THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CAFÉ TO THE THEME OF THE STORY IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY’S “A CLEAN, WELL-LIGHTED PLACE”

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra in English Letters

By

MARIA WIDIANI

Student number: 114214115

ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
FACULTY OF LETTERS
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY
YOGYAKARTA
2017
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CAFÉ TO THE THEME OF THE STORY IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY’S “A CLEAN, WELL-LIGHTED PLACE”

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra in English Letters

By

MARIA WIDIANI

Student number: 114214115

ENGLISH LETTERS STUDY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
FACULTY OF LETTERS
SANATA DHARMA UNIVERSITY
YOGYAKARTA
2017
A Sjarina Santra Undergraduate Thesis

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CAFÉ TO THE THEME OF THE STORY IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S "A CLEAN, WELL-LIGHTED PLACE"

By
Noria Widianti
Student number 114214116

Drs. Firmawan Wijanarka, M. Huk
Advisor

Adiwi Sari, M. Hum.
Co-Advisor

5 October 2017

iii
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CAFÉ TO THE THEME OF THE STORY IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S "A CLEAN, WELL-LIGHTED PLACE"

By
Maria Widiani
Student Number: 114214115

Defended before the Board of Examiners on October 9, 2017 and Declared Acceptable

BOARD EXAMINERS

Name
Chairperson: Drs. Himawan Wijanarka, M. Hum.
Secretary: Adventina Putriani, M. Hum.
Member 1: Elisa Dwi Wardani, S.S., M. Hum.
Member 2: Drs. Himawan Wijanarka, M. Hum.
Member 3: Adventina Putriani, M. Hum.

Yogyakarta, 31 October 2017
Faculty of Letters
Sanata Dharma University
Dean

F. Ari Subagyo, M. Hum.
STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

I certify this undergraduate thesis contains no material which has been previously submitted for the award of any other degree at any university, and that, to the best of my knowledge, this undergraduate thesis contains no material previously written by any other person except where due reference is made in the text of the undergraduate thesis.

Yogyakarta, 27 September 2017

Rumiko

Maria Widiani
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH UNTUK KEPENTINGAN AKADEMIS

Yang bertandatangan di bawah ini, saya mahasiswa Universitas Sanata Dharma

Nama : Maria Widiani
Nomor Mahasiswa : 114214115

Demi pengembangan ilmu pengetahuan, saya memberikan kepada Perpustakaan Universitas Sanata Dharma karya ilmiah saya yang berjudul

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CAFÉ TO THE THEME OF THE STORY IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY’S “A CLEAN, WELL-LIGHTED PLACE”

Beserta perangkat yang diperlukan (bila ada). Dengan demikian saya memberikan kepada Perpustakaan Universitas Sanata Dharma hak untuk menyimpan, mengalihkan dalam bentuk teledia lain, mengelolanya dalam bentuk pangkatma data, mendistribusikan secara terbatas, dan mempublikasikannya di internet atau media lain untuk kepentingan akademis tanpa perlu meminta ijin kepada saya maupun memberikan royalti kepada saya selama tetap mencantumkan nama saya sebagai penulis.

Demikian pernyataan ini saya buat dengan sebenarnya.

Di Yogyakarta
Pada tanggal 27 September 2017

Yang menyatakan,

Maria Widiani
Bring your heart wherever God put you (me)

To the one soul reading this, I know you’re tired, you’re fed up, you’re so close to breaking, but, there’s strength within you, even when you feel weak.

Keep fighting.
(anonymous)
For

My Beloved Parents, Sisters and Brother
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My words are never enough to show my gratitude toward God. I thank Him for every breath I take, for He always gives me his inclusion. Without Him, I would never have gone this far.

I would like to thank my thesis advisor, Drs. Hirmawan Wijanarka, M. Hum. I thank him for his patience and kindness to guide me during my thesis’ preparation process. To my co-advisor, Adventina Putranti, M. Hum., I would like to say thank you that she gave me some more important information concerning my thesis. To my former advisor, Dr. F.X. Siswadi, M. A., I would like to express my gratitude that he always motivating me to finish my thesis as soon as possible and to give my best in doing my thesis. For all my lecturers, I thank them for the knowledge and the experiences they share with me all these years.

My deepest gratitude goes to my parents, for always believing in me when many say I cannot finish this thesis on my own. I thank them for their never ending prayer for me, for their advices and affection they give to me everyday. I thank my brother, Nicho and sisters, Putri and Alesia. They are my motivation to be better in my future. I also thank Alcander who always be there and be my inspiration and spirit to finish this thesis.

I would like to express my gratitude to my friends in Sanata Dharma University. To all my friends in English Letters Department, especially class D 2011, I am grateful having them as friends and let them be a part of my life.

Maria Widiani
TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE ........................................................................................................ ii
APPROVAL PAGE .............................................................................................. iii
ACCEPTANCE PAGE ........................................................................................... iv
STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY ........................................................................ v
LEMBAR PERNYATAAN PERSETUJUAN PUBLIKASI KARYA ILMIAH .. vi
MOTTO PAGE .................................................................................................... vii
DEDICATION PAGE ............................................................................................ viii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .................................................................................. ix
TABLE OF CONTENTS ...................................................................................... x
ABSTRACT .......................................................................................................... xi
ABSTRAK .......................................................................................................... xii

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION
A. Background of the Study .............................................................................. 1
B. Problem Formulation .................................................................................. 3
C. Objectives of the Study ............................................................................. 3
D. Definition of Terms .................................................................................... 4

CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE
A. Review of Related Studies ......................................................................... 5
B. Review of Related Theories ........................................................................ 7
  1. Theory of Setting ..................................................................................... 7
  2. Theory of Theme .................................................................................... 10
  3. Theory of Symbol .................................................................................. 12
C. Theoretical Framework ............................................................................... 14

CHAPTER III: METHODOLOGY
A. Object of the Study .................................................................................... 16
B. Approach of the Study ............................................................................. 17
C. Method of the Study .................................................................................. 19

CHAPTER IV: ANALYSIS
A. The Description of the Café ...................................................................... 21
B. The Theme of the Story ............................................................................ 26
C. The Significance of Café to the Theme .................................................... 36

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION .............................................................................. 41
BIBLIOGRAPY .................................................................................................... 44
ABSTRACT

MARIA WIDIANI. The Significance of Café to the Theme of the Story in Ernest Hemingway’s “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place”. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2017.

This study deals with Ernest Hemingway’s “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place”. This short story tells about an old man, an old waiter and a young waiter in a café. For the young waiter, he spends his time in the café because it is his job. While for the old man and the old waiter, the café means more for them. They need café to escape from their loneliness. This study focus on the café as the setting of the story and its meaning in relation to the theme of the story.

The study focuses on the significance of the café to the theme of the story. This study has three objectives to achieve. The first is to find out the description of café. The second is to find out the theme in the story. Then the last is to reveal the significance of café to the theme of the story.

The method used in this study is library research. The primary source was short story by Ernest Hemingway titled “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” and the secondary sources were some books, articles and websites related to this study based on the same topic of this research. The approach used in this study is new criticism with close reading as its basic concept.

