

**SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SOCIAL PERCEPTION
TOWARD JAMAL MALIK'S SUCCESS IN THE FILM
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE (2008)**

PROJECT PAPER

BY :

ELIN ANJALINA RANU

2421158002



**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
JAKARTA
2026**

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Submitted to the Faculty of Letters and Languages, Universitas Kristen Indonesia in
Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Sarjana Sastra

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2026



FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA

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Name : Elin Anjalina Ranu
Student Number : 2421158002
Study Program : English Literature
Faculty : Faculty of Letters and Languages

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(2421158002)



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This is to certify that the project paper of **Elin Anjalina Ranu (2421158002)** entitled Social Discrimination and Social Perception toward Jamal Malik's Success in the film Slumdog Millionaire, 2008, has been approved by the project paper advisor as the requirement for the degree of Sarjana Sastra in English Study Program.

Jakarta, 16 June 2026

Advisor,

(Febrimarini Sinulingga, S.Pd., M.Pd.)

Head of English Literature Study Program,

(Mike Wijaya Saragih, S.S., M.Hum.)



(Susanto A. H. Sinulingga, S.S., M.A.)



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I, the undersigned:

Name : Elin Anjalina Ranu
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Jakarta, 16 June 2026

The Writer

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bentuk-bentuk diskriminasi sosial yang dialami oleh Jamal Malik dalam film *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) serta untuk mengetahui bagaimana masyarakat memandang keberhasilannya berdasarkan latar belakang sosial yang dimilikinya. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan pendekatan sosiologi sastra. Data penelitian diperoleh dari dialog, adegan, dan tindakan tokoh yang menunjukkan adanya diskriminasi sosial dan persepsi sosial dalam film. Teori diskriminasi sosial digunakan untuk mengidentifikasi bentuk-bentuk diskriminasi yang dialami Jamal, sedangkan teori persepsi sosial digunakan untuk menganalisis bagaimana tokoh-tokoh lain memandang keberhasilannya.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Jamal mengalami empat bentuk diskriminasi sosial, yaitu diskriminasi individual, diskriminasi institusional, diskriminasi struktural, dan diskriminasi simbolik. Diskriminasi individual terlihat melalui sikap meremehkan dan kecurigaan yang ditunjukkan oleh Prem Kumar terhadap kemampuan Jamal. Diskriminasi institusional tampak dalam perlakuan polisi yang langsung menganggap Jamal melakukan kecurangan dan melakukan interogasi secara tidak adil. Diskriminasi struktural terlihat dari keterbatasan pendidikan dan kesempatan yang dialami Jamal akibat kondisi sosial dan ekonomi tempat ia tumbuh. Sementara itu, diskriminasi simbolik muncul melalui stigma sebagai anak *slum* yang terus melekat pada dirinya. Penelitian ini juga menemukan bahwa persepsi masyarakat terhadap keberhasilan Jamal dipengaruhi oleh kategorisasi sosial, stereotip, penilaian sosial, dan ekspektasi yang berkaitan dengan latar belakang sosialnya. Akibatnya, keberhasilan Jamal sering dipandang dengan kecurigaan daripada diakui sebagai hasil kemampuan dan pengalaman hidupnya. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa latar belakang sosial dapat memengaruhi cara masyarakat menilai kemampuan dan keberhasilan seseorang.

Kata Kunci: diskriminasi sosial, persepsi sosial, *Slumdog Millionaire*, Jamal Malik, sosiologi sastra.

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the forms of social discrimination Jamal Malik experiences in the film *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008) and to examine how society views his success in light of his social background. This study employs a qualitative descriptive method with a literary sociology approach. Research data were obtained from dialogues, scenes, and character actions that indicate the presence of social discrimination and social perception in the film. Social discrimination theory was used to identify the forms of discrimination Jamal experienced, while social perception theory was used to analyze how other characters view his success.

The results of the study indicate that Jamal experiences four forms of social discrimination: individual discrimination, institutional discrimination, structural discrimination, and symbolic discrimination. Individual discrimination is evident through the dismissive attitude and suspicion displayed by Prem Kumar toward Jamal's abilities. Institutional discrimination is evident in the police's treatment, which immediately assumed Jamal was cheating and conducted an unfair interrogation. Structural discrimination is evident in the educational limitations and lack of opportunities Jamal faced due to the social and economic conditions of the environment in which he grew up. Meanwhile, symbolic discrimination emerges through the stigma of being a "*slum* kid" that continues to cling to him. This study also found that public perceptions of Jamal's success are influenced by social categorization, stereotypes, social judgments, and expectations related to his social background. Consequently, Jamal's success is often viewed with suspicion rather than acknowledged as the result of his abilities and life experiences. This study concludes that social background can influence how society evaluates a person's abilities and success.

Keywords: social discrimination, social perception, *Slumdog Millionaire*, Jamal Malik, literary sociology.