

## ABSTRACT

This research aimed at the protagonist's suffering in Dennis Bock's novel *The Ash Garden* based on Quilao's theory. The main purpose of this study is to know what the kinds of suffering are and how the protagonist overcome it. Suffering is one of many phases in life that one can experience in order to become stronger. Suffering is meant to become a concern that by not neglecting this, many lives can be saved. Sufferers should focus on how to overcome the suffering. There are five kinds of suffering based on Quilao's theory. This study uses descriptive qualitative method to show what kinds of suffering are there in human life. Based on the research, the subject of this study is Emiko Amai. Protagonist is the main character lived in suffering and lost her family due to war. She suffers mentally and physically. In this novel, she attempts to continue her life.

Keywords: *suffering, Hiroshima, protagonist.*