From the analysis, the writer found that the café was located in a Spanish speaking country. It was clean and well-lighted. Then there were two themes in the story. The first theme was life as nothingness and the second was the struggle against nothingness. From the analysis, the writer also found that café had symbolic meaning towards the story. Café was not merely a place where the story happened but it also had significance towards the theme. As for the first theme; life as nothingness, café had opposite meaning towards it. Café gives both the old man and the old waiter the meaning of life. Then for the second theme; the struggle against nothingness, café is the place for the characters to escape their feeling of nothingness in life.
ABSTRAK


Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode studi pustaka. Sumber utamanya adalah cerpen karangan Ernest Hemingway berjudul “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” dan didukung oleh data-data dari buku, artikel dan situs-situs yang berhubungan dengan penelitian ini dan berdasarkan pembahasan yang sama. Pendekatan yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori kritik baru dengan close reading sebagai konsep dasarnya.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

According to Roberts and Jacobs, literature refers to “written (and also spoken) compositions designed to tell stories, dramatize situations, and reveal thoughts and emotions, and also, more importantly, to interest, entertain, stimulate, broaden, and ennoble readers” (1987: 1). In short, it means that literature is something that has story line and emotions in it. Its function is to broaden readers’ mind. Should be known, literary work is a piece of art that deals with words. These words are maintained to create a picture, an idea or story in meaningful pattern.

Yet words, being the backbone of the pattern, are not really of great importance if they aren’t carefully manipulated into good syntactically stractured sentences so as to convey the target idea in an artistic way. By this it is meant that the work is valued as work of art with a literary style which is, of course, different from that we use in colloquy (angelfire.com, October 10, 2016).

Fiction, poetry, and drama are literary works. Each of them has different characteristic. In fiction, one of the characteristics that can be seen obviously is it is filled with narrative description. Poetry is in a form of stanza and mostly has metaphors. On the other hand, drama is in a form of dialogues.

One of the literary work forms is fiction. Fiction is divided into novels and short stories. Short story is a form of literary work that can be read in a single sitting. Meaning to say short story is the story that can be read in limited period of time without stopping. “A short story is a brief work of prose fiction,
and most of terms for analyzing the component elements, the types, and the
narrative techniques of the novel are applicable to the short story as well”
(Abrams & Harpham, 2009: 331). In addition, short story also has intrinsic
elements and extrinsic elements.

Short stories discuss many things. Even there are some short stories which
talk about psychological issues that every human being encounters every day.
One of those psychological issues is loneliness. Loneliness is one of the
emotions that every human being ever experiences. It is a common feeling to
all human beings. Gilmartin in “Loneliness and Narcissism” said:

“Certainly, loneliness is not something that just clergy and religious
experience; nor is it unique to any segment of the population. It is a
problem common to all human beings, probably extending beyond humans
to other levels of the animal kingdom,” (In Polcino, Hart, Bush and

“A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” by Ernest Hemingway is a four-page short
story (The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway: The Finca Virgina
Edition). It tells about an old man who always goes to a café every night. In
the story, the old man only speaks a couple of words. There is not much
narrative description in the story. The story is mostly developed by the
conversation between the two waiters. From the conversation, the reader
knows not only the development of the story but also the characteristics of the
old man. From there the reader knows that the old man is experiencing
loneliness. In addition, from those conversations, the readers can see the two
opposite perspectives of life from the old waiter and the young waiter.
Speaking about fiction should be known that every single part of the story is related to each other. In “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” by Ernest Hemingway, the setting of the story has strong relation to the theme of the story. The title of this short story gives important significance to the story. The title “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” refers to café. Café is the place where most of the events occur. The author describes café as a clean and pleasant place. It is well lighted (Hemingway, 2003: 290). Then the story itself discusses loneliness experienced by the old man and the old waiter.

B. Problem Formulation

Considering the description above, the writer proposes three problem formulations:

1. How is the café described in “A Clean Well-Lighted Place”?
2. What is the theme of the story?
3. What is the café’s significance to the theme of the story?

C. Objectives of the Study

This research aims to answer three questions that related to the topic in the correlation between the café and the theme of the story.

First of all, it aims to answer how the café is described. The description of the café is needed because the story happens in café. Thus we can say that café may have an important role to the story. For this question, the setting of the story needs to be explored.
The second, it aims to reveal how the author delivers the theme of the story. Here, the details in the story such as the place, the circumstances, etc. will be analyzed.

The third, it aims to reveal the significance of the café to the theme of the story. After defining how the café is described and what the theme is, the writer explains how setting is related to the theme.

D. Definition of Terms

There are some terms that need to be cleared. The explanation is given in order to avoid ambiguity for the reader as reading this study.

The first is the definition of café. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary*, café is a place where people can buy drinks and light meals. It is added that usually in British or American cafes, they do not sell alcoholic drinks (2000: 165).

Next is the definition of theme. The theme of the story is what the story is about. Kennedy and Gioia say that theme of a story is “general idea or insight the entire story reveals” (1999: 175). In some story, the theme may share similarities to the conclusion or the moral of the story. However, in some literary fiction, a theme is not always a moral or a message, it may be what happenings or what the whole story is about. While, in many fine short stories, “theme is the center, the moving force, the principle of unity” (Kennedy & Gioia, 1999: 176). It means that the theme of a story is something other than the characters and events of its unity.
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Review of Related Studies

The first study that is used is the study conducted by Ucca Manggalagita titled “The Significance of the Symbols to the Characterization of Sarah O’rourke in Chris Cleave’s The Other Hand”. This study discusses how the symbol affects the character. This idea is similar to the writer’s study; that one intrinsic element in fiction may have connection to the other intrinsic element. In Manggalagita’s study, she shows that the symbols have significance to the O’Rourke’s characteristics. At the end, she reveals that those symbols change O’Rourke’s characteristics (Manggalagita, 2015: 55).

In her study, Manggalagita writes that O’rourke has changed; from a neglectful person become more heroic and helpful. This change is caused by the events she goes through in her life for the past two years. The symbols that are discussed by Manggalagita are Sarah’s lost middle finger and the presence of Little Bee. Sarah’s middle finger is the reminder of her loss and disappointment towards Andrew. Because of her lost middle finger, Sarah cannot type as usual. It slows her down. Thus make her become a neglectful person. However, at the same time the finger represents courage for the not denying what happened in Nigeria. Then the presence of Little Bee brings love
to her. Little Bee’s presence can make her become a loving person. Manggalagita writes:

Little Bee showed hope to O’Rourke with her own complete hand. As Little Bee placed her hand underneath O’Rourke’s hand, O’Rourke’s middle finger was filled by the presence of Bee’s finger. Bee showed that something missing can be replaced by something new and better. Little Bee always believed that a mark on somebody does not show weakness but it showed that somebody survived in a situation (2015: 45).

Then, on this part the writer discusses an online article that has different idea from the writer. It is an article entitled “The Logic of Confusion in: Hemingway's "A Clean, Well-Lighted Place”” by Gabriel (jstor.org, March 16, 2016). This article mostly talks about “being and nothingness”. It talks about the reason why the old man is in despair and it is because of nothing. In his article, Gabriel explains that the old man is in despair because of nothing. The reason Gabriel says so is because the old man has plenty of money yet he wants to commit suicide.

