

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **CONCLUSION**

Having analysed the eight poems, four written by A. B. Paterson and four written by Henry Lawson, I concluded that the backgrounds of the poets influence their works. Even though A. B. Paterson and Henry Lawson lived in the same century, in the same place, and they are known as friends, both of them share a different opinion when they are writing about the same subject matter.

Both A. B. Paterson and Henry Lawson write about the Australian bush. In their poems, the portrayal of the bush is totally different because the poets write according to their own experience about the bush.

Paterson portrays the bush as a very beautiful place where people live happily with a good job and environment. In his poems, the bush and bush people are described positively. From the biography of Paterson, it is known that he was born in a prosperous family, and that he spent his early childhood near the bush with his family before moving to the city to get education and to work there as a journalist. He went to the bush in his leisure time for a picnic with some friends; thus, he knows the bush only at its best. Paterson writes about

the bush according to his own experience about the bush. He likes the bush because when he went there he does not have to work or think about his job.

Paterson's portrayal about the city is quite negative. He describes the city as a noisy, crowded, and dirty place to live. In most of his bush poems, Paterson shows his dislike of the city. In his poems, the jobs of city people are portrayed as dull and boring. He considers his job as a journalist is also boring like jobs of other city people. It is clearly shown from his portrayal that his background really influences his work. His personal experience, both in the bush and in the city, is poured into his poems.

In addition, the way Paterson portrays the bush is due to his aspiration to create a national identity for Australia, which was under the influence of England during his time. Besides, he also wants to promote the Australian bush to Australian people by romanticising the condition of the bush.

On the other hand, Lawson portrays the bush as a horrible place to live; he describes the bush as a place where no one is able to live decently because the condition is very bad. The portrayal of the bush and bush people in his poems are usually negative. It is known from his background that Lawson was born into a needy family. He spent his early childhood in the bush in a very poor condition before moving to the city with his mother. The hardship in the bush he experienced since his childhood makes Lawson dislike the bush. His negative portrayal towards the bush is also because he was sent to the bush by his employer and he faced a lot of difficulties there. These experiences make Lawson dislike the bush even more. The portrayal of the bush in his poems is influenced by his

experiences in the bush. He knows that living in the bush is not as simple as others say. Lawson actually lived in the bush so he knows the bush at its worst.

Different from Paterson, the portrayal of the city in Lawson's poems is mostly positive. In his poems, the city is described as a good place to live where people can have better jobs and earn much for a living. It is also influenced by his background, because it is known from Lawson's biography that he gets a better job in the city as a journalist. Lawson often mentions in his poems that in the city, people do not have to walk too far from one place to another. His background states that when Lawson works in the bush, he has to walk very far to get from one place to another. His portrayal about the city is positive because he finds that living in the city is not as hard as living in the bush and he actually likes it.

Lawson writes his bush poems to express his opinion about the bush in order to show the real condition of the bush. Therefore, he also wants to share the portrayal of the bush according to his own experience as a bushman. It is believed that even though Lawson's portrayal about the bush is quite negative, he also wants to promote the Australian bush to Australian people in his own way. It is shown by joining in the *Sydney Bulletin* 'Bush Battle'. By writing in the *Bulletin*, he can express his opinion towards the bush and at the same time drawing people's attention to the bush as the object of promotion.

It is of my opinion that Paterson and Lawson are able to write the poems as they are because of the influence of their background. I believe that if Paterson experienced the hardship of the bush, he would not be able to see the positive image of the bush; whereas if Lawson experienced leisure times in the bush, he

would not see the bush as a horrible place to live in. Thus, the biographies of the poets have a strong influence towards the works of the poets.