

**THE REFLECTION OF ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S LIFE  
IN HIS NOVEL KIDNAPPED: A BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY**

**A Thesis**

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## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini merupakan penerapan teori tradisional sastra melalui pendekatan biography dimana penulis memilih novel Kidnapped karangan Robert Louis Stevenson yang merupakan refleksi kehidupan dari si pengarang. Penulis menganalisa novel tersebut karena di dalamnya terdapat persamaan kehidupan antara Robert Louis Stevenson dengan David Balfour sebagai karakter utama yang terdapat dalam novel tersebut.

Dalam menganalisa dan memaparkan refleksi kehidupan Robert Louis Stevenson dalam novel ini, penulis membandingkan persamaan antara kehidupan pribadi pengarang dengan karakter utama di novel. Pendekatan biography digunakan sebagai teori utama dalam analisisnya untuk melihat cerminan dari kehidupan si pengarang beserta lingkungannya. Dalam penelitian ini data yang diperoleh menggunakan metode kualitatif dan dijabarkan secara deskriptif.

Berdasarkan analisa dan hasil yang diperoleh dari penelitian ini, penulis menemukan bahwa novel karya Robert Louis Stevenson yang berjudul Kidnapped merupakan sebuah refleksi kehidupan pribadi pengarang yang tergambar melalui karakter utama yang ada dalam novel tersebut.

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of The Research

A literary work concerns about human life. It is not only can be read, but also can be analyzed. It is a work of art that commonly tells a story of human experiences, feeling, observation, emotions and thought. It means that literature and life cannot be separated, there is a relationship between them. As stated by Hudson in his books *An Introduction to the Study Literature*:

“Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life though the medium of language.” (1963:10)

It can be said that every aspect of human life can be an idea in literary work. Literary works are also described as the reflection of human life.

By reading literary works, we can enrich our knowledge. It also adds our knowledge about behavior and human life. Usually a novel uses to narrate human's problems. We, as the reader, are invited to comprehend, involve and realize the themes from various problems which explored in the novel. Besides that, novels can make us recognize the various custom and culture or habits of one nation at that time. The writer believes that novel is a picture of the real life. There are some hidden goals from the authors in their novels. In other hand, the authors use the novel as a media to submit their goals for us as their readers.



Robert Louis Stevenson (RL Stevenson) concerned with the events that often happened around of human's life. Kidnapped is one of RL Stevenson great works. He began writing the novel in March of 1885. He needed one year to submit the material of the novel.

The novel tells about a poor orphan boy named David Balfour who grows from a naive young boy to a heroic, experienced man. Through his association with Alan Breck Stewart, David learns about the "real world," living in difficult conditions, and justice. In the middle of his journey, he involves in harsh moment between Jacobite (the Scottish group of people who supports James II/IV). By the end of the novel, he is able to outwit his own scheming uncle, and claims his inheritance. When it is over, he has become a much wiser and mature person.

It also informs us that David Balfour is a fictional character intended to be a descendant of RL Stevenson, and that part of RL Stevenson's plan for the story is to have David travel through Scotland "as if it were a foreign country." As explained by Olga and Edmund in their book *Four Novels for Adventure*:

Kidnapped is a reflection of RL Stevenson's real life who loved traveling and also to the history of Scotland. The name of David Balfour, the main character of Kidnapped is taken from RL Stevenson's middle name (Robert Louis Balfour Stevenson). (1960:58)

The quotation above supports by Mrs. Stevenson:

My husband was always interested in this period of his country's history, and had already the intention of writing a story that should turn on the Appin Murder. The tale was to be of a boy, David Balfour,

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing the main character in the novel with the author's true story and comparing the similarities between the reflection of his maturity, his journey and Scottish struggle in claim inheritance, the writer concludes that Kidnapped is the reflection of RL Stevenson's life.

Here, RL Stevenson interprets his maturity in facing his life into this novel through David Balfour as the main character. RL Stevenson was mature after taking a risk travel to survive his life. Besides, he was mature while he tries to break the rule in his family and fighting his disease.

In the reflection of his journey, the writer concludes that RL Stevenson has intention to write a novel which tells about the journey of his life and David as long as his kidnap.

In the reflection of Scottish struggle in claim inheritance, although they loosing their land, they always keep struggle in claim it. In other hand, David claims his inheritance after his uncle tries to scheme him out of it. Last, Jacobite's leader living in exile after being defeated by English Department. One of Jacobite's leaders who choose this place to be his exiles place in the novel is Cluny Mcpherson, a chief of clan Vourich.

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