The next is an essay “A Clean Well-Lighted Place”: The Revelation of Nada written by Olena Basset (lonestar.edu, March 16, 2016). In that essay, Basset exposes the meaning of nada. In Spanish, nada means nothing. She uses the terms “emotional darkness, eventual isolation, and existential depression” to show the reader what nada or nothingness could bring to the old man and the old writer.

Basset also writes “In order to survive with dignity, to cheat the nada, one has to find a place, a pleasant place, "with the light, a certain cleanness, and order,”” (lonestar.edu, March 16, 2016).
Those two related studies above, mostly discuss the meaning or the impact of *nada* or nothingness in “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place”. Nevertheless, the writer here does not focus on *nada*. Instead, this study discusses the café and its significance to the theme of the story.

**B. Review of Related Theories**

1. **Theory of Setting**

Stanton says that “setting of a story is the environment of its events, the immediate world in which they occur” (1965: 18). The setting of a story may talk about the place, the time or even the circumstances in the story. It talks about how the place where the story happens, it shows when the events of a story occur and it talks about the situation in the story. The setting of a story usually is in a form of descriptive passages (Stanton, 1965:18). This makes the readers impatient to finish reading the setting. The readers usually want to directly read about the main event of the story. So, basically setting is an intrinsic element in fiction that sometimes gets less yet it builds the story as a whole.

Then, according to Kennedy and Gioia, the setting of a story has important role to the story. They say sometimes setting helps the readers understanding what happens in the story (Kennedy, 1999: 92). Sometimes it can profoundly affect the character who grew up in it (Kennedy, 1999: 93). Often, setting and character will reveal each other (Kennedy, 1999: 94). Kennedy and Gioia also say “in some fiction, setting is closely bound with theme (what the story is saying)” (Kennedy, 1999: 94).
Speaking about setting, Roberts and Jacobs write that there are two types of setting:

a. Natural

Roberts and Jacobs argue that “nature herself is seen as a force that shapes action and therefore directs and redirects lives” (1987: 190). This kind of setting refers to our nature; anything that happens without human’s involvement such as out-of-door places and the weather. Instead, it influences human action.

b. Manufactured

What it means by manufactured setting is the things that reflect someone’s tastes. Roberts and Jacobs give example:

A building or a room tells about the people who built it and live in it, and ultimately about the social and political orders that maintain the conditions. A richly decorated house shows the expensive tastes and resources of the characters owning it. A few cracks in the plaster and some chips in the paint may show the same persons declining in fortune and power. Ugly and impoverished surroundings may contribute to the weariness, insensitivity, negligence, or even hostility of the characters living in them (1987: 191).

In studying the use of setting, the first thing to do is to “discover all the details that form a part of setting, and then to determine how the author has use them” (Roberts & Jacobs 1987: 191). For example the author may minimize or emphasize setting to stress character, plot or action. Sometimes, setting is merely a sketched place where events happen. In other stories, setting may be so prominent that it may almost be considered as participant in the action.
a. Setting and credibility

One of the major purpose of setting is to make the story looks real. The description of setting is created in particular and detailed to make the events believable. The more detailed the description of setting, the more believable the events are. Roberts and Jacobs say “without a basis detailed, the event of the work will lose its credibility, even though they make no pretenses at everyday realism” (Roberts & Jacobs, 1987: 192).

b. Setting and statement

Roberts and Jacobs say “setting may be a kind of pictorial language” (1987: 192). It means that the author makes statement much as a painter uses certain images as ideas in a painting. Means that setting is the language used by the author to describe or communicate his mind about the details in the story.

c. Setting and character

The setting of a story may help us in understanding a character. As it is said above, setting and character may reveal each other. The setting of a place may show a character’s taste or interest. “Setting may intersect with character as means by which author underscore the importance of place, circumstances, and time upon human growth and change” (Roberts & Jacobs, 1987: 192).

d. Setting and organization

The various actions in the story may relate to the place, the time, or even the circumstances. There is a method used by author in applying place, time, and object called framing or enclosing method. It means the author frames the
story by opening with description a setting and at the end he/she back to the same setting. Like a picture frame, the setting affects the reader’s perception.

e. Setting and atmosphere

Setting also affects the atmosphere or mood of the story. In some story, an atmosphere or mood is required for the action. The author may just say that the event happen in a forest, however, if there is description of the trees, the wind, the animal, the shadow and so on, this mean the author makes an effort to make an atmosphere or mood for the action (Roberts & Jacobs 1987: 193). Roberts and Jacobs say, “references to smells and sounds bring the setting even more to life by asking additional sensory responses from the reader” (Roberts & Jacobs 1987: 193).

f. Setting and irony

Roberts and Jacobs write “just as setting is present as an element of agreement, reinforcement, and strengthening of character and theme, so may it work ironically – as an environment that is the opposite of what actually occurs in the work” (1987: 193).

2. Theory of Theme

The word idea and theme almost have the same meaning. Idea is bigger than theme. Theme is “the elaboration” of an idea through a literary work. “This word refers to something laid down, a postulate, a central or unifying idea. Loosely, the theme of a work and its major idea or central idea may be considered as synonyms” (Roberts & Jacobs 1987: 318).
According to Roberts and Jacobs, there are some methods author usually uses to convey his ideas:

a. Direct statements by the author’s unnamed speaker

This unnamed speaker may a totally independent character in the story. This speaker states the ideas directly to guide us or deepen understanding the story even though he may not represent the authors’ exact views. However, these ideas sometimes either helps us in our reading or disrupts our understanding of the story.

b. Direct statements by the persona

Persona is the first-person narrator or speakers. In literary analysis, persona is any narrative voice that speaks in the first person and appears to define a particular character. The ideas conveyed by persona may be identical to the author’s. Meaning to say, persona may be the device the author uses to convey his ideas. However, it may happen that the author not be underwriting the ideas of speaker but only to examine it. Sometimes the narrators speak views that directly opposed to the author’s.

c. Dramatic statement made by characters

In delivering the ideas, the authors may convey them in some moments. In many work, different characters state ideas that are in conflict.

d. Figurative language

In conveying the ideas, the authors do not always write them in common language. In some literary works, figurative language is often used by the author to convey his ideas.
e. Characters who stand for ideas

The characters of a work may also stand symbolically for ideas or values. The characters of a work are not only related to action of their respective work but may also stand for ideas or values of the story. In other words, this kind of character may assume symbolic status.

f. The work itself as represents ideas

One of the methods the authors use to convey or express ideas is by giving the reader the impression of a whole work. Meaning to say, even though the ideas or values are not directly stated, the reader still gets the values or ideas after finished reading the story.

3. Theory of Symbol

A symbol of a story is the device that the author uses to represent something beyond the real meaning of an object. Guth and Rico say, “in short story, a symbol is a detail, a character or an incident that has a meaning beyond its literal role in the narrative” (Guth, 1997: 189).

