

**THE STRUGGLE OF JAPANESE CHRISTIANS
IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY
IN SHUSAKU ENDO'S *SILENCE***

SKRIPSI

BY
MARSEILISA TH. L. SIHOMBING
NIM 0821150013



FAKULTAS SAstra
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA
JAKARTA
SEPTEMBER 2012

**THE STRUGGLE OF JAPANESE CHRISTIANS
IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY
IN SHUSAKU ENDO'S *SILENCE***

SKRIPSI

Presented to

Fakultas Sastra Universitas Kristen Indonesia

in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of *Sarjana* in English Language and Literature

By

Marseilisa Th. L. Sihombing

NIM 0821150013

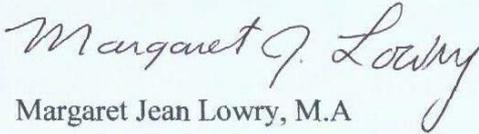
FAKULTAS SASTRA

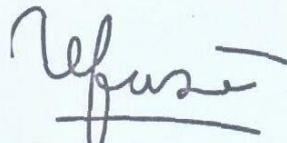
UNIVERSITAS KRISTEN INDONESIA

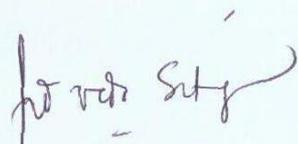
JAKARTA

SEPTEMBER 2012

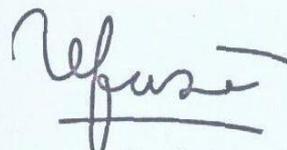
This is to certify that the Sarjana's *skripsi* of Marseilisa Th. L. Sihombing has been approved by Broad of Examiners as the requirement for the degree of *Sarjana* in English Language and Literature


Margaret Jean Lowry, M.A

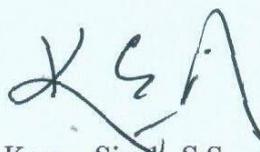

Susanne A.H. Sitohang, S.S, M.A


Dr. Ied Veda Sitepu, M.A.

Acknowledged by
Head, English Department


Susanne A.H. Sitohang, S.S, MA.

Approved by
Dean, Faculty of Letters

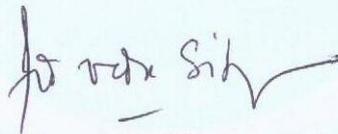

Karam Singh, S.S

APPROVAL

Name : Marseilisa Th. L. Sihombing
NIM : 0821150013
Department : English Literature
Title of the *Skripsi* : The Struggle of Japanese Christians in the
Seventeenth Century in Shusaku Endo's *Silence*

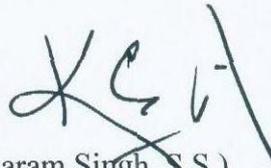
Jakarta, September 2012

Advisor



(Dr. Ied Veda Sitepu, M.A.)

Dean



(Karam Singh, S.S.)

DECLARATION OF THE ORIGINALITY OF THIS WORK

I, the undersigned:

Name : Marseilisa Th. L. Sihombing
Student Number : 0821150013
Study Program : English Language and Literature
Department : Faculty of Letters

do declare that this *skripsi* which I have written is my own work; it is not the work or thinking of other people which I have taken and declared as my own work.

In the future, if it is proven that in writing this *skripsi* I have copied or plagiarized the work of others. I am ready to accept sanctions that have been determined for that behavior.

Jakarta, September 2012

Declared by,



(Marseilisa Th. L. S.)

ABSTRACT

Sihombing, Marseilisa Th. L. 2012. *The struggle of Japanese Christians in the seventeenth century in Shusaku Endo's Silence*. Skripsi, Jurusan Sastra Inggris Fakultas Sastra Universitas Kristen Indonesia. Advisor: Dr. Ied Veda Sitepu, M.A

Key words: *Silence* --- Japanese Christians Struggle --- 17th-century Japan.

16th until 17th century was the most popular century for Japan; it was the time when missionaries from Portugal came into Japan to expand their belief. Their arrival was welcomed by people in Japan; many locals and even shoguns (chief military commander) in Japan converted to Christianity. After their influence began to expand, the government, however, decided to ban them because according to them, Christianity had no good for Japan, Christianity has different perspective on theology than Shintoism, Japanese's belief in the period. Many priests refused to leave Japan, so they secretly performed their belief underground. This was the difficult time for Christians in Japan because if the government found any Christians, they would be forced to choose denying Christianity or torturing. Shusaku Endo, Catholic Japanese, had his own ideas about the discrimination of Christianity in Japan. Although Japan has a small amount of Christianity, the religion itself is already accepted individually. Japanese like Shusaku Endo is already a result of the struggle of Christianity to be accepted in Japan.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Four years spending her life in college, the writer learned many valuable things to be a better person academically and non-academically. She also could produce her first science work. He gave this incredible experience so the writer could get a life lesson from it. Since these four years of higher educational learning, her relationship with God is even closer and more intimate.

