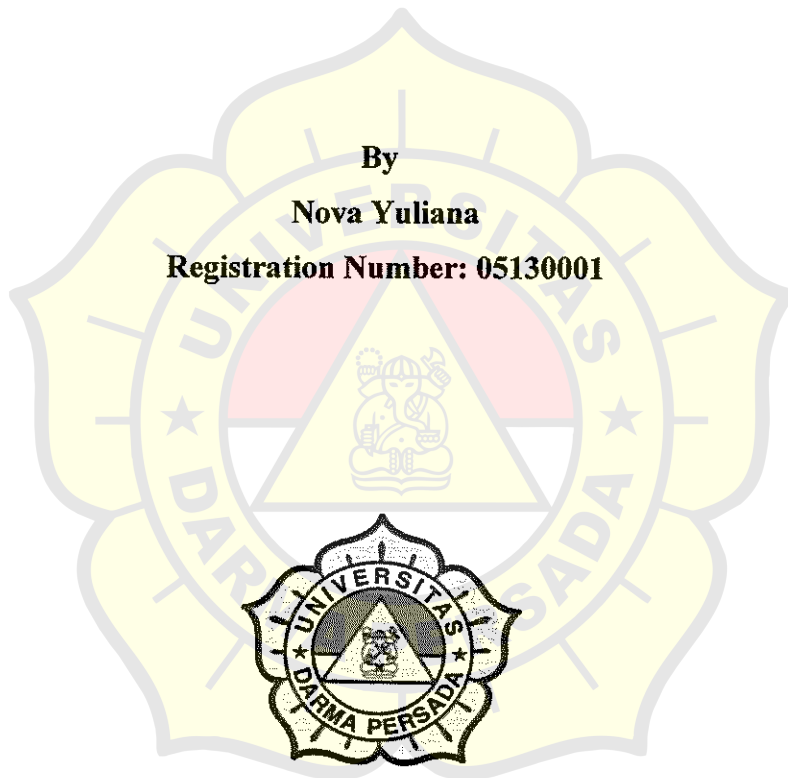


**THE REACH OF AMERICAN DREAM AS A DESIRE  
ENDED WITH TRAGEDY  
IN THE NOVEL “DEATH OF SALESMAN” BY ARTHUR MILLER**

**A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Letters  
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Undergraduate Program**

**By  
Nova Yuliana  
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**S-1 ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF LETTERS  
UNIVERSITY OF DARMA PERSADA  
JAKARTA  
2009**

The thesis entitled

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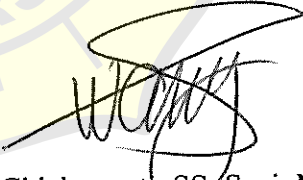
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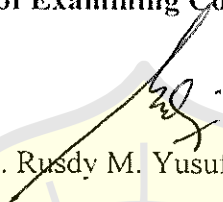
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Has been examined and accepted by the committee as examination, Faculty of Letters, on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.


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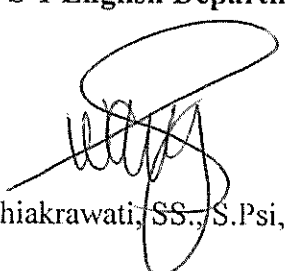


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05130001

is a scientific research I conducted under the guidance of Dr. Hj. Albertine Minderop, MA. The thesis is truly original and not a half as total plagiarism of another works, the contents has become my responsibility with all sincerity, I made this statement on February 2009, Jakarta.

The writer,

Nova Yuliana

## PREFACE

I would like to thank you for my almighty God, Jesus Christ, for helping and giving me blessings so I could finish my thesis.

The thesis I have been conducted entitled *The Reach of American Dream as a Desire Ended with Tragedy*, A novel by Arthur Miller, is a partial of requirements for obtaining *Sarjana Sastra* of Undergraduate program English letters.

I do believe and realize that this thesis is still far from being expected, not only its contextual analysis but also the technical terms. For that reasons, I would welcome for suggestions from examiner and readers for its future improvement.

With all my modesty I would like a lot of thanks to the people who help me to finish my thesis:

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3. All lecturers of Darma Persada University for teaching and giving knowledge and best lessons to me to be good students.
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5. Someone in my heart. Thanks for your support and giving me a lot of hands to finish my thesis.
6. All my best friends, who always being my good friends for helping, and sharing with me.

