

**THE INFLUENCE OF SUPERSTITION ON LIQUOR SMUGGLING
IN DORSET 1800S AS PORTRAYED IN THREE TALES OF
THOMAS HARDY'S *WESSEX TALES***

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini menganalisa tiga buah cerita pendek berjudul *The Withered Arm*, *A Tradition of Eighteen Hundred and Four*, dan *The Distracted Preacher* yang terkumpul di dalam *Wessex Tales* karya Thomas Hardy, dengan tujuan untuk membahas kepercayaan pada supernatural dan takhayul yang mempengaruhi kegiatan penggelapan minuman keras yang dilakukan oleh masyarakat Dorset-Inggris barat daya, pada periode 1800an.

Dalam skripsi ini penulis menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi sastra dari teori Alan Swingewood. Dalam pengumpulan data, penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif yang dijabarkan secara deskriptif. Pendekatan sosiologi digunakan untuk membandingkan antara fakta kepercayaan pada supernatural dan pengaruhnya pada kegiatan penggelapan minuman keras yang terjadi di Dorset pada periode 1800an, dengan deskripsi di dalam cerita-cerita pendek. Analisa sosiologi terhadap cerita-cerita pendek ini merefleksikan pengaruh kepercayaan pada supernatural terhadap penggelapan minuman keras yang dilakukan oleh masyarakat Dorset, Inggris Selatan, pada periode 1800an.

Setelah menganalisa tiga cerita pendek yang tergabung dalam *Wessex Tales* karya Thomas Hardy, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa kepercayaan masyarakat akan kekuatan supernatural dan takhayul dapat mempengaruhi kegiatan penggelapan minuman keras. Hal ini seperti yang terlihat pada masyarakat Dorset-Inggris barat daya, pada tahun 1800an.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Literary work represents the author's thought to the reader about social condition of human life within a specific place and a period of time. It certainly concerns about life aspects of the characters which appear in his works. Just like William Henry Hudson stated, "Directly or indirectly, and whether the writer himself is conscious or not, every novel must present a certain view of life and some problem of life," (130-131) and David Daiches said, "Literary works draw our attention to the way in which social changes and other factors are mirrored in them." (369-70) and by this reason, to criticize a literary is also interesting because it broads our mind by knowing the social life in the past and could lead us into the better future since it will add our sensibility in how to face the real life. As Robert Wooster Stallman wrote in his book *The Critic's Notebook*: "Literary criticism plays two roles; it reviews and describes the work of the past and by deciding which practice of future." (16). This statement also supported by Peter Barry who quote the speech from Professor History Edward Kream in Oxford 1887: "We are told that the study of literature 'cultivate' the taste, educates the sympathies and enlarge the mind."

Thomas Hardy's works are interesting to be read and analyzed, because there are many critics and researchers who had written critics and review of his works. The writer has found some researches on Thomas Hardy's works. First, William Van O'Connor who analyses one of seven tales in *Wessex Tales*, entitled *Cosmic Irony in Hardy's "The Three Strangers"* *English Journal*; second, Richard C. Carpenter in *'How to Read A Few Crusted Characters', Critical Approaches to the Fiction of Thomas Hardy*; then, third is Simon Gatrell in his *Topography in "The Romantic Adventures of a Milkmaid" Thomas Hardy Journal*.

The writer decides to conduct a research on Thomas Hardy's *Wessex Tales* because the writer is interested in its classical social phenomena, since it describes the social life in Wessex during 1800s. The most interesting thing for the writer is that Thomas Hardy usually uses a fictional name for the place of the setting. As Kristin Bardy wrote in her essay *The Short Story of Thomas Hardy*, "the tales are drawn together by a unique narrative perspective; the pastoral voice by separating time period of his readers from his characters lives. Hardy creates a fictional world and the stories are firmly grounded in Dorset life and folklore during the mid-nineteenth century." (89)

The reason why the writer chooses superstition influenced liquor smuggling in Dorset 1800s as portrayed from three tales of Thomas Hardy's *Wessex Tales: the Withered Arm, a Tradition of Eighteen Hundred and Four, and the Distracted Preacher* to be the topic of the thesis, since both social problems were the main problems appear in Dorset, South Wessex during that period, as

Kathryn R. King writes in her introduction of her *Wessex Tales*: "*the three strangers*"; "*A tradition of eighteen hundred and four*"; "*The melancholy Hussar of German legion*"; "*The withered arm*"; "*Fellow-townsmen*"; "*Interloper at the Knap*"; "*The distracted preacher*";

The 1880s were years of great technological change. But in the countryside these were years of terrible distress. Hardy lived most of these years in Dorset, the name byword throughout England for rural misery and squalor. The early 1830s, the coast of Dorset is once so hospitable to ships bearing barrels of illegal liquor. Dorset believes in superstitions about conjurors and witches of local lore oral traditions. (xi-v)

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Thomas Hardy's *Wessex Tales* contains seven tales include.

1. *The Three Strangers* (March 1883).
2. *A Tradition of Eighteen Hundred and Four* (Christmas 1882).
3. *The Melancholy Hussar of German Legion* (October 1889).
4. *The Withered arm* (January 1888).
5. *Fellow townsman* (April 1880).
6. *Interlopers at the Knap* (May 1884), and
7. *The Distracted Preacher* (January 1879).

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After analyzing three tales of Thomas Hardy's *Wessex Tales* include: *The Withered Arm*, *A Tradition of Eighteen Hundred and Four*, and *The Distracted Preacher*, the writer figures out that the Thomas Hardy's three tales are mirrored the superstition and liquor smuggling and how the superstition influenced the liquor smuggling during 1800s in Dorset, South West England. Through his three tales, Thomas Hardy portrayed the social situation in Dorset 1800s by the action of his imaginary characters in his story which are recorded from when the story was written.

In Wareham, amalgam of East Stoke and East Holme, the south Dorset heath to Poole, (in particular the part from Stinsford to Turners Paddle), Bridport, and Dorchester (The real places of Anglebury, Holmstoke, Egdon Heath, and Port-Bredy, and Casterbridge -Thomas Hardy's fictional places), it was found that the people of Dorset 1800s believed in superstition. They practiced witchcraft and the ritual of 'blood turning'. It was a kind of remedial from an ailment caused by a cursed or charm should have to be recovered by the magic too. These are portrayed in *The Withered Arm*, one of Thomas Hardy's three tales from *Wessex Tales*.

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