

## ABSTRACT

Swanny Rahaju Hartono ; *A Comparative Study of Characters in For Whom the Bell Tolls and To Kill a Mockingbird Based on Their Ideas of "Courage"*

I write this thesis with the background of my interest upon the fate of good characters, especially the courageous ones, in the novels. It is interesting for me to notice that the characters are considered courageous based on how they behave in difficulties, not on the final result of their work, whether they gain success at the end of the stories.

Another thing that also interests me is the fact that the writers of the novels do not always seem to have the same criteria of courage. Accidentally, among my favorites, I find two novels, *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, whose characters are, in my opinion, considered courageous by their writers although their ideas of courage do not seem completely the same. Therefore, I present a comparative study of what I see as both writers' criteria of courage. To make this comparative study systematic, I formulate three problems to be solved. The first one is what the ideas of courage according to the respective character are. The second, in what ways their ideas are similar or different. The last one is whether both characters are considered courageous based on each other's criteria. The objective of this thesis is to give answers to those three problems.

In compiling this thesis, I use the desk research method by studying and adapting some books which present critics' opinion towards the two novels, characters, and theory of literature. Regarding the theories of analysis, I refer to one of Rene Wellek's and Austin Warren's extrinsic approaches which sees literary works in their relation to society. I decide to use that approach as I agree to Wellek's and Warren's opinion that a work of

literature represents life and therefore, its elements reflect norms and conventions arisen in society. This approach meets my desire for showing the ideas of courage in the novels as one of the purposes conveyed in the novels and as ideas that can influence society.

At the end of the study I can see that Robert Jordan (the character of *For Whom the Bell Tolls*)' courage is relatively easier to see as it has something to do, partly, with physical criteria. Robert Jordan's courage can be recognized as he succeeds in fighting off an impulse to kill himself to end the anguish of his injury and avoid possible capture. There is nothing he can do to recover, but still he believes that there is something he can do for others. He is a courageous man not only because of his sacrifice for others' need, but also because he has not abandoned the principle of fortitude.

On the other hand, Atticus Finch (the character of *To Kill a Mockingbird*)'s courage has nothing to do with physical criteria. Nevertheless, it still can be recognized. As a lawyer who has no chance to win the case, from the very beginning Atticus has realized that he will lose, but he does not give up. Atticus knows that he has to struggle extra hard and there is no possibility for him to succeed somehow, but he keeps obeying his conscience. Atticus is completely consistent in what he has decided to do (and what he believes as the right thing) from the beginning and in taking the risks all the way. He is really a courageous man in this case!

The two characters' ideas of courage are not completely the same, so they cannot consider each other completely courageous. However, there is one idea of courage which dominantly appears in both of them. Jordan and Atticus show that a courageous man is a man who does not easily give up in sufferings. Based on this idea, each of the characters can be mostly recognized as a courageous man by the other.