Jakarta, February 2009

Writer

(Nova Yuliana)

## CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	i
CHAPTER I.....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
A. Background.....	1
B. Identification of The Problem.....	3
C. Limitation of The Problem.....	3
D. Formulation of The Problem.....	3
E. Objectives of Research.....	4
F. Theoretical Frameworks.....	4
G. Method of Research.....	10
H. Benefit to Research.....	10
I. System of the presentation.....	10
CHAPTER II ANALYSIS NOVEL DEATH OF SALES MEN THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACH.....	12
A. Characterization.....	12
1.Characterization Through Telling Method.....	12
a. Characterization Through The Use of Names.....	12
b. Characterization by the Author.....	13
2. Characterization Through Showing Method.....	17
a. What is Being Said.....	17
b. The Identity of The Persons The Speaker is Addressing...26	
c. The Quality of The Exchange.....	31
B. Plot.....	32
1. Analysis of Exposition.....	32
2. Analysis of Complication.....	33
3. Analysis of Crisis.....	34
4. Analysis of Falling Action.....	35
5. Analysis of Resolution.....	36

C. Setting.....	37
1. Setting As Background For Action.....	37
2. Setting As A Means Of Creating Appropriate Atmosphere...38	
3. Setting As an Antagonist.....	40
D Summary.....	42

### **CHAPTER III THE REACH OF AMERICAN DREAM AS DESIRE**

#### **ENDED IN TRAGEDY IN THE NOVEL DEATH OF SALESMAN BY ARTHUR MILLER.....43**

A. Analysis through extrinsic approach.....	43
1. The reach of gold as desire.....	44
2. The reach of gospel as desire.....	46
3. The reach of glory as desire.....	47
B. Analysis theme “The Reach of American Dream as A Desire ended with Tragedy”	
1. The Reach of American Dream as Desire.....	50
a. Feeling hopeless.....	50
b. The desire to pursuit happiness.....	52
c. The influence of neighborhood.....	53
d. To get a better life.....	53
e. The desire as a hero.....	55
2. Ended in Tragedy.....	57
a. Having a lot of debt.....	57
b. To get insurance.....	58
c. The impact of social problem .....	59
d. To get self esteem .....	61
e. Making sacrifice.....	63
C. Summary.....	65

### **CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION.....66**

#### **SCHEME OF THEORITICAL .....69**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY.....70**  
**ABSTRACT**  
**AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY**  
**WRITER'S PERSONAL IDENTITY**





## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background

According to the title 'The Reach of American Dream as Desire ended in Tragedy' in the novel *Death of Salesman* by Arthur Miller, I will tell about the biography of the author first. Arthur Miller was one of the leading American playwrights of the twentieth century. He was born in October 1915 in New York City. He was the son of a women's clothing manufacturer who was ruined during the economic collapse of the 1930s. After graduating from high school, Miller worked in a warehouse so that he could earn enough money to attend the University of Michigan, where he began to write plays. Miller's first play to make it to Broadway, *The Man Who Had All the Luck* (1944), was a dismal failure, closing after only four performances. Three years later, *All My Sons* won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award as the best play of 1947, launching Miller into theatrical stardom. The other novel which is the *Death of Salesman* (1949) brought Miller international fame, and become one of the major achievements of modern American theatre. It relates the tragic story of a salesman named Willy Loman, whose past and present are mingled in expressionistic scenes.<sup>1</sup> This play made as the reflection of American Dream in critical social that was directed Miller for the situation and culture of American people that always deify material things.<sup>2</sup>

*Death of Salesman* talked about a man who had many dreams in his life. He is Willy Loman who was 60 years old and he worked as a salesman for 34 years with low salary. He lived with his wife who named Linda Loman and with his children, Biff and Happy Loman. Because the economic crisis was high, Willy couldn't finance the needs of his family. Loman is not the great success that he

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.google.co.id/firefox?client=firefox-a&rls=org.mozilla:en-US:official>

<sup>2</sup> Minderop, Albertine, *Sosiologi Sastra* buku ajar, (Jakarta: Universitas Darma Persada, 2006) page 48.

claims to be to his family and friends. The postwar economic boom has shaken up his life. One day, he was fired by his manager, Howard because Howard thought that Willy was tired and he had to take a rest at home. Because of hearing the news, Willy became disappointed and he tried to find another job. He told his wife who always supported him. Linda always supported him but she made Willy dreamt of his imagination. Willy didn't have any skill or necessary to be successful. So, Willy didn't get his dream to be success and he got hopeless and didn't know what to do. Because of that, Willy was just dreaming with his imaginary. People considered that he was crazy. Willy dreamt to make improvement in his life but he didn't pursuit it. He felt that he was useless person and didn't give something good for his family. So he got hopeless and disappointed and then he decided to suicide when he was driving to Boston by his car. He hoped that there would be insurance of his death of himself for helping his family. He also hoped that the death of himself would make him be more respected and he could be considered as a hero for his family even with the wrong way.

