

# **Satire of the World War II Reflected in AD Poem by Kenneth Flexner Fearing**

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***Abstract:** In this thesis, the writer analyzes a poem entitled Ad by Kenneth Flexner Fearing. The poem tells about World War II that contents satire. The writer uses satire as a theme because satire is element of art that uses to criticize or to show a stupidity or corruption of an individual or group toward other people that is illustrated with humor, mock and exaggerated statement and a ridiculous thing that make the other people laugh. The writer uses the satire in this poem because it can change or improve people's behavior into better quality. The writer analyzes satire in intrinsic element of Ad such as satire in the diction, symbol and imagery. The writer also analyzes satire in the extrinsic element and condition of society in the poem through the sociology approach. For the method of analysis, the writer uses library research which is the writer takes many resources from library such as journals, book etc that can be used as the main information. The writer also uses internet resources to provide more information that is needed. The result of the thesis shows that the poem satirizes the society that lives in the World War II era.*

*Keywords: Satire, World War II, Sociology, Intrinsic, Extrinsic Element*

## **Introduction**

Every literature is imagination of the author that represented into the text. Among the literary works, poetry is a kind of literature that has most hard to find the meaning of the content. To interpret the contents of the poetry closer and to intent of the poet present poetry, a researcher must analyze all aspects of the existing

associated with the poetry, either through intrinsic or extrinsic element in poetry. It also could be seen in structural aspects and other aspects that related to construct poem to be analyzed. Many things can be showed from poetry's topic such as war, love, religion, discrimination, countryside, death, family, abuse, city or town, nature, heroism, and so on. These topics are related from human experiences in the world; on the other hand, poem is a piece of our nature.

The writer discusses poem with satire topic. The poem satirizes World War II happened in 1939-1945. It will be analyzed into sociology aspect especially in war society. The title of this poem is *Ad* by Kenneth Flexner Fearing. He is a Proletarian writer.

The soldiers are armed fighting between more than one of countries or groups. The World War II was the war between Britain, the Soviet Union, the United States and France fought Germany, Italy and Japan. There were many victims and damage because of this war.

According to the explanations above, the writer takes satire object because the satire can change people to be good or bad human. Here, satire can be used with soft or crude languages depend on the character and people who you want to satirize. In this poem, we can know how Fearing show his work with soft satire but it is very pertinent.

Fearing's poem has wonderful meaning and it is good for us to study. Fearing shows his poem with difference language that makes us wants to know Fearing's purpose. In this poem, we can find words that have meaning unsuspected by the readers.

There are three objectives of the research. First, it is to discuss poem like diction, symbol, and imagery in Fearing's poem *Ad*. Second, it is to know the satire of the World War II reflected in *Ad*. Third, it is to analyze the war conflict in the World War II expressed in the poem.

### **Review of Literature**

a. Diction

Diction or word choice is “*functioning in a compressed atmosphere, the words in a poem must convey meaning gracefully and economically*” (Meyer, 1990:522). It relations to style of speaking or writing determined by the choice of words by a speaker moreover a poet has to choice the words carefully. Diction has two elements; they are denotation and connotation. Definition of denotation is “*the literal, dictionary meaning of a word*” (Meyer, 1990:524). What the speaker said is what the speaker means. Whereas meaning of connotation is inversely proportional with denotation. Connotation derives from the word that has the same interpretation with the word.

b. Symbol

Symbol is one of intrinsic elements that has a meaning as a thing that is reflected in another thing. Symbol can represent location, object, occasion, and activity; they describe more about the literary sense of the poem. For example is flag. It symbolizes a country or a group that has some color and pattern. *A symbol is a vehicle for two things at once: it functions as itself and it implies meaning beyond itself* (Meyer, 1990:581).

c. Imagery

Based on Perrine (1969:54) “*imagery may be defined as the representation through language of sense experience*”. This means that everything that we can catch by our senses is imagery.

In this thesis will analyze visual, kinesthetic and organic imagery because three of them dominate in this poem.

Visual imagery is something that is looked by eyes; like in Housman’s poem *On Moonlit Heath and Lonesome Bank* “*On moonlit heath and lonesome bank; The sheep beside me graze*”. Kinesthetic imagery is a figurativeness which uses body part to do physical action. It can be seen in *The Sick Rose* by William Blake “*The invisible worm; that flies in the night*”. Organic imagery shows the feeling and emotions of the characters in the poetry example: “*I happy am*”.

d. Satire

The word satire comes from the Latin *satura*. It means a dish filled with mixed fruits. Satire is meant as a bowl that has been mixed fruits in it. Usually, poets use fictional character to describe real people or institution, to disclose, criticize and condemn their corruption. There are some other definitions of satire. According to Abrams in his book *A Glossary of Literary Terms Seventh Edition* that:

