



**THE BLACK BOY'S FEELING OF INFERIORITY  
IN THE WILLIAM BLAKE'S "THE LITTLE BLACK BOY"**

**A FINAL PROJECT**

In partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
For S-1 Degree in Literature  
In English Department, Faculty of Humanities  
Diponegoro University

Submitted by :

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## VALIDATION

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by herself without taking any results from other researches in any universities, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take material from other publications or someone's work except those that have been mentioned in the bibliography.

Semarang, September 12, 2017

Lusi Saktia Nur Utami

## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Live a life you will remember

(Avici, 2013)

Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations.

(ilmaciste,2017

This final project is dedicated to

My beloved parents

I love you.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The best thankfull to Allah SWT who has given the writer strength and spirit so this final project entitled “Inferiority of the black’s in the William Blake’s The Little Black Boy” came to a completion. On this occasion, the writer would like to thank all those people who have contributed to the completion of this final project.

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The writer realizes that this final project is still far from perfection. Therefore, she would be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this project better.

Finally, the writer wishes that this final project would be useful to the readers who wish to learn something about inferiority in the little black boy.

Semarang, September 13, 2017

Lusi Saktia Nur Utami

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## ABSTRACT

The writer chose William Blake's "The Little Black Boy" because of the poem figuratively portrays inferiority of a little black boy. Inferiority in the poem tells how the little black boy receives mistreatment from his fellows, who were born white skinned. The writer intends to describe the treatment which the little black boys receives from his follow from the opening pharagraph to the closing pharagraph. To describe the inferiority, the writer applies a textual analysis, using a library research in the analysis, the writer adopts Alfred Adler's concept of individual psychology, especially on feeling of inferiority. To sum up, the writer finds out that the poem has symbols and methapors to describe the inferiority of the little black boy.

**Keywords:** individual psychology, symbol, inferiority, metaphor, little black boy

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

The writer found inferiority which a little African boy feels William Blake's poem "The Little Black Boy". The inferiority can be noticed indirectly, the writer needs to interpret the language of the poem to reveal the inferiority.

Feeling of inferiority which the boy feels has been overlooked, and that induced the writer's interest in the language of the poem so as to describe the feeling of inferiority. The writer found three studies of the poem. However, the studies do not specifically relate to the topic of the writer, namely the feeling of inferiority.

To describe the feeling of inferiority, the writer used library research. The library research involved printed and digitized references. In the description, the writer applies the concept of inferiority postulated by Alfred Adler.

In the analysis, the writer finds out that the feeling of inferiority is wrapped figuratively in metaphors and symbols. In brief, the writer finds the poem meaningful; the poem does not only concern with the structuring of it, but the poem itself also concern with humanity in general.

### **1.2. Research Problem**

The problem is in this research about the little black boy's feeling of inferiority described figuratively.

### **1.3. Objectives of the Study**

1. To describe the inferiority in the poem.
2. To describe the metaphor and symbol that is in the poem
3. To describe the relation between the metaphor and symbol to the feeling of inferiority.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1 Previous Studies

The writer found three studies which are related in. The first study in this literature review is Parker's thesis entitled *A World of Our Own: William Blake and Abolition*. Her thesis discusses that poem from Blake's *Song of Innocence*, published in 1789, in the poem "The Little Black Boy" can be historically situated close the beginning of the antislavery debates. She concerns to the little black boy. She also writes in her thesis about Blake's focus in the poem which is the promise of equality through white man's religion, however, at the end, the black boy seems to accept his position and the white child does not accept the little black boy (2006:52). The two boys are far from equal and they have many differences about skin, behavior and economic. The writer found that Parker's thesis has similarities to that of the writer. Parker states that the poem is about antislavery and religion, and the writer agrees her statement.

The second study is Neisya's thesis entitled *The Innocence of Heart Voices of The Little Black Boy in Knowing God and His Own Identity as A Black Reflected in The Little Black Boy A Poem by William Blake* her purpose on her thesis is to analyze and comprehend the psychological condition of the black people related to how the discrimination gives the inferior feeling in their mind and how they try to find the success or the superiority feeling in fulfil their need to be assimilated by the white people during their life. In the poem of "The Little Black Boy", Blake questions the conventions of the time with basic Christian

ideals. In the poem Blake deals with the suffering of the Blacks in the hand of white people and it shows how the Whites used to look down upon them in the name of colour and racial discrimination (2010:3). The poem tells the story through the speaker that is a black child. She also states that the black child tells the story of how he comes to know his own identity and to know God. The boy was born in Africa. She writes that the black boy first explains that though his skin is black but his soul is as white as an English child. It shows the readers that he has to come to terms with his own blackness. and also the signal of his song will be to abolish this “as if” in a way that shows him to be as capable person and deserving of perfect love as a white person is. The writer found that Neisya’s thesis has similarities to that of the writer. Neisya states that the poem is about superiority and religion , and the writer agrees her statement.