For the summary above, Willy Loman character was described as the victim of economy life that was happened in America life. This situation influenced the economical of Willy Loman's life. Willy was in difficult situation he didn't know what to do to make his family living better. He had a wife who named Linda Loman and two children, Biff and Happy Loman. He was fired by his manager made him more confused and stress. So he became more sensitive because he felt that he not be respected by his family and people. In his effort to reach The American Dream, the problem that was happened Willy Loman is when he had dream but he couldn't reach his dream. This was caused because he just only an old and tired man that was really not successful in his career. Until he was fired by his manager Howard, he got disappointed and hopeless to face his life. Because of the material difficulty that experienced by Willy Loman character, he desired to make something to be more respected by people and also his family. His effort to reach his dream not easy that he was hoping because in reaching his

dream, Willy didn't have any skill and enough experience. He just had big desire to get the dream so that when he couldn't make it real, he got hopeless and committed suicide for hoping that there would be an insurance to finance the needs of his family. So the reach of his dream just only as desire and he couldn't make it real. Then he made wrong decision and his reach caused suffering and tragedy.

### **B. Identification of The Problem**

Based on the background above, I identify the problem of this novel is about Willy Loman character who is a victim of industry has a desire to reach success in his life. My assumption, the theme of this play is The Reach of American Dream as Desire that is analyzed through the intrinsic approach which are characterization, plot, setting, and through the extrinsic approach which is sociology approach.

### **C. Limitation of The Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit the scope of this research on the reach of American dream as a desire from Willy Loman character and ended tragedy. Theory and concepts that I used are through characterization, plot, setting as the intrinsic elements and the extrinsic approach by sociology approach through the American Dream concepts. Both of the two approaches will be beneficially used to prove the theme assumption which is the story of the reach of American dream as desire ended in tragedy.

### **D. Formulation of The Problem**

Based on the limitation above, I formulate the problem as: Is it true that the theme of this novel is the reach of American dream as desire? To answer that, I formulate the problem as these following:

1. Can characterization, plot and setting be used to analyze the novel?
2. Can the sociology approach – American Dream concept be used to analyze the novel?

3. Can the theme be established through the result analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic elements?

### **E. Objectives of Research**

Based on the above formulation of the problem, I have purpose to prove the assumed theme of the novel which is the story of the reach of American dream as a desire to arrive at the point, I arrange some stages of research follow:

1. Analyzing the characterization, plot and setting as the intrinsic approach of the novel.
2. Analyzing the sociology approach – American Dream concepts as the extrinsic approach of the novel.
3. Analyzing the theme by elaborating the result of the intrinsic and extrinsic of the novel.

### **F. Theoretical Frameworks**

Based on the above objective of, I apply some theories for the intrinsic which are characterization, plot, and setting. And for the extrinsic approach I used sociology approach by American Dream concepts. For the characterization, I will use the characterization through Telling method which are characterization Through The Use of Names and Characterization by The Author and Showing method which are characterization through dialogue which are What is Being Said, The Identity of The Persons The Speaker is Addressing and The Quality of The Exchange. And for extrinsic approach, I will use sociology approach by American Dream concepts. And through the theories and concepts that used can establish assumption theme of Death of Salesman.

#### **A. Analysis through Intrinsic Approach**

##### **a. Characterization**

In presenting and establishing character, an author has two basic methods or techniques at his disposal. One method is *telling*, which relies on exposition and direct commentary by the author. The other method is indirect, dramatic

method of *showing*.<sup>3</sup> Characterization in Literature work is methods that explain the character in fiction literature.<sup>4</sup> To analyze the characterization, I use characterization through telling and showing method.

