

**RECOVERING THE SILENCED: THE METAFICTIONAL
CONSTRUCTION OF FEMALE SUBALTERN AGENCY
IN GINA APOSTOL'S *INSURRECTO***

SKRIPSI

BY

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

2026

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CONSTRUCTION OF FEMALE SUBALTERN AGENCY
IN GINA APOSTOL'S INSURRECTO**

SKRIPSI

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

BY

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

2026



FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
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Jakarta, June 24, 2026

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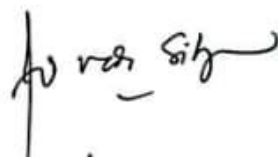
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SKRIPSI DEFENSE APPROVAL SHEET

On June 24, 2026, a *skripsi* defense was held as partial fulfillment of the academic requirements to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Letters and Languages, Universitas Kristen Indonesia, on behalf of:

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3. Susanne A.H. Sitohang, S.S., M.A.	Member	

Jakarta, June 24, 2026



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Finally, although this skripsi has been completed with the present writer's best efforts, he realizes that it is still far from perfect. Therefore, constructive criticism and suggestions are sincerely welcomed for its future improvement. The present writer hopes that this skripsi will be beneficial to its readers and contribute, even in a small way, to the development of English literary studies, particularly in the fields of postcolonial literature and subaltern studies.

Jakarta, June 24th 2026

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini mengkaji konstruksi dan posisi suara perempuan subaltern serta penggunaan strategi naratif metafiksi dalam novel *Insurrecto* karya Gina Apostol. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bagaimana suara subaltern dikonstruksi dan diposisikan dalam narasi novel serta mengkaji bagaimana tokoh-tokoh perempuan memanfaatkan struktur metafiksi novel untuk menunjukkan agensi subaltern dan merebut kembali sejarah yang selama ini dibungkam. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan teknik close reading dan analisis tekstual tematik. Sumber data utama penelitian ini adalah novel *Insurrecto* (2018) karya Gina Apostol, sedangkan sumber data sekunder berupa buku, artikel jurnal, dan berbagai karya ilmiah yang berkaitan dengan kajian postkolonial, teori subaltern Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, dan historiographic metafiction. Analisis penelitian menggunakan konsep subaltern, representasi, kekerasan epistemik (epistemic violence), dan agensi subaltern dari Spivak yang didukung oleh konsep historiographic metafiction dari Linda Hutcheon. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa *Insurrecto* mengonstruksi suara perempuan subaltern dengan menantang narasi sejarah dominan yang selama ini meminggirkan pengalaman perempuan dalam Perang Filipina-Amerika. Novel ini juga memperlihatkan bahwa strategi naratif metafiksi, seperti narasi yang terfragmentasi, berbagai sudut pandang, dan intertekstualitas, menciptakan ruang bagi tokoh-tokoh perempuan untuk mempertanyakan sejarah kolonial resmi serta merebut kembali suara-suara sejarah yang dibungkam. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa *Insurrecto* tidak hanya merepresentasikan pengalaman perempuan subaltern, tetapi juga menggunakan historiographic metafiction sebagai strategi sastra untuk merebut kembali sejarah yang dimarginalkan serta merekonstruksi ingatan kolonial dari perspektif masyarakat yang terjajah.

Kata kunci: *perempuan subaltern, agensi subaltern, historiographic metafiction, postkolonialisme, Insurrecto.*

ABSTRACT

This *skripsi* examines the construction and positioning of female subaltern voices and the use of metafictional narrative strategies in Gina Apostol's *Insurrecto*. The study aims to analyze how subaltern voices are constructed and positioned within the narrative of the novel and to examine how the female characters utilize the novel's metafictional structure to exercise subaltern agency and reclaim their silenced histories. This study employs a qualitative descriptive method using close reading and thematic textual analysis. The primary data source is Gina Apostol's *Insurrecto* (2018), while the secondary sources consist of books, journal articles, and other scholarly works related to postcolonial studies, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's subaltern theory, and historiographic metafiction. The analysis applies Spivak's concepts of the subaltern, representation, epistemic violence, and subaltern agency, supported by Linda Hutcheon's concept of historiographic metafiction. The findings reveal that *Insurrecto* constructs female subaltern voices by challenging dominant historical narratives that have marginalized women's experiences during the Philippine-American War. The novel further demonstrates how metafictional narrative strategies, including fragmented narratives, multiple perspectives, and intertextuality, create a space for female characters to question official colonial history and recover silenced historical voices. This study concludes that *Insurrecto* not only represents female subaltern experiences but also employs historiographic metafiction as a literary strategy to reclaim marginalized histories and reconstruct colonial memory from the perspectives of the colonized.

Keywords: *female subaltern, subaltern agency, historiographic metafiction, postcolonialism, Insurrecto.*