
**AN ANALYSIS OF SYMBOLS IN SPANISH CIVIL WAR AS SEEN IN
FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS BY ERNEST HEMINGWAY****FAEHUSI TELAUMBANUA¹
FEBY MEUTHIA YUSUF²
SILVIA DJONNAIDI³****Volume 1 Nomor 1
JILP
ISSN: 2581-0804
E-ISSN: 2581-1819**

ABSTRACT

The problem in this thesis is the symbols contained in the civil war in Spain. This fight has taken many casualties, death is common, but the soldiers continue to struggle and sacrifice for the hope of victory. The three themes of the struggle about death, sacrifice, and hope are reflected in the symbols of the war.

In this writing, literature research is taken as a method of data collection. As for data analysis methods, the authors perform systematic procedures with the understanding of novels, symbols and symbol analysis, as well as semiotic theory. Data collection techniques use documentation techniques in finding data relevant to the subject. In data analysis techniques, the authors use structural techniques by analyzing novels based on the elements that

shape them.

The results of the research in this thesis are: 1) dynamite is a symbol of death, it can be connected with dynamite properties that can destroy anything around him, here are three Robert who aims to destroy the enemy by installing dynamite, 2) dynamite trigger is a symbol of sacrifice from the The main character, without any trigger, dynamite will not be explosive, Robert in this novel self-criticism to prevent enemies from being able to chase his fleeing friends, 3) the bridge as a symbol of hope, this is connected with the nature of the bridge connecting the two Side, Robert at the end of the story gives hope to his friends to stay safe from the battlefield.

Keywords: *symbol, war, hope*

ABSTRAK

Permasalahan dalam skripsi ini adalah simbol-simbol yang terdapat dalam perang saudara di Spanyol. Perperangan ini telah memakan banyak korban, kematian merupakan hal yang biasa terjadi, tetapi para prajurit tetap berjuang dan berkorban demi harapan untuk kemenangan. Tiga tema perperangan tentang kematian, pengorbanan, dan harapan tercermin dari simbol-simbol dalam perang tersebut. Dalam

penulisan ini, penelitian kepustakaan diambil sebagai metode pengumpulan data. Sedangkan untuk metode analisis data, penulis melakukan prosedur sistematis dengan pemahaman novel, simbol dan analisa simbol, dan juga teori semiotik. Hasil penelitian dalam skripsi ini adalah: 1) dinamit merupakan simbol kematian, hal ini dapat dihubungkan dengan sifat dinamit yang dapat menghancurkan apapun yang ada

disekelilingnya, inilah tiga Robert yang bertujuan untuk menghancurkan musuh dengan memasang dinamit, 2) pemicu dinamit merupakan simbol pengorbanan dari sang tokoh utama, tanpa adanya pemicu, dinamit tidak akan bisa meledak, Robert dalam novel ini mengobankan dirinya sendiri untuk menghalangi musuh agar tidak

dapat mengejar teman temannya yang sedang melarikan diri, 3) jembatan sebagai simbol harapan, hal ini dihubungkan dengan sifat jembatan yang menghubungkan dua sisi, Robert di akhir cerita memberikan harapan kepada teman temannya agar tetap selamat dari medan pertempuran.

Kata Kunci: *simbol, peran, harapan*

I INTRODUCTION

The novel *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is that the novel graphically describes the brutality of the civil war in Spain during this time. It is told primarily through the thoughts and experiences of the protagonist, Robert Jordan. The character was inspired by Hemingway's own experiences in the Spanish Civil War as a reporter for the North American Newspaper Alliance. The novel is regarded as one of Hemingway's best works, along with *The Sun Also Rises*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, and *A Farewell to Arms*. **For Whom the Bell Tolls** is a tremendous piece of work. It is the most moving document to date on the Spanish Civil War, and the first major novel of the Second World War.

