

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

The American civil war which happened in 1861 – 1865 left destruction, depression, and the difficulties toward its people. It is labeled as tragedy of century and leaves the unfinished business especially to the American people after the war ended. Many Critics believe it starts with the disagreement between south states and north states regarding the slavery system after the end of World War 2. As American Historian, James McPherson said that “The War began because a compromise did not exist that could solve the difference between the free and slave states regarding the power of the national government to prohibit slavery in territories that had not yet become state”(McPherson 3). According to James, the problem happened because many southern part of America countries which have not become state yet still adopt the slave system and they denied Lincoln which planned to remove the Slavery system in America. Afterward, there are also other several issue like Anti-slavery or pro-slavery faction, the issue of equality and freedom of Black People, Uncle Tom’s cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe’s and political unrest which later on being result for sacrifice of 620.000 soldiers in American Civil war history.

The issue of Slavery and the American civil war are also one of the themes which inspire authors in their literary work. One of them is Stephen Crane which writes similar issue about the war and the soldier of war in his second novel *The Red Badge of Courage* in 1895. Crane achieve the peak of popularity after writing this novel and the book also get place in the 8th place of international book seller after its publication. At the beginning of the publication, many critics and readers believe that this work is created by veteran of war because it successfully portrait the

realistic description bloody battle and horrors of war, but in reality this literary work is product of twenty-four years author Stephen Crane which never participate in the real war.

Crane become famous beyond dispute at the age of twenty-four, by reason of *The Red badge of courage* (1895), a book which he had written, or designed, prior to his twenty-second birthday. Although veterans have sworn to the accuracy of the impression of battle he render in this book, the civil war which Crane describes has ended six years before the author was born (Kirschke106).

The Red badge of courage (call here after TRBC) is well known for its Naturalist and realism picture of battle which taken from the event of American Civil War. It delivers the portrait of American soldiers during Civil war and their struggle in order to achieve their goal. TRBC describes as the Episodic event of war which many critics believe refers to the “Battle of Chancellorsville” as one of bloody battle in the American Civil war History (Skiba 11). The writer chooses TRBC as an object of analysis because It is the one that make the author become famous and the author successfully delivers illustrated realistic sequence of battle of war which seen as the tragedy, bloodiness, suffering as the result of war. The author uses Henry as a young volunteer soldier of the army that forced to accept the cruelty of war like seeing the dead, destruction, and his struggle from one battle to another makes him vulnerable to his instinct that makes him decided to run away from it. The other reason the writer choose Crane’s TRBC is because of author writing style and writer interest in war soldier’s stories. The writer assume that TRBC as one of complex soldiers story which describes not only the glorious things by become a soldier of war, but also in the same time portrait the soldier regret to participate in it. As the war story related novel, TRBC successfully describes the sacrificial value of soldiers, the honorable death, and paradoxical themes about the soldier’s goal to participate in their war.

In this research, the writer is interested in seeing how Stephen crane develop his idea that represent historical event and his critics about American Civil War which he re-creates through his story. By seeing the background of the story where the novel and its society refers to, one can understand the author idea in order to show how the literary work represent the world around it. The story itself might become reflection on how the society works, to what kind of values of the people refer to, and how its relation toward the social or political issue where the literary work produced.

1.2 Identification of the problem

American Civil war count as a tragedy in the American History, It brings destruction, suffering, and social unrest toward its people. The author represent those condition in the main character of the story, Henry Fleming in his journey as the volunteer soldier within the war through his novel, *The Red Badge of Courage*. Henry Fleming describes as the representation of the volunteer soldier in war which is blinded by the military deeds and dreams of coming back as war heroes without learning the reality of war itself. The writer assumes that Stephen Crane use Henry Fleming not only as a representation of soldier condition through his personality in the war but also reflects his criticism toward the American Civil War in 1861-1865. The author describes how Henry is uncertain to his motive in his joining war, through Henry's point of view Stephen Crane also shows how the war has lost its goal where can be seen in the collapse of the society with many dead bodies as sacrifice, and undesirable result after the war ended.

