

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having done my analysis in chapter two, I am going to draw some conclusion from the analysis. I find that Wilfred Owen uses sarcasm in the dictions to show his view on World War I. In addition, he also employs figures of speech, such as simile and personification, to deliver his message. As a soldier fighting in World War I, Owen knows exactly what war is like. His description of war and the meaninglessness of the deaths of the soldiers at the battlefield provide the readers with a gloomy perspective of war. In the three poems, the readers can also learn that Owen is pessimistic about war. He clearly shows the readers about the grief, misery and sufferings of war.

I conclude that the three poems have different themes that concern with the same war. The theme of the first poem, "Dulce Et Decorum Est," is "Fighting in a war is worthless because it only brings suffering and traumatic experience." He uses simile like "bend double, like old beggars under sacks," and dictions like "Drunk with fatigue;" to give the image of suffered and weak soldiers. Owen also uses sarcasm in line 25 and 26, "My friend, you would not tell with such high

zest. To children ardent for some desperate glory,” which is emphasized in the next two lines, “The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est.” “The old lie” is an encouragement for the soldiers to fight for their country, but in reality fighting for one’s country also means sacrificing oneself and suffering. Then Owen shows the reader that the soldiers also feel traumatic experience through “Dim through the misty panes and thick green light. As under a green sea, I saw him drowning, In all my dreams before my helpless sight. He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning,” which mean that the soldier sees the death of his friends with his own eyes. In a simile “His hanging face, like a devil’s sick of sin,” the narrator is said to have nightmare or bad memory of war and is powerless to do anything about that.

The theme of the second poem entitled “The Last Laugh” is “War brings adversity and horrifying situation.” This sarcastic poem tries to convey to the readers about the adversities and cruelty of the battlefield by personifying the weapons which hit them to emphasize the horrifying situation and the suffering. Each of the three stanzas opened with the soldiers’ cry as emotional expressions to make the readers imagine how miserable their condition is.

Owen uses personifications such as “The Bullets chirped - In vain! vain! vain!” which literally mocks the soldiers’ useless sacrifice. The sound of a big gun that “guffawed,” or in “And the Bayonets' long teeth grinned;” are to emphasize the “happiness” of the weapons when they bring sufferings to the soldiers. “And the lofty Shrapnel-cloud Leisurely gestured, - Fool! And the falling splinters tittered” emphasize the point that there is nothing to gain in war,

even the splinters “tittered” to mock the soldiers’ useless sacrifice. With the words “kissed the mud,” the poet wants to convey a tragic and a horrifying condition of the soldier who ends up kissing the mud instead of the girl he loves. Then the words “grinned” and “groaned” are used to emphasize how the weapons mock the soldiers and at the same time generate a horrifying situation of the war.

The theme of the third poem, “Anthem for Doomed Youth,” is “War is a cruel event that only brings sadness and sorrow.” Owen uses sarcasm to emphasize the cruelty of war that brings sorrow. There are two questions in the poem, the first question “what passing-bells for these who die as cattle?” and the second question is “What candles may be held to speed them all?” arouse sorrowful feeling to the readers and emphasize the useless fighting in a war. Then the question “who die as cattle” provides the readers with the meaninglessness of war that only brings bad impacts to strong and spirited young soldiers who are slaughtered in the battlefield like cattles. Owen also personifies the guns to have “monstrous anger” to show how violently the guns kill the soldiers at the battlefield. There will be no prayers and bells to praise the soldiers but the shrill, demented choirs of wailing shells; And bugles calling for them from sad shires which emphasize the sad and sorrowful death of the soldiers in that cruel war. The cruelty of a war above is informed through sarcastic lines in which the mourn for the dead soldiers comes from the weapons instead from their families or relatives.

Having analyzed the theme of three of Wilfred Owen’s poems, I find that Owen succeeds in giving a realistic picture of war. I agree with Owen that war

only causes suffering and pain to the soldiers and I am personally against the war because it only brings restlessness not only to the soldiers, but also to the citizens and the children. In addition, war also brings destruction to the environment. I argue that the poems show Owen's effort as one of the victims of the war to show to the world that war is evil and has to be avoided. War is not the way to settle differences, war is a way to lose for both sides as it only brings suffering, sorrow, and death.

