

**KINDNESS AND SACRIFICE IN SELECTED KOREAN
FOLKTALES**

PROJECT PAPER

BY

MARISYA BEFTE GULO

2121150060



**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
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**KINDNESS AND SACRIFICE IN SELECTED KOREAN
FOLKTALES**

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

BY

MARISYA BEFTE GULO

2121150060



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



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I, the undersigned:

Name : Marisya Befte Gulo
Student Number : 212150060
Study Program : English Literature
Faculty : Faculty of Letters and Languages

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UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA

FINAL PROJECT ADVISOR APPROVAL
KINDNESS AND SACRIFICE IN SELECTED KOREAN FOLKTALES

By:

Name : Marisya Befte Gulo
Student Number : 2121150060
Study Program : English Literature
Concentration : Literature

Has been approved by the project paper advisor as the requirement for degree of *Sarjana Sastra* in English Literature, Faculty of Letters and Languages Universitas Kristen Indonesia.

Jakarta, June 28th 2025

Approved By:

Advisor,

Assoc. Prof. Dr. rer. pol. Ied Veda R. Sitepu, S.S., M.A.

03-2103-6702

Head of English Literature Study Program

Mike Wijaya Saragih, S.S.M.Hum

03-3011-8802



Susanto A. El. Sihang, S.S., M.A.



FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA

Statement and Approval Final Project Publication

I, the undersigned:

Name : Marisya Befte Gulo

Student Number : 2121150060

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Marisya Befte Gulo

2121150060



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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the values of kindness and sacrifice reflected in three selected Korean folktales: “The Story of Sim Cheong”, “Heungbu and Nolbu”, and “The Tiger and the Dried Persimmon”. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, this research applies Abraham Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs theory as the primary conceptual framework to understand the psychological motivations behind each character’s actions. Each story is examined through various stages of human needs, from love and belonging, esteem, self-actualization, to self-transcendence. The findings reveal that the values of kindness and sacrifice in these stories function not only as moral teachings but also reflect the psychological maturity of the characters. Sim Cheong, for instance, reaches the level of self-transcendence by sacrificing herself for her father. This study highlights the significance of folktales as tools for character formation and intercultural understanding. The psychological approach offers a new perspective in interpreting traditional stories as reflections of human needs, values, and development. The findings of this study are expected to contribute to literary studies, character education, and literary psychology analysis.

Keywords: Korean folktales, kindness, sacrifice, human needs, Maslow’s theory.



ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis nilai-nilai kebaikan dan pengorbanan yang tercermin dalam tiga cerita rakyat Korea terpilih: “The Story of Sim Cheong”, “Heungbu and Nolbu”, dan “The Tiger and the Dried Persimmon”. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif, penelitian ini menerapkan teori Hierarki Kebutuhan Abraham Maslow sebagai kerangka konseptual utama untuk memahami motivasi psikologis di balik tindakan masing-masing tokoh. Setiap cerita dianalisis melalui berbagai tahapan kebutuhan manusia, mulai dari cinta dan rasa memiliki, harga diri, aktualisasi diri, hingga transendensi diri (self-transcendence). Temuan menunjukkan bahwa nilai-nilai kebaikan dan pengorbanan dalam cerita-cerita tersebut tidak hanya berfungsi sebagai ajaran moral, tetapi juga mencerminkan kematangan psikologis para tokohnya. Sim Cheong, misalnya, mencapai tingkat transendensi diri melalui pengorbanannya demi sang ayah. Studi ini menyoroti pentingnya cerita rakyat sebagai sarana pembentukan karakter dan pemahaman lintas budaya. Pendekatan psikologis menawarkan perspektif baru dalam menafsirkan cerita tradisional sebagai cerminan dari kebutuhan, nilai, dan perkembangan manusia. Temuan penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan kontribusi dalam kajian sastra, pendidikan karakter, dan analisis psikologi sastra.

Kata Kunci: cerita rakyat Korea, kebaikan, pengorbanan, kebutuhan manusia, teori Maslow