

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analysing the four poems of Wilfred Owen, I find that Owen succeeds in giving a realistic picture of war. As a soldier fighting in World War I, the poet knows exactly what war is like. His description of war, for instance, in 'Another Version', reveals to the reader that war is full of cruelty: 'Earth's wheels run oiled with blood.../...their blood hath clogged the chariot wheels'. His description of the meaninglessness of the deaths of the soldiers, like in 'Insensibility', provides the reader with a gloomy side of war: 'The front line withers,...'and 'armies' decimation' demonstrate that many soldiers die meaninglessly in war.

In the four poems, the reader can also learn that Owen is pessimistic about war, for he clearly reveals that war has bad impacts not only on the soldiers who are fighting in the battlefield but also on their beloved ones: their families, their children and friends in the countryside where these soldiers are from. This is very well illustrated in 'Anthem for Doomed Youth'. In 'Disabled', the poet gives a very strong contrast between the soldier's prewar condition and his postwar condition. Youthfulness, strength, power, glory, happiness and attraction, which the soldier has before he joins the war, are contrasted with invalidity, helplessness, misery, grief, and 'a queer disease' which women avoid.

Owen describes not only about the physical pain and useless deaths that the soldiers experience in the battlefield but also about their mental anguish, for example in 'Insensibility', in which he says 'We march taciturn...', 'We wise, who with a thought besmirch Blood over our soul,...'.

As has been analysed in the previous chapter, the four poems have different themes although they are concerned with war. The first poem, 'Another Version' reveals the theme that war should be avoided because too many people have suffered and become victims of war. He uses diction, metaphor, anaphora, and the title to reveal the theme.

In revealing the theme of the second poem, 'Anthem for Doomed Youth', Owen also uses several kinds of poetic devices, such as diction and anaphora. The title also plays a significant role in revealing the theme of the poem, namely that war is cruel and only brings suffering and deaths. Again, Owen reveals that war also affects not only the soldiers who are fighting in the battlefield but also their beloved families and friends.

The third poem, 'Disabled' provides the reader with the theme of the bad impacts of war, in which young soldiers who are strong and attractive become old, disabled and unattractive invalids. The poetic devices that the poet uses to reveal the theme of this poem are diction, rhetoric question, repetition, and simile, besides the title, which also contributes to the revelation of the theme one way or another.

In the last poem, 'Insensibility', anaphora, irony, symbol, metaphor, simile, and diction are used to reveal the theme of the poem. Again in this poem, the title plays a significant role in the revelation of the theme, namely that there is

happiness for people who do not feel other people's pain and sufferings caused by war and those who have lost their feelings.

Although I am not a soldier and I do not have any relatives who are soldiers, I personally disapprove of war. I agree with Owen that war should be avoided because war, as I have frequently seen in films, causes not only physical pain and deaths but also mental sufferings.