

**THE STUDY OF CHARACTER'S DOWNFALL
IN TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' PLAY
"SUMMER AND SMOKE"**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in
English Language Teaching**



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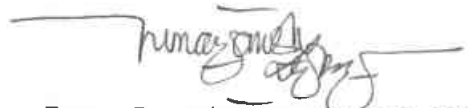
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A B S T R A C T

Prajogo, Marisa, 1998, The Study of Character's Downfall in Tennessee Williams' Play "Summer and Smoke", Thesis, Program Study Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Widya Mandala Catholic University, Advisor I: Dr. Wuri Soedjatmiko, Advisor II: Drs. Ignatius Harjanto M.Pd.

Literary works are important to study as they become a part of education in human's life. Whatever the form of literature, it has much to offer to the reader. The ability in analyzing the work itself can give advantage to the students. The writer chooses a play for the object of the study because a play presents characters in action, dialogues that enable the reader to analyze the work. The author, Tennessee Williams is chosen because he is one of the greatest American playwrights who likes to talk about the life of Southern women who often face their frustration as the victim of love.

This study is a literary research and it is considered a qualitative research. Using phenomenological perspective methods, this study finally finds out that:

1. Alma's love to John has caused her downfall. She spends her life waiting for John's love and willing to sacrifice her belief, body and soul to get his love. Alma's love to John has become her character weaknesses. Unable to deal with the fact that John is going to marry her singing pupil and regret Alma's love, frustrate Alma and cause her to have promiscuity with a stranger she meets at the fountain facing her downfall of her character.
2. Alma's parents and society role also take part as a cause of her downfall. Most of Alma's characterization, her language, mannerism, habit and behavior, and even her belief, are influenced and shaped by her parents role in raising her and the society life around her.

By analyzing literary work, the writer expects that the students not only increase a better reading comprehension and vocabulary improvement of the language in literature, but also have a better understanding in human lives experiences.