UNIVERSITAS
GADJAH MADA
Gender Performativity in Indonesian Film: A Narrative Analysis of the Character Juno in Kucumbu Tubuh Indahku (2019)
Berliana Idham Samawi, Lidwina Mutia Sadasri, S.I.P., M.A
Universitas Gadjah Mada, 2026 | Diunduh dari http://etd.repository.ugm.ac.id/

ABSTRACT

Kucumbu Tubuh Indahku (2019), directed by Garin Nugroho, portrays Juno, a young Javanese boy whose gender identity develops through the traditional *Lengger* dance. While previous studies of the film have predominantly employed semiotic approaches, none have systematically investigated how its narrative structure constructs gender performativity. This study addresses that gap by asking: how is gender performativity narratively constructed through the character Juno? The research integrates Judith Butler's gender performativity theory, Vladimir Propp's morphology of the folktale, and B. Ruby Rich's New Queer Cinema theory within a qualitative, interpretivist design. Seven scenes were selected from the film's 79 scenes based on five criteria derived from Butler's theory and examined through narrative analysis. The findings reveal that the film constructs Juno's gender performativity through three interconnected mechanisms: the integration of indigenous Javanese performance structures (*Lengger* and the *warok-gemblak* tradition) that historically accommodate gender fluidity, the adaptation of Propp's heroic functions to a queer protagonist whose quest is interior self-recognition, and the deployment of New Queer Cinema aesthetics that embrace ambiguity. Lack of fixed essence emerges as the most dominant Butlerian aspect. This study demonstrates that indigenous cultural frameworks provide culturally specific vocabularies for gender fluidity that resist colonial binary impositions.

Keywords: gender performativity, narrative analysis, *Kucumbu Tubuh Indahku*, Indonesian queer cinema, *Lengger* dance