

ABSTRACT

Imanu, Wahyu Dwisetio. 2021. *'Toxic Masculinity Reflected in Benjamin Alire Sáenz's Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe: a Queer and Gender Study'*. A Thesis, Department of English Literature, Undergraduate Program of University of Stikubank (UNISBANK) Semarang. Supervisor: Yulistiyanti, S.S., M.Hum.

Toxic masculinity has harmful traits that serve its bearers to prove their manhood and to show domination using the ideal standards of men. This research discusses about toxic masculinity reflected in the novel Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz. The aims are to categorize the masculinity types of characters, to find out the cause, the traits, and the impacts of toxic masculinity in the novel. This research is categorized as a qualitative-based research that uses queer and gender studies approach. The research analyzes the novel regarding to the research questions and applies the toxic masculinity theory by R.W. Connell (2005). The research found that Ari and Bernardo have hegemonic masculinity, Dante has subordinate masculinity, Jaime and Sam have complicit masculinity, and all the selected male characters can be considered of having marginalized masculinity. The cause of toxic masculinity in the novel is the reinforcement of the stereotypes of male gender roles. There are three traits of toxic masculinity occur in the novel, which are suppression of emotion, homophobia, and violence. Having no healthy relationships and getting attacked by a homophobic gang are the impacts of toxic masculinity in the novel.

Keywords: *masculinity, toxic masculinity, suppression of emotion, homophobia, violence*