There are some points that have to be considered in interpreting the language of symbol (Guth, 1997: 189-190):

a. Some symbols come into a story from a shared language of symbols

There are some things in our daily life that may stand for another meaning. It may something that we see everyday. Guth and Rico write:

Much in human experience has traditional symbolic association: the dawn with hope, the dark forest with evil, clay with death, water with fertility. Light is often the symbol for knowledge, for “enlightenment”—*fiat lux* (“let there be light”) is the rallying cry of those fighting the darkness of ignorance (Guth, 1997: 189).
b. Some symbols have a special personal meaning for the writer

The meaning of a symbol may become into focus when that symbol is appearing again and again in a work. This kind of symbol may affected by the author experience. The author experience, that has deep meaning to him, may also become a source of his imaginative power in writing his work.

c. Literary symbols are rich in associations

A symbol in literary work does not simply tell or signal something. It represents more than that. In their book, Guth and Rico give an example about garden.

It brings with it a wealth association: The garden of Eden was a scene of innocence and happiness, before the fall of Adam. The garden is a symbol of nature seen as fruitful and life sustaining. Like the garden of Eden, it may be the cultivated spot in the surrounding wilderness. It may suggest the oasis in the desert. It may suggest a retreat from the intrigues of office or business – we retreat there to “cultivate our own garden” (Guth, 1997: 189).

d. Symbols may be ambiguous

A symbol in a work may have or express more than one possible meaning. Means that a symbol may mean one thing but at the same time it means another thing. To make it simple, Guth and Rico give an example of a mythic white whale in *Moby Dick*. They say that the whale represents everything that is destructive in nature but at the other time it stands for everything that is most serenely beautiful in nature.

e. Symbols acquire their full meaning in the context of a story

The real meaning of a symbol cannot be revealed without knowing and understanding the context of a story. In revealing the real meaning of symbol,
reading the story from the beginning to the end is needed. Guth and Rico give an example of a symbol in novel *Scarlet Letter*. In the novel, the letter *A* stands for adultery, embroidered on the sinner’s gown. However, as finish the story, we realize how she is and how innocence her child is. At the end, the scarlet letter becomes a symbol of our guilt, doubt about who is truly guilty.

There are some ways to recognize symbol in a fiction. Author usually gives the symbol particular emphasis (Kennedy & Gioia, 1999: 219). Sometimes the symbol in a fiction can be indicated when it is mentioned repeatedly. Sometimes it may even supply a title. In some crucial story, a symbol may open a story or end it. However, one thing for sure, something must be a symbol if after the reader finished reading the story, that item leads them to the author’s theme, the essential meaning (Kennedy & Gioia, 1999: 219).

C. **Theoretical Framework**

In this study, the writer needs to apply some theories in order to figure out the significance of café to the theme of the story. The first theory used to figure out the significance of café to the theme of the story is theory of setting. Theory of setting is needed as reference how powerful the setting in the story is. It is needed to show that the setting of the story could help the writer to reveal how important café is towards the theme. Then the next theory the writer uses is theory of theme. Theory of theme is needed to understand what the story is about. It is needed to find the idea that unifies the story; it makes the readers understand the story as a whole. The last theory is theory of
symbol. It is needed to reveal the significance of the café. It is needed to show that café has more complex meaning.
A. Object of the Study

“A Clean Well-lighted Place” by Ernest Hemingway was originally published in 1926, but the story appeared again in 1933 Winner Take Nothing, a collection of Hemingway short stories. In only few pages, the story deals with several of the hard-hitting themes we see in many of Hemingway’s works. The story is only under 1500 words but Hemingway manages to bring three vast concepts; loneliness, age and death.

There is proverb saying “nothing is certain but death and taxes”. In this four-page short story (The Complete Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway 2003: 288-291) Hemingway managed to show the readers that there is something worst than death and taxes; and that is loneliness. Hemingway succeed in showing the reader how lonely his characters. The title of the story is the description of the place where the story happens. However, it is not merely a description of that place. It is something to emphasize how important that place is to the loneliness of Hemingway’s characters.

The story basically wants to tell that every human being is going to grow old and die some day. The other important fact is that Hemingway wants his character (the old man and older waiter) to accept his fate with dignity. On the other side, the young waiter resists the idea. The young waiter thinks that his youth and his confidence will last forever.
B. Approach of the Study

New Criticism is used as the approach of the study. Its concept is to explain what a literary work means. In addition, some examples on the work are needed to support the interpretation.

Unlike the previous theory, New Criticism argues that the correct way to reveal the meaning of a work is by studying the text itself (Tyson, 2011: 39). So, studying the author’s life and times, and given reader’s impression is not counted in revealing the meaning of a work. In her book, Tyson explains that “in order to understand a literary text, then, we need to understand the complex workings of the unique combination of word – and other literary devices, or techniques of which it is made” (Tyson, 2011: 39). So to understand the meaning of a work, it is needed to have textual support, or evidence that backs up the claim that is based on the words found in the text itself. The evidence may be in a form of characters’ speech, action, and physical appearance; descriptions of plot events and setting; and so forth.

There are some basic concepts discussed in New Criticism theory. These concepts are the concept that gets more attention in analyzing fictions using New Criticism theory. The first concept discussed in New Criticism theory is theme. New Critics believe that a great literary work is a work with a theme that helps reader to understand what it means to be human (Tyson, 2011: 41). Today, a literary text can support more than one theme but New Critical strategies are used to support reader’s interpretations.
The second concept is formal elements. Form refers to the literary devices and language. These devices help give each literary work its unique form. As well, there are also some literary devices are additional examples of many kinds of formal elements important to understand how a literary work communicates its theme. These devices include tension, ambiguity, imagery, symbol, metaphor and simile.

New Critics also consider unity, or what they called organic unity, the most important quality of a literary text. A text has unity when its theme and its formal elements work together as an inseparable whole (Tyson, 2011: 43).

The last concept is close reading and textual evidence. Close reading consists of “careful attention to every aspect of a literary work, including and especially to the text's formal elements, in order to accurately and meaningfully interpret the text” (Tyson, 2011: 44). Close reading is the concept on how the reader provides evidence to his/her interpretation using the details in the text. According to James Orr, “close reading is thoughtful, critical analysis of a text that focuses on significant details or patterns in order to develop a deep, precise understanding of the text’s form, craft, meanings, etc. (nieonline.com, October 10, 2016).

The writer uses this approach because the writer is required to provide examples from the literary work itself to back up the interpretations of the work. This approach is suitable to analyze this literary work because this approach believes that the text itself is enough to reveal the meaning of the text.
C. Method of the Study

The writer used library research method in doing this research. The writer used the sources or references based on some printed or electronic sources without going to the field and collecting data using questionnaires. The primary source that the writer used was short story by Ernest Hemingway titled “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” and the secondary sources that were used were some books, articles and websites related to this study based on the same topic of this research.

There were some steps used in doing this research. The first step was reading “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” as the primary object of this research in order to understand the story well. The next step was studying some related studies having “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” as their object. This step was done to know which areas of study had been taken and which had not, thus the writer could emphasize on the new area which had not been studied before.

