



**The Reflection of Hemingway's Life as a Writer through Harry's Characters in
the Short Story "The Snows of Kilimanjaro"**

(A Thesis)

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for S-1 Degree in
English Department, Faculty of Humanities of Diponegoro University**

Submitted by:

Rukma Kawentar

A2B009069

Faculty of Humanities

Diponegoro University

Semarang

2013

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Ernest Hemingway is one of American writers who has an influence on the development of literature in the 20th century. Through existentialism and nihilism that affect his works (Martin, 2007), he has produced many novels and short stories, and one of them is “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”, a short story that will be examined by the writer. The story is very interesting in which the readers are brought into the natural and wild adventure in Africa combined with psychological problems experienced by the main character in this short story.

As already said above, in creating a masterpiece, Hemingway uses his existentialist view to create a strong character. This has encouraged the writer to investigate further about the main character in this short story. The writer will look into the relationship between the main character and the life of Hemingway as a writer.

1.2 Research problems

To support that the writer has compiled a few questions, there are:

1. What are the factors that make Harry look for his meaning of life?
2. How are the connections between existentialism and psychological aspects in Harry's characters?
3. How is Hemmingway's writing life reflected on Harry's characters?

1.3 Objectives of the study

This research will focus on Harry's psychological characters in the story and also the life experience of Hemingway. There are two objectives of this research, namely:

1. To see the factors that makes Harry look for his meaning of life.
2. To examine the existentialism and psychological aspects in Harry's characters.
3. To see the representation of Hemingway's writing life through the characters of Harry.

1.4 Methods of the Study

Here the writer uses the expressive approach to assist the analysis of psychology of the characters of Harry. This approach is used to find the facts about the special character and the experiences of authors, who consciously or not, have opened himself in his work. Thus, conceptually and methodologically it is known that expressive approach sees literature as: (1) a form of expression of the author, (2) products that work with the imagination of the author's perceptions, thoughts and feelings, (3) product of author's worldview (Abrams, 1953: 22-26).

1.5 Organization of the thesis

This study is divided into five (5) chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. Chapter two is the review related to the literature, where the writer reviews the author's biography and the summary of the object. Chapter three is the theoretical review, where the writer explains the theory that he used for this research. Chapter four is the data analysis, where the writer discusses about the psychology of Harry. It also analyzes how Harry's life can be a reflection of Hemingway's life. The last chapter is the conclusion of the research, where the thesis statements of the research are carved out

CHAPTER 2

BIOGRAPHY AND SYNOPSIS

2.1 Author and His Works

Ernest Miller Hemingway was born on July 21, 1899, in Cicero (now in Oak Park), Illinois. In 1918, Hemingway went overseas to serve in World War I as an ambulance driver in the Italian Army.

It was in Chicago that Hemingway met Hadley Richardson, the woman who would become his first wife. The couple married and quickly moved to Paris, where Hemingway worked as a foreign correspondent for the *Star*.

In 1925, the couple, joining a group of British and American expatriates, took a trip to the festival that would later provided the basis of Hemingway's first novel, *The Sun Also Rises*.

Soon after the publication of *The Sun Also Rises*, Hemingway and Hadley divorced, due in part to his affair with a woman named Pauline Pfeiffer, who would become Hemingway's second wife shortly after his divorce from Hadley was finalized. The author continued to work on his book of short stories, *Men Without Women*.

While reporting on the Spanish Civil War in 1937, Hemingway met a fellow war correspondent named **Martha Gellhorn** (soon to become wife number three) and gathered material for his next novel, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, which would eventually be nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

When the United States entered World War II in 1941, Hemingway served as a correspondent and was present at several of the war's key moments, including the D-Day landing. Toward the end of the war, Hemingway met another war correspondent, Mary Welsh, whom he would later marry after divorcing Martha Gellhorn.

In 1951, Hemingway wrote *The Old Man and the Sea*, which would become perhaps his most famous book; finally winning him the Pulitzer Prize he had long been denied.

