

**IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAIN
CHARACTER IN *LADY BIRD* MOVIE**

THESIS



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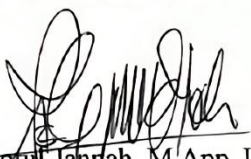
IDENTITY CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN *LADY BIRD*
MOVIE

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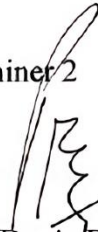
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ABSTRACT

Ramadhani, S. D. (2025). *Identity Construction of the Main Character in Lady Bird Movie*. English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: (I) Raudlotul Jannah, M.App. Ling., (II) Prof. Dr. A. Dzo'ul Milal, M.Pd.

This study aims to examine the construction of Christine McPherson's identity in the movie *Lady Bird* through her use of language, which shows that Christine performs certain identities in accordance with the existing social context. There are two problems to be solved in this study, namely: (1) What identities does Christine show in *Lady Bird* movie? and (2) how does Christine construct her identities through the language use in *Lady Bird* movie?

This study employed a qualitative descriptive approach to examine how Christine's language use constructs her identities. In collecting data, the researcher watched *Lady Bird* to understand the overall plot of the movie. After that, the researcher downloaded the *Lady Bird* screenplay and selected several scenes that indicated Christine's strong negotiation in bringing out her identity based on the five roles she played. After the data was collected, the researcher described and interpreted the identities performed by Christine based on the five principles of identity construction proposed by Bucholtz and Hall (2005).

This study reveals that Christine presents different identities according to her role and social context when interacting. There are five key roles in which Christine presented different identities. (1) As a daughter, Christine displays three identities: a free-spirited daughter, a bad daughter, and an independent daughter. (2) As a student, Christine presents two identities: a highly aspirational student and an average-grade student. (3) As a lover, Christine presents three identities: a unique girlfriend, a performative lover, and a lover with a poor background. (4) As a friend, Christine displays two identities: a cool friend and a supportive friend. (5) As a newcomer in New York, Christine presents two identities: an ordinary person and a person from San Francisco. Based on the identities presented by Christine, it is evident that identity is a product that emerges and is negotiated contextually. This can be seen from how Christine switches identities by positioning herself socially through language in order to adapt to the context of interaction in order to achieve recognition or certain goals. However, there is one identity that Christine always emphasizes, namely her identity as a free, unique person with high aspirations.

Keywords: identity, language and identity, identity construction, *Lady Bird*, Christine McPherson

ABSTRAK

Ramadhani, S. D. (2025). *Konstruksi Identitas Tokoh Utama dalam Film Lady Bird*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Raudlotul Jannah, M.App. Ling., (II) Prof. Dr. A. Dzo'ul Milal, M.Pd.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menguji konstruksi identitas Christine McPherson dalam film *Lady Bird* melalui penggunaan bahasanya, yang menunjukkan bahwa Christine menampilkan identitas tertentu sesuai dengan konteks sosial yang ada. Terdapat dua masalah yang diangkat dalam penelitian ini, yaitu: (1) Identitas apa saja yang ditampilkan Christine dalam film *Lady Bird*? dan (2) Bagaimana Christine mengonstruksi identitasnya melalui penggunaan bahasa dalam film *Lady Bird*?

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif untuk menguji bagaimana penggunaan bahasa Christine mengonstruksi identitasnya. Dalam pengumpulan data, peneliti menonton film *Lady Bird* untuk memahami keseluruhan alur cerita. Selanjutnya, peneliti mengunduh naskah film dan memilih beberapa adegan yang mengindikasikan negosiasi kuat Christine dalam menampilkan identitasnya berdasarkan lima peran yang ia mainkan. Setelah data terkumpul, peneliti mendeskripsikan dan menginterpretasikan identitas yang ditampilkan Christine berdasarkan lima prinsip konstruksi identitas yang dikemukakan oleh Bucholtz dan Hall (2005).

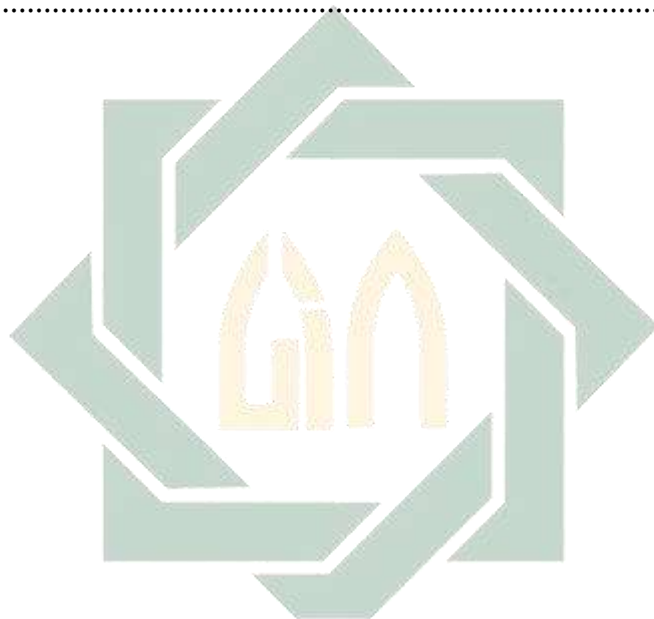
Hasil penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa Christine menampilkan identitas yang berbeda sesuai dengan peran dan konteks sosialnya saat berinteraksi. Terdapat lima peran utama di mana Christine menyajikan identitas yang beragam: (1) Sebagai seorang anak perempuan, Christine menampilkan tiga identitas: anak perempuan yang berjiwa bebas, anak perempuan yang buruk, dan anak perempuan yang mandiri. (2) Sebagai seorang pelajar, Christine menampilkan dua identitas: pelajar dengan aspirasi tinggi dan pelajar dengan nilai rata-rata. (3) Sebagai seorang kekasih, Christine menampilkan tiga identitas: kekasih yang unik, kekasih yang performatif, dan kekasih dengan latar belakang yang sederhana. (4) Sebagai seorang teman, Christine menampilkan dua identitas: teman yang keren dan teman yang suportif. (5) Sebagai pendatang baru di New York, Christine menampilkan dua identitas: orang biasa dan orang yang berasal dari San Francisco. Berdasarkan identitas-identitas yang ditunjukkan oleh Christine, terbukti bahwa identitas merupakan produk yang muncul dan dinegosiasikan secara kontekstual. Hal ini terlihat dari bagaimana Christine beralih identitas dengan memosisikan dirinya secara sosial melalui bahasa demi beradaptasi dengan konteks interaksi untuk mencapai pengakuan atau tujuan tertentu. Namun, terdapat satu identitas yang selalu dimunculkan oleh Christine yaitu identitas dirinya sebagai orang yang bebas, unik, dan memiliki aspirasi tinggi.

Kata Kunci: identitas, bahasa dan identitas, konstruksi identitas, *Lady Bird*, Christine McPherson

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