

**BUKKA RAYA I'S LEADERSHIP AND ITS IMPACT IN
SALMAN RUSHDIE'S *VICTORY CITY***

THESIS



UIN SUNAN AMPEL
S U R A B A Y A

BY:

M. RUSDI ARIF

REG. NUMBER: 03020320061

**ENGLISH LITERATURE DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF ADAB AND HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL
SURABAYA**

2025

APPROVAL SHEET

BUKKA RAYA I'S LEADERSHIP AND ITS IMPACT IN SALMAN
RUSHDIE'S *VICTORY CITY*

by

M. Rusdi Arif

Reg. Number: 03020320061

approved to be examined by the board of examiners of English Literature
Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya

Surabaya, June 10, 2025

Advisor 1



Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum
NIP. 197002051999032002

Advisor 2



Dr. Abu Fanani, S.S. M.Pd
NIP. 196906152007011051

Acknowledged by
The Head of the English Literature Department



Dr. Endratno Pili Swasono, M.Pd
NIP. 197106072003121001

EXAMINER SHEET

This is to certify that the *Sarjana* thesis of M. Rusdi Arif (Reg. Number: 03020320061) entitled **Bukka Raya I's Leadership and Its Impact in Salman Rushdie's *Victory City*** has been approved and accepted by the board of examiners for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra (S.S.)*, English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

Surabaya, June 17, 2025

Board of Examiners:

Examiner 1

Walep

Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum
NIP. 197002051999032002

Examiner 21

er 2

Sufi Ikrimah Saadah, M. Hum.
NIP. 198207042023212023

Examiner 3



Novia Adibatus Shofah, M.Hum.
NIP. 199211252024212046

Examiner 4

"Lust #6

Lutfiyah Alindah, M.Hum., M.A.
NIP. 198607202020122010

Acknowledged by:

The Dean of Faculty of Adab and Humanities
UM Sunan Ampel Surabaya



Prof. Dr. H. Achmad Zaini, M.A.
NIP. 197005121995031002

DECLARATION

I am the undersigned below:

Name : M. Rusdi Arif
NIM : 03020320061
Department : English Literature
Faculty : Adab and Humanities
University : UIN Sunan Ampel

declare that the thesis entitled:

**BUKKA RAYA I'S LEADERSHIP AND ITS IMPACT IN SALMAN
RUSHDIE'S *VICTORY CITY***

is my own work, and not a plagiarism/fabrication in part or in whole.

If in the future it is proven that this thesis results from plagiarism/fabrication, either in part or whole, then I am willing to accept sanctions for such actions in accordance with the applicable provisions.

Surabaya, June 10, 2025

Who makes the statement



M. Rusdi Arif

Reg. Number: 03020320061

LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI
KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS

Sebagai sivitas akademika UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, yang bertanda tangan di bawah ini, saya:

Nama : M. Rusdi Arif
NIM : 030203020061
Fakultas/Jurusan : Adab dan Humaniora
E-mail address : mrusdiarif@gmail.com

Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, menyetujui untuk memberikan kepada Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif atas karya ilmiah :

☒ Sekripsi ☐ Tesis ☐ Desertasi ☐ Lain-lain (.....)
yang berjudul :

BUKKA RAYA I'S LEADERSHIP AND ITS IMPACT IN SALMAN RUSHDIE'S

VICTORY CITY

beserta perangkat yang diperlukan (bila ada). Dengan Hak Bebas Royalti Non-Eksklusif ini Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya berhak menyimpan, mengalih-media/format-kan, mengelolanya dalam bentuk pangkalan data (database), mendistribusikannya, dan menampilkan/mempublikasikannya di Internet atau media lain secara **fulltext** untuk kepentingan akademis tanpa perlu meminta ijin dari saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis/pencipta dan atau penerbit yang bersangkutan.

Saya bersedia untuk menanggung secara pribadi, tanpa melibatkan pihak Perpustakaan UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya, segala bentuk tuntutan hukum yang timbul atas pelanggaran Hak Cipta dalam karya ilmiah saya ini.

Demikian pernyataan ini yang saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Surabaya, 24 Juni 2025

Penulis



M. Rusdi Arif

ABSTRACT

Arif, M. R. (2025). *Bukka Raya I's Leadership and Its Impact in Salman Rushdie's Victory City*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: (I) Dr. Wahju Kusumajanti, M.Hum, (II) Dr. Abu Fanani, S.S. M.Pd

This study aims to analyze the character of Bukka Raya I in Salman Rushdie's *Victory City*, focusing on his characteristic, leadership, impacts, and the reflections arising within the fictional Bisnaga Kingdom. There are four problems to be solved in this study, namely: (1) How is Bukka Raya I characterized? (2) How does Bukka Raya I lead the kingdom? (3) What is the impact of Bukka Raya I's leadership? (4) What can be reflected in Bukka Raya I's leadership in Bisnaga?

