

**EXPLORING FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT
IN IBI ZOBOI AND YUSEF SALAAM'S *PUNCHING THE
AIR***

THESIS



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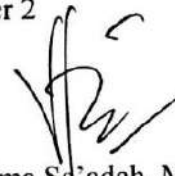
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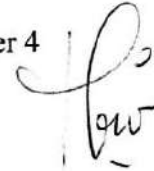
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ABSTRACT

Priwanda, R. 2025. *Exploring Family and Community Support in Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam's Punching the Air*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab dan Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: (I) Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum. (II) Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M.Hum.

This study explores how family and community support fulfill the psychological needs of the main character, Amal Shahid, in the novel *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam. The novel portrays the experience of a Black teenager who faces legal injustice, racial discrimination, and emotional struggle during his time in a juvenile prison. Therefore, the central research questions addressed are: *What types of support are provided by Amal's family and community in the novel?* and *How does the support influence Amal's emotional condition during his time in juvenile prison.*

A qualitative-descriptive approach is applied, focusing on narrative analysis of literary texts. The analysis includes the interactions between Amal and supporting characters, such as family, lawyers, schoolmates, and figures in prison, to examine how support he receives affect his emotional condition. The theoretical framework used includes New Criticism, to examine intrinsic elements such as characters, characterization and conflicts. The theoretical framework is further strengthened by psychoanalysis, focusing on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, especially the third level which emphasizes love and belonging. Data is collected through close reading of narratives, dialogues, and character descriptions.

The results indicated that the support Amal receives plays a crucial role in fulfilling his need for connection, recognition, and emotional stability. This emotional foundation contributes to his inner resilience, helping him maintain hope and self-worth despite the oppressive circumstances. Ultimately, the novel illustrates how the fulfillment of basic psychological needs can empower individuals to survive injustice and emotional adversity.

Keywords: new criticism, hierarchy of needs, family support, community, emotional resilience

ABSTRAK

Priwanda, R. 2025. *Menelusuri Dukungan Keluarga dan Komunitas dalam Novel Punching the Air Karya Ibi Zoboi dan Yusef Salaam*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum. (II) Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah, M.Hum.

Penelitian ini mengkaji bagaimana dukungan dari keluarga dan komunitas memenuhi kebutuhan psikologis tokoh utama, Amal Shahid, dalam novel *Punching the Air* karya Ibi Zoboi dan Yusef Salaam. Novel ini menggambarkan pengalaman seorang remaja kulit hitam yang menghadapi ketidakadilan hukum, diskriminasi rasial, serta pergulatan emosional selama masa hukumannya di penjara remaja. Oleh karena itu, rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini adalah: *Apa saja bentuk dukungan yang diberikan oleh keluarga dan komunitas kepada Amal dalam novel ini?* dan *Bagaimana dukungan tersebut memengaruhi kondisi emosional Amal selama di penjara remaja?*

Pendekatan yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif-kualitatif dengan fokus pada analisis naratif teks sastra. Analisis mencakup interaksi antara Amal dengan tokoh-tokoh pendukung seperti keluarga, pengacara, teman sekolah, dan tokoh-tokoh di dalam penjara untuk melihat bagaimana dukungan yang ia terima memengaruhi kondisi emosionalnya. Kerangka teori yang digunakan meliputi Kritik Sastra Baru untuk menganalisis unsur intrinsik seperti tokoh, penokohan, dan konflik. Kerangka ini kemudian diperkuat dengan pendekatan psikoanalisis yang berfokus pada Hierarki Kebutuhan Maslow, khususnya pada tingkat ketiga yang menekankan kebutuhan akan cinta dan rasa memiliki. Data dikumpulkan melalui pembacaan cermat terhadap narasi, dialog, dan deskripsi karakter dalam novel.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa dukungan yang diterima Amal berperan penting dalam memenuhi kebutuhannya akan koneksi, pengakuan, dan stabilitas emosional. Pemenuhan kebutuhan tersebut menjadi fondasi bagi ketahanan batin Amal, yang membantunya mempertahankan harapan dan harga diri di tengah kondisi yang menekan. Pada akhirnya, novel ini menunjukkan bahwa pemenuhan kebutuhan psikologis dasar dapat memberdayakan individu untuk bertahan menghadapi ketidakadilan dan tekanan emosional.

Keywords: kritik sastra baru, hierarki kebutuhan, dukungan keluarga, komunitas, ketahanan emosional

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