1.3 Scope of the Research.

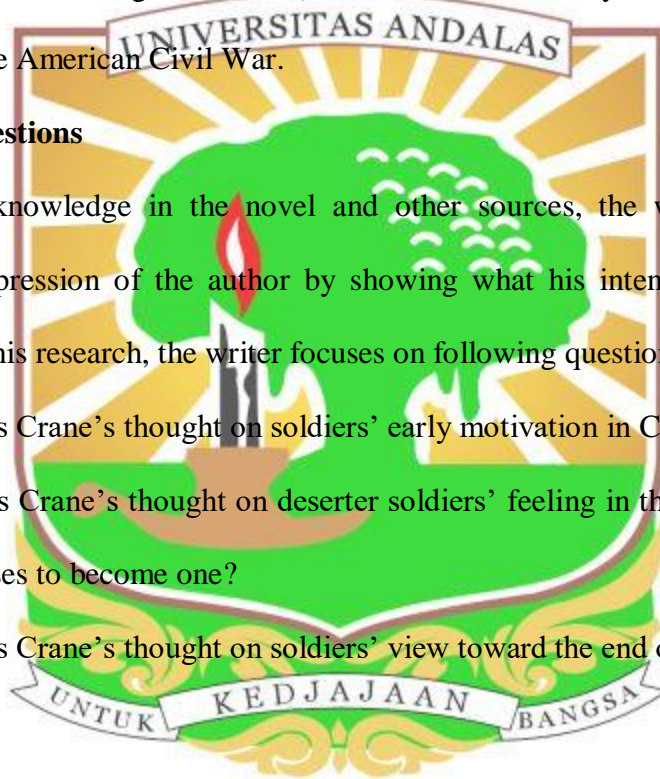
In this research the writer intends to analyze *The Red Badge of Courage* as a refection of author thought, feeling, and criticism toward the American Civil war. The writer finds this novel as reflection of the American Civil war history and at the same time refers to the author idea

regarding the war itself. The writer tries to analyze Henry Fleming opinion/point of view as the reflection of author thought and criticism toward the war that brings the ugliness and pain toward its participant. In order to investigate the author assumption in his novel, the writer need to learn the historical background of the story from his novel to uncover the relation of the social reality problem that the author refers in his story. So in order to find out the author idea in his novel, the writer will connect the relation between the extrinsic (History and biography aspect) and intrinsic (Character, Setting and theme) elements of the story to understand the author assumption toward the American Civil War.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the knowledge in the novel and other sources, the writer concentrated the discussion on the expression of the author by showing what his intention, critics or thought behind the novel. In this research, the writer focuses on following questions:

1. What is Crane's thought on soldiers' early motivation in Civil War?
2. What is Crane's thought on deserter soldiers' feeling in the war and their reasons to choose to become one?
3. What is Crane's thought on soldiers' view toward the end of the Civil war ?



1.5 The Objective of Research

In general, this research objective is to determine about Stephen Crane's thought, ideas or Critics on American Civil War which represented in his novel. The research elaborates the author's critiques toward the event of American Civil War and reveals how its impact on people, particularly about how people seen the civil war as tragedy in their history. The writer will use some character thought and action in his surrounding to see how its represent paradox of war and

bad result of the war itself. Hopefully this research would be useful to increase the readers understanding on the ideas, feeling, thought, or purpose that the author want to convey through his work as one of collection of realism novel.

1.6 Review of the Previous Studies

In conducting this research, the writer uses some sources like thesis, journal and article as the supporting reference. There are three reviews that will be compared, three studies relate to the novel and the other one is the articles which relate to the issue that will be analyze in this research. The first review is a research about *The Character Transformation of Henry Fleming in The Red Badge of Courage* (2012) written by Zhao Xiaoguang and Yang Zhichun. In their research, they discuss about the Character transformation of the protagonist and the reason for his transformation. There are three steps which describe the character transformation in the story such as an innocent farm boy, new recruit, and last one as a trustworthy soldier. The result of their research is the development of main character from ordinary and innocent farm boy to become an experienced soldier. By joining the war, in the end of the story he achieves his maturity and change into a reverend hero because many psychology aspect like inner conflict, influenced of the social environment and human instinct. This research can support the writer research on character behavior, thought, and action to determine author critics in the novel. since the approach which used the psychology of the main character as focus of their research, it will help to support the writer analysis and also prove the changes in the protagonist as medium of author thought toward the novel and the issue of his critics. Zhao Xiaoguang and Yang Zhichun only describe how the environment change him from boy to man, but the writer in this research focus on how protagonist portrait the human internal instinct to survive their environment which also conclude that Henry can be seen as 2 side of coin, one side he achieve what his called hero

by winning the war (experience soldier) and the other side he also blaming himself for participate in war which bring suffering to himself that showed the war as self-justification toward his guilt.

The Second review is thesis that written by John J.McDermott entitled *Symbolism and Psychological Realism in The Red Badge of Courage*(2006). John discuss how Stephen crane using symbolism to convey protagonist complex development with psychological realism. “For Crane’s final view of his protagonist simply is part of his consistent, unflinching psychological realism. Crane has had dramatize a complicated and partly irrational mental process as it has taken place in farm boy incapable of sophisticated self-articulation – the Novel closes Henry consistently remains a person of mixed motives and partial insights, develop spirit self-sacrifice, and mature with particular set of limitation ” (McDermott 331). This journal will help the writer in order to support the analysis regarding the topic on how Crane potrait his critics which symbolized by the main character development. This book topic quite similar to the first review that show the character development within the story. The writer see that the protagonist action and character development in the story which is complex representation of author idea, thought or feeling. Thus the writer conclude that John comment on *TRBC* and the author in his book will provide the supporting data to complete this analysis.