### 1. Telling Method

Telling method is a method preferred and practiced by many older fiction writers – the guiding hand of the author is very much in evidence.<sup>5</sup> Telling method includes characterization through the use of names, characterization through appearance, and characterization by the author. To analyze the characterization through telling method, I will use the characterizations, such as:

#### a. Characterization Through the Used of Names

Names are often used to provide essential clues that aid in characterization. Some characters are given names that suggest their dominant or controlling traits. Names can also contain literary or historical allusions that aid in characterization by means of association.<sup>6</sup>

#### b. Characterization by The Author

In the most customary form of telling the author interrupts the narrative and reveals directly, through a series of editorial comments, the nature and personality of the characters, including the thoughts and feelings that enter and pass through the character's mind.<sup>7</sup>

### 2. Showing Method

Showing method involves the author's stepping aside, as it were, to allow the characters to reveal themselves directly through their

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<sup>3</sup> Pickering and Hoepfer, *Concise Companion to Literature* (New York : Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1981), page 27

<sup>4</sup> Minderop, Albertine, *Metode Karakterisasi Telaah Fiksi*, (Jakarta : Yayasan Obor Indonesia, 2005) page 3

<sup>5</sup> Pickering., loc.cit

<sup>6</sup> Pickering., op.cit, page 28

<sup>7</sup> *ibid*, page 30

dialogue and their actions. With showing, much of the burden of character analysis is shifted to the reader, who is required to infer character on the basis of the evidence provided in the narrative.<sup>8</sup> To analyze the characterization through telling method, I will use the characterization through dialogue what characters say that including:

a. What is being said

In terms of characterization, if the speaker insists on talking only about himself or only on a single subject, we may conclude that we have either an egoist or a bore.

b. The identity of the person or persons the speaker is addressing

When a character addresses no one in particular, or when others are not present, his speech is called monologue, although, strictly speaking, monologues occur more frequently in drama than in fiction.

c. The quality of the exchange

Where there is a certain degree of evasiveness in the responses, a character may be secretive and have something to hide.<sup>9</sup>

## 2. Plot

Plot is a story as a narrative of events arranged in their time sequence. A plot is also a narrative of events, the emphasis falling on causality.<sup>10</sup> The elements of plot:

a. Exposition

The exposition is the beginning section in which the author provides the necessary background information, sets the scene, establishes the situation, and dates the action.

b. Complication

The complication, which is sometimes referred to as the rising action, breaks the existing equilibrium and introduces the characters and the underlying or inflicting conflict.

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<sup>8</sup> Ibid, page 28

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, page 11-13

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, page 11

c. Crisis

The crisis (also referred to the climax) is that moment at which the plot reaches its point of greatest emotional intensity, it is the turning point of the plot, directly precipitating its resolution.

d. Falling Action

Once the crisis, or turning point, has been reached, the tension subsides and the plot moves toward its appointed conclusion.

e. Resolution

The final section of the plot is its resolution; it records the outcome of the conflict and establishes some new equilibrium or stability.<sup>11</sup>

3. Setting

In its broadest sense, encompasses both the physical locale that frames the action and the time of the day or year, the climatic conditions, and the historical period during which the action takes place.<sup>12</sup> The setting that I will use to analyze the novel :

a. Setting As Background For Action

Setting can be said to exist as decorative background whose function is largely irrelevant to the purpose of the work as a whole.

b. Setting As an Antagonist

Setting in the form of nature can function as a kind of casual agent or antagonist, helping to establish plot conflict and determine the outcome of events.

c. Setting As a Means of Creating Appropriate Atmosphere

Many authors manipulate their settings as a means of arousing the reader's expectations and establishing an appropriate state of mind for events to come.

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<sup>11</sup> Ibid, page 16-17

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, page 13

## B. Analysis through Extrinsic Approach

Through the extrinsic approach, I will use sociology approach The American Dream concepts. In general, is the scientific study of individual behavior in society. Though sociologists study both macro and micro aspects of sociology, neither can be divorced from the other when attempting to understand human behavior in society. Sociology is a branch of social sciences.<sup>13</sup> In literature, the sociology approach has many concepts such as Feminism, Marxism, and American dream concept. To analyze the novel of Death of Salesman by Arthur Miller, I use the American Dream concepts. In general, the American dream can be defined as being the opportunity and freedom for all citizens to achieve their goals and become rich and famous if only they work hard enough. The American Dream is belief in the freedom that allows all citizens and residents of the United States to pursue their goals in life through hard work and free choice. One person may place monetary gain as their highest goal, and thus strive for this in a very American way, gaining through ability rather than social status.<sup>14</sup> American Dream is a belief that belived by many people in America. They believe that they can reach better life and successful through confidence, hard work, sacrifice and determined will without care with social status. This opinion came from their belief that America is "a city upon a hill" or "a light into the nations" that has values and wealth.

