

ABSTRACT

Izzah Fithrotul. 2017. *Feminist Waves in African-American Music in Early 20th – Early 21st Century: American Cultural Study*. S1. Thesis. English Department. Faculty of Letters and Language Education. Widya Kartika University, Surabaya. Advisor I: Drs. Triyanto Siswantonono, M.Pd, Advisor II: Nopita Trihastutie S.S., M.A.

This is a research of Afro-American women's efforts in gaining equality through African-American music in early 20th - early 21st century. As African-American women, they have to deal not only with sexism but also racism. The objectives of this study are to find out the lyrics meaning and African-American feminist issues represented by the meanings of the lyrics. This research analyzes two statements of the problems. The first one is the analysis of the meaning of female African-American singer-songwriters' selected songs that is done by using formalist criticism. The second one is how do the meanings of the songs' lyrics represent the African-American feminist issues in early 20th – early 21st century that is done by using modern historicist approach. The primary data used in this research are sixteen songs' lyrics from female African-American singer-songwriters. This study applies descriptive qualitative research as the design and content analysis as the method. By seeing the historical events in the period of feminist waves when the songs' lyrics were released, the reflection can be found. This research leads to a conclusion that all lyrics have representation of the history of African-American feminist issues in early 20th to present.

Keywords: **Feminist Waves, African-American Music, Singer-Songwriter, Formalist Criticism, Modern Historicists**