The next step was analyzing the story. In this step, the writer saw and analyzed the story according New Criticism vision. In this case, the writer chose to use close reading concept in analyzing the story. It meant the writer put more attention to every aspect of the work and provided evidences to the interpretation using the details in the text. The writer paid more attention to the details in the story that related to the theme. In this case, the writer described and analyzed the “café” as setting before relating it to the theme. In this case, the writer used juxtaposition to see that there were two things in the
story that had opposite meaning to each other. The writer also looked for some reviews of the story from the online journal, undergraduate thesis and articles.

The last step was making conclusion based on the analysis of the previous three problem formulations stated.
CHAPTER IV
ANALYSIS

In this chapter, there are three problems that are analyzed by the writer. The first is the description of the café. The second is the description of the theme through the detail of the story. Then the last problem is the significance of café to the theme in the story.

A. The Description of the Café

This part discusses everything about café. It does not only talk about the description of café (its location or the organization of stuff) but also talks about the description of café as a whole. This part deals with setting. It includes setting of place, setting of time and the circumstances.

The first is setting of place. This story took place somewhere in Spain or in a country where the language that was used was Spanish. It was proven when some Spanish words were mentioned.

The first Spanish word that was mention was peseta. In this short story, it was mention that the old man left a half peseta tip before he leaving the café. Peseta is the basic unit of money of Spain between 1869.

The old man stood up, slowly counted the saucers, took a leather coin purse from his pocket and paid for the drinks, leaving half a peseta tip (Hemingway, 2003: 290).

Then the other Spanish words in the story was marked using italic fonts. The next Spanish word that is mentioned is hombre. It means man, like a
friendly call someone used to call their close friend. It was a word said by the old waiter to the young waiter when they were closing the café.

“Are you trying to insult me?”
“No, hombre, only to make a joke,” (Hemingway, 2003: 290).

The word hombre was mentioned again by the young waiter to the old waiter when the old waiter was dressed to go home. This time, the young waiter also mentioned the word bodegas. Bodegas was also a Spanish word. It could refer to a place that sells wine, like a mini-mart but smaller and more like a liquor store atmosphere.

“We are of two different kinds,” the older waiter said. He was now dressed to go home. “It is not only a question of youth and confidence although those things are very beautiful. Each night I am reluctant to close up because there may be some one who needs the café.”
“Hombre, there are bodegas open all night long,” (Hemingway, 2003: 290).

Then there was nada. Nada was a Spanish word meant nothing. This word was mention over and over by the old waiter when he walked to go home. The old waiter seemed intentionally changed some words in Lord’s Prayer into nada.

Some lived in it and never felt it but he knew it all was nada y pues nada y nada y pues nada. Our nada who art in nada, nada be thy name thy kingdom nada thy will be nada in nada as it is in nada. Give us this nada our daily nada and nada us our nada as we nada our nasas and nada us not into nada but deliver us from nada; pues nada. Hail nothing full of nothing, nothing is with thee (Hemingway, 2003: 291).

The next Spanish word that was mentioned in the story was a noun said by the barman to the old waiter when he asked the old waiter’s order but the old
waiter answered it with by saying nada. That’s why the barman said that the old waiter was otro loco mas, another crazy (person/man).

“What’s yours?” asked the barman.

“Nada.”

“Otro loco mas,” said the barman and turned away (Hemingway, 2003: 291).

Then, the last Spanish word that was mentioned was copita. In English, copita means glass or cup. It was a word said by the barman when he asked the old waiter if he wanted another cup of coffee.

“You want another copita?” the barman asked.

“No, thank you,” said the waiter and went out. He disliked bars and bodegas (Hemingway, 2003: 291).

This story happened in café. The seats were divided into two; inside and outside, at terrace. The young waiter and the old waiter sit inside café, at a table that was close against the wall near the door of the café while the old man was sitting outside. The seats were all empty except the seat at the terrace where the old men sit under the shadow the leaves of the tree. The old waiter described café as a clean, pleasant and well lighted place (Hemingway, 2003: 290). However, at the end of the story, the old waiter went to a bar. He said, “The light is very bright and pleasant but the bar is unpolished” (Hemingway 2003: 291). The old waiter said this to show the difference between café and bar according to his opinion.

Next is setting of time. The mention of the time was limited but it was described clearly.

The story happened very late at night. It was shown by the number of people who still in the café. Hemingway described that there was no one left
in the café except the old man the two waiters. The old man was the only costumer left and there were an old waiter and a young waiter watched the old man from inside the café.

It was late and every one had left the café except an old man who sat in the shadow the leaves of the tree made against the electric light. In the day time the street was dusty, but at night the dew settled the dust and the old man liked to sit late because he was deaf and now at night it was quiet and he felt the difference. The two waiters inside the café knew that the old man was a little drunk, and while he was a good client they knew that if he became too drunk he would leave without paying, so they kept watch on him. (Hemingway 2003: 288).

Then, there was another proof that the story happened very late at night. It was so late that it was not a right time to have a conversation. It was shown when the old waiter was commenting about the bar but the barman decided not to give a response to the old waiter.

“The light is very bright and pleasant but the bar is unpolished,” the waiter said.
The barman looked at him but did not answer. It was too late at night for conversation (Hemingway, 2003: 291).

There is also the description that the story happened around two and three in the morning.

“It is not half-past two.”
“I want to go home to bed.”
“What is an hour?” (Hemingway, 2003: 290).

The last description of the time setting was mentioned when the old waiter and the young waiter were saying goodbye.

“Good night,” said the younger waiter.
“Good night,” the other said (Hemingway, 2003: 291).
Hemingway tried to build a mood of the story through his description that there were no one in café except the two waiters and the only costumer left was the old man. He described that the old man was sitting in the shadow the leaves of the tree by himself (Hemingway, 2003: 288). Not only he was the only costumer but also the old man chose to sit alone outside the café; though he knew that all the seats inside the café were all empty. Hemingway also mentioned that the old man was deaf (Hemingway, 2003: 289). If a person was deaf, it meant he/she was unable to hear either completely or partly. That meant the old man could not hear every voice in his surroundings. This showed that even though the old man was surrounded by people chattering, he could not hear it. This showed though it was very noisy surround him, he, alone, felt quiet. If a person was deaf, he/she saw other people chatting, laughing, singing, crying and so forth but it was muted.

In addition, the young waiter and the old waiter said that the old man had no wife. They also did not mention whether the old man had children or not. In the waiters’ conversation, it found out that the old man only had niece as family (Hemingway, 2003: 289). Though the old man had plenty of money, he was more than eighty and he no longer had wife who waited him at home. The two waiters also said that the old man was in despair.

“Last week he tried to commit suicide,” one waiter said.
“Why?”
“He was in despair,” (Hemingway, 2003: 288).

Those descriptions showed that the old man underwent the loneliness. When someone underwent loneliness, it meant he/she felt sad of being alone, being
apart from other people. On the other side, café was a place where people usually gathered. Café was a place where people could meet and chat with one another. Therefore, café emphasized the loneliness of the old man. Not to mention, the old waiter said that the old man tried to commit suicide. These statements conveyed the idea life as nothingness.

