

**THE GOTHIC ELEMENTS IN TWILIGHT MOVIES: A MODERN
INTERPRETATION OF GOTHIC LITERATURE**

THESIS

**Presented to Universitas Bina Darma in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements
for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra (S.S.)***

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**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF SOCIAL HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS BINA DARMA**

PALEMBANG

2025

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Motto:

“The world may walk beside you, but only you can carve your path.”
Anonymous

Dedication:

This thesis is dedicated to:

- My beloved parents
- My sister and my brother
- My friends
- My self



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Praise the researcher goes to the presence of Allah SWT, who has given mercy, guidance, and blessings so that the researcher can complete this thesis as a part of the final study assignment. The researcher would like to express her deepest gratitude to:

1. Mr. Prof Dr. Edi Surya Negara M.Kom., as the Rector of Universitas Bina Darma Palembang.
2. Mr. Nuzsep Almigo, S.Psi., M.si., Ph.D., as the Dean of Faculty of Social Humanities, Universitas Bina Darma Palembang.
3. Mrs. Dr. Atika Puspasari, M.Pd., as the Head of English Literature Study Program, Universitas Bina Darma Palembang.
4. Mrs. Dr. Atika Puspasari, M.Pd., as the advisor, for her valuable guidance, encouragement, and patience in helping the researcher to complete this work. The researcher is truly grateful for her insights and constructive feedback.
5. The researcher's deepest gratitude is extended to her beloved family for their unwavering prayers, endless encouragement, and unconditional support. Their affection has been a pillar of strength and inspiration throughout the completion of this thesis.
6. The researcher would also like to sincerely thank her dearest friends, who have always supported, encouraged, and accompanied her throughout this process. Their companionship has made this journey both meaningful and memorable.
7. Special gratitude is also addressed to someone special, the researcher's partner, for the patience, unwavering support, and constant encouragement given throughout this process. His presence has been a source of strength and comfort during challenging times.

8. Lastly, the researcher wishes to express profound gratitude to herself for the perseverance, resilience, and unwavering dedication that have carried her through every challenge of this journey. Reaching this point is the result of countless hours of effort, moments of doubt turned into strength, and an enduring belief that persistence would eventually lead to accomplishment. This achievement stands not only as an academic milestone, but also as a testament to the researcher's growth, determination, and commitment to her own aspirations.

Palembang, 22 September 2025

The researcher



(Nanda Apriliani)

ABSTRACT

This research aims to (1) identify and analyze the gothic elements contained in the film *Twilight* (2008) as well as its adaptation of the classical gothic literary tradition, and (2) explore how the film represents the main gothic themes of forbidden love, death, and identity in the modern context. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method with content analysis, utilizing the theoretical framework of classical and modern gothic literature as described by Wolfreys, Robbins, and Womack (2013), Spooner (2006), as well as previous related studies. The research data was obtained from dialogue excerpts, narratives, and visual elements in *the Twilight* film that contain gothic elements. The results of the research show that *Twilight* contains various classic gothic elements such as forbidden love, death, identity, mystery atmosphere, isolation, and supernatural beings (vampires), which are adapted into contemporary aesthetics and narratives. The foggy backdrop of the Forks, dim lighting and wild landscapes replace the secluded castles typical of classic Gothic, but still create an isolated feel. Forbidden love is represented through human-vampire relationships that defy biological and social norms, death is reinterpreted as a symbol of emotional sacrifice, and identity is interpreted as an inner struggle between nature and personal desires. The adaptation retains the core of the classic gothic theme, yet is packaged in emotional language, visual aesthetics, and social context that are relevant to 21st-century audiences. This research is expected to expand the study of modern gothic literature and contribute to the analysis of the adaptation of classical works to contemporary popular media.

Keywords: *gothic elements, Twilight, forbidden love, death, identity, modern gothic literature.*

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