For Whom The Bell Tolls is a great Hemingway love story, a tense story of adventure in war, a grave and sombre tragedy of Spanish peasants fighting for their lives. Above all it is about death. The plot is simple, about a bridge over a deep gorge behind Franco's lines. Robert Jordan, a young American International Brigader, is ordered to blow up the bridge. He must get help from the guerrillas who live in Franco's territory. The bridge must be destroyed at the precise moment when a big Loyalist offensive begins. If the bridge can be destroyed, the offensive may succeed. If the offensive succeeds, the struggle of the human race against fascism may be advanced a step. The courage of the Spanish peasants is linked to the fate of all mankind.

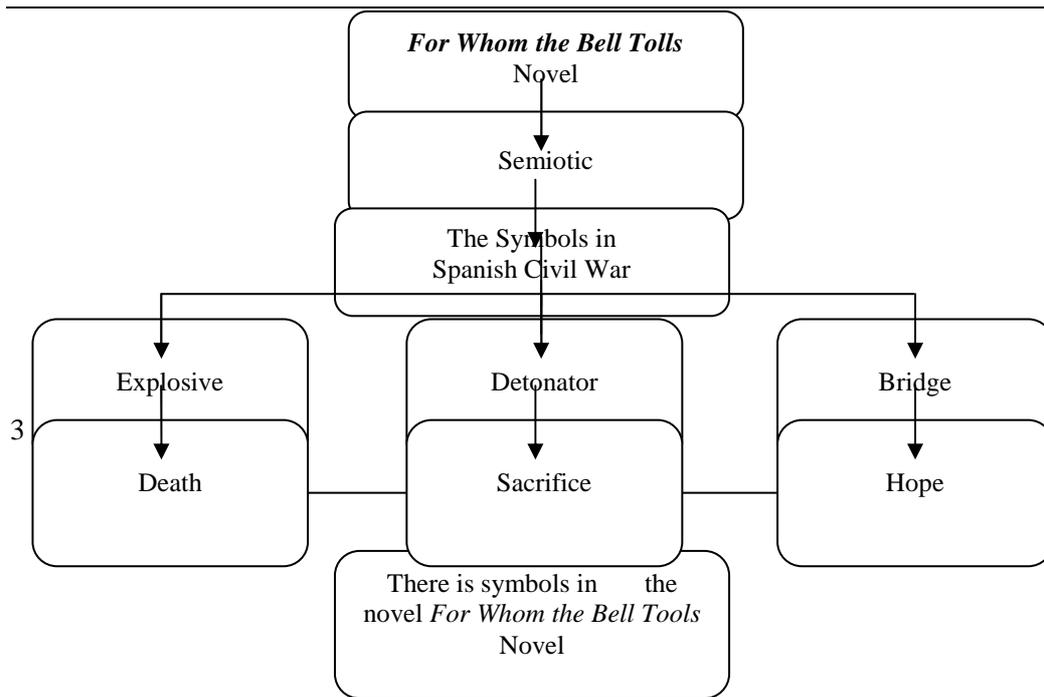
This analysis is one of symbols in Spanish civil war is the symbols that can be found in the story, there are three symbols: bridge, explosive, and detonator. It is based on Hemingway's experiences during the Spanish Civil War and features an American protagonist, named Robert Jordan, who fights with Spanish soldiers for the Republicans. The characters in the novel include those who are purely fictional, those based on real people but fictionalized, and

those who were actual figures in the war.

These three symbols are related to war, when Robert Jordan is assigned to blow up the bridge, he knows that he will not survive it. Pablo and El Sordo, leaders of the Republican guerrilla bands, see that inevitability also. Almost all of the main characters in the book contemplate their own deaths. Before the operation, Pilar reads Robert Jordan's palm, and after seeing it, refuses to comment on what she saw that it will become his untimely demise. Robert Jordan, Anselmo and others are ready to do as all good men should, that is, to make the ultimate sacrifice. The embracing gesture that is often repeated shows the sense of close companionship in the face of death.

Many of the characters, including Robert Jordan, would prefer death over capture and are prepared to kill themselves, be killed, or kill to avoid it. As the book ends, Robert Jordan, wounded and unable to travel with his companions, awaits a final ambush that will end his life. He prepares himself against the cruel outcomes of suicide to avoid capture, or inevitable torture for the extraction of information and death at the hands of the enemy.

