

## ABSTRACT

Matthew Pearl's *The Dante Club* is a historical fiction that set its story in the state of Massachusetts after the American Civil War, which ended in 1865. Along with the aftermath, xenophobia and anti-Catholicism were two important issues of the story presented by the author. More specifically, it is the story of a controversy over the presence of an Italian literary work, "Divine Comedy" to the country brought and about to be translated by a group of people named the Dante Club.

The main issue, which is analyzed in this study, is the controversy over the presence of "Divine Comedy" to America. The writer focuses his analysis on the attempts to reject that Italian masterpiece done by the dominance. The reasons of the rejection are based on the viewpoint of the dominance by the application of the Ideological State Apparatuses (ISA). ISA is a term used by Louis Althusser in his theory of ideology, which is applied in the analysis of this study.

The result of this study is the revelation of the existence of a dominant ideology and its ideological practices. Here, the ideology of the dominance is Unitarian, which through its ISA (the university, the church, and the media), they attempt to reject the presence of "Divine Comedy" to America since according to the dominance that literary work contains Euro-centric paradigm and influenced by Catholicism, which its teaching are contrary to Unitarian.