

**THE PORTRAYAL OF ALIENATION IN *DEBORA J.J. LEE'S*
GRAPHIC MEMOIR *IN LIMBO* (2023)**

SKRIPSI

BY

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
JAKARTA
2025**

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GRAPHIC MEMOIR *IN LIMBO* (2023)**

SKRIPSI

Presented to Fakultas Sastra dan Bahasa Universitas Kristen Indonesia in partial fulfilment of
requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra*

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2025



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This research was written and compiled as part of the writer's final assignment, as well as a requirement for passing the bachelor's *skripsi* exam and obtaining a Bachelor of *Sastra* (S.S) degree in the English Literature Study Program.

In the process of writing this *skripsi*, the writer acknowledges the various obstacles and challenges he encountered. The writer also realises that this *skripsi* is far from perfect and still contains shortcomings due to the limitations of the writer. However, thanks to the help, support, and contributions of various parties, the writer was able to complete this *skripsi* on time.

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Jakarta, 28 June 2024



(Arthur Fadli Bintang Nauli)

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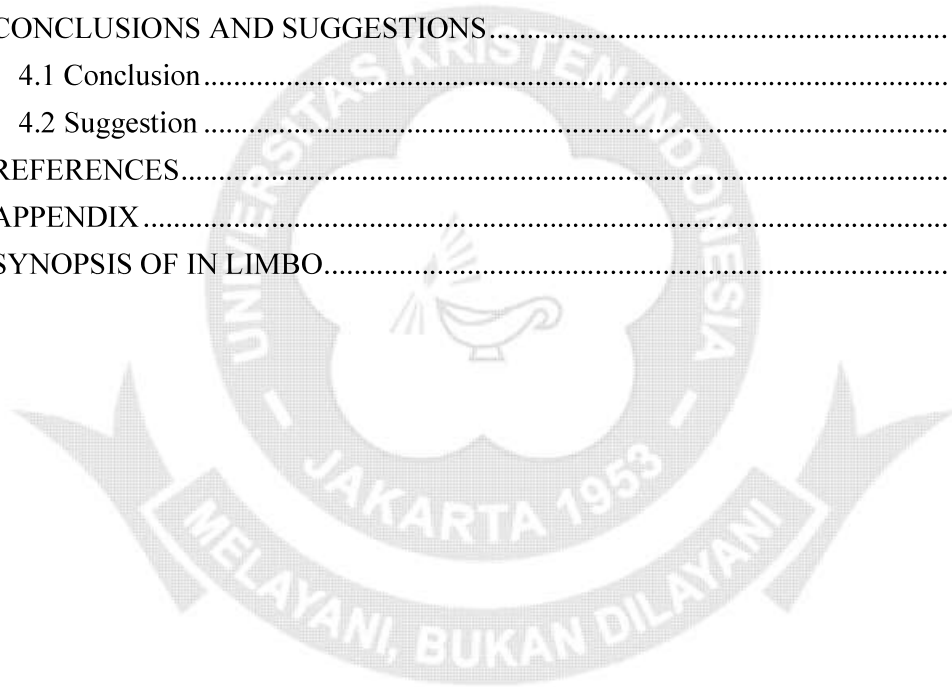


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ABSTRACT

In Limbo by Deborah J.J. Lee is a graphic memoir that tells the story of her childhood as a Korean-American immigrant. This graphic memoir describes how Deborah, as an immigrant, often faced struggles that pushed her into a deep sense of alienation. Through descriptive analysis and a close reading of this graphic memoir, this research seeks to understand the struggles that pushed Deborah into a sense of alienation. Additionally, this research examines the type of alienation Deborah experienced and how she overcame these struggles. This analysis is conducted through a postcolonial analysis of alienation and the dimensions of alienation according to Melvin Seeman. The author also seeks to uncover the hidden messages about alienation within this graphic memoir. It is found that Deborah faced the feelings of powerlessness, meaninglessness, social isolation, and self-estrangement. This has led her to a deep sense of alienation and isolation, and she is also being rejected by the American community and the Korean American community. This led her to have an inferiority complex and an oppressed consciousness. It is making her lose her uniqueness and trapping her in her comfort zone. In the research, it was also found that Deborah overcame her feelings of alienation. She steps out of her comfort zone and slowly escapes from the alienation that she experienced. She overcame her struggle that made her feel alienated, but she still mimics the American culture. It was also found in this research that this graphic memoir narrates how Western people were refined. It shows how Deborah was under the shadow of post-colonialism.

Keywords: Alienation, Isolation, immigrant struggles, Korean American Immigrant.

ABSTRAK

In Limbo karya Deborah J.J. Lee adalah sebuah memoar grafis yang menceritakan kisah masa kecilnya sebagai imigran Korea-Amerika. Memoar grafis ini menggambarkan bagaimana Deborah, sebagai seorang imigran, sering menghadapi kesulitan yang mendorongnya ke dalam rasa keterasingan yang mendalam. Melalui analisis deskriptif dan pembacaan mendalam terhadap memoar grafis ini, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memahami kesulitan-kesulitan yang mendorong Deborah ke dalam rasa keterasingan. Selain itu, penelitian ini mengeksplorasi jenis rasa terasing yang dialami Deborah dan bagaimana ia mengatasi kesulitan-kesulitan tersebut. Analisis ini dilakukan melalui analisis pascakolonial tentang rasa terasing dan dimensi-dimensi rasa terasing menurut Melvin Seeman. Penulis juga berusaha menemukan pesan tersembunyi tentang alienasi dalam memoar grafis ini. Ditemukan bahwa Deborah menghadapi perasaan ketidakberdayaan, ketidakbermaknaan, isolasi sosial, dan keterasingan diri. Hal ini membuatnya merasakan rasa alienasi, dan isolasi yang mendalam, serta ditolak oleh komunitas Amerika dan komunitas Korea-Amerika. Hal ini membuatnya memiliki kompleks inferioritas (*inferiorty complex*) dan kesadaran tertindas (*oppressed consciousness*). Hal ini membuatnya kehilangan keunikan dan terjebak dalam zona nyamannya. Dalam penelitian ini juga ditemukan bahwa Deborah berhasil mengatasi perasaannya yang terasing. Ia keluar dari zona nyamannya dan secara perlahan melepaskan diri dari alienasi yang ia alami. Meskipun ia berhasil mengatasi kesulitan yang membuatnya merasa terasing, ia tetap meniru budaya Amerika. Penelitian ini juga menunjukkan bagaimana memoar grafis ini menggambarkan bahwa orang-orang Barat adalah orang-orang yang lebih baik. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa Deborah berada di bawah bayang-bayang kolonialisme pasca-kolonial.

Kata kunci: Alienasi, Terisolasi, Kesulitan para imigran, imigran Korea-Amerika.