The writer also conveys her gratitude to those who have participated in helping her to complete this *skripsi*. The writer conveys her best gratitude to:

1. Dr. Ied Veda Sitepu, M.A, the advisor of this *skripsi*, for lending her office room, for giving food and so the writer could regain her brain strength, and for giving the writer courage in her darkest days. Neither hundreds nor thousands of words could express the writer's gratitude for what she has done.
2. Susanne A. Sitohang, M.A, the Head of English Department and also the writer's lecturer for four years. Various bad and good events the writer faced together with her and the writer did not regret for having it with her. As a biggest fan of her, the writer will never forget about her role in the writer's life.
3. Margaret Jean Lowry, M.A, her favorite native speaker and also the lecturer of Faculty of Letters, for lending the *Silence* novel and allowing the writer to analyze it. Although she was not the writer's advisor, she had given many good and valuable opinions.
4. The writer's precious family, especially her mother and her oldest sister, Ditta, for being a fussy person. Without their fussiness, the writer wouldn't finish this *skripsi* in this semester.

5. Karam Singh, S.S., the Dean of Faculty of Letters, for lending the IELTS recording tape twice for the writer. His participation in the writer's *skripsi* is much appreciated.
6. A special friend and lover, Steven Prayudha, for being patient, and for giving unconditional love and support so the writer could finish the *skripsi* in time.
7. *Sassy Mermaid*, the writer's extremely fussy friend, for being mad if the writer did not finish the *skripsi* immediately. She is very grateful for having a caring friend like her. *Bawang Merah*, the writer's drama-queen friend, for sharing those laughs and teases all the time. Though the writer and her keeps fighting all the time, she appreciated her help in making this *skripsi*. The writer will never forget this wacky friendship.
8. The writer's juniors in Faculty of Letters, Ines, Maria, Yurica, Gracea, Francine, Domes, and Ridho, for sharing their half year of college time with the writer. The writer wishes them good luck and be the best soon-to-be undergraduate for Faculty of Letters.
9. And last but not least, for every person that support the writer directly and indirectly. For all lecturers in Faculty of Letters, many gratitude for teaching the writer in four years. For class of 2008, much obliged to them for spending time learning together with the writer. Also those who cannot be mentioned one by one. Every person that was involved in this *skripsi* making, the writer would be honor to convey her gratitude for their participation.

Above all, the writer expresses her greatest gratitude to the Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, who entrusted the best opportunity for her to study at Faculty

of Letters UKI. The writer truly felt that this is the work of God; the writer is only another ordinary student who was guided by her Creator. He gave the writer courage, support and love all the time as in Psalms 32:8 say, *“I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.”*

The writer

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|------|
| APPROVAL..... | | i |
| DECLARATION OF THE ORIGINALITY..... | | iii |
| ABSTRACT..... | | iv |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENT..... | | v |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS..... | | viii |
| TABLE OF APPENDIXES..... | | x |
| CHAPTER I | INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| | A. Background..... | 1 |
| | B. Problem Statement..... | 3 |
| | C. Limitation of Study..... | 4 |
| | D. Research Method..... | 4 |
| | E. The Importance of the Study..... | 4 |
| | F. The Organization of the Writing..... | 4 |
| CHAPTER II | THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK..... | 6 |
| | A. The History of the Jesuits..... | 7 |
| | B. The Jesuits' Mission in Japan..... | 8 |
| | C. Christianity Today in Japan..... | 11 |
| | D. Historical Perspectives in Literature..... | 13 |
| | E. Internal and External Conflict..... | 14 |
| CHAPTER III | SHUSAKU ENDO'S PERSPECTIVES ON THE STRUGGLE OF JAPANESE CHRISTIANS BASED ON <i>SILENCE</i> | 16 |
| | A. The Hidden Christian Period..... | 17 |
| | B. The Struggle of Japanese Christians on <i>Silence</i> | 18 |
| | 1. The Difficulty of Performing Christian Rituals..... | 19 |
| | 2. The Necessity of Hiding Christian Identity..... | 24 |
| | 3. Sebastian Rodriguez's Confusion between His Faith and His Humanity..... | 28 |
| | C. Shusaku Endo's Perspectives on Christianity Nowadays..... | 34 |

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----|
| CHAPTER IV | CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION..... | 36 |
| | A. Conclusion..... | 36 |
| | B. Suggestion..... | 38 |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY..... | | 40 |

TABLE OF APPENDIXES

| | | |
|--------------|---|----|
| APPENDIX I | SYNOPSIS OF SILENCE..... | 41 |
| APPENDIX II | BIOGRAPHY OF SHUSAKU ENDO..... | 47 |
| APPENDIX III | XAVERIAN ORDER REPORT ON THE CONDITION OF CHRISTIANITY IN JAPAN NOWADAYS..... | 49 |