Satire can be described as the literary art of diminishing or derogating a subject by making it ridiculous and evoking toward it attitudes of amusement, contempt, scorn, or indignation. It differs from the comic in that comedy evokes laughter mainly as an end in itself, while satire derides; that is, it uses laughter as a weapon, and against a butt that exists outside the work itself (1999:275).

e. History of World War II

History of the World War II is continuation of the World War I. This war started on September 1, 1939. The effects are vast expanse of war. This war was very influential in the whole wide world is no exception Asia. The World War II is the global conflict of 1939-1945. It was the greatest and most destructive war in the history. At August 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945, atomic bombs were used against Hiroshima and Nagasaki and at August 15<sup>th</sup> Emperor Hirohito announced the surrender of Japan allies. The fear, horror, and suffer of war recognized by perpetrators and victims of war.

f. Sociology

According to Tischler in his book *Introduction to Sociology* that: *Sociology is the scientific study of human society and social interaction. The main focus of sociology is the group, not the individual* (2007:4). Sociology is a science about society. People live in groups and they make relationships. It is usually studied in industrial societies. The study of the sociology concerns their behavior in the community, and events that exist in the community.

**Research Methods**

The writer uses library research to arrange this thesis. The library research is

method to search information through library with the subject and books. Its function collects theories and information to support analysis. In this thesis, the writer uses intrinsic extrinsic approach. An intrinsic approach is way to criticize literature in the different way with understanding words. Wellek and Warren (1962: 141) explained that “*structure is a concept including both content and form so far as they are organized for aesthetic purposes*”.

## **Discussion**

### **1. Satire of Intrinsic Elements in *Ad***

#### **a. Diction**

If you've been a **figure in the chamber of horrors**,  
If you've ever escaped from a **psychiatric ward**,  
If you thrill at the thought of **throwing poison into wells**, **have**  
**heavenly visions of people, by the thousands, dying in flames—**

In the lines tell about the characteristics of men who can be accepted in this job. The word choices in this poem have fascination to make the readers enthusiasm. Fearing uses words “*a figure in the chamber of horrors*”, “*a psychiatric ward*”, “*throwing poison into wells*”, **have heavenly visions of people, by the thousands, dying in flames—**”. It can be interpreted something that have negative meanings.

The definition of “**the chamber of horrors**” means a room which contains a lot of very frightening things such as criminals, murderers, or head of the prisoner that punished dead. It is also a place for criminals to wait their punishment. The criminals will be brought to justice because of their mistake. In other words, that this line tells that who are the people that they have been brutal men to killing people they can join to the job.

“**A psychiatric ward**” is a place where people who are mentally ill stay and receive treatment. The World War II is full of crazy people because they can kill everyone without thinking. In the history, America booms Hiroshima and Nagasaki with nuclear atom. There are so many people died. Nuclear weapon in that era is a

greatest weapon that cannot be defeated by other weapons. The type of human can do like that is an insensible person like people who live in a psychiatric ward.

**“Throwing poison into wells”** has meaning the act of malicious people to manipulate of portable water resources to spread disease or poison, or to destroy an opponent access to source of fresh water. The men who do like that are malicious men. In the wartime, throwing poison into wells is terror strategy. They throw poison to make the enemies confusing and annihilating. This tactic has happened before the World War II. Antiquity has happened like this. The enemy or the shadow-land will look for defensively access to fresh water. Throwing poison into wells is not only killing people but also animals and plants. It makes them desperate and decides to give up to the colonizers.

The last analysis in this line is about explanation **“have heavenly visions of people, by the thousands, dying in flames—“**. In those words tell us about people who can do something without worrying about the consequence to killing people in the big flames. As we know, boom in the wartime makes big fires. It makes the thousand people dying in the flames. Men who have heavenly visions of people make the people in shadow-land dying are rough, unpleasant and violent men.

These words are rhetorical. They describe speech or writing which is intended to seem important or influence people. It is irony, the words are opposite with first words that are very wonderful and amazing to hear it, but actually, they look for criminals, crazy and murderer men.

*Wanted: A race of brand-new men.*

Apply: **Middle Europe;**

In these lines, the government wants to take over other country. Race means a group of people who has uncommon equality external condition. It also has the same type or the fact of belonging to such a group like history, language, color, form of face and etc. The government wants to make new race to reach their dream. In the purpose, he wants to rule the roast of middle Europe. Middle Europe consists of Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia and Slovakia.

