

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

One of war poetry is “At the War Office, London”, written by Thomas Hardy. It describes the situation during the war in the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century. Thomas Hardy wrote this poem as resemble of his feeling when he sensed and felt the war at that time. Everything on that time was messed up. Corpses were lying on the street, people were dying and starving. Hardy was believed in and anti-war sentiments.

The purpose of the study: to analyze the poetic elements in the poem so that the writer can understand the poem better and deeper; and to find out the cruelty and sorrow as the impact of the war.

Therefore, the writer will go to analyze the intrinsic elements first such as diction, imagery, symbol and personification. To analyze the intrinsic aspect, the writer uses Objective Approach by Abrams. Next, the writer will focus on the cruelty and the sorrow of the war for the soldier that represented in the poem as the analysis of extrinsic elements. For the extrinsic elements, the writer uses mimetic approach.

**CHAPTER II**

**BIOGRAPHY OF THE POET, THE POEM, AND**

**TRANSLATION OF THE POEM**

Thomas Hardy was born on June 2, 1840, in Higher Bockhampton in Dorset, England. The first of four children, Hardy was born small and thought at birth to be dead. He grew to be a small man only a little over five feet tall. Thomas Hardy is a son of a stone-mason and a servant mother. He was educated at village schools and in Dorchester, but no university training. He was married with Florence Emily Dugdale in 1914, who had been his secretary for several years.

His best novels are *The Return of the Native* (1878), *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886), and *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891). He died on January 11, 1928. His heart was buried in the churchyard at Stinsford, England, his ashes in Westminster Abbey.

**The Poem**

*“At the War Office, London”*

Last year I called this world of gain – givings  
 The darkest thinkable, and questioned sadly  
 If my own land could heave its pulse less gladly  
 So charged it seemed with circumstance whence spring  
 The tragedy of things

5

Yet at that censured time no heart was rent  
 Of feature blanched of parent, wife, or daughter  
 By hourly blazoned sheets of listed slaughter  
 Death waited nature's wont; peace smiled unshent

From Ind to Occident

10

Thomas Hardy

**Translation of the poem**

*Di Markas Militer, London*

Tahun lalu aku menyebutnya sebagai dunia yang memberi dan menerima

Pikiran yang jahat, dan pertanyaan yang mengharukan

Seandainya negeriku bisa menghela nafas secara perlahan

Yang tampak sebagai beban saat musim semi tiba

Tragedy tentang hal ini

5

Tak ada hati yang tergadaikan

Raut ketakutan tampak di wajah para orangtua, istri, serta anak mereka

Setiap saat api peperangan berkobar

Menanti kematian adalah hal yang wajar, tersenyum damai

Dari Ind menuju Occident

10

Thomas Hardy

## CHAPTER III

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

#### **Intrinsic Elements**

The intrinsic elements that will be analyzed such as: diction, imagery, symbol, and personification. These intrinsic elements are easily to be found from the lines of the poem.

#### **Diction**

Rachmat Djoko Pradopo in his book *Pengkajian Puisi* says that diction can be divided into two groups: Denotation and Connotation. Each type has its own meaning and used in the text, and also it represents something when the thing is written either denotation or connotation. “*Diksi dapat dibagi menjadi dua bagian: Denotasi dan Konotasi. Tiap jenisnya memiliki kegunaannya sendiri-sendiri dan juga mewakili suatu hal yang ingin dituangkan dalam tulisan, baik itu konotasi maupun denotasi.*” (2007: 58).

First, denotation is a meaning of the word itself. As Perrine states in *Literature: Structure, Sound and Sense*, denotation is “*the dictionary meaning or meanings of the word*” (1987: 38). Meanwhile, connotation’s meaning is a context of words that has more meanings in it. Rachmat Djoko Pradopo says that connotation is a group of association feeling that gather around in one word from the setting which is describe on. “*Makna konotasi adalah sebuah kelompok asosiasi makna yang dapat dideskripsikan dalam satu kata.*” (2007: 58).

### **Visual Imagery**

As we can see, visual object is something that can be captured by our eyes like physical object, colors, scenery or view. As Perrine describes that “*visual imagery is an image that appears from eyesight*” (1969:55).

### **Symbol**

In his book, *Metaphor and Reality*, Wheelwright says that “*symbol is a kind of expression which contains larger meaning or set of meanings*” (1962: 62).

### **Personification**

Levin says in *Prose Model*, personification is “*the attribution of human qualities to abstract ideas or objects*” (1983: 234).

### **Extrinsic Elements**

By looking at the title of this poem, we know that this poem content a story during a war. The war itself is not an ordinary war; it is World War 1 on 1914-1919. The poem itself is the experience of the author which is poured as a word as the medium of his expression on that time. To know more about this poem, we better looking at the chronology of World War 1.

“At The War Office, London” is a poem which used war condition as the theme. This poem was written by Thomas Hardy. There is no specific date when Thomas Hardy wrote this poem, it is difficult to say which war that has connection with this poem.

By looking at the timeline of Thomas Hardy’s lifetime from 1840-1928, there is one Great War that happens at that time, The First World War which is happened from 1914-1920.

