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A THESIS

LITERACY AS SOCIAL PRACTICE IN LAKSHMI'S JOURNEY FROM EXPLOITATION TO INDEPENDENCE IN SOLD BY PATRICIA MCCORMICK

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LITERACY AS SOCIAL PRACTICE IN LAKSHMI'S JOURNEY FROM EXPLOITATION TO INDEPENDENCE IN *SOLD* BY PATRICIA MCCORMICK

A THESIS

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2025

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

MOTTO

“Trust in God's plan, and believe in yourself, for even in the harshest moments, holding on to faith and perseverance is far better than surrendering to despair.”

DEDICATION

1. I sincerely thank God Almighty for the strength and guidance that have sustained me throughout this journey.
2. To my sweetheart, Mama, your endless love, prayers, and sacrifices have been my greatest source of strength. This achievement is as much yours as it is mine.
3. To the “girls’ issues” group (Syafilla, Aysah, Nabila, and Dizzy), thank you for walking with me through every joy and struggle: your support, laughter, and presence made the journey brighter.
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5. And finally, to myself, thank you for staying strong, for continuing to rise after every fall, and for never giving up despite all the challenges.

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Draft skripsi yang ditulis oleh **Jashinta Andarini Putri** NIM **2021111109** dengan judul **"Literacy As Social Practice In Lakshmi's Journey From Exploitation To Independence In Sold By Patricia McCormick"** ini telah disetujui oleh dosen pembimbing untuk diujikan dalam SIDANG AKHIR pada tanggal 14 Juli 2025.

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ABSTRAK

Putri, J.A. 2025. *Literacy as Social Practice in Lakshmi's Journey from Exploitation to Independence in Sold by Patricia McCormick.* Skripsi, Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surabaya. Pembimbing I: Dr. Dra. Masulah, M.A., Pembimbing II: Ari Setyorini, S.S.,M.A.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode tematik untuk mengkaji peran literasi sebagai praktik sosial dalam novel *Sold* karya Patricia McCormick. Fokus utamanya adalah bagaimana keterampilan literasi, baik tradisional maupun kritis, menjadi alat perlawanan terhadap ketidakadilan dan jalan menuju kemandirian bagi tokoh Lakshmi, korban perdagangan manusia. Berbeda dari studi sebelumnya yang menyoroti penindasan dan eksploitasi, penelitian ini menekankan literasi sebagai kekuatan transformatif dengan mengacu pada teori *Critical Literacy* dari Hilary Janks dan *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* dari Paulo Freire. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa membaca dan menulis bukan sekadar keterampilan teknis, tetapi juga sarana untuk membangun kesadaran kritis, mengambil tindakan, dan merebut kembali kendali atas hidup dan identitas.

Kata Kunci: *Literasi Kritis*, *Pemberdayaan*, *Perdagangan Manusia*, *Patricia McCormick*, *Praktik Sosial*, *Lakshmi*, *Literasi dan Kekuasaan*

ABSTRACT

Putri, J.A. 2025. *Literacy as Social Practice in Lakshmi's Journey from Exploitation to Independence in Sold by Patricia McCormick.* Thesis, English Language Education Study Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surabaya. Advisor I: Dr. Dra. Masulah, M.A., Advisor II: Ari Setyorini, S.S., M.A.

This study employs a qualitative approach with a thematic method to examine the role of literacy as a social practice in *Sold*, a novel by Patricia McCormick. It focuses on how literacy skills—both traditional and critical—serve as tools to resist injustice and pave the way toward empowerment for the protagonist, Lakshmi, a victim of human trafficking. Unlike previous studies that emphasize themes of oppression and exploitation, this research highlights literacy as a transformative force, drawing on Hilary Janks's Critical Literacy theory and Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*. The analysis reveals that reading and writing are not merely technical skills, but powerful means of building critical awareness, taking action, and reclaiming control over one's life and identity.

Keywords: *Critical Literacy, Empowerment, Human Trafficking, Patricia McCormick, Social Practices, Lakshmi, Literacy and Power*

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Researcher

Jashinta Andarini Putri

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