This study employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive textual analysis method. Bukka Raya I is examined through selected passages that highlight his leadership and its consequences. The analysis applies the lens of New Criticism to explore intrinsic literary elements such as characterization, conflict, and irony. It also incorporates the Marxism and Literature approach to understand how political power, ideology, and class dynamics shape the portrayal of his reign.

The analysis reveals Bukka Raya I as a cautious and strategic leader who prioritized security through palace guard reform. His openness to Vidyasagar's philosophy reflects his receptiveness to ideological ideas in shaping the kingdom's values. This became the basis for Bisnaga's ideological defense against external threats and internal divisions. As a visionary, he expanded the territory and projected a strong cultural identity. However, his personal artistic preferences often clashed with public sentiment. His reign included structural reforms, military expansion, cultural expression, and ideological consolidation. Yet these achievements also brought consequences such as polarization, internal threats, and succession failure. Reflections on his leadership highlight his strength in managing diversity and asserting ambition, while also exposing how eccentric taste and lack of foresight created instability. Ultimately, Bukka Raya I's leadership embodies both achievement and irony as it fortifying Bisnaga's identity and power while leaving unresolved tensions that threatened its long-term unity.

Keywords: *Victory City*, Leadership, Ambition

ABSTRAK

Arif, M. R. (2025). *Kepemimpinan Bukka Raya I dan Dampaknya dalam Victory City Karya Salman Rushdie*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum, (II) Dr. Abu Fanani, S.S. M.Pd

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis karakter Bukka Raya I dalam novel *Victory City* karya Salman Rushdie, dengan fokus pada karakteristiknya, kepemimpinannya, dampak kepemimpinannya, serta refleksi yang muncul di dalam kerajaan fiktif Bisnaga. Penelitian ini memunculkan empat rumusan masalah, yaitu: (1) Bagaimana karakteristik Bukka Raya I? (2) Bagaimana Bukka Raya I memimpin kerajaan? (3) Apa dampak dari kepemimpinannya? (4) Apa yang dapat direfleksikan dari kepemimpinan Bukka Raya I di Kerajaan Bisnaga?

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode analisis tekstual deskriptif. Bukka Raya I dianalisis melalui kutipan-kutipan terpilih yang menunjukkan kepemimpinannya dan konsekuensinya. Analisis ini menerapkan pendekatan New Criticism untuk mengeksplorasi unsur-unsur intrinsik seperti karakterisasi, konflik, dan ironi. Selain itu, pendekatan Marxisme dan Sastra digunakan untuk memahami bagaimana kekuasaan politik, ideologi, dan dinamika kelas membentuk penggambaran masa pemerintahannya.

Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa Bukka Raya I digambarkan sebagai pemimpin yang hati-hati dan strategis, yang memprioritaskan keamanan melalui reformasi pasukan istana. Keterbukaannya terhadap filosofi Vidyasagar mencerminkan sikap ideologis yang ia gunakan untuk membentuk nilai-nilai kerajaan. Sikap ini menjadi dasar pertahanan ideologis Bisnaga terhadap ancaman luar dan perpecahan internal. Sebagai pemimpin visioner, ia memperluas wilayah dan membentuk identitas budaya yang kuat. Namun, preferensi pribadinya dalam seni sering kali bertentangan dengan nilai-nilai publik. Masa pemerintahannya mencakup reformasi struktural, ekspansi militer, ekspresi budaya, dan konsolidasi ideologis. Meski demikian, keberhasilan ini juga menimbulkan dampak seperti polarisasi, ancaman internal, dan kegagalan suksesi. Refleksi atas kepemimpinannya menunjukkan kemampuannya dalam mengelola keberagaman dan ambisi, namun juga mengungkap bahwa selera eksentrik dan kurangnya perencanaan jangka panjang menyebabkan ketidakstabilan. Pada akhirnya, kepemimpinan Bukka Raya I mencerminkan keberhasilan sekaligus ironi: memperkuat identitas dan kekuasaan Bisnaga, tetapi menyisakan ketegangan yang mengancam persatuan jangka panjang kerajaan.

Kata Kunci: *Victory City*, Kepemimpinan, Ambisi

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover Title Page	i
Inside Title Page	ii
Approval Sheet.....	iii
Examiner Sheet	iv
Declaration	v
Statement of Consent for Academic Publication	vi
Acknowledgment	vii
Abstract	ix
Abstrak	x
Table of Contents	xi
 CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	 1
1.1 Background Of Study	1
1.2 Problem Of Study	7
1.3 Objective Of Study	7
1.4 Significance Of Study	7
1.5 Scope And Delimitations	8
1.6 Definitions Of Key Terms	9
 CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	 10
2.1 New Criticism.....	10
2.1.1 Character.....	11
2.2 Marxism And Literature	12
2.2.1 Hegemony.....	12
2.2.2 Dominant, Residual, And Emergent.....	13
2.2.3 Structure Of Feeling	13
2.2.4 Cultural Materialism.....	14
2.2.4.1 Ideology.....	15
2.2.4.2 Society	15
2.2.4.3 Culture.....	16
 CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	 17
3.1 Research Design.....	17
3.2 Data Collection	18

