UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

REPRESENTATION OF ANTI-HERO IN TELEVISION SERIES
BREAKING BAD AND *WEEDS*

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Academic exercise submitted in partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the degree of
Bachelor of Creative Technology (Hons) Screen

Faculty of Film, Theatre and Animation

September 2015

FACULTY OF FILM, THEATRE & ANIMATION
UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA
PUNCAK PERDANA CAMPUS
SHAH ALAM, SELANGOR

SESSION OF: SEPTEMBER 2015 - JANUARY 2016

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DECLARATION

I declare that the work in this academic exercise was carried out in accordance with the regulations of Universiti Teknologi MARA. It is original and is the results of my own work, unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged as referenced work. This exercise has not been submitted to any other institution or non-academic institution for my degree or qualification.

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Academic Exercise Title	:	Representation of Anti-Hero in Television Series *Breaking Bad* and *Weeds*

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation explores the representation of masculine and feminine anti-heroes on television. How anti-heroes are being represented in the television series in terms of gender role? In order to conduct this research, two case studies; *Breaking Bad* and *Weeds* are chosen for analysis. These case studies are both aired on American cable television. *Breaking Bad* portrays a male anti-hero while *Weeds* centers a female anti-heroic character, thus illustrating the differences of the representation of anti-hero according to gender. Furthermore, Walter White, the central character of *Breaking Bad* portrays a positive masculinity while Nancy Botwin, the main character of *Weeds* depicts the negative femininity. Therefore, it is necessary to analyse the representation of masculinity and femininity of *Breaking Bad* and *Weeds* respectively, in accordance with the anti-hero concept. Both case studies are examined using close textual analysis, with the focus being placed on one central anti-heroic character in each case. Moreover, three episodes of each series are chosen for this research. The findings uncover that both anti-heroes are engaged in morally ambiguous activity, resulting both characters to embody problematic gender representation.

ABSTRAK

Kajian ini mengupas pemaparan watak-watak "anti-hero" maskulin dan feminin di televisyen. Bagaimanakah karakter "anti-hero" ini dipaparkan dalam drama televisyen berpandukan gender? Untuk menjalani kajian ini, dua buah drama televisyen telah dipilih untuk analisis iaitu "Breaking Bad" dan "Weeds". "Breaking Bad" memaparkan seorang lelaki sebagai "anti-hero" manakala "Weeds" memaparkan watak perempuan sebagai "anti-hero", sekali gus menunjukkan perbezaan pemaparan watak "anti-hero" berdasarkan pemaparan jantina. Oleh itu, pemaparan maskulin dan feminin juga amat penting untuk dianalisis bagi meneliti perkaitannya dengan representasi "anti-hero". Kedua-dua drama televisyen ini akan dikupas dengan cara "close textual analysis", dengan memfokuskan kepada watak-watak "anti-hero" utama dalam drama tersebut. Tambahan pula, tiga episod dari setiap siri telah dipilih untuk kajian ini. Dapatan kajian merungkai kedua-dua "anti-hero" berhadapan dengan aktiviti nilai moral yang samar, mengakibatkan kedua-dua watakmemaparka njantina yang bermasalah