B. The Theme of the Story

To figure out the theme of the story, the details in the text should be analyzed carefully. There are several ways or devices that are used by the author in helping the reader to understand the theme of the story. In here the writer uses three methods to reveal the theme of the story. The first method that is used is using the theory written by Roberts and Jacobs. The second method is by analyzing the symbols in the story. The last method that is used is by analyzing the character’s actions.

The first part, the writer revealed the theme of the story using the theory written by Roberts and Jacobs:

a. Direct statement by the persona

Persona in here refers to the character that is established by the author to tell the story. In “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place”, Hemingway used third-person point of view. He used the third-person point of view that’s called omniscient. It means this persona knows everything. This persona does not only describe the action and dialogue of the work but also voices the characters’ mind. In this story, this persona voiced the old waiter’s mind. “It was not a fear or dread. It was a nothing that he knew too well. It was all a
nothing and a man was a nothing too” (Hemingway 2003: 291). This was the statement delivered by the persona when the old waiter was heading home. This statement showed the idea that life is about nothingness. That what the old waiter did was just a routine. This statement also functioned to emphasize the idea of nothingness itself. Meaning to say that what the old waiter experienced was not fear or dread. By saying “it was nothing that he knew too well”, the persona tried to show that the old waiter himself did not know what he experienced or he tried to deny that he, also, experiencing loneliness; just like the old man had.

The old waiter felt empty because he lacked about everything but work. However, when the old waiter was at the café, he felt accompanied. He did not felt the nothingness in his life when he went to work. This was because when he was at the café, he knew that someone maybe felt the same as him.

The persona in “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” did not only voice that statement above. It also voiced what the old waiter thought about something. This time the persona voiced the old waiter’s mind about his attitude toward catholic organized religion. He discounts the importance and meaning of any unifying spiritual principle, mocking organized religion through his rewriting of the Lord's Prayer.

Some lived in it and never felt it but he knew it all was nada y pues nada y nada y pues nada. Our nada who art in nada, nada be thy name thy kingdom nada thy will be nada in nada as it is in nada. Give us this nada our daily nada and nada us our nada as we nada our nadas and nada us not into nada but deliver us from nada; pues nada (Hemingway, 2003: 291).
Though those words were not stated directly by the old waiter, Hemingway made it clear that the one who changed the prayer was the old waiter. *Nada* in English meant *nothing*. The old waiter changed some words in the Lord’s Prayer with *nada* to show that he believed life was about nothingness.

The Lord’s Prayer was given by Jesus as a lesson in prayer. According to the New Testament, it was believed that Lord’s Prayer was the way people should pray. The real version of the Lord’s Prayer consisted of five verses. It embraced the elements of all spiritual desire summed up in a few choice sentences. The first two verses of the Lord’s Prayer were addressed to God. The other three were related to human need and concerns.

The first verse was our *nada* who art in *nada*. Though it was not clear, this first verse was supposed to be the address of the prayer. However, the old waiter changed two words in there became *nada*. It became our nothing who art in nothing, nothing be your name. The address of this prayer became blurred. It was not clear to whom this prayer was said to. There was no explanation either where this figure lived. Then there is a clause said nothing be thy name. It was not clear what happened to the name.

The second verse said thy kingdom *nada* thy will be *nada* in *nada* as it is in *nada*. In English, that sentence became your kingdom nothing your will be nothing in nothing as it is in nothing. The sentence became weird.
The third verse said give us this nada our daily nada. After the old waiter changed it, it became give us this nothing our daily nothing. This verse became unclear. It was not clear what the person asked for.

The fourth verse said and nada us our nada as we nada our nada. In that verse, almost every important word was changed into nada. It became and nothing us our nothing as we nothing our nothings. This verse could not deliver anything.

The last verse of this prayer said and nada us not into nada but deliver us from nada; pues nada. It became and nothing us not into nothing but deliver us from nothing; well nothing. It was not clear what the person was trying to ask. It did not explain where the person was asking to be delivered from or to be delivered to. Moreover, the prayer was closed with some statement that seemed ignorant to the prayer itself.

After the revelation of all the words that were changed, Lord’s Prayer no longer had its meaning. According to biblestudytools.com, the purpose of the Lord’s Prayer was:

The Lord's Prayer was given as a lesson in prayer. As such this simple model surpasses all precepts about prayer. It suggests to the child of God the proper objects of prayer. It supplies suitable forms of language and illustrates the simple and direct manner in which we may trustingly address our heavenly Father. It embraces the elements of all spiritual desire summed up in a few choice sentences. For those who are not able to bring their struggling desires to birth in articulate language it provides an instructive form. To the mature disciple it ever unfolds with richer depths of meaning. Though we learn these words at our mother's knee, we need a lifetime to fill them with meaning and all eternity to realize their answer (biblestudytools.com).
Then when some of the Lord’s Prayer’s words were changed then it was no longer the same. This was because after those words were changed, the Lord’s Prayer became: Our nothing who art in nothing, nothing be thy name thy kingdom nothing thy will be nothing in nothing as it is in nothing. Give us this nothing our daily nothing and nothing us our nothing as we nothing our nothings and nothing us not into nothing but deliver us from nothing. It lost its sense.

b. Characters who stand for ideas

In this story, the old man and the old waiter’s life represented the idea of the story; life as nothingness. They both lived yet they had “nothing”.

“Last week he tried to commit suicide,” one waiter said.
“Why?”
“He was in despair.”
“What about?”
“How do you know it was nothing?”
“He has plenty of money,” (Hemingway 2003: 288).

As it was said above, the old man had plenty of money, yet he tried to commit suicide. It was said that the old man was in despair. According to the old waiter, what the old man needed was a wife. He only had a niece. Though his niece was the one who took care of him, the old man did not feel accompanied. He felt lonely.

“He’s lonely. I’m not lonely. I have a wife waiting in bed for me.”
“He had a wife once too.”
“A wife would be no good to him now.”
“You can’t tell. He might be better with a wife.”
“His niece looks after him. You said she cut him down.”
On the other hand, the old waiter was actually experiencing loneliness too. It was clearly stated that the old waiter was lack of everything except work. His life was about work and work only (Hemingway 2003: 290). Not to mention, the old waiter also willingly to open the café until very late at night because he also needed it (Hemingway 2003: 290). He needed the café to escape from nothingness in life, just like the old man.

c. The work itself as it represents ideas

The work itself could represent the idea by reading and understanding what the work was about. To get the theme of the work is the major purpose in reading a literary work. In order to get the theme of the work, the reader needs to get the idea of the work first. If the reader is able to find the theme of the work, it means he/she is successfully in understanding the work.

The conflict in the story was about the different perspective between the young waiter and the old waiter (and the old man). It was about the thing they valued. While the young waiter valued the time, the old man and the old waiter did not really care about it. The young waiter insisted on closing the café an hour earlier because he wanted to get some rest. Then there was a statement, “I wouldn’t want to be that old. An old man is a nasty thing,” (Hemingway 2003: 289). That statement stated by the young waiter. Somehow it showed that the young waiter believed that his youth would last forever. In contrast, the old waiter did not mind to close the café in very late at night.

