

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

**WOMEN AND NATURE IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE: AN
ECOFEMINIST READING ON ROALD DAHL'S *THE MAGIC FINGER*
(1966)**



By

LEA LUNETTA SHELMADISHA

NIM 121911233132

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UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA
SURABAYA**

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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree
of English Department Faculty of Humanities Universitas Airlangga**

By

LEA LUNETTA SHELMADISHA

NIM 121911233132

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA
SURABAYA**

2022

DECLARATION

I declare that this undergraduate thesis submitted in partial fulfilment of the degree of Sarjana Humaniora (S. Hum) of the English Department Faculty of Humanities Universitas Airlangga is entirely my own work and has been solely the result of my own original research. Hereby, I confirm that:

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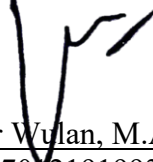
I dedicated this thesis to my closest people. Without their existence in my life, the completion of this thesis would not have been possible.

APPROVAL SHEET

Title : Women and Nature in Children's Literature: An
Ecofeminist Reading on Roald Dahl's *The Magic
Finger* (1966)
Name : Lea Lunetta Shelmadisha
Student's Number : 121911233132
Department : English Department

Approved to be submitted on 2 January 2023 by:

Advisor



Dra. Nur Wulan, M.A., Ph.D.
NIP. 197012191993032001

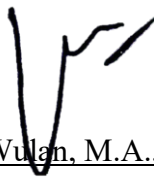
And has been examined and accepted by the Board of Examiner:
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Chair Examiner 1



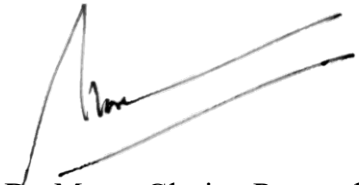
Dra. Sudar Itafarida, M.Hum.
NIP. 195901201989032001

Examiner 2



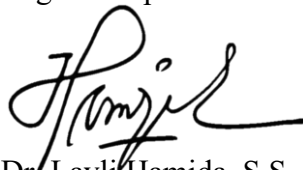
Dra. Nur Wulan, M.A.,
Ph.D.
NIP. 197012191993032001

Examiner 3



Dr. Moses Glorino Rumambo
Pandini, S.S., M.Si., M.Phil.
NIP. 197011112007011002

Acknowledged by Head of
English Department



Dr. Layli Hamida, S.S., M.Hum.
NIP. 197512162003122001

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Surabaya, 31 December 2022

Lea Lunetta Shelmadisha

*« Quand on n'a pas ce que l'on aime, il faut aimer ce que l'on a. »
“When you don't have what you love, you've got to love what you have”*

- Thomas Corneille (1675)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Inside Cover Page.....	i
Inside Title Page.....	ii
Degree Requirement.....	iii
Declaration Page.....	iv
Dedication Page.....	v
Approval Sheet.....	vi
Acknowledgements.....	vii
Epigraph.....	ix
Table of Contents.....	x
Abstrak	xii
Abstract.....	xiii
CHAPTER I.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. Background of the Study	1
1.2. Statement of the Problems.....	12
1.3 Objective of the Study	12
1.4 Significance of the Study	12
1.5 Definition of Keyterms.....	13
CHAPTER II	16
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	16
2.1 Theoretical Framework	16
2.1.1 Children’s Literature and Gender	17
2.1.2 Ecofeminism by Val Plumwood	19
2.1.3 Mother Nature Philosophy.....	22
2.2 Review of Related Studies.....	23
CHAPTER III	26
RESEARCH METHOD	26
3.1. Research Approach.....	26

3.2.	Data Sources	27
3.3.	Scope and Limitation.....	27
3.4.	Techniques of Data Collection	28
3.5.	Techniques of Data Analysis.....	29
CHAPTER IV.....		30
RESULT AND DISCUSSION.....		30
4.1	Nature and Women Empowerment	30
4.1.1	The Girl as “Mother Nature”	31
4.1.2	The Girl Respond to Culture.....	37
4.2	The Girl’s Progression from a Disempowered Position to an Empowered one.....	44
4.2.1	The Girl as a Witch-like Figure	45
4.2.2	The Girl as Nameless	51
4.2.3	Two Types of Women: The Girl vs Mrs. Gregg.....	52
CHAPTER V		57
CONCLUSION.....		57
REFERENCES.....		60

ABSTRAK

Studi ini menyoroti keterkaitan antara perempuan dan alam dalam sastra anak. Studi ini menggunakan kritik ekofeminis yang berfokus pada tokoh perempuan sebagai simbol pemberdayaan perempuan dalam sastra anak. Sumber teks utama yang digunakan untuk studi ini adalah novel *The Magic Finger* (1966) oleh Roald Dahl. Sepanjang penelitian ini, penulis berusaha mengumpulkan bukti dengan memeriksa teks yang disajikan dalam novel secara cermat. Isu-isu yang diangkat dianalisis dengan menggunakan pendekatan ekofeminis, khususnya kritik dualisme yang dikemukakan oleh Val Plumwood. Argumen Plumwood membantu memahami karakteristik dan perilaku *The Girl*, menganggapnya sebagai anak perempuan, kuat, dan seperti penyihir, memberi kita perspektif baru tentang bagaimana hal itu melambangkan pemberdayaan perempuan dalam sastra anak-anak. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif. Temuan menunjukkan bahwa presentasi stereotip *The Girl* menempatkannya sebagai sosok yang menentang dualisme antara perempuan/laki-laki dan alam/budaya. *The Girl*, sebagai wanita yang berdaya mewujudkan konsep Mother Nature sebagai *The Good Mother* dan *The Bad Mother*.

Kata kunci: *dualisme, ekofeminisme, ibu pertiwi, pemberdayaan alternatif, perempuan*

ABSTRACT

This study highlighted the interconnectedness between women and nature in children's literature. This study applies ecofeminist criticism focusing on the heroine as a symbol of women's empowerment in children's literature. The primary text resource used for this is the novel *The Magic Finger* (1966) by Roald Dahl. Throughout this research, the author attempts to gather evidence by attentively examining the text provided in the novel. The issues addressed are analyzed using ecofeminism, particularly the critique of dualism proposed by Val Plumwood. Others supporting theories of Mother Nature by Catherine M. Roach were also used. Their arguments help to understand *The Girl's* characteristics and behaviors, which, concerning her as a young, powerful, and witch-like being, brought us a new perspective on how it symbolizes women's alternative empowerment in children's literature. This research uses a qualitative approach. The findings show that *The Girl's* stereotypical presentation places her as a figure who challenges the dualism between women/men and nature/culture. *The Girl*, as an empowered woman, embodied the concept of Mother Nature as *The Good Mother* and *The Bad Mother*.

Keywords: *alternative empowerment, ecofeminism, dualism, mother nature, The Girl*