who have always given me endless love, prayers, and support.
2. My extended family, for their enthusiastic support and continuous motivation.
3. My supervising lecturers, Mrs. Novi Sriwulandari, M.Pd. and M.Ainul Yaqin, M.Pd., who have generously given their time, energy, and valuable guidance to help me finish this thesis.
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Finally, I am fully aware that this thesis still contains limitations and imperfections. Nevertheless, I sincerely hope that this work may contribute valuable insights, enrich academic knowledge, and serve as a beneficial reference for readers and future researchers.

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ABSTRACT

This study analyzes how Cinderella's identity is constructed in Disney's animated film *Cinderella* (1950), shifting the narrative focus from passive victimization to active survival. While traditional critiques often label the character as submissive, this research explores her character development through the dual lenses of resilience and social agency. Utilizing qualitative methods and textual analysis, the study examines Cinderella's behavioral responses to systematic abuse within her domestic environment. The theoretical framework integrates psychological concepts of resilience—specifically emotional endurance and hope—with sociological theories of social agency, which emphasize an individual's capacity to act independently and make choices within oppressive structures. The findings reveal that Cinderella's identity is not defined by her servitude, but rather constructed through her internal resilience and subtle forms of agency, such as forming strategic alliances with non-human characters and maintaining emotional autonomy. Ultimately, this study demonstrates that the 1950 film portrays a complex negotiation of power, where agency is exercised not through overt rebellion, but through endurance and resourceful navigation of domestic tyranny.

Keywords: Identity Construction, Resilience, Social Agency, Disney, Cinderella.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menganalisis bagaimana identitas Cinderella dikonstruksikan dalam film animasi Disney Cinderella (1950), mengubah fokus naratif dari viktimisasi pasif menjadi bertahan hidup secara aktif. Meskipun kritik tradisional sering melabeli karakter ini sebagai sosok yang tunduk, penelitian ini mengeksplorasi perkembangan karakternya melalui lensa ganda resiliensi dan agensi sosial. Menggunakan metode kualitatif dan analisis tekstual, penelitian ini mengkaji respons perilaku Cinderella terhadap pelecehan sistematis dalam lingkungan domestiknya. Kerangka teoretis mengintegrasikan konsep psikologis tentang resiliensi—khususnya ketahanan emosional dan harapan—dengan teori sosiologi tentang agensi sosial, yang menekankan kapasitas individu untuk bertindak secara mandiri dan membuat pilihan di dalam struktur yang menindas. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa identitas Cinderella tidak ditentukan oleh perbudakannya, melainkan dikonstruksikan melalui resiliensi internal dan bentuk agensi yang halus, seperti membentuk aliansi strategis dengan karakter non-manusia dan mempertahankan otonomi emosional. Pada akhirnya, penelitian ini membuktikan bahwa film tahun 1950 tersebut menggambarkan negosiasi kekuasaan yang kompleks, di mana agensi dijalankan bukan melalui pemberontakan terbuka, melainkan melalui ketahanan dan navigasi cerdik terhadap tirani domestik.

Kata Kunci: Konstruksi Identitas, Resiliensi, Agensi Sosial, Disney, Cinderella.

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