

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

**‘WHAT KIND OF BOY DOES BALLET?’ GENDER PERFORMATIVITY IN
THE LITTLE PRINCE(SS) (2021)**



By:

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**Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the
Bachelor Degree of English Department Faculty of Humanities
Universitas Airlangga**

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2022

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“Surely with that hardship comes more ease.”

—Asy Syarh 94:6

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ABSTRACT

Considering gender as a socially constructed performance, the notion of traditional gender roles has been relatively neglected, but not for all people. This study aims to analyze how gender performativity is portrayed through Gabriel's performance in *The Little Prince(ss)* (2021), directed by Moxie Peng, a true story inspired by the director. This study attempts this oversight by capturing the representation of a seven-year-old Chinese boy named Gabriel, who shows his opposite gender roles where society is against him. In order to find the findings, a qualitative method is used with a narrative and non-narrative approach using gender performativity theory by Judith Butler (1990). Based on the finding, Gabriel has shown his feminine side through gender performativity, which challenges the traditional gender roles by showing the act of cross-dressing, repetition, and revelation. Gabriel also shows his feminine side in everyday life. The finding also reveals that gender performativity shapes the gender identity, which is not only obtained from the inborn sex genital from birth but also repeated action.

Keywords: gender performativity, traditional gender roles, representation

ABSTRAK

Meskipun gender terbentuk oleh konstruksi sosial, gagasan tentang gender tradisional relatif mulai ditinggalkan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pengaplikasian gender performativity dalam karakter Gabriel dalam film *The Little Prince(ss)* (2021). Penelitian ini mencoba untuk menganalisis karakter gabriel, seorang anak laki-laki yang digambarkan dengan citra yang berbeda dari citra anak laki-laki pada umumnya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan pendekatan naratif dan non-naratif serta teori gender performativity oleh Judith Butler (1990). Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, Gabriel menunjukkan sisi femininnya melalui *Gender Performativity* dimana ia menentang gagasan gender tradisional dengan cara *cross-dressing*, *repetition*, dan *revelation* dalam setiap kegiatannya. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian, ditemukan juga ditemukan bahwa *Gender Performativity* dapat membentuk identitas gender seseorang melalui pengulangan aksi.

Kata kunci: performativitas gender, peran gender tradisional, representasi