“I want to go home to bed.”
“What is an hour?”
“More to me than to him.”
“An hour is the same” (Hemingway 2003: 290).
“I am of those who like to stay late at the café,” the older waiter said (Hemingway 2003: 290).

Then the old man also liked to stay up late at café. He spent his time in there, sometimes until he was drunk. He was even a good client in that café; “the two waiters inside the café knew that the old man was a little drunk, and while he was a good client they knew that if he became too drunk he would leave without paying, so they kept watch on him” (Hemingway 2003: 288). It was told also that the old man tried to commit suicide. Those showed that the old man also did not value time.

Another different perspective they got was the young waiter argued that everything can be solved with money. While for the old man, even though he got plenty of money, he did not feel happy. The young waiter believed that because the old man had plenty of money, the old man should not try to commit suicide.

The second part, the revelation of the theme not only can be done using those aspects above. The theme can also be revealed through setting, the repetition of words, character’s action and so forth. This part reveals the theme of the story using theory of symbol.

a. Light

Café was described well-lighted. Even at the end of the story the old waiter emphasized that it was not music that mater but light. “It was not fear or dread. It was a nothing that he knew too well. It was all a nothing and a man was nothing too. It was only that and light was all it needed and a certain cleanness and order” (Hemingway 2003: 291). These showed that light had
something important to the story. No matter if the place was clean, but if it was not well lighted then it was nothing. According to Dictionary of Symbols, light symbolized life, salvation and happiness granted by God (1996: 604).

The old waiter said;

"I am of those who like to stay late at the cafe," the older waiter said. "With all those who do not want to go to bed. With all those who need a light for the night." (Hemingway 2003: 290).

By then meant that light was something needed by someone who was in the darkness. It was simply because the light chased the darkness away. Light was needed by the old man and the old waiter because both of them was experiencing loneliness.

b. Night

The story happened at night. According to Dictionary Of Symbols, night “applies to the wiping clean of the intellect, ‘emptiness, or ‘nakedness’ applies to that of the memory and ’dryness’ or ‘aridity’ to that of all longings, sensual emotions and even the highest aspiration” (1996: 701). When the night fell the old man felt empty. At night, many people might go home to meet their wife or children or family but the old man did not. At night, it was quiet and he felt the difference (Hemingway 2003: 288). He was lonely and night made it worse. This was because he had no wife or children waited him at home.

Night was also identical to darkness. According to Dictionary of Symbols, night is endowed with every potentiality of being, but to go into the night is to return to a state of indeterminacy and intermingle with nightmares, monsters and ‘black thoughts’. Night is the image of the unconscious and, in the darkness of sleep, the unconscious is set free (1996: 701).
The old waiter said,

"I am of those who like to stay late at the cafe," the older waiter said.

"With all those who do not want to go to bed. With all those who need a light for the night." (Hemingway 2003: 290).

The old waiter said that as if night is the darkness that tries to lock everybody up.

c. Shadow of the leaves of the tree

The word shadow of the leaves of the tree is repeated for several times. On one hand the word shadow “is the opposite to light, and on the other, the very image of fleeting, unreal and mutable things” (1996: 868). The old man is deaf. He is unable to hear. Everything in his surrounding is mute. Then, shadow is something that follows light. It is also said that shadow is “the second nature of people and things and as being linked, generally speaking, to death (1996: 869). Shadow in here also shows the old man attempt to commit suicide. He no longer wants to live. However, “it is the shadow which maintains relations with the living” (1996: 869). Here, in the story stated that the old man is sitting under the shadow the leaves of the tree. This shows that even though the old man is lonely, lost his linkage to reality, the shadow of the leaves shows that it is the linkage between the old man and reality.

d. Insomnia

At the end of the story, the old waiter says that he may experience insomnia. Insomnia is a disorder that makes someone cannot sleep in a period of time. In this case, the old waiter can only sleep with day light (Hemingway
2003: 291). This indirectly shows that the old waiter is afraid of darkness. On the other hand, darkness symbolized evil, misfortune, punishment, damnation and death (Dictionary of Symbols 1996: 604).

The third part or the last method that is used by the writer in revealing the theme is by analyzing characters’ actions.

“I wouldn’t want to be that old. An old man is a nasty thing.”
“Not always. This old man is clean. He drinks without spilling. Even now, drunk. Look at him,” (Hemingway 2003: 289).

The action of the old man who drinks without spilling even though he is drunk shows that even though the old man is in despair, he still taking care of himself. He is clean. He cares about his appearance.

The old man stood up, slowly counted the saucers, took a leather coin purse from his pocket and paid for the drinks, leaving half a peseta tip. The waiter watched him go down the street, a very old man walking unsteadily but with dignity (Hemingway 2003: 290).

Then before leaving the café, the old man paid his drinks and he even gave the waiter a tip even though the old man was actually being forced to leave. At the end the waiter watched the old man. He was indeed very old and drunk too but the old man still managed to walk with dignity. The old man’s action shows that even though he is no longer young, he has no one, even when he was drunk, he still survived.

From those explanations above, the writer finds there is one major theme; life as nothingness. Most of the explanations above refer to the nothingness in life. Those explanations show and emphasize loneliness and how it affects the old man and the old waiter. However, there is also one minor theme; the struggle against nothingness.
C. The Significance of Café to the Theme

Café is not merely a place where the story happens. Café in here has deeper meaning. It has symbolic meaning. Café fulfills the requirements to be considered as symbol in the story. Firstly, is because café supplies the story with the title. The title “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place” refers to café. Then, café also open the story. The first thing described in the story was the condition in café. Then, lastly, café leads the reader to the theme of the story. Not only leads the reader to the theme, in this story, café also has two significances to it.

1. As symbol that represents opposite meaning of nothingness

The description in the story is mostly emphasizing the idea of nothingness. On the other hand, café is described as a clean, well-lighted place. A clean, well-lighted place has opposite meaning to the theme of the story; life as nothingness. The story suggests that life has no meaning. It was shown when the old waiter said; “It was all nothing and a man was nothing too” (Hemingway 2003: 291). However, café offered different meaning. Through the old man and the old waiter, Hemingway showed that café gave salvation to them. Hemingway emphasized that café was clean and well-lighted to show that café conveys the opposite condition from the old man and the old waiter’s life that was messy and dark.

Nothingness in life is shown in the story through the old waiter’s lack of everything but work:
"You have youth, confidence, and a job," the older waiter said. "You have everything."
"And what do you lack?"
"Everything but work."
"You have everything I have."
"No. I have never had confidence and I am not young," (Hemingway 2003: 290).

Though the young waiter saw the old waiter as young, confident and someone who has job, the old waiter himself admitted that he was no longer young. He said he never had confidence. The young waiter saw the old waiter was the same as him; that the old waiter had everything the young waiter had. However, once more the old waiter denied that. The old waiter said that all he had was his job. The story also did not mention if the old waiter had family. He had no wife or children. He was all alone. All he had in his life was his job.

The idea of nothingness in life was also shown through the old man's life. He had a lot of money but the only family he had left was his niece.