In 1954, he won the Nobel Prize in Literature. Even at this peak of his literary career, though, the burly Hemingway's body and mind were beginning to betray him. Recovering from various old injuries in Cuba, Hemingway suffered from depression and was treated for numerous conditions such as high blood pressure and liver disease.

Early on the morning of July 2, 1961, Ernest Hemingway committed suicide in his Ketchum home.

2.2 The Summary of “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”.

"The Snows of Kilimanjaro" opens on the African savanna where Harry and his wife are talking to each other matter-of-factly about the man's leg, which is rotting away from gangrene. Harry's wife is trying to make him more comfortable and make him believe that he will survive, but he

seems to be enjoying the black humor of the vultures that are waiting for him to die. As she speaks to him, his resentment of her money and her upbringing comes out in his comments.

In his final flashback, he thinks again about the war, this time about a man he saw die, before waking from his flashback and talking to the woman more. He begins to see Death personified, breathing sourly on him. Before he is facing the death, he dreams, when the morning comes, the plane has arrived to take him to the city and to the doctor. Harry gets in the plane and the pilot, instead of taking him to the city, flies him right by the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro and Harry "knew that there was where he was going." In the final section of the text, the woman wakes up because the hyena that has been making noise for hours stop whimpering and has begun making another sound. As she looks over at Harry, she realizes that he has died.

CHAPTER 3

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 Characters, Settings and Symbols

Characters, settings and symbols are just some of the intrinsic elements in the prose. The author will use these elements to assist in the review of the story "The Snows of Kilimanjaro".

3.1.1 Characters

In the presentation and to determine the character, authors generally use two ways or methods in his work. First, the direct method (telling) and second is indirect method (showing). Direct method relies on the figures character explanation and commentary direct from the author (Pickering and Hoepfer, 1981:27). This method is usually used by fiction writers of antiquity not modern fiction.

Indirect method shows the author puts himself outside the narrative by providing an opportunity for character to show their characters through dialogue and action (Pickering and Hoepfer, 1981:27). However, unlike in the past literature era, most of the authors of the present (modern era) combines both methods in the literature. So, it is not essential that the author must use or choose one of the methods. Most modern writers prefer this method of showing than the method of telling. This

determination is not based on the indirect method better than other methods, at times this is caused by authors who consider methods of showing is more interesting to the reader.

According to Perrine, there are two types of character based on its development, namely flat characters and round characters (1988:67)

3.1.2 Settings

There are several aspects of a story's setting to consider when examining how setting contributes to a story (some, or all, may be present in a story):

- 1) Place - geographical location. Where is the action of the story taking place?
- 2) Time - When is the story taking place? (Historical period, time of day, year, etc)
- 3) Weather conditions - Is it rainy, sunny, stormy, etc?
- 4) Social conditions - What is the daily life of the characters like? Does the story contain local color (writing that focuses on the speech, dress, mannerisms, customs, etc. of a particular place)?
- 5) Mood or atmosphere - What feeling is created at the beginning of the story? Is it bright and cheerful or dark and frightening? (1966: 38-40)

3.1.3 Symbols

A symbol in literature itself is something that has more meaning than its original meaning (Perrine, 1988:172).

Perrine also explained that in order to understand the meaning of symbols, the reader should pay attention to:

- 1) The instructions of the story in detail to understand the symbols
- 2) The context of the story that forms and supports the significance of that symbol
- 3) To be regarded as a symbol, an object must have a different meaning from the real meaning
- 4) A symbol can have more than one meaning (1988: 175-177).

3.1. Psychological Approach

The writer will use Viktor Frankl's theory of existential psychology to examine the character of Harry in the short story "The Snows of Kilimanjaro".

