

UNIVERSAL TRUTH IN THE THEME OF FIVE SELECTED POEMS BY  
LORD BYRON: A NEW CRITICISM ANALYSIS

A THESIS

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## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang kebenaran universal yang terdapat pada tema dari lima puisi karya Lord Byron, yaitu *The Eve of Waterloo*, *The Destruction of Sennacherib*, *On This Day I Complete My Thirty-Sixth Year*, *Darkness*, dan *Churchill's Grave*. Dengan asumsi bahwa karya sastra yang agung memiliki kebenaran universal, penulis menjelaskan bahwa kelima puisi tersebut mengandung kebenaran-kebenaran universal yang terdapat pada tema puisi-puisi tersebut.

Dengan menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif, penulis menggunakan teori kritik baru untuk menganalisis data primer. Penulis menggunakan prosedur untuk menganalisis data dalam kritik baru yang disusun oleh Rob Pope, yaitu membahas tentang tensi utama, struktur, tekstur, dan tema yang dihasilkan oleh elemen-elemen tersebut.

Penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kelima puisi diatas mengandung satu kebenaran universal yang terbentuk dari kebenaran-kebenaran universal yang terdapat pada kelima tema puisi tersebut, yaitu bahwa tak ada satu hal pun yang dapat bertahan lama, semuanya memiliki masanya masing-masing. Kebenaran universal utama tersebut didapat dari kelima tema puisi Lord Byron, yaitu ketidakwaspadaan yang berujung pada malapetaka (*The Eve of Waterloo*), semua hal mempunyai masa jaya dan masa kehancuran (*The Destruction of Sennacherib*), perang dapat membangkitkan rasa patriotisme dan keputusasaan, biarkan rasa patriotisme itu mengalir di dalam pikiran kita alih-alih rasa keputusasaan (*On This Day I Complete My Thirty-Sixth Year*), manusia tak akan bisa melawan akhir dari dunia (*Darkness*), dan kejayaan itu tidaklah bersifat abadi dan tidak bisa dijamin akan bisa bertahan selamanya (*Churchill's Grave*).



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Research

Poetry in the literary world has gone through a long tradition. It has passed several periods which influences its characteristic based on which contemplation widely adapted in the certain age. In the long traditional English literary canon, Romantic poetry is dominated by several top notches poet including the controversial figure George Gordon Byron or widely known as Lord Byron (1788-1824) (Alexander 265). He has produced many poems which help his reputation as a poet notified by people across Britannia, and even Europe. His most notable work includes the epic *Don Juan* which is greatly appreciated across the world.

In the English Department of Andalas University, the criticism toward Lord Byron's works is unfortunately very limited. This is also true for poetry since the popular works to be criticized by graduate students of Andalas University's English Department are mostly novel, short story, and drama. Among those limited criticism, three poems by Lord Byron, *The Destruction of Sennacherib*, *Prometheus*, and *She Walks In Beauty*, has been analyzed based on stylistics perspective.

Lord Byron's popularity as poet is fairly to say rose up partially by poems that he wrote based on what he has seen and saw when doing his Grand Tour to many countries in Europe. At the age when Byron lives, performing The Grand Tour was the

conventional way for an aristocrat completed his education, visiting sites related to classical history, Renaissance art, and European culture (Franklin 5). As an aristocrat himself, he visits many countries in Europe, mostly in the western and southern part of Europe. His journey inspired many of his poems such as his famous epic *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* is one of the poems that inspired by his visit to countries such as Belgium, Portugal, Greece, etc so does the poem *The Eve of Waterloo* which inspired by his visit to Waterloo in Belgium. With his visit to many countries, he discovers that there is a similar moral humanity values wherever he goes. It is only natural that in the poems that he produced manifested with universality of human moral or universality of human emotional significance. Intended or not, the poems that written by Lord Byron possess the message about universal values of human life which could give some contribution to the reader in understanding the values in living their life.

In the reaction to this, the writer is challenged to discuss several poems by Lord Byron by attempting to reveal the universal truth in the poem's theme. In revealing the universal truth behind the poem, the writer considers its structure and texture that construct and give meaning to the poem itself. With this consideration in mind, the writer prefers New Criticism as the suitable device to analyze the poem. This method is the most appropriate in analyzing shorter poems and stories since we can analyze more formal elements within the shorter text (Tyson 149). The poems cover: *The Eve of Waterloo*, *The Destruction of Sennacherib*, *On This Day I Complete My Thirty-Sixth Year*, *Darkness*, and *Churchill's Grave*.

Having read the poems, the writer is confident that the poems can be analyzed objectively in terms of its structural and textural arrangements and challenged to



### CHAPTER III

#### CONCLUSION

A literary work gains its fame and quality not only because of the historical or social significance. It is also determined by its role as a mere valuable piece of art, in which based on New Criticism perspective, its elements work together as an inseparable whole. The elements work together and determine the theme that contains some universal truth that serves as a remark on human values or the human circumstance (Tyson 141). The subject of this thesis, some Lord Byron's poems that covers: "The Eve of Waterloo, The Destruction of Sennacherib, On This Day I Complete My Thirty-Sixth Year, Darkness, and Churchill's Grave", mirror the entire criterion above.

All those poems, after the structure and the texture its elements works together, has some different themes respectively but share the same universal truth that is "there is nothing that last forever, everything has their time but not to be existed forever". In the poem *The Eve of Waterloo*, the theme is about carelessness leads into disaster. The ball is held in the wrong time and the people do not aware that a potential danger is approaching them. Everything has their own time and so we should not coerce things. *The Destruction of Sennacherib* suggests that everything in this world has their heyday and destruction. Sennacherib and his troops despite of their mightiness cannot prevent themselves from their fate of their own destruction. If they were about to die, the spear or lance cannot be used to prevent it. In the poem *On This Day I Complete My Thirty-Sixth Year*, it is suggested that war can evokes desperation and patriotism inside human, let the

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