The last review is thesis written by Chi Yuan-wen with *Demystification and Revelation: Nature in The Red Badge of Courage* (1985). In her thesis, Yuan-wen separate the nature of the novel into three, “three-fold of nature with romantic, naturalistic and realistic perspectives”(Yuan-wen 19). This three stages describe within the plot itself, the first stage romantic is show in the beginning of the story where Henry Fleming stay within the army where “he hope for the vision of war that contain Heroic deeds as well “Greek-like Struggle” in his war” (6). The second

stage contain Naturalistic aspect which show “Cruelty, Ruthlessness, apathy and indifference where man become helpless insignificant under these oppressive power” (8). The last stage is realistic perspective show that “Henry finally saw the nature as what it is rather than what it should be”(13). The writer assumes that Yuan thesis can be related and support this research. Yuan research which talk about the plot development which show the changing from romantic into realistic view is represented to the author’s idea, feeling, criticism toward the war itself. The writer also see similar motive on why protagonist risk his life to the war. He finally realize the reality of the war as it is, human risk their lives to fight and kill other rather than involved in delusional that show ideological passion to patriotism and glorious deeds.

Those thesis and article support this research and also to know studies that have been done before TRBC as research object. The three studies are chosen because they discuss similar issue that can be related to the issue of the writer in this research.

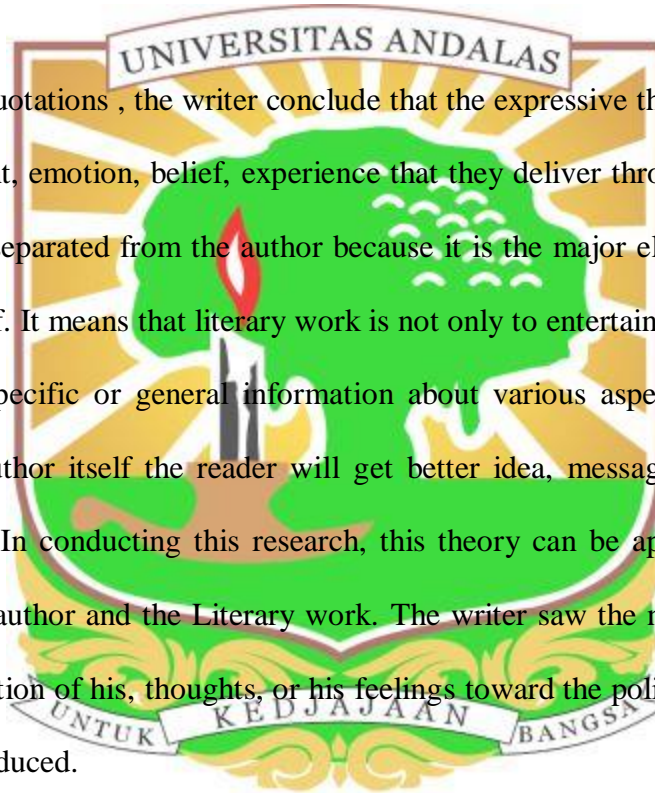
1.7 The Theoretical Frameworks

Expressive theory and Historical-biographical approach are the theory which concerned with the relation between author and text. In *Mirror and the Lamb* Abrams explains the Expressive theory seen poetry or literary work as the reflection of author imaginative process of feeling and thought.

Poetry is the overflow, utterance, or projection of the thought and feeling of the poet; or else poetry is defined in terms of the imaginative process which modifies and synthesizes the images, thoughts and the feeling of the poet. This way of thinking, in which the artist himself becomes the major element generating both the artistic product and criteria by which it is to be judged (Abrams 21-22).

Richard L.W. Clarke also believe that “literary works are a form of or vehicle for expressing or manifesting externally to other person ‘things’ that reside within the author’s psyche. These ‘things’ include not only one’s mental states (thought, emotions, etc.) but also various aspects of one’s identity or self” (Clarke 7). According to Clarke, Literature from this perspective (Expressive) is kind of dialogue or act of communication between the author and the reader where the literary work offer the reader/ critic a window of the inmost depths of their writers’ being.

Based on the quotations , the writer conclude that the expressive theory is theory about the author and his thought, emotion, belief, experience that they deliver through their literary work. The work cannot be separated from the author because it is the major element to understanding the literary work itself. It means that literary work is not only to entertain the reader by reading it but it also provide specific or general information about various aspect of human being. By learning about the author itself the reader will get better idea, message that to be convey or shared by the author. In conducting this research, this theory can be applied to show how the relation between the author and the Literary work. The writer saw the novel *The Red Badge of Courage* as the reflection of his, thoughts, or his feelings toward the political or social condition where the literary produced.



