

**EXPLORING ADAM KENT'S CHARACTER IN
TAHEREH MAFI'S *SHATTER ME***

THESIS



BY:

**ADINDA AZZAHRA KHAIRINA
REG. NUMBER 03020322026**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF ADAB AND HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL
SURABAYA
2026**

DECLARATION

I am the undersigned below:

Name : Adinda Azzahra Khairina
NIM : 03020322026
Department : English Literature
Faculty : Adab and Humanities
University : UIN Sunan Ampel

declare that the thesis entitled:

Exploring Adam Kent's Character in Tahereh Mafi's *Shatter Me*

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, 13

March 2026



Adinda Azzahra
Khairina

REG. NUMBER
03020322026

APPROVAL SHEET

Exploring Adam Kent's Character in Tahereh Mafi's *Shatter Me*

by

Adinda Azzahra Khairina 03020322026

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

Surabaya, 13 March 2026

Advisor 1



Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M.A.

NIP 199203062020122019

Advisor 2



Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum.

NIP 198207042023212023

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 Adinda Azzahra Khairina (03020322026) entitled **Exploring Adam Kent's Character in Tahereh Mafi's *Shatter Me*** 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, 2 April 2026

Board of Examiners:

Examiner 1



Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M.A.

NIP. 199203062020122019

Examiner 2



Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum.

NIP. 198207042023212023

Examiner 3



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

NIP. 196906152007011051

Examiner 4



Dr. Wahyu Kusumajanti, M.Hum.

NIP. 197002051999032002

Acknowledged by:

The Dean of Faculty of Adab and Humanities

UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya



Prof. Dr. H. Achmad Zaidi, MA

NIP. 197005121995031002



**KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA
PERPUSTAKAAN**

Jl. Jend. A. Yani 117 Surabaya 60237 Telp. 031-8431972 Fax.031-8413300
E-Mail: perpustakaan@uinsby.ac.id

**LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI
KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS**

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

Nama : Adinda Azzahra Khairina

NIM : 03020322026

Fakultas/Jurusan : Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora / Sastra Inggris

E-mail address : adindaazzahra2004@gmail.com

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

☒ Skripsi ☒ Tesis ☐ Desertasi ☐ Lain-lain (.....)

yang berjudul :

Exploring Adam Kent's Character in Tahereh Mafi's *Shatter Me*

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,

Penulis

(Adinda Azzahra Khairina)

ABSTRACT

Azzahra, A. (2026). *Exploring Adam Kent's Character in Tahereh Mafi's Shatter Me* English Literature Department, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisors: (I) Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M.A., (II) Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum.

This thesis seeks to explore the characterization of Adam Kent in *Shatter Me* by Tahereh Mafi and how he attempts to aid Juliette Ferrars in escaping the Reestablishment. The research will analyze how Adam is characterized through his inherent characteristics and explore how these characteristics serve structurally within the narrative to support the theme of resistance in the dystopia world.

This study applies qualitative descriptive method by conducting the New Criticism, especially on character and characterization. The focus of the analysis is to identify the intrinsic elements found in the novel through the characterization which is brought up in dialogue, actions, and narrative structure of the novel. Through the close reading of specific passages, the study interprets how Adam's qualities are constructed and how his characteristics interweave to provide unity of meaning in the text.

The result shows that Adam Kent is described as loving and gentle through emotional support, physical tenderness, verbal reassurance for Juliette that allows her to regain a sense of self-worth and identity. Moreover, he is protective and courageous, as he stands up to Warner, puts himself in danger whenever necessary, and stays calm during crises. In addition, Adam goes from an eager to please young man who has historically always obedient towards the Reestablishment, to exploring ways of attempting to push back against it through chronicalized tactical plans and physical actions that risked his life. Within its dystopian infrastructure, the novel uses Adam's character to emphasize notions of resistance, trust and hope.

Keywords: characterization, new criticism, resistance.

ABSTRAK

Azzahra, A. (2026). Menjelajahi Karakter Adam Kent dalam *Shatter Me* karya Tahereh Mafi. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: (I) Ramadhina Ulfa Nuristama, M.A., (II) Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M.Hum.

Penelitian ini mengkaji karakter Adam Kent dalam novel *Shatter Me* karya Tahereh Mafi dan analisis usaha Adam membantu Juliette Ferrars melarikan diri dari Reestablishment. Analisa ini akan menjelaskan dimensi karakter Adam dan menjelaskan bagaimana dimensi tersebut berperan dalam dukungan tema resistensi dalam struktur narasi dunia distopia.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dan menggunakan pendekatan Kritik Baru, dalam hal ini fokus pada karakter dan karakterisasi. Penggalan analisis pada penelitian ini berasal dari elemen intrinsik dalam karakterisasi yang diekspresikan dalam dialog, tindakan, dan struktur suatu novel. Penelitian ini beranalisis untuk melihat seberapa baik Adam Kent dibangun dan seberapa besar suatu karakteristik saling berhubungan untuk menyediakan integrasi dalam teks.

