



**THE EXPRESSION OF GUILT: A PSYCHOLOGICAL
ANALYSIS OF JOHN LENNON ALBUMS LYRICS
IN 1970-1971**

Undergraduate Thesis
Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
Sarjana Sastra (S.S)

**AURELLE SHAHNIZ BENAZIRA
212003516075**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
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FORM OF APPROVAL

We hereby certify that MISS Aurelle Shahniz Benazira, registered student of this university and having completed the writing of her Undergraduate Thesis in accordance with her requirements of the University, is declared ready for defense.

Title of Undergraduate Thesis:

The Expression of Guilt: A Psychological Analysis of John Lennon album lyrics in 1970 – 1971.

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August, 22nd 2025

August, 22nd 2025

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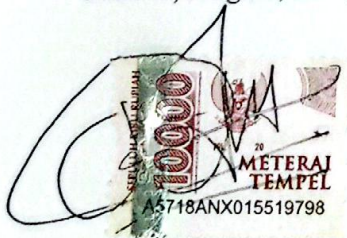
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The Expression of Guilt: A Psychological Analysis of John Lennon album lyrics in 1970 - 1971 era

is my own work and contains no plagiarism, it has not been submitted previously for any other assessed unit on this or other degree courses.

I have read and understood the University Regulations on Conduct of Examinations.

Jakarta, August, 22nd, 2025



Aurelle Shahniz Benazira

212003516075

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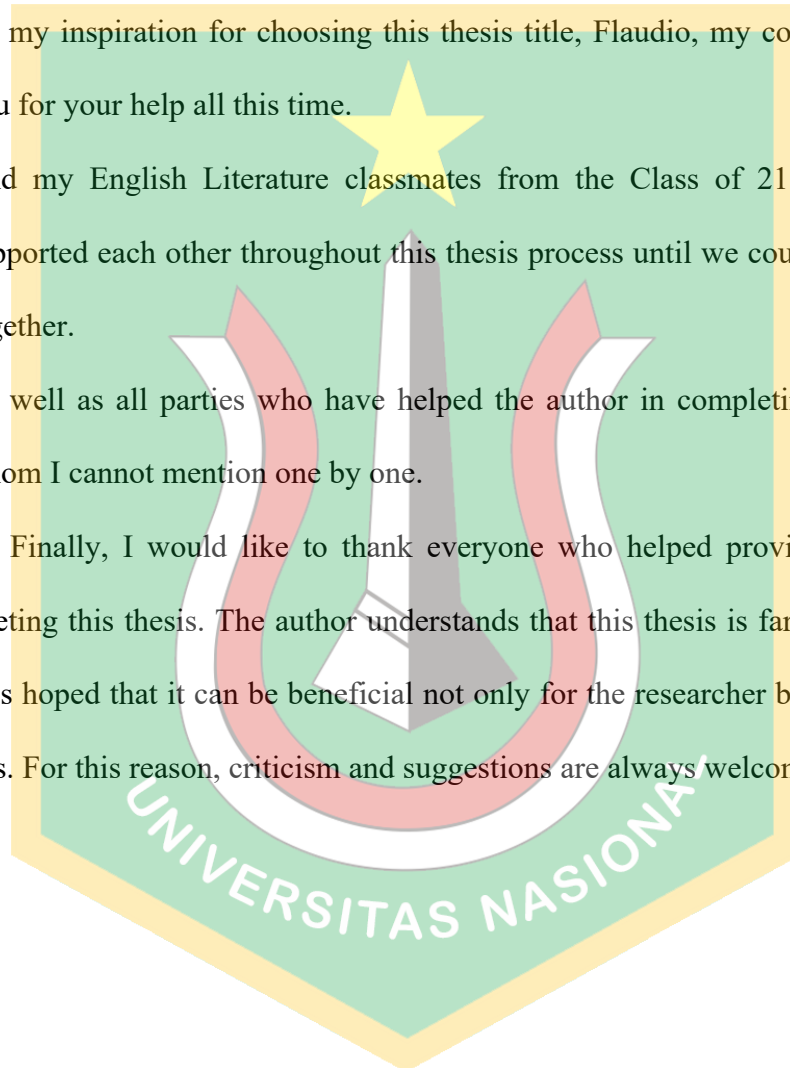


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ABSTRACT

This study explores how John Lennon's song lyrics from 1970 to 1971 give voice to feelings of guilt, viewed through the lens of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory. Focusing on both moral guilt born from the breaking of one's own moral code and neurotic guilt rooted in unconscious conflict the research looks closely at songs from *Plastic Ono Band* and *Imagine*. Through qualitative textual analysis, Freud's ideas of the id, ego, superego, the theory of dreams, defense mechanisms, and types of guilt are used to uncover the emotions and inner struggles woven into Lennon's words. The results reveal lyrics that are more than artistic expression they are deeply personal confessions, moments where Lennon seems to wrestle with himself, seeking release and understanding. In these songs, guilt becomes not just a burden, but also a creative force, shaping his identity and art in ways that continue to resonate.

Keywords: John Lennon, Expression of Guilt, Freudian Psychoanalysis, Theory of Dreams, Moral Guilt, Neurotic Guilt, Personality Structure, Defense Mechanisms.

