

A Comparative Analysis of Child Abuse in F. Sionil Jose's *Gagamba*, *Ermita*, and *Cadena de Amor*

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Abstract

Child abuse is a pervasive issue with devastating consequences. Studies consistently highlight the long-term psychological, physical, and social impacts of abuse. This research paper employed a comparative literary analysis approach, drawing on textual evidence from the three novels to answer the research questions. This research paper examined the portrayal of child abuse in three novels by Filipino author F. Sionil Jose: *Gagamba*, *Ermita*, and *Cadena de Amor*. It analyzed how Jose uses his characters and narratives to explore the complexities of child abuse within the context of poverty, societal inequalities, and the broader social and political landscape of the Philippines. The paper also investigated how Jose's writing style and narrative techniques contributed to the understanding and impact of the depicted abuse. F. Sionil Jose's novels provide a powerful and insightful exploration of child abuse in the context of Filipino society. Through his complex characters, intricate narratives, and evocative prose, Jose exposes the vulnerabilities of children, the systemic factors that contribute to abuse, and the enduring consequences of trauma. His works serve as a stark reminder of the importance of protecting children and addressing the root causes of abuse to create a more just and equitable society. Further research could be conducted to analyze the specific historical context of each novel, focusing on the social and political events that shaped the portrayal of child abuse.

Keywords: Child abuse, portrayal of child abuse, F. Sionil Jose, Gagamba, Ermita and Cadena de Amor