The third study is Irwandi’s thesis entitled *A study on the ways the speakers suffer and progress in Blake’s three poems: ‘ The little Black Boy’*, *‘The Chimney Sweeper’* and *On Another’s Sorrow’* in *Songs of Innocence* that since the poem *‘ The little black boy ‘in songs of innocence*, her thesis discuss implicitly describe what happened during the time of the Industrial Revolution as her background of her analysis and the conclude is the external factors in the poem for instance, are the discriminations suffered by the speaker. she states that before the speaker can be happy with his white friend, implicitly he suffers from the ways the white discriminate him (2006: 3). It is stated that both the black and the white have clouds, clouds symbolizes the colors of their skin that become a hindrance for them together. The writer found that Irwandi’s thesis has similarities

to that of the writer. Irwandi states that the poem is about suffers of the children and willing to protect his white friend , and the writer agrees her statement.

## **2.2. Research Method**

This study was done with a library research . In her library research, the writer uses two concepts to this study. This first study adopts Adler's concept of inferiority. The concept postulates that the feeling

Children start their lives smaller, weaker, and less socially and intellectually competent than the adults around them. They have the desire to grow up, to become a capable adult, and as they gradually acquire skills and demonstrate their competence, they gain in confidence and self esteem. This natural striving for perfection may however be held back if their self-image is degraded by failures in physical, intellectual and social development or if they suffer from the criticisms of parents, teachers and peers (1926:56).

Inferiority is a feeling that begins since the childhood. Since infants are small, incomplete, and weak, they feel inferior and powerless. To compensate for this deficiency, they set a fictional goal that is big, complete and strong. Therefore, a person's final goal reduces the pain of inferiority feelings and directs that person towards either superiority or success.

This study also adopts Perrine's concepts of metaphor and symbol. The concept states:

### **2.2.1 Metaphor**

Metaphor is comparison between things essentially unlike, yet the comparison is implied there is the figurative term is substituted for or identified with the literal term (1984:70). Metaphor is one of the parts of figurative language, a metaphor also suggests something symbolic in its imagery.

### **2.2.2 Symbol**

Perrine states that symbol is described as something that represent more than what it is (1984:83). It means that symbol can be anything that stands for or represents a meaning or understanding beyond its literal definition. This study relates both concepts to describe the feeling of inferiority.

### 3. METHODS

The description of the feeling of inferiority is made through a library research. In her library research, the writer found three studies : the first is from Parker's thesis. Her thesis has similarities to that of the writer. Parker states that the poem is about anti slavery and religion , and the writer agrees her statement. The second is from Neisya's thesis, which also has similarities to that of the writer. Neisya states that the poem is about superiority and religion , and the writer agrees her statement. And the last is from Irwandi's thesis, which has similarities to that of the writer. Irwandi states that the poem is about the suffering of the children and who protect his white friend , and the writer agrees her statement.

As for the approach method, the writer adopts Adler's concept of inferiority. There are three stages in which the little black boy undergoes his feeling of inferiority (1926: 56) In the description of the feeling, the writer summarises them in three stages.

The first is attention seeker according to Adler children start their lives smaller, weaker, and less socially and intellectually competent than the adults around them (1926:56). It means that the children should get more attention from the adult such as give them more care and knowledge . The second is demonstrate their competence they have the desire to grow up, to become a capable adult, and as they gradually acquire skills and demonstrate their competence, they gain in confidence and self esteem (1926:56). After they have knowledge from the adults and then day by day they will know more about to life.

The third is striving for perfection:

This natural striving for perfection may however be held back if their self-image is degraded by failures in physical, intellectual and social development or if they suffer from the criticisms of parents, teachers and peers (1926:56).

It means that the encouragement from family and society are very needed in the children when they desire to grow up.

The description is made through a textual analysis, in which the writer made her attempt to use her own words to relate Adler's stages of the feeling of inferiority to the little black boy's psychological development. According to Selzer, The textual analysis requires a researcher to concentrate on the text rather than the context (2004: 283). This means that the writer needs to try to understand what the poet is trying to convey through his text. Besides, the writer may critically appreciate the text, without putting it in the context of anything else. The description is made in denotation and connotation. That means in the lines of the poem, each word can have its literal meaning, and the word needs to be read through its metaphor and symbol to reveal its figurative meaning.

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