Hasil menunjukkan bahwa Adam Kent digambarkan sebagai sosok yang penuh kasih dan lembut melalui dukungan emosional, kelembutan fisik, dan jaminan verbal kepada Juliette yang memungkinkannya untuk mendapatkan kembali rasa harga diri dan identitasnya. Lebih jauh lagi, ia protektif dan berani, karena ia melawan Warner, menempatkan dirinya dalam bahaya jika dibutuhkan, dan tetap tenang selama krisis. Selain itu, Adam berubah dari seorang pemuda yang selalu patuh kepada Reestablishment, menjadi sosok yang mengeksplorasi cara-cara untuk melawan melalui rencana taktis yang terstruktur dan tindakan fisik yang mempertaruhkan nyawanya. Dalam infrastruktur distopianya, novel ini menggunakan karakter Adam untuk menekankan gagasan tentang perlawanan, kepercayaan, dan harapan.

Kata Kunci: penggambaran karakter, kritik baru, perlawanan.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Inside Cover Page	i
Approval Sheet.....	ii
Examiner Sheet.....	iii
Declaration.....	iv
Acknowledgement.....	v
Abstract	vi
Abstrak	vii
Table of Contents.....	viii
 CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	 1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Problems of the Study	6
1.3 Objectives of the Study	6
1.4 Significances of the Study	6
1.5 Scope and Delimitations.....	7
1.6 Definition of Key Terms.....	8
 CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	 9
2.1 New Criticism.....	9
2.1.1 Character	10
2.1.2 Characterization.....	11
 CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD	 14
3.1 Research Design.....	14
3.2 Data Collection	14
3.2.1 Research Data.....	15
3.2.2 Data Source	15
3.2.3 Data Collection Technique.....	16
3.3 Data Analysis Technique.....	16
 CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS	 18

4.1 Adam Kent's Description in the Novel	18
4.1.1 Loving and Gentle	19
4.1.2 Protective and Courage	28
4.2 Adam's Efforts in Helping Juliette	37
4.2.1 Develop tactical and strategic plans.....	37
4.2.2 Risked his life to help Juliette escape	44
 CHAPTER V CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS	 50
5.1 Conclusions	51
5.2 Suggestions.....	51
 REFERENCES	 53

REFERENCES

- Abrams, M. H. (1999). *A Glossary of Literary Terms Seventh Edition*. Harcourt Brace College Publishers.
- Abrams, M. H., & Harpham, G. G. (2005). *A glossary of literary terms*. Wadsworth Publishing Company.
- Berlin, I. (1969). *Four essays on liberty*. Oxford University Press, USA.
- Booker, M. K. (1994). The dystopian impulse in modern literature. In *Praeger eBooks*. <https://doi.org/10.5040/9798400642852>
- Brooks, C., & Warren, R. P. (1943). *Understanding fiction*. New York : Appleton-Century-Crofts.
- Chatman, S. B. (1991). Coming to terms: the rhetoric of narrative in fiction and film. *Choice Reviews Online*, 29(03), 29–1331. <https://doi.org/10.5860/choice.29-1331>
- Disher, G. (1983). Writing fiction : an introduction to the craft. *Medical Entomology and Zoology*. <http://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA19456818>
- Forster, E. M. (1927). *Aspects of the novel*.
- Tarbet, D. W., Foucault, M., & Sheridan, A. (1978). Discipline and punish: the birth of the prison. *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 11(4), 509. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2737970>
- Fromm, E. (1956). The art of loving. In *Medical Entomology and Zoology*. <https://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA85629792>
- Gilligan, & Carol, C. (1982). In a different voice: psychological theory and women's development. *In a Different Voice*. <https://works.swarthmore.edu/alum-books/2941/>
- Griffiths, J. (1986). *What is Legal Pluralism Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law*, 18, 1-55. - *References - Scientific Research Publishing*. (n.d.). <https://www.scirp.org/reference/referencespapers?referenceid=1418433>
- Holman, C. H. (1980). *A handbook to literature: Based on the Original Edition by William Flint Thrall and Addison Hibbard*. MacMillan Publishing Company.
- Lubbock, P. (1921). *The craft of fiction: By Percy Lubbock*. Mafi, T. (2012). *Shatter me*. Turtleback Books.

- Murphy, M. J. (1972). *Understanding unseens: An Introduction to English Poetry and the English Novel for Overseas Students*.
- Noddings, N. (1984). *Caring: a feminine approach to ethics and moral education* (Vol. 2, Issue 2).
- Rimmon-Kenan, S. (1983). *Narrative fiction: Contemporary Poetics*. Psychology Press.
- Suphap, A. (2025). *AN ANALYSIS OF THE FEMALE PROTAGONIST IN DYSTOPIAN SOCIETY IN SHATTER ME SERIES**
<https://so05.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/SPUCJ/article/view/274948>
- Teori kajian fiksi. (n.d.).
https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=l8INt5gAAAAJ&citation_for_view=l8INt5gAAAAJ:GnPB-g6toBAC
- Wellek, R., & Warren, A. (1948). Theory of literature. In *Medical Entomology and Zoology*. <https://ci.nii.ac.jp/ncid/BA12123056>
- Wimsatt, W. K., & Beardsley, M. C. (1946). *The intentional fallacy*.