The writer chooses Ernest Hemingway's novel, because Nobel Prize winner Ernest Hemingway is seen as one of the great American 20th century novelists. Ernest Hemingway served in World War I and worked in journalism before publishing his story collection, *In Our Time*. He was renowned for novels like *The Sun Also Rises*, *A Farewell to Arms*, ***For Whom the Bell Tolls***, and *The Old Man and the Sea*, which won the 1953 Pulitzer. In 1954, Hemingway won the Nobel Prize. Hemingway left behind an impressive body of work and an iconic style that still influences writers today. His personality and constant pursuit of adventure loomed almost as large as his creative talent.



II METHOD

In this analysis, the study will be focused on the symbol from the novel. In this analysis, it is based on the assumption that literary work always talks about human life events because it concerns about people and their lives, it must contain symbolic aspects in the story.

In this analysis, the writer uses symbolism. According to Womack (2005:184) in *Symbols and Meaning: A Concise Introduction*, analysis of symbols or symbolism is the author's way of illustrating a situation, either in the story or in the world, and understanding the symbols allows the reader to appreciate and identify with the text. It is the use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal sense.

Symbolism gives a writer freedom to add double levels of meanings to his work: a literal one that is self-evident and the symbolic one whose meaning is far more profound than the literal one. The symbolism, therefore, gives universality to the characters and the themes of a piece of literature. Symbolism in literature evokes interest in readers as they find an opportunity to get an insight of the writer's mind on how he views the world and how he thinks of common objects and actions, having broader implications.

In the collecting data, the writer applies library research. It means that the writer applies

the data which the writer takes from library and other written material from book store or even internet. Rasmuson (2014:310) states:

Library research involves the step-by-step process used to gather information in order to write a paper, create a presentation, or complete a project. The research process itself involves identifying and locating relevant information, analyzing what you found, and then developing and expressing your ideas.

Through this library research activity, the writer gains some helps to develop the research theory and even the perfection of problem analysis, or the modification for the research problem which is done before. Successful library research is defined as the systematic study and investigation of some aspect of library and information science where conclusions are based on the analysis of data collected in accordance with pre-established research designs and methodologies. In order to gain more information, the writer also executes the internet research as to support the data from library research. In library research, gather complete information the first time. Document the sources carefully and take notes with page numbers. If the researcher has to refer back to the source, it will save time if this information is readily available and it will be needed it for your bibliography or "works cited" list.

The procedure starts by reading the main source of analysis, which is the novel *For Whom*

the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway. Then in order to have the audio visual understanding, the writer finds the movie. After understanding the story, the procedure moves to find the intrinsic elements in the novel, which are plot, theme, characters, setting of place, setting of time, and point of view. Next, the information received from data collection procedure is studied by limiting on the analysis of the intrinsic element, there is no extrinsic element which is the symbol in the analysis. After the data are organized, the writing is composed based on standard of thesis writing.

The data analyzing procedures concern with the way of the writer to conduct the analysis of the data. This analysis uses genetic structuralism, it looks the external factor of the literature that conveys the internal element of literary work such the actions of the main character, such as characters and author. Pradopo in *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra* (2001: 54) state that "Peneliti bertugas menjelaskan karya sastra

sebagai sebuah struktur berdasarkan unsur-unsur yang membentuknya, seperti masyarakat dan kehidupan sosial." "The researcher has a chance to explain literary work as structure base on the elements that formed them, which are society and social life." From the explanation, structural method has two functions which explain the internal factor of literature and show the relation of this internal factor with the external factor.

In the procedure of analyzing the data, the primary data is taken from novel itself, the writer tries to analyze it by using the information based on the novel itself. In doing this research, the writer starts by analyzing some intrinsic elements (plot and character) of this novel, after that tries to find extrinsic element (symbols from the story) which becomes the basic of the problem that will be analyzed. The symbol is analyzed by making a correlation between the object from the story that has close relation with character and the plot of the story.