3.2.1 Research Data	18
3.2.2 Data Collection	18
3.2.3 Data Source.....	18
3.2.4 Data Collection Technique	19
3.3. Data Analysis Technique	19
 CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS	 21
4.1 Characteristics Of Bukka Raya I	25
4.1.1 Aware And Cautious.....	26
4.1.2 Openness To Ideology	27
4.1.3 Visionary And Expansive	28
4.1.4 Ego And Personal Preferences.....	29
4.2 Bukka Raya I's Leadership.....	31
4.2.1 Reform Of Government Structure	31
4.2.2 Territorial Expansion Policy	33
4.2.3 Building The Kingdom's Architectural And Visual Image.....	34
4.2.4 Ideological Defence Of Bisnaga Kingdom.....	35
4.3 Bukka Raya I's Leadership Impact On Bisnaga Kingdom.....	37
4.3.1 Polarization Of Community Groups	37
4.3.2 The Emergence Of The Threat Of A Coup	39
4.3.3 Bukka Raya I Succession Crisis	42
4.4 Reflections On The Leadership Of Bukka Raya I.....	43
4.4.1 Managing Diversity	44
4.4.2 Territorial Ambition.....	45
4.4.3 Eccentric Art Taste	46
4.4.4 Royal Succession Strategy.....	47
4.4.5 Leadership Irony	48
 CHAPTER V CONCLUSION.....	 51
5.1 Conclusion	51
5.2 Suggestion	54
 References	 56
Appendices.....	58
Curriculum Vitae.....	62

REFERENCES

- Alter, A., & Harris, E. A. (2023, October 26). Salman Rushdie Has a New Book, and a Message: “Words Are the Only Victors.” *International New York Times*, NA.
<https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A735176501/AONE?u=anon~26bb7dfd&sid=googleScholar&xid=7b392969>
- Amirthavarshini, V. R., & Bhuvaneswari, R. (2023). Construction of Ideal Self in Salman Rushdie’s *Victory City*. *Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, 15(5). <https://doi.org/10.21659/rupkatha.v15n5.15>
- Bennett, A., & Royle, N. (2004). *Literature , Criticism*. 328.
- Carlyle, T. (2001). *On Heroes, Hero-worship and the Heroics in History*.
- Chaundhry, A. Q., & Javed, H. (2012). Laissez Faire, Sustainable Development and Crisis in Democracy in the New Millennium. *International Journal of Business and Social Science*, 3(7), 258–264.
http://www.ijbssnet.com/journals/Vol_3_No_7_April_2012/28.pdf
- Eagleton, T. (2013). *How To Read Literature*.
- Gay, L. R. (2006). Education Research (Competencies for Analysis and Applications). In *Pearson Education, Inc.* (10th ed.). https://yuli-elearning.com/pluginfile.php/4831/mod_resource/content/1/Gay-E Book Educational Research-2012.pdf
- Hall, S., & Liebenberg, L. (2024). Qualitative Description as an Introductory Method to Qualitative Research for Master’s-Level Students and Research Trainees. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 23, 1–5.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069241242264>
- Hirschi, A., & Spurk, D. (2021). Striving for success: Towards a refined understanding and measurement of ambition. *Journal of Vocational Behavior*, 127, 103577. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.JVB.2021.103577>
- Kaushal, N., & Mishra, S. (2017). Comprehensive Interpretation of Leadership

from the Narratives in Literature. *World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology, International Journal of Psychological and Behavioral Sciences*, 4(2), 64–86.

<https://www.scientificia.com/index.php/JEBE/article/download/71/66>

McAlpine, L. (2016). Why might you use narrative methodology? *Estonian Journal of Education*, 4(1), 32–57.

Michels, J. D. (1995). Information To Users Umi. In *UMI Company*. Gonaaga.

Nuraini, E. (2022). Intrinsic elements in a collection of short story by Oscar Wilde and the implication of learning English in senior high school. *Griya Cendikia*, 7(2 SE-Articles), 254–265. <https://doi.org/10.47637/griya-cendikia.v7i2.251>

Pertiwi, A. L. (2019). The Gold Can Stay: The Meaning Transformation of The Word ‘Gold’ In Robert Frost’s Nothing Gold Can Stay And S.E Hinton’s The Outsiders. *Vivid Journal of Language and Literature*, 7(1), 40. <https://doi.org/10.25077/vj.7.1.40-44.2018>

Pier, J., Emmott, C., & Fludernik, M. (2014). Handbook of Narratology. In *Handbook of Narratology*. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110316469>

Rushdie, S. (2023). *Victory City*. ALFRED A. KNOPF CANADA.

Thomasson, A. L. (2003). Fictional characters and literary practices. *British Journal of Aesthetics*, 43(2), 138–157. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjaesthetics/43.2.138>

Watson, C. (2013). The ironies of leadership: Insights from a narrative analysis of the TV Western drama series, Rawhide. *Organization*, 20(6), 924–935. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1350508412464896>

Williams, R. (1977). *Marxism and Literature* (1st ed.). Oxford University Press.