

**REPRESENTATION OF RACIAL STEREOTYPES TOWARDS
THE ASIAN-AMERICAN DIASPORA IN JOANNA HO'S *THE
SILENCE THAT BINDS US***

SKRIPSI

BY

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

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SKRIPSI

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

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2025



FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank God Almighty, because with His blessings and grace, I can complete my thesis entitled “Representation of Racial Stereotypes Towards the Asian-American Diaspora in Joanna Ho's *The Silence That Binds Us*”. This thesis was written as one of the requirements to achieve a Bachelor of Literature degree in the English Literature Study Program at Universitas Kristen Indonesia. To complete this thesis, the writer realizes that it is very difficult for the writer to do it alone without the help of those who support and guide the writer in the preparation of this thesis. Therefore, the writer would like to thank:

1. Madam Ied Veda Rimrosa Sitepu, S.S., M.A. as a supervisor who sincerely helped and has provided time, energy, and thoughts to direct me in preparing this thesis, so that the writer can complete this thesis well.
2. Madam Susanne A. H. Sitohang, S.S., M.A. as dean and thesis examiner who has provided time and knowledge in directing the writer.
3. Ms. Mike Wijaya Saragih S.S., M. Hum. as the head of the English Literature study program who has given me knowledge and enthusiasm to encourage the writer in completing the writing of this thesis.
4. All lecturers of the Faculty of Letters and Languages who have provided very useful academic knowledge and life lessons so that they can shape the writer into a better person and can complete the writing of this thesis.
5. My parents, Abraham Sahusilawane and the late Elizabeth Sahusilawane-Kaya, whose love, prayers, and unwavering support have always been a source of strength and inspiration in every step of my life.
6. To Engalien, Vanessa, Erika as the writer's cousins who always provide encouragement, support, motivation, and prayers to the writer.
7. To my college friends: Alifa, Cahya, Fennytha, Khatarina, Levianny, Allysa for moments of togetherness, thank you very much for always providing

encouragement, motivation, prayers, and always being present to hear each other's complaints.

8. to all individuals who are not mentioned by name but who have, directly or indirectly, contributed to the completion of this thesis.

Jakarta, 30th June 2025



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TABLE OF CONTENT

STATEMENT OF <i>SKRIPSI</i> AUTHENTICITY	ii
ADVISOR'S APPROVAL SHEET	iii
<i>SKRIPSI</i> DEFENCE APPROVAL SHEET	iv
STATEMENT AND APPROVAL OF PUBLICATION	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vi
TABLE OF CONTENT	viii
ABSTRACT	x
ABSTRAK.....	xi
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.3 Purpose of the Study.....	4
1.4 Significance of the Study.....	4
1.5 Methodology of the Study	4
1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study	5
1.7 Status of the Study.....	6
1.8 Organization of the Study	7
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	9
2.1 Asian - American Diaspora.....	9
2.2 Racism	13
2.3 Racial Stereotypes	14
2.4 Stuart Hall's Theory of Representation.....	18
2.5 Resistance	21

CHAPTER III REPRESENTATION OF RACIAL STEREOTYPES TOWARDS THE ASIAN-AMERICAN DIASPORA IN JOANNA HO’S THE SILENCE THAT BINDS US	24
3.1 Representation of Racial Stereotypes of the Asian-American Community	24
3.1.1 Representation of the “Model Minority” Stereotype	24
3.1.2 The Practice of Filial Piety	28
3.1.3 “Silence” as a Survival Mechanism	32
3.2 The Main Character's Resistance to Racial Stereotypes	34
3.2.1 Open Resistance	35
3.2.2 Hidden Resistance	38
CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS	43
4.1 Conclusion	43
4.2 Suggestions	44
REFERENCES	45
APPENDIX	48

ABSTRACT

This study examines the representation of racial stereotypes toward the Asian-American community in Joanna Ho's novel *The Silence That Binds Us*. The novel explores how the main character, Maybelline Chen, experiences pressure from stereotypes such as the "model minority" and cultural values like *filial piety* (*xiàoshùn*). Using Stuart Hall's theory of representation, this research analyzes how these stereotypes are constructed within the narrative and how the main character resists them. The findings show that stereotypes against the Asian-American community are not only perpetuated by the dominant society but are also reproduced within families and communities themselves. May's resistance, expressed through her writing and voice, becomes a form of struggle against harmful dominant narratives. This study highlights how literature can serve as a powerful medium to critique social injustice and provide space for marginalized voices.

Keywords: representation, racial stereotype, Asian-American, resistance, Stuart Hall

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini membahas representasi stereotip rasial terhadap komunitas Asia-Amerika dalam novel *The Silence That Binds Us* karya Joanna Ho. Novel ini menggambarkan bagaimana tokoh utama, Maybelline Chen, menghadapi tekanan dari stereotip seperti “*model minority*” dan nilai budaya Asia seperti *filial piety* (*xiàoshùn*). Penelitian ini menggunakan teori representasi dari Stuart Hall untuk menganalisis bagaimana stereotip tersebut dikonstruksi dalam narasi dan bagaimana tokoh utama melakukan resistensi terhadapnya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa stereotip terhadap komunitas Asia-Amerika tidak hanya datang dari luar (masyarakat mayoritas), tetapi juga direproduksi di dalam keluarga dan komunitas sendiri. Resistensi yang dilakukan Maybelline melalui tulisan dan suaranya menjadi bentuk perjuangan untuk membongkar narasi dominan yang merugikan. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa karya sastra dapat menjadi media penting untuk mengkritik ketidakadilan sosial dan memberikan ruang bagi suara-suara yang selama ini dibungkam.

Kata Kunci: representasi, stereotip rasial, Asia-Amerika, resistensi, Stuart Hall

