

**DESPERATION IN VICTORIA CHANG'S
SELECTED POEMS AS SEEN THROUGH
FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE**

PROJECT PAPER



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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
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PROJECT PAPER

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By

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2024



UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
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ABSTRAK

Puisi-puisi Victoria Chang dikenal karena resonansi emosionalnya yang dalam dan tema-tema yang kompleks. Kajian ini berfokus pada tema keputusasaan di dalam lima puisi terpilih Victoria Chang: "Passing", "Gift", "Another Year Come", "To The Face In The Mirror", dan "Lark". Tujuan utamanya yakni menganalisis lima puisi terpilih Victoria Chang untuk mengidentifikasi dan memahami manifestasi keputusasaan melalui bahasa kiasan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi bagaimana penggunaan simbolisme, metafora, dan simile oleh Chang berkontribusi terhadap ekspresi keputusasaan. Victoria Chang adalah putri imigran Taiwan, yang kini dikenal sebagai penyair Asia-Amerika. Chang adalah editor antologi *Asian American Poetry*, dan puisi-puisinya sebagian besar berbentuk puisi modern. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif, yang melibatkan pembacaan cermat dan analisis tekstual melalui bahasa kiasan (*figurative language*). Hasil dari analisis tersebut adalah emosional "I" yang mengungkapkan bahwa penggambaran keputusasaan yang dilakukan Chang mempunyai banyak aspek seperti konflik antara harapan yang tidak sesuai dengan kenyataan, pergerakan waktu yang terasa lambat namun tidak disadari, penuaan dan penurunan kesehatan yang tidak dapat dihindari, pengharapan-pengharapan yang tak dapat dicapai, dan kesia-siaan mencari pamor duniawi.

Kata kunci: bahasa kiasan, keputusasaan, puisi modern, Victoria Chang

ABSTRACT

Victoria Chang's poems are known for their deep emotional resonance and complex themes. This study focuses on the theme of despair in five selected poems of Victoria Chang: "Passing", "Gift", "Another Year Come", "To The Face In The Mirror", and "Lark". The main objective is to analyze Victoria Chang's five selected poems to identify and understand the manifestation of despair through figurative language. This research aims to explore how Chang's use of symbolism, metaphor, and simile contributes to the expression of despair. Victoria Chang is the daughter of Taiwanese immigrants, who is now recognized as an Asian American poet. Chang is the editor of the anthology *Asian American Poetry*, and her poems are mostly modern poems. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach, which involves careful reading and textual analysis through figurative language. The result of the analysis is the emotional "I" which reveals that Chang's depiction of despair has many aspects such as the conflict between expectations that do not match reality, the slow but unnoticed movement of time, the inevitable aging and decline of health, unattainable expectations, and the futility of seeking worldly prestige.

Keywords: desperation, figurative language, modern poems, Victoria Chang

