

**THE CONCEPT OF SURVIVAL AS PORTRAYED IN THE KOREAN
FILM A TAXI DRIVER (2017): A SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS**

A Research Paper

Submitted as Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for *Sarjana Sastra* Degree



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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE EDUCATION
UNIVERSITAS PENDIDIKAN INDONESIA**

2024

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Sebuah skripsi yang diajukan untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar
Sarjana Pendidikan pada Fakultas Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni


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PAGE OF APPROVAL
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ABSTRACT

This research explores the multifaceted concept of survival as depicted in the Korean film “A Taxi Driver” (2017), with a particular focus on the strategies employed by the characters, especially the protagonist, Man-seob. By analyzing the film through Roland Barthes’ semiotics theory (1967) and examining the denotative, connotative, and mythical meanings, the research identifies and interprets key survival strategies—physical, social, and economic—within the narrative. Set against the backdrop of the 1980 Gwangju Uprising, a pivotal event in South Korea’s democratic history, the film presents survival as a complex and nuanced struggle, deeply influenced by the socio-political context of the time. The research reveals how the film uses visual and narrative elements to communicate the characters’ resilience, adaptability, and the broader socio-political implications of their actions within a historically significant event. The findings suggest that the film not only dramatizes the historical events for emotional impact but also serves as a commentary on the human capacity for survival in the face of oppression. The research concludes with reflections on the implication of these survival strategies for understanding historical memory in cinema.

Keywords: *Connotative meaning, denotative meaning, Gwangju uprising, Korean movie, semiotics analysis, survival strategies*

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