



**THE PURITAN LAW ON ADULTERY  
AND ITS IMPACT TO THE SOCIETY  
IN NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE'S  
*THE SCARLET LETTER***

A final project  
Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the degree of S.S in English

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**2009**

## ABSTRACT

**Wulansari, Atsani. 2009. *The Puritan Law on Adultery and Its Impact to the Society in Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter*. A Final Project. English Department. The Faculty of Languages and Arts. Semarang State University. Advisors: I. Henrikus Joko. Y, S.S, M.Hum., II. Drs. Ahmad Sofwan, PhD.**

**Keywords:** Puritan, value, law, and adultery.

The *Scarlet Letter* novel is one kind of American novels that told about the Puritan society and the law that was used in the society. In this novel, Hester-the main character was accused of committing adultery that is doing sexual intercourse with a man who is not her husband. Based on Puritan value-that was sexual purity, Adultery was much prohibited. Because of that reason, Hester was punished according to their law. She had to attach a piece of cloth written with scarlet letter A in her bosom forever.

This final project analyzed the law on adultery and the impact on Puritans. The analysis of this study uses a sociological approach in literature. This final project had three problems to explore; those are: (1) What Puritan values are reflected in the novel, *The Scarlet Letter*? (2) What social norms were implemented by Puritan society in the novel in dealing with Hester Prynne's adultery? (3) What impacts did Puritan social norms have on the life of society as reflected in the novel? Then, the objectives of the study were to discuss the Puritan society and its values, to analyze the social norms that were implemented by the Puritan society in dealing with Hester Prynne's adultery, and to discuss the impacts of Puritan social norms on their society.

This is a qualitative case study. There were some steps used in data collection that were: read the novel, identify the words, phrases, sentences, dialogue, and paragraph, inventorize the identified data by using the table and the last were classifying the data that were related to the study. After determining the methodology, the writer did the analysis of the novel as the object of study in this final project.

The results of the analysis showed that the Puritan society has some values that indicated their identity as the society. The Puritan society also has their own law to punish someone that act not appropriately with the value and the regulation in that society. The Puritans used the Bible and social norms in their society to punish someone who violated Puritan law. The social norms that were implemented to punish outlaw or transgressor have the positive and negative impacts on the life of society. The positive impacts are the well orderly regulated behavior of society, society's orderliness will be reached, and they can preserve their religions teaching based on Puritanism. While the negative impact is the outlaw and transgressor will be expelled, condemn, and the felling of depression of outlaw and transgressor.