

**UNSPOKEN GRIEF WITHIN FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS
IN MELANIE CHENG'S *THE BURROW***

THESIS



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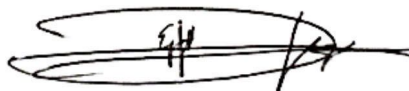
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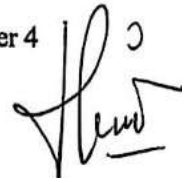
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ABSTRACT

Violita, I. C. (2025). *Unspoken Grief Within Family Relationship in Melanie Cheng's The Burrow*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: (I) Dr. Wahju Kusumajanti, M.Hum., (II) Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M.A.

This study examines the family relationships portrayal and the breakdown of communication following the death of Ruby in Melanie Cheng's *The Burrow*. This study focuses on the long-held grief of each member of the Lee family, which has a real impact on the rift in their relationships. This case is experienced by the four main characters in the novel, namely Jin, Amy, Pauline, and Lucie. This study addresses two main problems: (1) How are Jin, Amy, Pauline, and Lucie described after the death of Ruby in the novel? and (2) How are the interactions within the family in the novel represented as a communication breakdown?

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method through textual analysis. The main theoretical framework is New Criticism, particularly close reading to examine the characters and characterizations depicted in literary text. the study focuses on how family conflict is constructed textually through narrative elements such as dialogue, actions, silence, and interaction among characters. *The Burrow* by Melanie Cheng serves as the primary data source. Meanwhile, secondary data are obtained from books, journal, and trusted web-pages. Data were obtained through close readings until data tables creation according to the research focus.

The findings show that grief in *The Burrow* damages family relationships more than it is openly expressed. Jin becomes emotionally distant and avoids communication, which weakens his relationship with Amy. Amy responds with resentment and emotional withdrawal, making their marriage tense and disconnected. Their lack of communication also affects Lucie, who receives little emotional guidance from her parents and learns to stay silent. Pauline tries to care for Lucie, but unresolved blame and guilt create tension with Jin and Amy. The study concludes that the family becomes emotionally divided with silence shaping their interactions more than conversation.

Keywords: unspoken grief, family dynamics, communication breakdown

ABSTRAK

Violita, I. C. 2025. *Kesedihan yang Tak Terucap dalam Hubungan Keluarga dalam Novel The Burrow Karya Melanie Cheng*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum., (II) Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M.A.

Penelitian ini mengkaji penggambaran hubungan keluarga dan keretakan komunikasi setelah kematian Ruby dalam novel *The Burrow* karya Melanie Cheng. Penelitian ini berfokus pada duka berkepanjangan yang dialami setiap anggota keluarga Lee, yang berdampak nyata pada keretakan hubungan mereka. Kasus ini dialami oleh empat tokoh utama dalam novel, yaitu Jin, Amy, Pauline, dan Lucie. Penelitian ini membahas dua permasalahan utama: (1) bagaimana Jin, Amy, Pauline, dan Lucie digambarkan setelah kematian Ruby dalam novel, dan (2) bagaimana interaksi keluarga direpresentasikan sebagai bentuk keretakan komunikasi.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif melalui analisis tekstual. Kerangka teori utama yang digunakan adalah Kritik Baru, khususnya close reading, untuk mengkaji karakter dan karakterisasi yang digambarkan dalam teks sastra. Penelitian ini berfokus pada bagaimana konflik keluarga dikonstruksikan secara tekstual melalui unsur naratif seperti dialog, tindakan, keheningan, dan interaksi antartokoh. *The Burrow* karya Melanie Cheng berfungsi sebagai sumber data utama. Sementara itu, data sekunder diperoleh dari buku, jurnal, dan laman web tepercaya. Data diperoleh melalui pembacaan close reading hingga terbentuk tabel data sesuai dengan fokus penelitian.

Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa duka dalam *The Burrow* merusak hubungan keluarga lebih besar daripada yang diekspresikan secara terbuka. Jin menjadi emosional menjauh dan menghindari komunikasi, yang melemahkan hubungannya dengan Amy. Amy merespons dengan rasa kesal dan penarikan diri secara emosional, sehingga membuat pernikahan mereka menjadi tegang dan terputus. Kurangnya komunikasi ini juga berdampak pada Lucie, yang menerima sedikit bimbingan emosional dari orang tuanya dan belajar untuk tetap diam. Pauline berusaha merawat Lucie, tetapi rasa saling menyalahkan dan rasa bersalah yang tidak terselesaikan menciptakan ketegangan dengan Jin dan Amy. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa keluarga tersebut menjadi terpecah secara emosional, dengan keheningan yang membentuk interaksi mereka lebih dominan daripada percakapan.

Kata Kunci: kesedihan yang tidak terucapkan, dinamika keluarga, gangguan komunikasi

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