The American Dream includes three concepts which are gold, glory and gospel. Gold is a dream of American people to be rich. In the beginning the reach of gold was happened while the community was moving west ward where they did removal to the west ward. The definition of Gold can be seen in Indonesia language that explains the meaning of gold itself which known as the reach of money, wealth and to be rich:

*"Pengertian gold tidak secara harfiah mengacu pada emas, tetapi bisa juga berarti kekayaan. Gold juga*

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.wikipedia.com>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid



*melambungkan negara Amerika yang mengandung kekayaan alam melimpah.*"<sup>15</sup>

Beside that we can see the reach of gospel that changed meaning. In fact Gospel is the effort for the proselytization Christian belief then it was developing to be the proselytization liberal democracy. But now the definition of gospel was changing with orientation of affairs of mortal life. This is the quotation of the definition of gospel in Indonesia language:

*"Pencapaian gospel (penyebaran agama) awalnya adalah upaya menyebarkan agama Kristen yang selanjutnya berkembang menjadi penyebaran asas demokrasi liberal. Selanjutnya pengertian gospel berkembang dengan orientasi keduniawian yang esensinya keberhasilan."*<sup>16</sup>

And the reach of glory is the effort to reach glory or fame, be respected and admired people. This concept is related to the 'city upon a hill' that the essence is America can be model of world and also 'the world leader. This is the quotation about the definition of glory in Indonesia language:

*"Pencapaian glory atau upaya meraih kejayaan (kedigdayaan), dihormati dan dikagumi oleh orang lain. Konsep glory ini tidak terlepas dari konsep City upon A Hill yang esensinya adalah Amerika mampu menjadi model dunia bahkan pemimpin dunia."*<sup>17</sup>

The American Dream in this concept is American Dream as a desire. American Dream or the dream of American people is a belief to reach successful of life. They believe that through hard work, sacrifice, and desire can make better life. The American Dream concepts include gold, glory and gospel. The reach of gold is the dream of American to be rich or wealthy through much money. Firstly, the reach of gospel in American Dream concept is the spreading of Christian religion in the theme that Christian people are diligent and lazy people are sinful

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<sup>15</sup> Minderop, Albertine, Sosiologi Sastra buku ajar, (Jakarta: Universitas Darma Persada, 2006) page 37

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, page 39

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, page 77

people. And then the meaning of gospel now is developing to be success of mortal life. And the last is the reach of glory. Glory is American dream to reach glory or fame, be respected by people. So in the American Dream concept, there is a desire, will or hope to be safe. And the desire was showed through mind or the action of the character of the novel. So, to reach The American Dream, there's needed the people who have good quality and want to hard work, and have determined will not just a desire. In the American Dream as desire can also ended with irony or tragedy.

### **G. Method of Research**

In this method of research, I used the qualitative method from the source of the written data or text of *Death of A Salesman* a novel by Arthur Miller and it is supported by others relevant text. A kind of research that I used is literature and interpretative research interpreting text. A method of collecting data through research of literature and pattern research theory inductive general to specific.

### **H. Benefit to Research**

I hope that this research will be useful for those who want to know more about literature especially in the novel *Death of Salesman* which is analyzed through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches through American Dream concepts as desire.

### **I. System of the presentation**

I arrange the thesis analysis of this novel as follows:

#### **CHAPTER I BACKGROUND**

In chapter I, I will present based things like Background, Identification of The Problem, Limitation of The Problem, Formulation of The Problem, Objectives of Research, Theoretical Frameworks, Method of Research, Benefit to Research, System of the presentation

## **CHAPTER II ANALYSIS NOVEL DEATH OF A SALESMAN THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACH**

In chapter II, I will analyze the novel Death of A Salesman by Arthur Miller through intrinsic elements such as characterization, plot and setting. All the concepts will be supported the theme assumption.

## **CHAPTER III THE REACH OF AMERICAN DREAM AS DESIRE ENDED WITH TRAGEDY IN THE NOVEL DEATH OF A SALESMAN BY ARTHUR MILLER**

In chapter III, I will analyze the novel death of salesman through extrinsic approach through sociological approach American Dream concepts. And I will prove my theme assumption through intrinsic approach which are characterization by telling and showing method, plot, setting and extrinsic approach through sociology approach by American Dream concepts.

## **CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION**

In chapter V, I will conclude the analysis from novel Death of A Salesman through approaches that are used.