III DISCUSSION

First, death is a primary preoccupation of the novel. When Robert Jordan is assigned to blow up the bridge, he knows that he will not survive it. Pablo and El Sordo, leaders of the Republican guerrilla bands, see that inevitability also. Almost all of the main characters in the book contemplate their own deaths. Before the operation, Pilar reads Robert Jordan's palm, and after seeing it, refuses to comment on what she saw, foreshadowing his untimely demise.

Throughout *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Hemingway characterizes suicide as an act of cowardice by associating it with characters who are vulnerable or lack strength of spirit. A number of characters contemplate suicide: Karkov always carries pills to use to kill himself if he is ever captured, and Maria carries around a razor blade for the same purpose. Robert Jordan's father committed suicide, an act that Robert Jordan says he understands but nonetheless condemns. The traits of these characters who contemplate suicide connect the act of suicide to weakness. Robert Jordan's father is characterized as weak, Maria is young and female, and Karkov is a man of ideas, not action. At the end of the novel, Robert Jordan contemplates suicide but rejects the idea, preferring to struggle to stay awake despite the pain. Robert Jordan's reliance on inner strength in his rejection of suicide contrasts the other

characters' weakness, which demonstrates that the will to continue living requires psychological strength.

Second, sacrifice in the face of death abound throughout the novel. Robert Jordan, Anselmo and others are ready to do "as all good men should" – that is, to make the ultimate sacrifice. The oft-repeated embracing gesture reinforces this sense of close companionship in the face of death. An incident involving the death of the character Joaquín's family serves as an example of this theme; having learned of this tragedy, Joaquín's comrades embrace and comfort him, saying they now are his family. Surrounding this love for one's comrades is the love for the Spanish soil. A love of place, of the senses, and of life itself is represented by the pine needle forest floor, both at the beginning and, poignantly, at the end of the novel, when Robert Jordan awaits his death feeling "his heart beating against the pine needle floor of the forest."

Suicide always looms as an alternative to suffering. Many of the characters, including Robert Jordan, would prefer death over capture and are prepared to kill themselves, be killed, or kill to avoid it. As the book ends, Robert Jordan, wounded and unable to travel with his companions, awaits a final ambush that will end his life. He prepares himself against the cruel

outcomes of suicide to avoid capture, or inevitable torture for the extraction of information and death at the hands of the enemy. Still, he hopes to avoid suicide partly because his father, whom he views as a coward, committed suicide. Robert Jordan understands suicide but doesn't approve of it, and thinks that "you have to be awfully occupied with yourself to do a thing like that."

Robert Jordan resolves these tensions at the end of *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, in his final moments as he faces death. He accepts himself as a man of action rather than thought, as a man who believes in practicality rather than abstract theories. He understands that the war requires him to do some things that he does not believe in. He also realizes that, though he cannot forget the unsavory deeds he has done in the past, he must avoid dwelling on them for the sake of getting things done in the present. Ultimately, Robert Jordan is able to make room in his mind for both his love for Maria and his military mission. By the end of the novel, just before he dies, his internal conflicts and tensions are resolved and he feels "integrated" into the world.

. . . You felt that you were taking part in a crusade. . . . It would be as difficult and embarrassing to speak about as a religious experience and yet it was authentic. . . . It gave you a part in something that you could believe in wholly and completely and in which you felt an absolute brotherhood with the others who were engaged in it.

This passage, from Chapter Eighteen, is an interior monologue in which Robert Jordan describes his earlier idealism about the war, which the realities of warfare have long since crushed. The passage gives us a glimpse of what may have caused Robert Jordan to leave his life and job in the states to volunteer to fight in a foreign war: he sought something to believe in "wholly and completely" and also sought communion, an "absolute brotherhood" with other people. But his disillusionment with the "bureaucracy and inefficiency and party strife" he sees in the Republican cause and its leaders foreshadows his current opinion that the leaders have "betrayed" their people. The religious vocabulary Hemingway uses, such as "crusade," "communion," "consecration," emphasizes the depth of Robert Jordan's feelings and suggests that, for many people, the Republican cause became a substitute religion. But Robert Jordan's use of religious language is accompanied by a touch of irony, since he immediately distances

himself from using religious metaphors, which he characterizes as "embarrassing." This constant qualification of exactly what he means is typical of Robert Jordan's monologues.