**No skill** needed;  
**No ambition** required; **no brains** wanted **and no character**  
allowed;

In a new country, the government announces the qualification of men. They are not physically realistic. “**No skill**” is lack of ability to do something that should they done. “**No ambition**” is a thinking of person who thinks badly things. They think that something bad will happen before they do that. They do that but in the middle of journey, they feel that they are the bad part of the situation. “**No brains**” is a person that does not use their thinking when they do something. “**No character**” is people who are a cruel person that can pain to people that make them feel suffering. In the World War II, there are so many people whom like that. They are make suffering and paining for everyone. They do not use their brain.

With these words, the speaker satirizes them. It means that they are no talented, pessimist, stupid and cruel. The poet underestimates with what they done. In the last line, we can know that men will be paid with death.

## **b. Symbol**

### **1. Men**

In this word, *Men* symbolizes of soldiers, armies and male workers that work at someone who has high authority and *Men* also represent of people who have good quality in their profession especially in hard work. At the past only men can be soldier. Usually *Men* symbolize as strong people who can work in every kinds of profession. The soldiers are strong people bravely against enemies at the battlefield. They are under authority of the government that why they are strong and brave men. Men are also as symbol of strong authority. As we know that men are represented supermen, logical minded and strong worker. The government needs them to conquer other states.

### **2. A big field**

Here “*a big field*” symbolizes a war area where the soldiers wanted. It can be entered also millions of men and to be sought at the same time and place as soldiers in war is urgently needed. They could comply with any orders from superiors.

**c. Imagery**

*Wanted: A race of brand-new men.*

“**A race of brand-new men**”, in these words, the reader needs sense of sight. When we talk about a race, we talk about shape and color of that people. So, in this line convey in shape and color of the race of brand new men. Fearing uses visual imagery when he said a race of brand-new men. The readers will imagine a race of brand-new men look like in the wartime when they read it.

*Take a permanent job in the coming profession*

In this line tells us that fearing wants to the characters take that job permanently. Fearing uses kinesthetic imagery to describe that the characters accept this job with movement. They also involved an activity with other men.

**2. Satire of Extrinsic Element in Ad**

*You are the very man we want  
We mean business and our business is you  
Wanted: A race of brand-new men.*

Apply: Middle Europe;  
No skill needed;  
No ambition required; no brains wanted and no character allowed;

The speaker tells about irony to joining into army. The speaker said that men are wanted as business. Actually the speaker said about the different and opposite meaning about business. It satirizes the government about business that they did. In these lines, Fearing shows to the readers where advertisement to apply was. It applies for Middle Europe. In these lines tell that armies are brand-new men that do not have physically skill. The government needs men that have no skill, no ambition, no brain and no character. Here, characters that the government choice there is so many sarcasm in it. The reason of Fearing satirize them, maybe because he does not like war, so he uses these words that no needed but in the real life, they needed. It is also

irony because the characters may be needed by government in order to they can kill people but when they win in the war, their country will destroy because of themselves.

*Take a permanent job in the coming profession  
Wages: Death.*

In the lines show how Fearing's feeling about war that war is a death place. Fearing demanded to take this profession for men, but actually, he has just wanted to mock them. He underestimates the people that follow war. The speaker uses glossed over statement. It is used to conceal the speaker's negative opinion. They will lose everything because in the warfare, every state wants to master other state or protect their state from the other state attack. However, in the last line shows those men will get death from war. We can see in the last occurrence of this poem is death. It means that people who mixed up the war will get nothing.

This poetry is very appropriate the condition of people in the world war II. Many effects happened because of war such as death, famine, and loss family and mind. Children lost their father or their brothers because they have to join to the army. Sometimes war should happen; it is a reality that cannot be separated in society's life. Death is one of the results of war. The speaker tries to against the war with his poem in order to get a world of peace. Life without war is better and the future is realizable without bomb, no war, and no blood. Unfortunately, in this era there is state that engage in war with other country.

## **Conclusion**

In the previous chapter, the writer has analyzed Fearing's poem. It can be concluded that *Ad* is a satire poem. The speaker satirizes the World War II. It can be seen in the intrinsic and extrinsic element.

In the diction, the writer found that Fearing uses denotation and connotation to hide the meaning of the speaker said. It can be seen in every line. Fearing satirizes the characteristics of armies and what government does. It shows that the government wants to war and make soldiers that have bad quality especially in morality.

In the symbol, it can be seen in every stanza. It symbolizes object, location and occasion of the World War II. It also satirizes all of them.

In the imagery, it can be seen in some line. It shows that the speaker tries to invite the reader into his imagination. There are three imageries that dominate in his poem; visual, kinesthetic and organic imagery.

In the sociology, it can be seen that the speaker satirizes life of the society of World War II. It explains about Fearing's satire to the war occurrence and how the government accomplishes it. Fearing uses rhetoric, humor tone, irony, exaggeration and ridicule words to be used as vehicle to change social.

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