

AUSTRALIAN CULTURAL IDENTITY IN WINTON'S *CLOUDSTREET*
(AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIOLOGY OF LITERATURE)



THESIS

**Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University in
partial fulfillment of requirements to obtain sarjana degree in English**

Written by:

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2021

STATEMENT OF WORK'S ORIGINALITY

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Makassar, June 29th 2021



Nurul ihsan

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BY
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It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on June 29th, 2021 and is
declared to have fulfilled the requirements.

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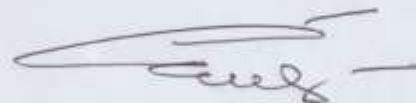
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AGREEMENT

On Tuesday, June 29th 2021, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Nurul Ihsan (F21116326) entitled *Australian Cultural identity in Winton's Cloudstreet (An Analysis of Sociology of Literature)*, submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 29th June 2021

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The thesis by Nurul Ihsan (F21116326) entitled *Australian Cultural Identity in Winton's Cloudstreet (An Analysis of Sociology of Literature)* has been revised as advised during the examination on 29th June 2021 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis

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With reference to the letter of the Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 368/UN4.9.1/KEP/2020 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Nurul Ihsan (F21116326) to be examined at the English Literature Study Program of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

Makassar, June 10th, 2021

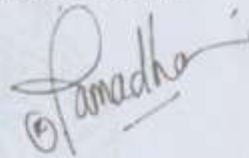
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Researchers realize that this thesis is far from perfect. Therefore, researchers are very happy to receive suggestions and criticism that can help improve this thesis. Researchers hope that this thesis can be useful for readers, both for students who like to read and for future researchers who want to analyze a topic related to this thesis.

Makassar, 25th April 2021

Researcher

Nurul Ihsan

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ABSTRACT

Nurul Ihsan. *Australian Cultural Identity in Winton's Cloudstreet* (supervised by Burhanuddin Arafah and Rezky Ramadani).

This thesis aims to analyze the Australian cultural identity that is reflected in the *Cloudstreet* by Tim Winton. Moreover, the researcher wants to find the correlation between cultural identity in the novel and Australian history.

This thesis used theory of the sociology of literature to analyze the problems of cultural identity reflected in the story in the novel. Besides that, it is also analyze the relationship between cultural identity which can be found in novels and history of Australia.

After this research was conducted, it was proven that there is a correlation between cultural identity in the novel and the history of Australia. The correlation is the development of beliefs and religions of the Australian population, the cultural identity that occurs in the city as stated in the novel, and ethnic aborigine discrimination that reflects the history of Australia.

Keywords: Australian Culture Identity, Sociology of Literature, *Cloudstreet*

ABSTRAK

Nurul Ihsan. *Australian Cultural Identity in Winton's Cloudstreet* (dibimbing oleh Burhanuddin Arafah dan Rezky Ramadani).

Tesis ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis identitas budaya Australia yang tercermin dalam *Cloudstreet* oleh Tim Winton. Selain itu, peneliti ingin menemukan korelasi identitas budaya dalam novel dengan sejarah Australia

Tesis ini menggunakan teori sosiologi sastra untuk menganalisis masalah-masalah identitas budaya yang tercermin pada cerita dalam novel. Selain itu, tesis ini juga menganalisis hubungan identitas budaya yang dapat ditemukan dalam novel dan juga dapat ditemukan dengan melihat sejarah Australia.

Setelah penelitian ini dilakukan, terbukti bahwa ada korelasi antara identitas budaya dalam novel dengan sejarah Australia. Korelasi tersebut adalah perkembangan keyakinan dan agama penduduk Australia, identitas budaya yang terjadi di kota yang tercantum dalam novel, dan deskriminasi ethnic aborigine yang merefleksikan sejarah Australia.

Kata Kunci: Australian Culture Identity, Sosiologi Sastra, *Cloudstreet*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Introduction chapter contains the reason *Cloudstreet* was chosen as the object of study, background of study, identification of problem, statement of research, and objective of study. The chapter also talks about the significances of the study and sequence of chapter.