3.1.1. Psychological Theory of "Will to Meaning"

Frankl called the therapy that he used as Logotherapy. In contrast to the theories of Freud (will to pleasure) or the theory of Adler (will to power), the psychology theory of Frankl is more directed at a person's search for identity, or will to meaning. Logotherapy is derived from the Greek word, *logos*, which when translated can be interpreted as "meaning". So this theory has the basic concepts:

- 1) Life has meaning under all circumstances (the meaning of live)
- 2) The primary motivation for living is to find meaning in life (the will to meaning)
- 3) The freedom to seek the meaning of life (the freedom of will) (Frankl: 1973, 17-20).

CHAPTER 4

INTRINSIC AND EXTRINSIC ANALYSIS

4.1 Settings and Characters

As already described in chapter 3, the setting and the characters are two important elements that are always present in every story. These elements can be seen clearly by the reader while reading a story, it is what distinguishes these elements with other elements such as theme or plot that must be understood in depth by reading the entire story.

4.1.1 Settings

From the title of the story we can tell that the setting of place of this story is Mount Kilimanjaro located in the African continent.

As for the time setting is not known exactly when, but in the story Harry tells his experiences as a volunteer in World War I, so the most likely setting of the time of this story took after World War I.

The social condition in the story tells that Harry has brought lavish lifestyle; it is also supported by the presence of his wife which is a wealthy widow. The high-class society in Harry's life will affect his lifestyle as a person especially as a writer.

Setting in Kilimanjaro has brought a different atmosphere to this story. The place setting helps the reader to come to feel how hard the African nature faced by dying Harry. Indirectly, this place setting also helps to forms the mood setting in "The Snows of Kilimanjaro"; it makes Harry's character that is dying to become more depressed due to his poor condition.

4.1.2 Characters

In the story of "The Snows of Kilimanjaro", there are some figures mentioned by Hemingway. First is Harry, the main character in this story. The story is about Harry who is dying of gangrene he suffers after being wounded while hunting in Africa. Harry that is in a state of dying is described by Hemingway in a pathetic condition, both physically and mentally. Hemingway makes the wonderful narration in the story to make Harry's expressions becomes dynamic like Hemingway himself who faces the death.

Living in the luxury does not make Harry completely happy in his life. There is a dialogue in the story when Harry calls his servant to bring him a drink even though his wife forbids him to drink an alcohol Harry still forces his servant to bring him one. It can be seen from that dialogue that Harry has a stubborn character. Besides, his weakened condition of his body makes him does not have the intention to live, especially in the uncertainty when the news of the plane will come to pick him up to take him to the hospital to treat his wound.

In addition to the main character Harry there are also several other figures such as Harry's wife whose name only mentioned at the end of story. "Helen had taken Compton aside and was speaking to him. Compton came back more cheery than ever" (Hemingway, 1946: 81) the narration

said that her name is Helen. And there is a waitress named Molo. Through their dialogue and narration in the story it can be known that despite their desperate situation Harry's wife continues to believe and patiently waits for help to arrive and also takes care for her husband. It shows how great her love to Harry is, even though her husband does not truly love her and she knows this. Her behavior shows that even though she comes from a wealthy family, she has a humble and mother-like personality.

4.2 Symbolism in “The Snows of Kilimanjaro”

Death is shown in the story largely through symbolism. Mount Kilimanjaro is one of them. From the beginning of the story, the reader is given a narrative that Mount Kilimanjaro is "The House of God" (Hemingway, 1946: 58). So the place is what will be the final resting place for Harry when he died of gangrene disease that continues to rot his legs. It is shown at the end of story when Helen dreams about a plane that takes Harry to the Kilimanjaro.

Throughout the story, recurring symbols are written in a different way by Hemingway. The story begins with death and ends with death as well. Mount Kilimanjaro may symbolize heaven or hell in ambiguity, but it certainly is the final resting place of Harry. Hyena is a symbol of death and a possible sign for Harry's wife to find out about Harry's death. The most important symbol is the disease that Harry gets in his safari in Africa, gangrene. The gangrene symbol makes a picture how Harry's life as a writer comes to end.

4.3 Existentialism in the Characters of Harry

In the story it is told that Harry realizes that his life is to write. He needs to produce a writing to live and this is what makes him happy when his writing is liked by many people.