"What did he want to kill himself for?"
"How should I know."
"How did he do it?"
"He hung himself with a rope."
"Who cut him down?"
"His niece."
"Why did they do it?"
"Fear for his soul."
"How much money has he got?" "He's got plenty." (Hemingway 2003: 289).

Loneliness consumed the old man and the old waiter until both of them felt the nothingness in life. They felt there was nothing in this life that granted them salvation. As can be seen above, the old man was trying to hang himself while his niece was trying to save him. His niece did that because suicide was
not allowed by the religion they had. His niece was afraid that if the old man committed suicide, his soul would not go to heaven. On the other side, the old man felt that money and religion could not grant him happiness or meaning of life. He did not care about his soul. All he knew was that he was alone. All the old man felt was nothingness. Therefore the idea of suicide was inviting.

After reading those descriptions above, should be remembered that café offered different atmosphere. Café in here is described as the place that is clean and well-lighted.

“‘You do not understand. This is a clean and pleasant café. It is well lighted. The light is very good and also, now, there are shadows of the leaves,’” (Hemingway 2003: 290).

According to Guth and Rico, “light is often the symbol for knowledge, for ‘enlightment’ – fiat lux (“let there be light”) is the rallying cry of those fighting the darkness of ignorance (1997: 189). Then according to Kennedy and Gioia, “a cheerful atmosphere created by a bright, sunlit setting may contrast with the inner disturbance of a character” (1978: 42). From that statement above, could be known that sometimes author makes the atmosphere of the setting in his/her story bright is to show the opposite characteristic in his/her character. In “A Clean, Well-Lighted Place”, the old man and the old waiter are lonely. On the other hand, café is well lighted and clean. It is two different things. On one hand the old man and the old waiter represent sorrow, on the other hand café represents cheerful atmosphere. Café offered both the old waiter and the old man comfort. The light and cleanliness of the café granted them salvation from the chaos the world gave them. Though it was
temporary, café gave the meaning of life to both of them. Café helped them to endure that they were okay.

2. As an escape from nothingness

This story not merely told about nothingness in life but also the struggle to escape that nothingness. Café showed the fight against despair and loneliness with dignity.

For the old waiter, he could spend his time in café because he enjoyed the company. He even admits that café is something needed by everyone who needs light for the night.

“I am those who like to stay late at the café,” the older waiter said. “With all those who do not want to go to bed. With all those who need a light for the night” (Hemingway 2003: 290).

Then at the same time the old man spent his time in the café because he could drink his brandy with dignity.

“I wouldn’t want to be that old. An old man is a nasty thing.”

“Not always. This old man is clean. He drinks without spilling. Even now, drunk. Look at him” (Hemingway 2003: 289).

From that conversation, it was known that the main character was indeed old, even the young waiter considered him nasty. However, the old waiter did not fully agree. The old waiter argued that even though their last costumer was old, he still had dignity. The old man drank his brandy without spilling despite the fact that he was drunk.

Another example that showed that the old man still had dignity was when he walked away from the café; though he walked unsteadily, he walked with
dignity: “The waiter watched him go down the street, a very old man walking unsteadily but with dignity” (Hemingway 2003: 290).

They had similarity. Both the old man and the old waiter underwent loneliness. They both had no one wait them at home. The only escape they had was café. This was because café was pleasant place, it was clean and well-lighted. It was the place where the old man and the old waiter could forget their loneliness. It made them forget about how awful their life was outside the café. In addition, the old waiter said “each night I am reluctant to close up because there may be some one who needs the café” (Hemingway 2003: 290). The old waiter said that as if café was something people need for at night. He said that as if night was something bad, dark. He was afraid of night as if it was death.

Both the old man and the old waiter lost their linkage to reality. Their only place to go was café; a place where both of them dealt with their loneliness. Café was a place that helped them in facing their loneliness, to lessen their loneliness. Even though the old man chose to sit alone outside the café, it was different than sitting alone at all.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

From the analysis, it is known that café in the story refers to café in Spanish speaking country café. It sells alcohol, in this case brandy. The story happens at café at night. There is no costumer left except the old waiter who is sitting outside, at terrace. The café itself is described as a clean place. Everything is in order. It is bright but not too bright, it is well-lighted.

There are two themes in “A Clean, Well-lighted Place”. One theme is major, the other is minor. The major theme is life as nothingness. This theme is seen from the old man’s life. He has a lot of money but still he wants to commit suicide. From this old man, Hemingway shows that money cannot forbid a man to end his life. Then there is one minor theme, the struggle against nothingness. The story tells that the old man and the old waiter are lonely. They always spend their time at café. It is because both the old man and the old waiter do not want to remember that their life is full of nothing. By spending their time at café, the old man tries to live. He tries to fight the temptation of suicide when he is alone. Then, for the old waiter, he spends his time at café because he enjoys the company. He fights his thought that he is alone in this world. He is afraid of night. By spending his time at café, it is the way he struggle to fight his fear.

In revealing the meaning of the story, should be remembered that every intrinsic element in the story is related to each other. In “A Clean, Well-
lighted Place”, the setting of the story has significance to the theme. After revealing that there are one major theme and one minor theme in the story, the writer shows that there is relation between the theme and the setting; in this case café. One of the themes is life as nothingness. In this case, café is something that represents opposite meaning of nothingness. Café in here shows hope and “salvation” for the old man and the old waiter. Café may be merely a place to hang out for other people. Even for the young waiter, café is only a place he works at. He has no special attachment to the café. However, for the old waiter and the old man, café means something. They like to spend their time in café. This is because for them, café is not merely place to work or to drink brandy. For them, café is a place that gives them the meaning of life. Café shows their struggle in facing loneliness. It is a place that saves them from the “annihilation”.

Then there is also one minor theme in the story; the struggle against nothingness. Café indirectly represents this idea. The old man and the old waiter always spend their time in café until late at night. Though the old man and the old waiter are experiencing loneliness, they still show their fight. Though it is not really a fight, both the old man and the old waiter shows that they still live facing their loneliness.

Café represents an escape for the old man and the old waiter. It is a place where the old man and the old waiter can forget their loneliness. It is the place where they can escape awfulness in their life. Café is their way to show the world that they are experiencing loneliness but they still survive. Especially
for the old man, café gives him protection. It is because when the old man is alone, the idea of suicide is inviting but when he is at café he shows people that he can drink his brandy with dignity.

The story must take place at café because other places such as bars and bodegas won’t do. Meaning to say café has big significance to the theme of the story. The descriptions that café is a place that clean and well-lighted show that café is the right place to escape nothingness. The old waiter says that bars and bodegas are very bright and pleasant but unpolished. He says that what matters is the light and it is necessary that the place should be clean and pleasant. He even adds that music is not needed. The old waiter also argues that he cannot stand a bar with dignity.

Then the old man also chooses café as the place he spends his night. The cleanliness and the light at café show the dignity of the old man in facing his loneliness. While for the old waiter, he spends his night at café hoping that there may be someone who needs the café. He spends his night at café waiting for the day to come up so he can get some rest. These show that the old waiter believes café is the safest place at night.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


“The Definition of a Literary Work”.