1.1 Background of Study

Cultural identity is one of the aspects of social life. The definition of cultural identity is a groups or individuals (by themselves or others) in terms of cultural or subcultural categories (including ethnicity, nationality, language, religion, and gender). In stereotyping, Cultural identity is a frame that show us about historical experience and the cultural codes as an evidence of unity with constant unchanging and frames of reference and meaning (Stuart Hall, 1990: 223).

In this time, cultural identity is an important part which builds people's lives. Cultural identity has been shown through an individual personality or group. However, the indigenous cultural identity is going to crisis because of modernization. It may also because people do not understand their own culture or she/ he doesn't learn their indigenous culture. All of the causes above result to the cultural identity crisis in which people forget their own culture.

According to Farah Khan (2017), a lawyer practicing in Auckland. He said, "*Not having a strong sense of a cultural identity leads to our young people finding a sense of belonging in things such as drugs, alcohol and even criminal activities.*" The big reason why the cultural identity must be in every person in the

world is the cultural identity builds a good social life for people as individual, group or society.

Literary work is the creation from of hard-working of person, which can describe culture or events of fiction and non-fiction. Charles on his book *Literary Criticism*, he stated in the following as:

“Literature’s primary aim is to tell a story. The subject of this story is particularly human, describing and detailing a variety of human experiences, not stating fact or bits and piece of information. By doing so, literary concretizes an array of human values, emotion, action, and ideas in story form” (1991: 11).

According to the definition above, literature can show us the events that consist of culture, social fact, and imaginative event from the real lives. The cultural identity issue as a subject related to novel *Cloudstreet*. The characters are showing their aspect of culture identity from social interaction. Many types of cultural identity are reflected in this novel.

Cloudstreet published in 1991 is one of the biggest literary work in Australia. As the winner of Miles Franklin awards and NBC awards in Australia, this novel is written by Tim Winton. Tim Winton, in full Timothy John Winton, (born August 4, 1960, Perth, Australia), is an Australian author of both adult and children’s novels that evoke both the experience of life and the landscape of his native country. Tim Winton has published twenty-nine books for adults and children and his work has been translated into twenty-eight languages. Since his first novel, *An Open Swimmer*, won the Australian Vogel Award in 1981, he has won the Miles Franklin Award four times (for *Shallows*, *Cloudstreet*, *Dirt Music*, and *Breath*) and has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize (for *The Riders* and *Dirt*

Music). He lives in Western Australia. Winton had become Australia's most successful author. One of the famous novels by Tim Winton is *Cloudstreet*.

Cloudstreet tells about a different family's life in one house. The Lamb family runs a small shop to earn money. The Lamb family has always been religious until their faith is severely tested. Now God is the problem, not the solution, and they struggle to find meaning, to understand why things happen and what their role is in this world. The Lambs fight this uncertainty with hard work and perseverance. They fear being out of control, and not making their fortune. In contrast to the Pickles family with a drunken father with an erratic job. On the other hand, the Pickles think luck is everything. Luck, good or bad is their belief, and they do not think they are in control of anything. This makes them lazy and fatalistic, as they wait for the universe to tell them who they are and what will happen to them. The story begins when both family lives in the same house in Cloud Street.

Both families must struggle to survived the test of life that happened. The Lamb family is having problems when one of their children has an accident. He nearly died after drowning and was mentally disturbed. Meanwhile, The Pickle family must face the fact that the head of the family lost his hand. Apart from these two things, both families have to face the mysterious terror that is happening in the house.

The mysterious thing in this novel was called "shadow". Shadow is a victim of murder who died in the house that the two families live. The shadow brings a lot of misfortune for both families. Such as the accident that took Sam's hand, broken leg of Dolly and Rose who lost her baby. By the mysterious terror that

happened to both families, the writers see there are many hints that show Australian cultural identity. In the end of this story, many aspects of cultural identity are shown.

Cloudstreet shows the world that there is a masterpiece that comes from another country other than the United States of America and Britain. We forgot that one country also has great literary work, good writer, and epic history. In this era, Australia is a great country and a relatively prosperous independent country.

