

**THE SEARCH FOR ETHNIC AND CULTURAL SELF IDENTITY  
OF THE MAIN CHARACTER IN PEARL'S. BUCK'S  
'LETTER FROM PEKING'**

**A THESIS**

**As Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
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**By :**

**ELOK YULIA PURNAWATI**  
**1213097134**

**UNIVERSITAS KATOLIK WIDYA MANDALA SURABAYA  
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN  
JURUSAN PENDIDIKAN BAHASA DAN SENI  
PROGRAM STUDI PENDIDIKAN BAHASA INGGRIS  
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## APPROVAL SHEET

(1)

This thesis entitled, The Search for Ethnic and Cultural Self-identity of the Main Character Pearl S. Buck's 'Letter from Peking', prepared and submitted by Elok Yulia Purnawati, has been approved and accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana Degree in English Language Teacher by the following advisors.



**Drs. Antonius Gurito**

**First Advisor**



**Drs. V. Luluk Prijambodo, M.Pd**

**Second Advisor**

**APPROVAL SHEET****(2)**

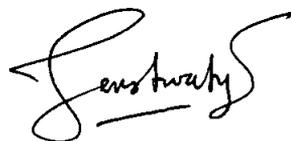
This thesis has been examined by the committee of Oral Examination with the grade of \_\_\_\_\_ on 18 February 2002.



**Dra. Agnes Santi Widiati, M.Pd**  
Chairman



**Yohanes Nugroho, S.S**  
Member



**Lenny Setiawati, S.Pd**  
Member



**Drs. Antonius Gurito**  
Member



**Drs. V. Luluk Prijambodo, M.Pd**  
Member

Approved by:



**Dr. A. Ngadiman, M.Pd**  
Dean of the  
Teacher Training



**Dra. Susana Teopilus, M.Pd**  
Head of the  
Faculty English Department

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**APPENDIX (1) Biography of Pearl S. Buck**

**APPENDIX (2) Synopsis of the novel**

## ABSTRACT

Purnawati, Elok Yulia, 2002, The Search for Ethnic and Cultural Self-identity of the Main Character Pearl S. Buck's 'Letter from Peking' Thesis. Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni. Jurusan Bahasa Inggris. Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan Universitas Katholik Widya Mandala Surabaya.

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Key words: Character, Plot, Setting, and Self-Identity

Literature develops intellectual and emotional skills of his readers because it broadens and stimulates the readers' mind and makes them have wider human sympathy. The writer is interested to study a novel because it represents a resemble of real life or imaginary story. Reading novel gives many advantages to the reader. It leads the reader to see the reality of life and know the moral value.

The writer chooses Pearl S. Buck's 'Letter from Peking' and focuses on searching for the main character's ethnic and cultural self-identity. Pearl S. Buck's novel is suitable as the object for the study. It contains a picture of life and gives more details of self-identity. Everybody wants to discover his or her self-identity. Knowing his or her self-identity makes him or her appreciate himself or herself more than before.

Designed as a qualitative study, this study applies literary criticism approach to analyze the novel under investigation. In conducting this thesis the writer has two questions that become the statement of the problem, they are 1) why is Gerald trying to find his ethnic and cultural self-identity? 2) how does Gerald find his ethnic and cultural self-identity?. The three elements of novels – character, setting and plot – are used as viewpoints in the analysis driven to find the major character's self-identity.

Gerald, the main character, wants to find his ethnic and cultural self-identity because he confuses with his identity is he American or Chinese? He has two bloods, American and Chinese. When he stays in America, he feels queer because he looks like a Chinese and then he moves to China and continues to search for his ethnic and cultural self-identity. After he finds that he is an American, it is too late for him to move to America. He was shot when he tried to escape. From this analysis the writer concludes that, if someone has mixed blood in his vain, he never asks for it. Searching for ethnic and cultural self-identity is important and common in adolescence period. If the condition is like that, it is better to find the similarity than to find the differences between two ethnics and to take the good side and to equip each other.

Finally, the writer suggests those who want to sharpen their understanding and improve their knowledge of discourse analysis to take literature as their subject of their study because literature gives more lessons of life.