From the explanation before it is clear that the meaning of life of Harry is to write. Besides to fulfill his duty as a writer, writing also becomes his way to reveal what he wants to say from his mind.

Actually, long before Harry is dying, he begins his journey in search of the meaning of life. It starts when he starts working as a writer. To top it all is when he is dying he begins to think back to the

events of the past which is a collection of experiences and the suffering he experiences during his life.

It is all to make him realize his meaning of life.

4.4 The Reflection of Hemingway's Characters on Harry's Characters

The table below will show us the connection between Harry and Hemingway in term of existentialism.

Existentialism		Harry	Hemingway
Step 1	Existential Vacuum	Cannot write a story like what he wants to write	Cannot produce a work like what he wants to write
Step 2	Anticipatory Anxiety	His fear concerning his inability to write	His slowdown in creating a work
	Hyperintention	Trying too hard in work	Trying too hard in work
	Hypereflection	Thinking too hard about the past events when he meets his true love	Remembering the past events about his problems in life
Step 3	De-Reflection	Writing is his way to deny his life problems	Writing is his way to deny his life problems
Step 4	Meaning of Life	To write	To write

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

As a famous writer Hemingway has a special characteristic in terms of creating a character. This makes the characters in his works have a deep impression on the reader.

Through the theories and analyses that have been described above, the writer conclude that in terms of the creation of a work of literature, personal experience of the author can influence it. It is important to know the background of the author if people want to analyze his works. The author background can help the people who try to analyze it because his works may relate to the author personal experiences in his life.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abrams, M.H. *The Mirror and the lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1953.
- [Baker, Carlos](#). *Hemingway: The Writer as Artist* (4th edition). Princeton University Press. 1972
- Frankl, Viktor E. *Man's Search for Meaning* (4th edition). Boston: Beacon Press. 1992.
- _____, Viktor E. *The Doctor and the Soul: From Psychotherapy to Logotherapy*. New York: Vintage Books. 1973.
- _____, Viktor E. *The Unconscious God: Psychotherapy and Theology*. New York: Simon and Schuster. 1975.
- Hemingway, Ernest. *The First Forty-nine Stories*. London: A.W.Bain & Co.Ltd. 1946.
- Kenney, William. *How to Analyze Fiction*. New York: Monarch Press. 1966
- Martin, Linda Wagner. *Ernest Hemingway: A Literary Life*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. 2007.
- Meyers, Jeffrey. *Hemingway: A Biography*. London: Macmillan. 1985.
- Pattakos, Alex. *Prisoner of Our Thought* (2nd edition). San Fransisco: Berret-Koehler Publisher, Inc. 2010.
- Perrine, Laurence. *Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense*. London: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publisher. 1988.
- Pickering and Hoeper, Jeffrey D. *Concise Companion to Literature*. New York: Macmillan. 1981.
- Wellek, Rene & Austin Warren. *Theory of Literature*. New York: Pacifics Books. 1977.
- The Hemingway Resources Center, "Ernest Hemingway Biograph>Childhood"
- The Hemingway Resources Center Ernest. "Hemingway Biograph>World War I"
<<http://www.lostgeneration.com/ww1.htm>>
- The Hemingway Resources Center. "Ernest Hemingway Biograph>The Paris Years."
<<http://www.lostgeneration.com/paris.htm>> (4, July 2012).
- The Hemingway Resources Center. "Ernest Hemingway Biograph>Keywest"
<<http://www.lostgeneration.com/keywest.htm>> (4, July 2012).
- The Hemingway Resources Center. "Ernest Hemingway Biograph>Cuba"
<<http://www.lostgeneration.com/cuba.htm>> (4, July 2012).
- The Hemingway Resources Center. "Ernest Hemingway Biograph>World War II"
<<http://www.lostgeneration.com/wwtwo.htm>> (4, July 2012).
- The Hemingway Resources Center. "Ernest Hemingway Biograph>The Last Day"
<<http://www.lostgeneration.com/lastdays.htm>> (4, July 2012).