The researcher is very interested in studying cultural identity in novel *Cloudstreet* because this subject is suitable for Indonesian condition. Indonesia is very diverse. It has different cultures, ethnicities, and religions as an aspect of cultural identity. By understanding each other's cultural aspects, a racism act will not happen. In addition, it is an amazing thing when we know and preserve, or even promote our own culture to the world.

There are still a lot of literary work and great authors from Australia that can be the object of study. Through this paper, hopefully, a lot of students will take the literary work of Australia as the object of study, especially students from Hasanuddin University and Indonesian researchers.

1.2 Identification of Problem

After reading *Cloudstreet* a few times. The researcher found several problems which can be analyzed:

- 1) The losing cultural identity.
- 2) Defending cultural identity.
- 3) The aspect of cultural identity.
- 4) The struggle of the family.

1.3 Scope of Problem

Based on the few problems that expand on identification problem. The writer determined to analyze about the aspect of cultural identity that was reflected in novel *Cloudstreet*. In this research, the author has chosen the characters as subject of cultural identity.

1.4 Statement of Problem

According to the scope of problem, the author decided the research questions below:

1. What is the aspect of cultural identity in the novel *Cloudstreet*?
2. What is the cultural identity in *Cloudstreet* which reflected Australian cultural identity?

1.5 Objective of Study

This study has two objectives based on statement of problem. The objectives of study are:

1. To know the aspect of cultural identity in the novel *Cloudstreet*.
2. To understand the cultural identity in *Cloudstreet* which reflected Australian cultural identity.

1.6 Significance of Study

Through this study, the author hopes this research can be helpful for academic issue, theoretical issue and the pragmatic issue. After conducting this study, the researcher hopes this research will be helpfully for:

1) Theoretical benefit

This study can develop the science that is used in this research, this research gives support to development of theory and approach especially the approach and theory that is used in this study

2) Pragmatic benefit

- a. Becoming resources to the relevant study. This study hopefully will support future researchers who analyze the same variable research, an approach and theory.
- b. For the general people, the researcher hopes this study will help the people to know about cultural identity.

1.7 Sequence of Chapter

This is study about the portrait of Australian cultural identity in Winton's *Cloudstreet*. The writer divides this study into five chapters. In chapter one, the chapter consists of background of study, identification of problem, scope of problem, research Question, objective of study, sequence of study and significance of study. In chapter two, there are some sub-chapters. They are previous study, Sociology of Literary approach, the concept of cultural identity, and Australian culture identity in 19th century. In Chapter three, there is methodology of research that contains methodological design, method of collecting data, method of analysis, and research procedure. Chapter four is the analysis about the subject and object of research that consists in three sub-chapters; analysis of characters, aspect of cultural identity in *Cloudstreet* and

reflection of Australian cultural identity in *Cloudstreet*. The last is chapter five which consists of the conclusion and suggestion as the result of this research.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of the previous study which relevant with this research, sociology of literature as a theory and approach that is applied in this research and the concept of cultural identity as the subject of research.

2.1 Previous Study

There are some previous studies which is relevant with this study, such as by Nina Erlinan (2008), Brili Shoma Amrullah (2014), Sarianna Hirvonen. (2014) and Irine Octavianti Kusuma Wardhanie (2004), and the researcher will use those as references or supporting data to help the researcher analyzing the data.

Nina Erliana (2008) explained in her research, "*The Issue of Cultural Identity in Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner*". This study used Sociological approach to explain the main characteristics of Amir and Hassan, and their cultural identity. The result that everybody has a different cultural identity even though they live in the same place. In this journal, it only talks about culture identity in personal view, which still has some gap because there is specific aspect of culture identity

Brilli Shoma Amrullah (2014) "*Cultural Identities on Hybrid and Mimicry in Zadie Smith's White Teeth*". In his research, the author using Literary criticism to explain the culture identity and reflection of culture identity in the novel. The result is there are many characters in the novel using mimicry and hybridity to camouflage their culture identity in daily life. In this journal, it talks about mimicry and hybrid which is difference with this study and the object are

different. The gap is the object, an approach, and the different aspect of culture identity.

