

CHAPTER FOUR

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to draw some conclusions from my analysis of Wilfred Owen's and Sir Owen Seaman's poems. In their writing about World War I, both poets reveal their personal views through the dictions chosen in the selected poems.

The first poem I analysed is "Dulce et Decorum est" by Wilfred Owen. Written based on his experience at war, this poem reflects how bad the soldiers suffered at the battlefield. The theme of the poem is "One fought in war would only feel the agony and distress instead of the glory." Throughout the poem, Owen depicts the pain and horror felt by the soldiers at war by using words such as "bent double," "trudge," "marched asleep," "drunk with fatigue" and "lame."

The second poem is entitled "Arms and the Boy." In this poem, a young man is told to test the weapons to see if they suit him. However, Owen reveals that the weapons only destroy people. The theme of this poem is "Arms used in war can take away the soldiers' innocence and turn them to evil being," whereas

most stanzas discuss weapons and their desire to hurt and kill people. The weapons are described by using the words such as “keen with hunger of blood,” “famishing for flesh” and “sharp with the sharpness of grief and death” to show how dangerous the weapons are. In addition, the weapons destroy not only the physical body but also the innocence of the boy, as the user of the weapon. Using the word “long to muzzle in the hearts of lads,” Owen shows that the weapons long to control and numb the boys’ heart.

In the last poem, “The Chances,” with its theme “One fought in war would get the awful effects of war both physically and mentally,” Owen suggests the possibilities of harm that might befall on the soldiers. The chances were “knocked out,” “wounded,” destroyed or became mad. The effect of the war was so awful that even the soldiers chose to get “a blighty,” or serious injuries that resulted in their being shipped home to England.

The first poem of Sir Owen Seaman that I analysed is entitled “Pro Patria.” The title means “for one’s country” (“Pro Patria”) in English. As the title suggests, this poem is written to evoke a sense of patriotism and unity in the hearts of English people. The theme of the poem is “One should willingly defend one’s country and even sacrifice oneself for the goodness of the country during a war.” Seaman implies that the soldiers had to be ready to fight for their country “because, where Honour calls them, go they must.” In this poem, Seaman also uses the words “offering,” “humble service share,” “common good” and “one wide brotherhood” to emphasize on the sacrifice for England.

In the second poem, “Probation: To a King’s Recruit,” Seaman encourages the soldiers fighting at the battlefield. The theme is “Those who fight in war

should maintain the fighting spirit for their country despite the terrible condition.” Seaman realizes that the war was the “time of trial,” or the difficult time for the soldiers as “first glow of passion fails” and they were “left to bear the prose of duty's sombre ways and labour of the long unlovely days.” However, he suggests that the soldiers should remember that joining the war was noble as people of England had put their hope in them. Thus, the soldier had to fight in a high spirit for England.

The third poem is “To the Memory of Field-Marshal Earl Roberts.” Field-Marshal Earl Roberts was one of the most respected soldiers of England (“Lord Roberts of Kandahar. Biography”). Through this poem, Seaman shows how people respect the soldiers who fight for England in the war. The theme of this poem is “One who truly fights and dies for one’s country during a war would be honoured.” The poem depicts the soldier as someone who breathed “a faith that never once grew cold” and had “a great heart and true” for England. When he died, the people “paid tribute,” “homage” and “salute” to him as they respected him for being a great soldier of England.

After analysing the poems of Wilfred Owen and Sir Owen Seaman, I found some similarities. The first similarity is that the poems by both poets discuss war, to be more specific, World War I, and the second is that both poets came from the same country, which is England. Thus, I am of the opinion that their war poems show how the war was through the eyes of British people.

Interestingly, Wilfred Owen’s and Sir Owen Seaman’s poems reflect different perspectives about war. Wilfred Owen in his poems attempts to show people that war is horrible and pitiful. His poems show that war is destructive. In

contrast to Owen, Sir Owen Seaman has a more positive view about war. He attempts to show people that war is great and honourable. This is the only difference I found between these poets.

Even though the poets come from the same country, their views on war differ from each other. It can be said that Wilfred Owen is against the war while Sir Owen Seaman is for it. The different view is caused by the poets' personal background. Wilfred Owen enrolled himself to the army and joined the other young British recruits to fight in the war. Thus, he must have experienced the terrifying war and would like to show the other young men in his country about the reality that would befall them once they joined the army. On the other hand, Sir Owen Seaman, who had taken a professional job in journalism, did not go to the battlefield. Through his profession, he attempted to arouse patriotism of the people as he was inspired by British propaganda at the time of World War I.

Both Wilfred Owen and Sir Owen Seaman have given great contribution to the perspective of war. By studying their poems, I gain broader knowledge and view on World War I. In my opinion, both poets are successful in delivering their views about war using their own styles. None of them is better than the other as both are great. Analysing the poems makes me believe that war can be seen in more than one way, either as a destructive or honourable one.