

**ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S IMPRESSION TOWARD WORLD WAR I
AS SEEN IN A FAREWELL TO ARMS**

A Thesis

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ABSTRAK

Dalam skripsi ini penulis memaparkan tentang gambaran pengalaman Hemingway selama perang dunia pertama. Pada saat itu, Hemingway menjadi salah satu sopir ambulance yang bergabung dengan ketentaraan Italia yang bertugas menyelamatkan tentara yang terluka dan membawa mereka kembali ke pos bantuan pertama. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana kesan yang dirasakan oleh Hemingway terhadap perang dunia pertama. Kesan ini meliputi kesedihan Hemingway atas hilangnya nyawa dan keputusan Hemingway atas rusaknya pemandangan alam dan infrastruktur akibat perang.

Novel ini dianalisa dengan menggunakan teori ekspresif dari Abram karena novel ini merefleksikan perasaan, emosi dan pengalaman pengarang sendiri. Teori ini didukung dengan menggunakan pendekatan sejarah dan biografi. Menurut Guerin, pendekatan ini tidak hanya melihat karya sastra sebagai refleksi kehidupan pengarangnya, tetapi juga sebagai bukti sejarah. Kehidupan pengarang dan bukti sejarah ini dapat dilihat melalui cerita yang terdapat dalam karya sastra itu sendiri. Dengan kata lain, pendekatan sejarah dan biografi ini bisa digunakan untuk mengungkapkan kebenaran sejarah tentang perang dunia pertama sekaligus mengungkapkan kesan yang dirasakan oleh Ernest Hemingway terhadap perang dunia pertama.

Berdasarkan hasil analisa novel, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa Hemingway adalah seorang yang mencintai keindahan alam. Selain itu, melalui cerita novel *A Farewell to Arms*, Hemingway juga menyampaikan bahwa perang hanya menyebabkan penderitaan, kematian, kerusakan alam dan kerusakan infrastruktur.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Mario Klarer, in his book, An Introduction to Literary Studies, says that literature is referred to a written expression, but not every written document can be categorized as literature. The different between literature and other written document is literature has an aesthetic or artistic value (2004: 1). He also adds that: "It is more enlightening to look at literature or text as cultural and historical phenomena ..." (Klarer, 2004: 1). The product of literature is literary work.

From the definition above, it can be summed that literary work is a fiction which reflects the universe. It can be said that literary work is the description of something that happens in this world. Beside that, literary work is also the result of author's experiences in the real life. In other words, we can figure out the meaning of the story by investigating some information about the author's real life.

Ernest Hemingway is the author whose most of his works portray war. One of them is A Farewell to Arms. This novel tells us about an ambulance driver who has to rescue the wounded soldiers back to the first aid station and bring them to the hospital during World War I in Italy. He does not only rescue them, but he also distributes chocolate and cigarettes for the Italian soldiers near the

front line. In brief, the story of the novel is about the experiences of an ambulance driver for Italian army during World War I.

Through this novel, Hemingway tries to describe his experience during war. In other words, Hemingway is told as one of the authors who tend to write a story based on his experience and through the story he also expresses what he has felt and seen. Dealing with this, Bode quotes Hemingway's comment from his Problems of Writer in War Time:

A writer's problem does not change. He himself changes and the world he lives in changes but his problem remains the same. It is always how to write truly and having found what is true, to project it in such a way that it becomes a part the experience of the person who reads it. (Bode, 1995: 201)

He believes that no matter what happens to the writer and his world, the writer is the writer, who has to write what is true. It is the duty of the writer to write truly and to make the work becomes a part of reader's experience.

A Farewell to Arms is Hemingway's novel that concerns about World War I. The idea of writing this novel is begun by his own experience during 1918 in Italy when he became a young American volunteer as an ambulance driver for the Italian army in fighting against Germany. In the reality, Italy and Germany also get involve in World War I as enemies. Through this novel, Hemingway reflects his sorrow at the loss of lives and his despair for the damage of the landscape because of war. No matter what the reason of the war, it has sacrificed too many lives and destroyed the landscape. He has to deal with the cruelty of war and try to

cope with the reality that he has to lose his friends and the beauty of the landscape. He seems want to show the readers that the war has caused nothing but misery. Briefly, he writes the story based on what he has seen, felt, thought and experienced. Related to what Hemingway has done, Lincoln Steffenses, in his autobiography, states that: "I think he thought that writing was a matter of honesty..." (Weeks: 44)

To show that there is a real relationship between Hemingway and his work, Weeks says that some of the early criticisms do not try to separate the writer from his writing. They believe that it was not fiction but autobiography (Weeks: 8). Furthermore, in the previous page, Weeks also states that:

Some literature can be satisfactorily read and discussed without taking the author in to account. Other literature seems inseparable from the person who created it. To an extraordinary degree Hemingway and what he has written exist in a synergetic relationship, re-enforcing and fulfilling each other; he has created a personal legend which serves as an ambience in which we read him. (Weeks: 7)

The writer finds it becomes an interesting novel to be read. It is not only because of its historical value and the evidence about the real life of the author, but is also because of the style of the language that is used by Hemingway. This novel is quite easy to understand, as argued by Bode that Hemingway's sentences are short, his words are simple, but they are often filled with emotion. (Bode, 1995: 201). For Hemingway, as stated by Bode, "one short spontaneous vulgarism

is more honest than all those grandiloquent slogans..." (Weeks: 74). Hemingway also presents the reality through his story. It is true that the novel is a fiction but it is not merely an author's imagination which can not be proved. It is fiction which exists as a result of the true experience of the author.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

The writer assumes that his experience as an ambulance driver is one of the reason that leads him to write this novel. His experiences during the World War I whose job was to rescue the wounded soldiers make him felt some painful memories. These painful memories, the writer assumes, want to be poured by Hemingway through his work.

Briefly, this research is an analysis of A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway. The novel tells us about the experiences of a young American ambulance driver, Frederic Henry, who serves with the Italian army. The novel is set during the World War I time, about 1918. As ambulance driver, he has a job to rescue the wounded soldier and distribute cigarette and chocolate for the Italian army near the front line. In doing his job, he has seen that the war can kill people and damage the landscape and infrastructure.

At that time, Ernest Hemingway also became a volunteer for an ambulance driver and joined the war for the Italian army. As the person who joins the war, there is no doubt that he has become a witness of what happen in that war.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

Historical-biographical approach sees a literary work as the reflection of author's life and time. Through the story, we can figure out that there is a relationship between work and its author. After investigate the biography of Ernest Hemingway and the historical record of World War I, then read the story of A Farewell to Arms, the writer concludes that Hemingway writes this novel based on his own experiences. He expresses his feeling, emotion and what he has been seen directly during the war. He reveals all of these things through his characters, especially the main character, Lieutenant Frederic Henry as the narrator. He uses Henry as his hero, a young American volunteer for an ambulance driver. In other words, the writer may say that the main character, Frederic Henry, represents Hemingway in the novel.

Through this novel, Hemingway conveys his sorrow at the loss of lives. Not only the soldier who join the war directly but also civilian who does not join the war directly become a victim and has to sacrifice their life. The situation of the war make people live insecure and unsafe. Beside that, he also conveys his despair because of war. He feels despair because he can not do anything to stop the damage of the landscape. War can destroy both natural landscape and non-natural landscape. However, literary work is a fiction which has to consider the aesthetic value. So, it remains different from the original events, at least from the dialogues that are used by the author.

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