Sarianna Hirvonen. (2014) “*Cultural Identity Gaps: A Study of Zadie Smith’s Novels White Teeth (2001) and On Beauty (2006)*”. This study used discourse analysis to investigate the different aspect and the effect of culture identity in characters. This study investigates three different identity gaps from the cultural point of view in the novels: personal–relational, personal–enacted, and relational–enacted. It was revealed that these cultural identity gaps affected in different ways the characters’ relationships, communication, and how an identity gap functioned as either a positive or a negative identity source. This journal has some gaps because the theory is discourse analysis which is different with this study and it talk about the gaps of culture identity in characters in novel.

Irine Octavianti Kusuma Wardhanie. (2016) “*An Analysis of Conflict of Cultural Identities in Mukherjee’s Wife*”. In this thesis, Irine was using a socio-historical approach to analyze the conflict revealed in the story and conflict of culture identity. The result of the analysis shows that cultural identities influence people life that creates many conflicts such as internal conflict, ethnic conflict and inter-religion conflict. In this article, there are some gaps because it talks about conflict that happen because culture identity,

According to the previous studies above, the researcher thought this novel in this study is rare to research, and the subject of cultural identity is interesting. The difference of this research with others is the scope of problem. Another study only talked about the general meaning of cultural identity, but in this study, cultural identity will explain in sub-topic consists of nationality, ethnicity, and religion.

Besides that, previous studies also show a different novel. The researcher shows that *Cloudstreet* as modern Australian classic novel is interesting to study because it includes social aspects. Even though the novel was a modern Australian culture period, it has a big value in social critic, history, and culture. Some articles talk about this novel as great literary work. That is why this novel was precious to study.

With these previous studies, the writer found that the previous researchers did not analyze about Australian culture identity and only talks about the general meaning of culture identity not the specific aspects. Because of that, the writers decided to analyze that gap which never analyzed before, which is the Australian culture identity aspect in specific religion, nationality and ethnicity.

2.2 Sociology of Literature Approach

Term of sociology of literature refers to the literary theory that relates literary works to social conditions. This theory was introduced by several experts such as Marxists, Rene Wellek, Austin Warren, Alan Swingewood and Diana Laurenson.

The term of sociology comes from Latin and Greek, sociology is divided into two words, namely "socius and logos", *socius* in Greek means friends, friendship, or community. And "*logos*" means science. The term sociology can be interpreted as a social science.

The sociological approach to literature was developed by German social philosophy of Marxism, Karl Max and Frederick Engels in their book *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848. Marxist critics begin with the term "the Marxist

sociological unconscious" which described the relationship between literature and society. Another development of sociology of literature is Emile Durkheim in 1895 with his book *Rules of The sociological Method* at university of Bordeaux. Durkheim laid out his theory on how societies transformed from a primitive state into a capitalist, industrial society.

Max Weber also improved the sociology of literature in his book *The Nature of Social Action* in 1922 at The Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich, Germany. Weber described sociology as striving to "interpret the meaning of social action and thereby give a causal explanation of the way in which action proceeds and the effects it produces.

American sociology has simply accepted Marxism as one of the sources of the "sociological imagination." Courses in sociological theory typically include respectful discussions of Marx, Weber, and Durkheim as "founding fathers" of central currents in the history of sociology.

The relationship between literature and society begins with the expression from De Bonald "literature is the expression of society" which means that literature at a certain time reflects the social situation properly (Wellek & Warren, 1948: 90). Literature is part of society with language as the medium. Sociology of literature is often defined as an approach to literary studies to understand and assess literature by considering social aspects. Therefore, to understand the concept of sociology of literature, we must pay attention to the relationship between sociology as a science and literature as a community phenomenon which has a social aspect.

Swingewood (1972: 11) defines sociology as an academic and objective study of humans in society, the study of social institutions and social processes. It seeks to answer questions about how society is? how does it work? and why it survives. Weber (1968: 4) states that sociology is a science of itself with an interpretive understanding of social action and thus a causal explanation of its course and consequences. This means that the way people define their social conditions affects their habits in society.

