

**THE REPRESENTATION OF BLACK MADONNA
IN SUE MONK KIDD'S
*THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES***

A THESIS

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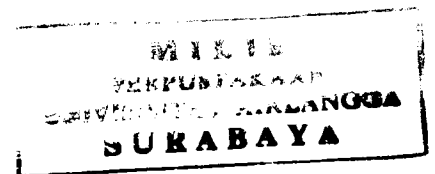
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ABSTRACT

This study is aiming to discuss about the representation of Black Madonna in Sue Monk Kidd's novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*. This novel depicts about another figure of Virgin Mary which is still considered uncommon. The issues that will be discussed within this thesis are the representations of Black Madonna and the meaning of those representations for the characters in the novel. Within this novel there are three figures of Black Madonna; those are the masthead statue, the picture of Black Madonna and the representation through the figure of Augusts Boatwright.

The writer applies the representation theory by Stuart Hall which is useful to analyze the representation of Black Madonna in the novel and to find the meaning of the representation. In addition, since this novel is depicting the racial tension between the Whites and Blacks, therefore, as part of postcolonial the concept of abrogation and appropriation theory will be applied in the analysis as well. This concept is used in order to explain the alteration of Virgin Mary image into Black Madonna.

Through the implementation of the theories, the study discovers that for the Black people the meaning of the representations is still connected with the doctrines about Virgin Mary in Catholicism which are the doctrines of Divine Maternity and the Assumption. However, the Blacks abrogate Virgin Mary figure in order to make it suitable and appropriate for them. This act at the same time symbolizes resistance toward the Whites as well.

Key words: Black Madonna, Representation, Abrogation, Appropriation, Mother