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Bangkalan, July 25, 2026
The Writer,

Refi Salini

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MOTTO

**"NOT EVERYTHING WILL BE EASY, BUT NOT
EVERYTHING WILL BE HARD."**

DEDICATION

**This thesis is dedicated to:
Science and Education
My Beloved Family
My Own Self**

**PRONOUNCEMENT OF THESIS PUBLISHING AGREEMENTS FOR
ACADEMIC INTEREST**

As an academic member at Universitas Trunojoyo Madura, I am the undersigned below:

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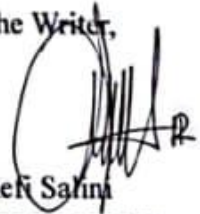
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MASCULINITY IN "OPEN WATER" BY CALEB AZUMA NELSON

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Bangkalan, July 25 2026

The Writer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'R' followed by several vertical strokes and a horizontal line across the middle.

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify and analyze the types of masculinity, as well as the forms of social injustice and marginalization experienced by the characters in Caleb Azuma Nelson's novel "Open Water". This analysis is based on the theory of masculinity proposed by Raewyn Connell (2005), which includes the concepts of subordinate masculinity and marginalized masculinity, as well as the impact of violence arising from the practice of masculinity. This study employs a descriptive qualitative method, in which data consisting of the characters' narratives and dialogues in the novel are collected, classified, and analyzed to address the research question regarding the forms of masculinity that emerge in the story.

The research findings indicate that there is a clear power imbalance in the London society depicted in the novel, where the dominant white group and the police hold the highest authority. Masculinity is manifested through practices of domination, control, and power exercised by the white group and the police. Meanwhile, the Black male protagonist and the Black community in general experience positions of subordinate and marginalized masculinity. These positions are marked by exclusion, racial discrimination, oppression, and both physical and psychological violence, as they are deemed to fall short of the ideal standards of masculinity set by the dominant group. This study concludes that race and skin color are the primary factors underpinning the gender hierarchy in this novel, in which Black masculinity is viewed as inferior, marginalized, and frequently targeted by violence from a social system dominated by white values.

Keywords: Masculinity, Subordination, Marginalization, Violence, Exclusion, "Open Water"

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis jenis-jenis maskulinitas serta bentuk ketidakadilan sosial, dan marjinalisasi yang dialami oleh tokoh-tokoh dalam novel “Open Water” karya Caleb Azuma Nelson. Analisis ini didasarkan pada teori maskulinitas yang dikemukakan oleh Raewyn Connell (2005), yang meliputi konsep maskulinitas subordinasi, dan maskulinitas marjinal, serta dampak kekerasan yang timbul dari praktik maskulinitas. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif, di mana data berupa narasi dan dialog tokoh dalam novel dikumpulkan, diklasifikasikan, dan dianalisis untuk menjawab rumusan masalah mengenai bentuk-bentuk maskulinitas yang muncul dalam cerita.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat ketidak seimbangan kekuasaan yang nyata dalam masyarakat London yang digambarkan dalam novel, di mana kelompok dominan kulit putih dan aparat kepolisian memegang otoritas tertinggi. Maskulinitas terwujud melalui praktik dominasi, kontrol, dan kekuasaan yang dijalankan oleh kelompok kulit putih dan aparat kepolisian. Sementara itu, tokoh utama laki-laki kulit hitam, dan komunitas kulit hitam secara umum mengalami posisi sebagai maskulinitas subordinasi dan maskulinitas marjinal. Posisi ini ditandai dengan pengucilan, diskriminasi rasial, penindasan, serta kekerasan fisik maupun psikologis karena mereka dianggap tidak memenuhi standar ideal maskulinitas yang ditetapkan oleh kelompok dominan. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa ras dan warna kulit menjadi faktor utama yang melandasi hierarki gender dalam novel ini, di mana maskulinitas kulit hitam dipandang sebagai sesuatu yang inferior, terpinggirkan, dan kerap menjadi sasaran kekerasan dari sistem sosial yang didominasi oleh nilai-nilai kulit putih.

Kata Kunci: Maskulinitas, Subordinasi, Marjinalisasi, Kekerasan, pengucilan, “Open Water”

TABLE OF CONTENT

THESIS	i
THESIS	ii
APPROVAL SHEET	iv
PRONOUNCEMENT OF THESIS ORIGINALLY	v
DEDICATION	vi
PRONOUNCEMENT OF THESIS PUBLISHING AGREEMENTS FOR ACADEMIC INTEREST	vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	ix
ABSTRACT	xii
ABSTRAK	xiii
TABLE OF CONTENT	xiv
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Research Questions	6
1.3 Objectives of the Study	6
1.4 Significance of the Study	6
1.5 Scope and limitation of the Study	6
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.....	8
2.1 Concept of Masculinity in Gender Studies.....	8
2.2 Relation among Maculinities.....	8
2.3 Types of Masculinity	9
2.3.1 Hegemonic Masculinity	9
2.3.2 Subordination Masculinity	12
2.3.3 Marginalization Masculinity	14
2.3 Previous Studies	16
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD	21
3.1 Research Design	21

3.2 Data and source of Data	21
3.3 Research Instrument	22
3.4 Method of Data and Collection	22
3.5 Method Data Analysis	23
CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	24
4.1 Findings	24
4.1.2 Types of masculinity	24
4.2 Discussion	25
4.2.1 Masculinity	25
4.2.2 Subordination masculinity of the main black male character and black groups in Caleb Azuma Nelson's work, "Open Water."	25
4.2.3 Marginalization masculinity of the main black male character and black groups in Caleb Azuma Nelson's work, "Open Water."	30
CHAPTER V CONCLUSSION AND SUGGESTION	65
5.1 Conclusion	65
5.2 Suggestion	66
REFERENCES.....	67