Ricoer (1976) believes that a writer will never be separated from the real situation and conditions of society during the making of literary works. Based on this definition, the researcher defines the sociology of literature as a science that studies the social conditions of society by using literature as a medium.

Generally, sociology is concentrating on solving social problems so that humans as rational beings can actively participate in contributing to the historical movement, a movement that is believed to show a direction and logic that humans have not yet expressed. Sociology is the scientific and objective study of people in society, social institutions and social processes. Sociology tries to answer questions about society, how it works, and why society survives (Swingwood & Laurenson, 1972: 11).

Sociology of literature is an approach to understanding, analyzing, and assessing literary works with special attention to social aspects. From the perspective of the sociology of literature, literature is no longer considered as something autonomous. The existence of literary works is thus always understood to the aspect of society. Literature is considered as one of the socio-cultural

phenomena, a product of society. The writer is a literary work that is a member of society.

Wellek and Warren (1948: 111) suggest three main principles in the sociological approach to literature:

1. Sociology of Authors

This approach is related to the author's social experience and how the author himself reacts and responds to the system that has been built by the social order in which he lives. In literary works, the author always produces a literary work like novel, poem, and drama with the theme story inspired by events that occur in society (Swingwood & Laurenson, 1972). Sociology of authors refers to the social status, social ideology, social background, position and beliefs of the author which are determined by various authors in activities outside of literature. This is because every writer is a member of society as social beings. At this point, the author's biography is the initial medium for conducting the initial assessment.

Author Biographies are the primary source, but this study may also extend to the author's background and origin. It can display information about the author's social background, family background, and economic position.

2. Sociology of Literature

Sociology of literature has several dimensions, for examples sociology Marxists. In the sociology of Marxist literature, it focuses on the study of literary works from the perspective of social class. This shows that the sociology of literature has a collection of variants, with different focus studies. The views of Wellek and Warren (1948: 99) on the sociology of work include approaches that can be applied in scientific research. Their approach is more

accurately called perspective. This is important, so as not to interfere with the logic of epistemology.

The overall perspective that is taken to literature and society is to study literature as a social document, as a portrait of social reality. It is the creative resource to study sociological aspect in literary works. This explains that literary works can be a reflection of social history in the certain time.

3. Sociology of Readers

Sociology of readers is a representative study in the sociology of literature which focuses on consideration in the relationship between literary works and readers. This area of study includes the difficulty of reading literary works with social impacts, as well as the extent to which literary works depend on social arrangements, social modification and progress. The existence of a literary work cannot be separated from the reciprocal relationship between the author, society and readers. This association became the basic foundation of the sociological division of literature (Wellek & Warren, 1948).

Swingewood and Laurenson (1972: 21) argue that sociology of readers tries to keep track of how a literary work is received by certain in the public at a particular historical moment. The response of sociology readers in the literary aspect is a social being that functions as a re-expression of human experiences with imaginations that provide teachings, certain messages, entertainment, education and as a mirror of society.

2.3 Concept of Cultural Identity

Identity is the interface between personal feelings of self which includes conscious and unconscious feelings, rational and irrational motivations, personal

beliefs and values with the factors of the social context in which we experience these feelings and motivations. Everyone lives in a different country in the world, with different cultures, religions, personalities and even ethnicities. These differences become identity in society when they interact with each other. And identity is used to determine social status, such as race, ethnicity, nationality and religions.

According to the *Cultural Identity and Diaspora* by Stuart Hall (1996), the definition of culture identity is shared culture, a kind of collective one true self, hiding within another, more superficial or artificial self-imposed, that of people with the same history and ancestry. It is called identity as being (which offers a sense of unity and equality). This definition explains that cultural identity reflects the same historical experience and shared culture that shows us one person.

Additionally, the strength of our cultural identity involves the degree to which we view our culture as important in the way we define ourselves. We tend to see our culture as important in how we define ourselves. We are in a different culture than when we are in our own. We are more aware of our cultural identity when we are in another culture than when we are in our own.