Historical-biographical approach

In order to analyze the novel, the writer uses the historical-biographical approach. The major figure of this approach is H.A Taine with his famous concept of race, moment and milieu which elaborated in his book *History of English literature*. According to Taine in *The Sociology of literature* by Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood, the interaction of three concepts

produce practical or speculative mental structure that lead to development of ideas or characteristic of certain centuries which express from the great art and literature.

The interaction of race, moment, and milieu, produces either a practical or a speculative ‘mental structure’, and this leads to development of the ‘germinal ideas’, characteristic of certain centuries and epochs, which find expression in the great art and literature (Laurenson and Swingewood 33).

The concept of race, moment, and milieu also explain by Durbanville in the comment of the web article:

In defining *race*, Taine concentrates on inherited characteristics such as they identify a group or community and how those characteristics persist over generations and how an individual operates within those confines. *Milieu*, in its definition, explains how generalizations established in identifying "race" are effective and modified to suit and explain the behavior of the individual and his or her artistic expression. in Taine's *moment* where accumulated experiences account for the manner in which the individual ultimately conveys his message. The historical aspect should never be overlooked in attempting to understand any piece of literature (Durbanville).

Taine concept of literature define “the novel as a portable mirror which can conveyed everywhere and which is the most convenient for reflecting all aspects of life and nature”(Laurenson and Swingewood 32). Taine also explains the literary works was not only can be seen as a product of individual / author imagination but also can as transcription and manifestation of certain kind of things (32).

According to H.A Taine in Wilfred L. Guerin and friends book *A Handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature*, H.A Taine concept of race, moment and milieu defined that Historical-biographical approach sees the literature as the reflection of the author life and time and also see it as the life and times of the character in literary work “Put simply, this approach sees the literary work chiefly, if not exclusively, as a reflection of its author’s life and times or the life and times of the characters in the work” (Guerin 22).

In the other word, the writer assumes that there are three perspectives which can be seen from this approach and the explanation of Taine concept. The first one is the literary work as the reflection of author life and times which mean people cannot be separate literature from its author because it can be refers to author life, experience and feeling. The second perspective is the literary work seen as the reflection of certain period of time where the character being produced. This perspective sees the literary work refers to certain time of period which can be social condition, historical event, or some kind of society. The third perspective is sees the literary work as reflection of author life and time and also refers to certain history and society. Historical-biographical relates with author’s life and author’s time which can be use to compare the truth in the past through the story of the novel. Historical evidence will help the author to make the work and environment of the author will affect him in describe the historical event. This theory can give the writer a direction to find out Stephen Crane impression toward the American Civil War.

The writer see that the literary work not only reflect author life but at the same time it also portrait some kind of social condition, historical event or refers to certain kind of people in the society where the literary being produced. By Learning and discovering the detail about the author’s life and time or historical background in certain period of time, the people will get

further knowledge about the story in the literary work and get better understanding about the work and the critics on its.

In this analysis the writer finds that historical-biographical can be used in this research. As H.A Taine mention that literature seen as author life and time and as portrait of certain period of time in the story, the writer also has the sane assumption which seeing Crane novel as reflection of his life or certain period of time in which author refers to. In order to use the approach, the writer must unravel the historical details of some event in the story where the author refers to and author life in his biography to learn the thought or idea of the story. After comparing both of the data, the writer can get the conclusion on what the author thought, idea, feeling, imagery, and critics about this novel.

1.8 The Method of Research

Collecting Data

The Writer collect all the data that are needed by doing library research. In order to collect the data, the writer uses the primary data and secondary data in this research. The primary data that writer used is the novel, TRBC and for the secondary data will be taken from literary theory books and various article and sources that related to this research such as the history of American civil War, the biography of Stephen Crane, and the critic of the author about the novel or the war.

Analyzing Data

The data is analyze by reading the novel and support data of it. The referential word will be use to finding the information and the message of the author and then paraphrase it from the source book. Afterward it will be analyzed extrinsically by finding several important event that

exist in the novel and then compare it with the author life and historical view by using historical-biographical approach.

Presenting Data

In presenting the result of data, the writer will use qualitative research method because the data are collected in the form of word, statement, or paragraphs, not in numbers. As Robert C Bogdan in his book state that “Qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected in the form of word or picture rather than number. The written result of the research contain quotation from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation.” (28). Qualitative method will produce descriptive data, which used to report the result of analysis in form of writing. The writer will describe about the historical background and author life. After getting both the data, the writer relates them both in the descriptive way about the novel as the reflection of the author thought about the American civil war.

