

**COMPARATIVE STUDY ON CHARACTER, PLOT, SETTING,
AND THEME BETWEEN ROALD DAHL'S *THE WITCHES*
NOVEL AND ITS 2020 FILM ADAPTATION**

TERM PAPER



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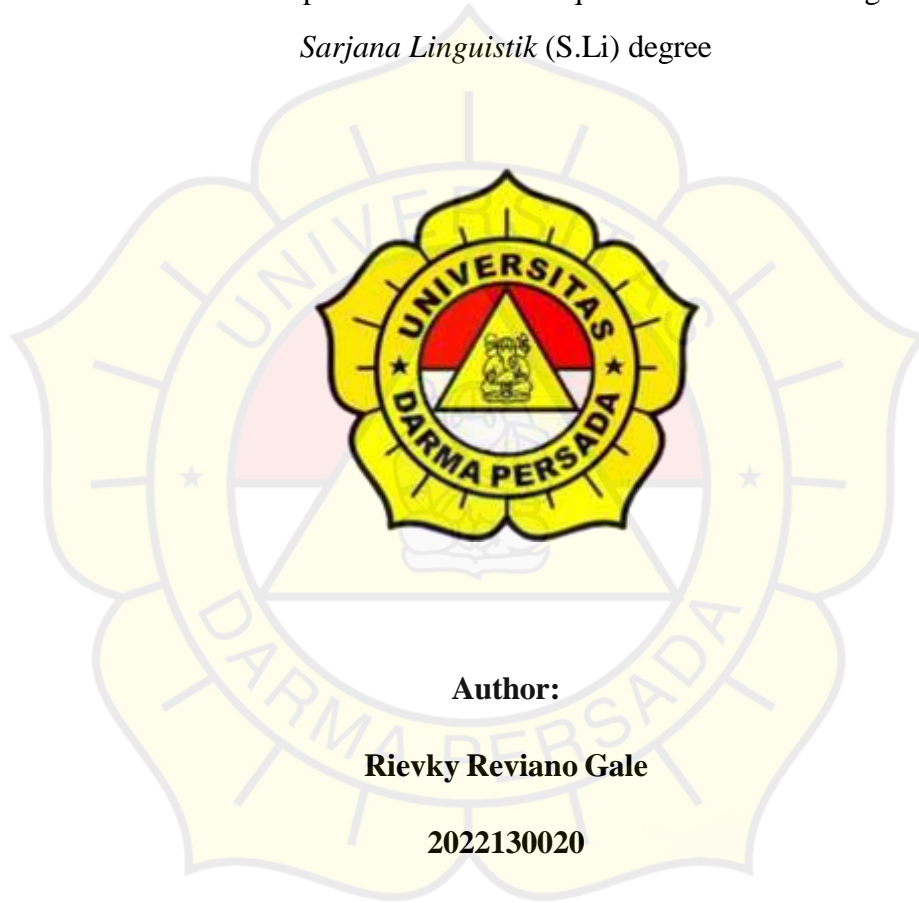
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Submitted in part-fulfillment of requirements for obtaining
Sarjana Linguistik (S.Li) degree



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STATEMENT




I hereby declare that the paper entitled “*Comparative Study on Character, Plot, Setting, and Theme between Roald Dahl’s The Witches Novel and Its 2020 Film Adaptation*” is the result of my own original work and intellectual effort. This paper has been prepared independently and does not contain plagiarism or unauthorized use of the work of others. All ideas, quotations, references, and sources used in the completion of this study have been properly cited and acknowledged. I take full responsibility for the content of this paper and affirm that it is submitted in compliance with academic integrity and intellectual property principles.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

Based on the recommendation of the Supervisor, Academic Advisor, and Head of the Department, the term paper entitled “A Comparative Study on Character, Plot, Setting, and Theme between Roald Dahl’s The Witches Novel and Its 2020 Film Adaptation” has been reviewed and approved. This paper is hereby forwarded to the English Language and Culture Department for final academic evaluation as part of the requirements for obtaining the Sarjana Linguistik (S.Li.) degree to the respective candidate

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Jakarta, January 21, 2026

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COMPARATIVE STUDY ON CHARACTER, PLOT, SETTING, AND THEME BETWEEN ROALD DAHL'S *THE WITCHES* NOVEL AND ITS 2020 FILM ADAPTATION

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ABSTRACT

This study presents a comparative analysis of *The Witches* (1983), a children's novel by Roald Dahl, and its 2020 film adaptation directed by Robert Zemeckis. Using a qualitative descriptive approach, the research examines how narrative structure, characterization, and thematic emphasis are transformed in the process of adaptation from literary text to cinematic form. Drawing on adaptation theory and narrative analysis, the study focuses on key elements such as plot progression, point of view, character portrayal, and moral orientation. The findings reveal that while Dahl's novel functions as a dark moral fable focused on a child's interior experience and intimate familial bonds, the 2020 film reconfigures the story into a visually driven spectacle with expanded backstory, heightened emotional explicitness, and contemporary cultural framing. These changes result in significant shifts in tone, characterization, particularly of the Grand High Witch, the grandmother, and the resolution of the narrative conflict. The study concludes that the film adaptation does not merely retell the original story but reinterprets it according to modern cinematic expectations and audience sensibilities, illustrating how adaptation operates as a process of creative transformation rather than direct replication.

Keywords: *literary adaptation; novel-to-film adaptation; narrative structure; characterization; comparative analysis*

**STUDI PERBANDINGAN TENTANG KARAKTER, ALUR, LATAR, DAN TEMA
ANTARA NOVEL THE WITCHES KARYA ROALD DAHL DAN ADAPTASI
FILMNYA TAHUN 2020**

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ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini menyajikan analisis komparatif terhadap *The Witches* (1983), sebuah novel anak karya Roald Dahl, dan adaptasi filmnya tahun 2020 yang disutradarai oleh Robert Zemeckis. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif, penelitian ini mengkaji bagaimana struktur naratif, karakterisasi, dan penekanan tematik mengalami transformasi dalam proses adaptasi dari teks sastra ke bentuk sinematik. Berlandaskan teori adaptasi dan analisis naratif, kajian ini memfokuskan perhatian pada unsur-unsur utama seperti perkembangan alur, sudut pandang, penggambaran tokoh, serta orientasi moral. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa novel karya Dahl berfungsi sebagai fabel moral gelap yang berpusat pada pengalaman batin seorang anak dan ikatan keluarga yang intim, sementara film versi 2020 merekonstruksi cerita tersebut menjadi tontonan visual dengan latar belakang cerita yang diperluas, ekspresi emosional yang lebih eksplisit, serta kerangka budaya kontemporer. Perubahan-perubahan ini menghasilkan pergeseran yang signifikan dalam nada cerita, karakterisasi, khususnya pada tokoh Grand High Witch dan sang nenek, serta penyelesaian konflik naratif. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa adaptasi film tidak sekadar menceritakan ulang karya asli, melainkan menafsirkannya kembali sesuai dengan ekspektasi sinema modern dan sensitivitas penonton masa kini, sehingga menegaskan bahwa adaptasi merupakan proses transformasi kreatif, bukan reproduksi langsung.*

Kata kunci: adaptasi sastra; adaptasi novel ke film; struktur naratif; karakterisasi; analisis komparatif

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