Cultural identity is a sense of belonging to a culture. This sense of belonging can be justified by means of friendship, principles, or shared beliefs. It can be considered as having a culture and various boundaries of ethnicity, nationality, language, religion and gender. Having a culture means that person adheres to all the traditions that have been passed down throughout history. Cultural identity expresses one's heritage as well as assistance, identity with others who have the same tradition or similar belief structures.

It is more of a foundation or foreground on which every other boundary is set. Starting from a very young age, we embraced the traditions and norms of our parents and grandparents and maintained them as we got older. We continue to practice it because it becomes a source of identity for us and helps us to understand the people who share the aspects of our culture better. This not only expands our relationships but leads to further advancement of cultural acts that would have been abandoned if not for the ownership exhibited by cultural youth. Cultural ownership directly adds value to cultural identity, including practicing religion, wearing traditional clothes or even eating food that reflects each other's culture. This establishes a way of identifying the person as part of that culture or nationality.

According to *Cultural identity* by Anastasia (2017). Aspect of culture identity consist of:

a. Nationality

Nationality means the village, city and country that person born in or the country that currently lives in. it is because the person adopted a culture from the village or city.

b. Ethnicity

This is a person's culture and is a very important aspect of cultural identity because that person usually has the culture of their respective ethnicities. It also often helps identify the physical appearance of the person.

c. Religion

It is a set of moral beliefs and principles related to the existence of God and the world. It contributes to cultural identity by helping in determining the personal and moral characteristics of the person.

Religion has over time, shaped many cultures.

There is axiom to identify cultural identity. Axiom is a statement accepted as true as the basis for argument or inference. According to Rina (2013), there are five axioms in culture identity:

1. The more different norms and meanings in a discourse, the more frequent intercultural contacts will be.
2. When individuals have intercultural communication competences, the better they will be in developing and maintaining intercultural relations.
3. The more different identities cultural in a discourse, then intercultural contact will be more frequent.
4. If the origin of one's cultural identity is in accordance with the recognition of cultural identity given by others, then intercultural competence will be created.
5. Linguistic references to cultural identity change systematically together with socio-contextual factors such as participants, types of events and topics.

From the point of view of literary studies, the issue of cultural identity is primarily related to literary identity in the society in which we live. Here, Bakhtin's argument that

“Literature is an inseparable part of the totality of culture and cannot be studied outside the totality of culture. It cannot be separated from the rest of the culture and is directly related (by-passing culture) to socio-economic or other factors. These factors affect the culture as a whole and only through it and in relation to it, do they affect literature. The literary process is part of the cultural process and cannot be separated from it” (1986; 140).

According to the argument above, the writer thought that Bakhtin argument is the most relevant for this research. However, if the existence of literature can be defined in terms of structuralism (and, in other contexts, by Heidegger) as a re-examination possibility of language itself (and through it refracts historical consciousness), then the problem of identity literature will logically be reduced to the natural environment of the original language, namely one's national.

In the concept of cultural identity by Bakhtin, it is called “Bakhtin Dialogism”, cultural identities vary in their forms and individuality actually functions as cultural dialogue. Through dialogism, the heterological nature of literary or cultural phenomena in the tradition of a given national history can be explored with fairly consequent argumentation. Cultural identity is complexly structured and it represents a non-finite wholeness. The identity of any national literature is undoubtedly multiform through its historical stages.

Cultural identity revealed through literary history must be understood as a concrete totality. To understand foreign cultural identity, we must enter into that culture and forget about our own culture. The cultural identity will be seen when meeting other foreign cultures through a dialogue. This is in line with the situation that occurs in the *Cloudstreet* novel, where two different cultures meet which in the interaction is carried out in the form of a dialogue of the characters.

The main point in Bakhtin's dialogism is the relationship between individuals that occurs in literary work. This means that the character relationships that occur in the novel through dialogue are a medium that can be used to identify social conditions in the story. The data obtained from the dialogue that occurs between characters in the novel will be compared with other sources to get the truth about culture identity.