By reading the biography of Thomas Hardy, we can assure that World War 1 is the possible one that this poem refers to. According to [Dr Andrzej Diniejko](#), Senior Lecturer in English Literature and Culture, Warsaw University, Poland, on *Thomas Hardy. A Biographical Sketch*, it is says

During the First World War Hardy was in his seventies. In spite of advanced age, he took an active part in campaigns defending Britain's involvement in the war. He visited military hospitals and POW camps. In his last years Hardy rarely left Max Gate although he remained vital; he was still interested in world affairs.(2010)

This information gives assurance that "At The War Office, London" has a connection with World War 1. Some of his poetry that talks about war is compiled in *Poem of War and Patriotism*, one of them is "At the War Office London". According to Logan Mikel on *Thomas Hardy's Meliorism: Making The Case for a Hopeful Day*, it is stated that "*Thomas Hardy works during World War 1 originally published in Poem of War and Patriotism*" (112).

Continue from Logan Mikel, we can see that Hardy is an anti-war person. He hated when war disrupted the harmony of people's life, "*After witnessing violence and ugliness of war, the natural human response is disgust and hopeless*" (114). Hardy is in despair, he begun to lose his faith about the war will end. It is shown when he visited the barracks for injured people of World War 1, "*During the First World War Hardy was in his seventies. In spite of advanced age, he took an active part in campaigns defending Britain's involvement in the war. He visited military hospitals and POW camps*" (2010).

## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS OF THE POEM

#### Intrinsic Elements

##### Diction

*“By hourly **blazoned** sheets of listed slaughter”.*

Blazoned is derived from the word “blaze”. From *Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary 5<sup>th</sup> Edition*, the denotation meaning of word “blaze” is “a very large fire, especially a dangerous one” (1995:112). Blaze is a strong and bright flame or fire. Looking back at the phrase, blazoned also has a connotation meaning. From the phrase *“By hourly **blazoned** sheets of listed slaughter”*, we can see that the situation in the battlefield is horrible and such as a nightmare for the soldiers; because the sound of bombs and the military army who shoots the missiles from the tanks, it makes the battlefield as a burned place is like a hell.

##### Visual Imagery

*By hourly **blazoned** sheets of listed slaughter* line 8

“**Blazoned**” comes from the word “blaze” which means the sea of fire or the burning fire. As we know, fire has the red color and fire itself can’t be touched because when the fire makes a contact with the skin, the skin will be burnt right away, but fire can be seen with our eyes.

##### Symbol

“**no heart was rent**” from the phrase “yet at that censured time no heart was rent”. “**no heart was rent**” symbolized the fate of the people. For civilians, they must

accept the reality even it is hard to understand. The war breaks out. They must protect their own lives and survives in this uncertain condition. As for people especially for men who left their country as the soldier, they must defend their country from any strikes of the enemy's troops. Like or not, men who works as soldiers during the war, they are victim too. They don't have many options to choose. As they march to the battlefield, they believe that the purpose of their action is just to bring peace back to their country, so the family who they are left behind can survive and they can reunite again after the war end.

### **Personification**

“**pulse**” in “*If my own land could heave its pulse less gladly*” is the human ability that is attributed to a non-living object. This is a conditional sentence that never happens because only people can struggle to get and defense their own, but this expression must have a purpose for the reader. The fact that Thomas Hardy was an anti-war man could give the readers clue in what he meant. People will not lose their life if they do not fight in a war. It means that human life is more precious than land and gold. Human ambition to get more lands and glorious is a dark side of every human. Therefore, the reason for war is never become the truth in Hardy's point of view. He hoped everyone know that war is useless because there are more disadvantages than its advantages.

### **Extrinsic Element**

#### **The Sorrow and Cruelty of War**

The sorrow of war can be looked from people who live near or in the area of war. The expression that often people show is sadness, pain, stress, etc. they mourning because they lost their family, their home which they can hide or stay but they have to



abandon it to move to a safe place or they lose their home because it is destroyed by bombs.

For cruelty also can be seen from the using of poison gas that Walter has been said on *The Use of Poison Gas in World War I and The Effect on Society* journal. By using one poison gas, it can kill thousand people. Imagine if this mass murderer weapon is used in a large scale, perhaps more casualties will rise.

### **The Impact of War**

The victims of war live in poverty with no money, hunger because the lack of foods every day, the public facilities like transportation, communication are cut down. They live in fear and frightening. Some of them become stress, unable to think rationally. Some of them survive with the loss of their part of the body like arm, leg, or eye. The mark of the war is carved in their body as a memorial.

The bourgeois lost the control of their worker, the economic state crashes down because there is no one who works to support the economic of their country. People lost their jobs and after the war, the condition of the country is still terrible.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

The poem “At the War Office London” written by Thomas Hardy is a story about a war. In general, it tells the condition of England in a great suffer because they had to take a part during the World War 1. The condition of England at that time was unstable because they had to fight against their enemy and they had to support their allies with weaponry, medicine, foods and drinks. The situation at that time is pictured with the words that are expressed by Thomas Hardy in this poem. We can see how diction and personification are used in the poem.

From the analysis of the poem, we can see how diction, imagery, symbol, and personification are the most dominant element of the intrinsic element that can be found from the poem. Each of the element are used to describe about the war by the poet

From the extrinsic elements, we can see the impact of the war for the people that live near the battlefield. How people is crying, feeling pain, trauma, shocking because they never predict that the war will erupt and cause sorrow and brings misfortunes to them. People also loss their homes, buildings becomes ruins and abandoned. Foods are limited to them. Some of them survive and tell their story about the war that they experienced recently, some of them die miserably. Some of them who survive and live after the war ends will their story to their children or grandchildren about what they had experienced, about the war that like a nightmare and they feel like they just wake up from their nightmare.