

## ABSTRACT

**Puspasari, Novia. 1175030192. Semiotic Analysis of Women Representation Against Traumatic Experience in *Girl in Pieces*. An Undergraduate Thesis, English Literature, Faculty of Adab and Humanities, State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. Advisors: 1. Dr. Hj. Ruminda, M.Hum. 2. R. Myrna Nur Sakinah, M.Hum.**

This research aims to analyze and identify the representation of women in a novel. Novels as literary works are often used as a medium for conveying an ideology that can reveal the realities of life for enlightenment, awareness, and learning to the public regarding existing problems. One of them is taking the issue of women as the novel's theme. This research tries to describe how women's representation is analyzed through the characterization and the system of signs displayed by characters when dealing with complex life challenges. It challenges the societal stigma that labels women as weak, as they ultimately manage to overcome their own weaknesses and strive for a better life. The theory used as the basis for this research is the semiotic theory by Charles Sanders Peirce. This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. The novel entitled *Girl in Pieces* by Kathleen Glasgow was chosen as the object of this research because it presents the complexity of women's life problems which today are often experienced by many people in real life. The study reveals that *Girl in Pieces* portrays a wide range of female representations through the characterization of its characters. These include women who are seen as weak, emotional, fearful, panic easily, anxious, overthinkers, lacking self-confidence, having low self-esteem, a victim of sexual abuse, nurturing, independent, self-blaming and even self-harming. Additionally, these representations are shown through the classification of signs, such as qualisign, sinsign, and legisign.

**Keywords: Semiotics, Women Representation, Characterization, Novel**