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**SAYURI'S PERSEVERANCE  
TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL *GEISHA* IN  
ARTHUR GOLDEN'S *MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA***

**A THESIS**



*By :*

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
AIRLANGGA UNIVERSITY  
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**2004**

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**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the  
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Airlangga University Surabaya**



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*I dedicate this thesis  
to my beloved parents*



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## ABSTRACT

*Geisha* is part of the Japanese culture. *Geishas* are skilful artists who excel in traditional Japanese music, dances and songs. Their duties are to entertain wealthy businessmen, politicians and celebrities. However, they do not belong to women of pleasures as some Westerners and Easterners think. *Geishas* remain the ultimate symbols of beauty and grace. Moreover, Japanese people are proud of their *Geishas*.

This thesis is concerned with the analysis of *Memoirs of A Geisha*, a novel by Arthur Golden. The main character, Sayuri, a poor fisherman's daughter was sold at the age of nine years to the Kyoto *Geisha* hood. During her way to become a *Geisha*, she had to face the ill-treatments from "Mother," "Granny," and Hatsumomo. Because she did not want to spend her life as a maid, she encouraged herself to gain success by trying and studying hard to achieve her accomplishment as a *Geisha*.

The study is under the theory developed by Karen Horney's "Sociocultural Theory of Personality" describing childhood that is dominated by the needs for satisfaction and security. Thus, the social relationship between a child and the parents is the decisive factor in shaping personality development. The writer of the thesis had trial to explore Sayuri's change from a "useless" person to a successful *Geisha*.