Although Robert Jordan is jaded and cynical at the start of the novel, he comes to realize both his goals, his desire for something to believe in wholly and his desire for communion, by the end of the novel. Through his relationship with Maria, Robert Jordan finds love in which he can believe fully, love that he can integrate into his life. He also feels as if he has found family, an absolute brotherhood, with the guerrilleros: "I have been all my life in these hills. . . . Anselmo is my oldest friend. . . . Agustín . . . is my brother. . . . Maria is my true love and my wife. . . . She is also my sister . . . and my daughter."

Third, even though many of the characters in *For Whom the Bell Tolls* take a cynical view of human nature and feel fatigued by the war, the novel still holds out hope for romantic love. Even the worldly-wise Pilar, in her memories of Finito, reveals traces of a romantic, idealistic outlook on the world. Robert Jordan and Maria fall in love at first sight, and their love is grand and idealistic. Love endows Robert Jordan's life with new meaning and gives him new reasons to fight in the wake of the disillusionment he feels for the Republican cause. This new acceptance of ideal, romantic love is one of the most important ways in which Robert Jordan rejects abstract theories in favor of intuition and action over the course of the novel. He was completely integrated now and he took a good long look at everything. Then he looked up at the sky. There were big white clouds in it. He touched the palm of his hand against the pine needles where he lay and he touched the bark of the pine trunk that he lay behind.

This passage from the last chapter of the novel describes Robert Jordan at the moment when, wounded and alone, he realizes that he will be able to stay alive long enough to ambush the approaching Fascist cavalry, thereby buying the guerrilleros some time to escape. The passage, especially its first phrase, provides a climactic resolution of one of the novel's themes—Robert Jordan's continual struggle with himself to figure out his motives and his purpose. For the first time, he feels "completely integrated" with his world.

Mr. Hemingway has always been the writer, but he has never been the master that he is in *"For Whom the Bell Tolls."* The dialogue, handled as though in translation from the

Spanish, is incomparable. The characters are modeled in high relief. A few of the scenes are perfect, notably the last sequence and an earlier one when Jordan awakes to the sound of a horse

thumping along through the snow. Others are intense and terrifying, still others gentle and almost pastoral, if here and there a trifle sweet.

IV CONCLUSIONS

For Whom the Bell Tolls is a novel written by Ernest Hemingway. It was published in 1940. It tells the story of Robert Jordan, a young American in the International Brigades attaches to a republican guerilla unit during the Spanish Civil War. As an expert in the use of bombs, he is assigned to blow up a bridge during an attack on the city of Segovia. Symbols are words that suggest much more than they mean on the surface and are necessary to help us express some ideas. Then, a symbol is a word or phrase or image that stands for large ideas. Not only are we capable of forming concepts for which there are no physical object to point to, but it is also possible for us to have moods, feeling for which we do not even have practice words. That is where symbols come in. Therefore, it is very interesting to analyze the topic of the Symbols in Ernest Hemingway's For Whom the Bell tolls.

For Whom the Bell Tolls was inspired by Hemingway's experiences as a foreign correspondent, first in Paris and then in Spain itself, during the Spanish Civil War. Hemingway visited Spain in 1931, just after the monarchy of Alfonso XIII had been overthrown. After several years of political conflict and civil unrest, elections were held in Spain. The resulting parliament was evenly divided between leftists and rightists, creating a very volatile political situation. It was then that Alfonso XIII voluntarily exiled himself and on April 13, 1931, the Republic was proclaimed.

Hemingway, observing these events, predicted that a civil war would erupt between the leftist and rightist political factions. He was correct, and when the Spanish Civil War began in 1936, Hemingway wrote articles and delivered speeches to raise money for the leftist, now called the Loyalist, cause. In 1937, Hemingway traveled to Spain to cover the war for the North American Newspaper Alliance. Only a few months after his arrival, Hemingway announced to the literary world that he was working on a new novel- its subject was the Spanish Civil War.

The fact that the protagonist of the novel, Robert Jordan, is an American is not unusual. The Spanish Civil War quickly became

infiltrated by foreign intervention on both sides, and indeed has been likened to a "testing ground" for World War II, as the forces of Fascism and Communism pitted against one another. Many volunteers from democratic countries volunteered fought for the Loyalists against the Fascist army of Francisco Franco. The Russian General Golz who orders Robert Jordan to blow the bridge is also historically grounded. Russia sent "observers" and financial aid to help the leftist cause. The Fascist Monarchists had the support of Germany and Italy. As well as sending money and volunteers, these countries had the financial means to send weapons, vehicles, and supplies. To understand the context of For Whom the Bell Tolls, an important fact to remember is that it was a war between communism and fascism, an ideological and tactical practice for foreign volunteers. Also, it is important to remember that the communism of the Spanish Civil War strictly abolished religion, as this will be an important theme in For Whom the Bell Tolls.

By the spring of 1937, the time in which For Whom the Bell Tolls takes place, the Monarchist army had won their way up the Iberian peninsula and were besieging Madrid. The action in *For Whom the Bell Tolls* takes place in the woods surrounding the city of Segovia, which is a three hour journey from the capital. Although the Loyalists still retained control of the area, the Monarchists were slowly closing in. Over the next two years, a blockade prevented the Loyalists from receiving supplies and resistance in Loyalist villages began to crumble. The war lasted until March 28, 1939, when the better-armed Monarchists finally conquered Madrid.

A year after the war ended, in 1940, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* was published. The story of the American volunteer, Robert Jordan, is loosely based on Hemingway's own experience covering the war for the press. Hemingway intended that the novel reveal the realities behind "the good fight" of the Loyalists in the Spanish Civil War. According to the majority of critical receptions to the work, it seems Hemingway succeeded. After reading the preliminary

manuscript, literary expert Maxwell Perkins told his friend that "If the function of a writer is to reveal reality, no one ever so completely performed it."

For Whom the Bell Tolls was hailed as Hemingway's finest work upon its publication, and is still considered by many critics to be his masterpiece. Specifically, the literary world hailed Hemingway's spare style and powerful symbolism. The love scenes between Jordan and

Maria, the dramatic account of El Sordo's defeat, and the ironic commentary on the death of ideals created a novel of broad scope, with greater emotional power than his previous novels. Themes such as love and war had been narrated before, but never with such realistic and poignant prose as Hemingway crafted in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. It is still celebrated not only as one of Hemingway's best, but also as one of the best war novels of all time.

Bibliography

- Abrams. 1993. *The Mirror and The Lamb : Romantic Theory and The Critical Tradition*. London : Oxford University Press.
- Daiches, David. 1990. *Critical Approaches to Literature*, Singapore: Singapore Publisher Ltd.
- Hadi, Sutrisno, 1995, *Metodologi Research*, Yogyakarta: Andi Offset.
- Hemingway, Ernest. 1993. *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. New York: William Morrow.
- Linda, C. Stanley. 1985. *Ways to Writing*. Cambridge. University Press
- Markman, Roberta H., et al, 1982, *10 Steps in Writing the Research Paper*, New York: Barron's Educational Series Inc.
- Mooney, Michael J., 2013. *The Life and Legend of Chris Kyle: American Sniper, Navy SEAL*, New York: Little, Brown and Company.
- Pradopo, Rachmat Djoko, et.al. 2001. *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra*. Yogyakarta: PT. Hanindita Graha Widia.
- Semi, M. Atar. 1993. *Metode Penelitian Sastra*. Bandung: Angkasa.
- Wellek, Rene and Austin Warren. 1986. *Theory and Liteature*, New York Harcourt Brace and World Inc.
- Womack, Mari. 2005. *Symbols and Meaning: A Concise Introduction*. California: AltaMira Press.