

ABSTRACT

SANDRA SOESANTYO (2005). **The Representation of American Midwest Farmers from the 1860s until 1890s in Hamlin Garland's "Under the Lion's Paw" and "Up the Coolly."**

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This thesis deals with the work of Hamlin Garland's "Under the Lion's Paw" and "Up the Coolly" which are taken from his collection of short stories entitled *Main-Travelled Roads*. The story of "Under the Lion's Paw" tells about the bitter plight of an honest farmer who falls into the clutches of the speculator. On the other hand, the story of "Up the Coolly" tells about the resentment of a farmer against his brother who is a successful actor in the city. This study is going to analyze two problem formulations. The first one is the characterization of farmers in Hamlin Garland's "Under the Lion's Paw and "Up the Coolly". The second one is the representation of American Midwest farmers from the 1860s until 1890s seen in the characters.

The thesis applies the library research as the method of the study. The writer uses the sociocultural-historical approach to identify the socio-economical condition of American Midwest farmers in the late nineteenth century. The theories of literature, and the review of American West from the 1860s until 1890s, will be applied to answer those questions.

The first problem shows that in the story of "Under the Lion's Paw" Stephen Council is a kind and skillful farmer. Haskins is described as a penniless, hopeless man. He is the victim of the speculator. On the other hand, in the story of "Up the Coolly", Grant McLane has to carries out the burdens of paying off the mortgages on his farm. He lives in poverty and sorrow.

The second problems shows that the American Midwest farmers from the 1860s until 1890s live in poverty. The farmers have a subordinate social stratification in the society. They are the victims of the speculators because they do not have certain education. However, the farmers experience the harsh life on the farm. They also experience the decline of individual values. Nevertheless, the farmers are the self-reliant people who depend their life on the farm.

Thus, Stephen Council and Haskins in the story "Under the Lion's Paw", and Grant McLane in the story of "Up the Coolly" can be as the representation of American Midwest farmers from the 1860s until 1890s. They experience the hard life on the Plains. They have to cope many problems as they settle there. Through his work like *Main-Travelled Roads*, Hamlin Garland wants to reveal the hardship and the poverty of the farmers in the Midwest. Through many difficulties of life on the Plains, the farmers demand the agricultural reform to have a better life. In spite of their efforts to resist the economic forces and speculators, they are often abandoned in American economic life. However, the American Midwest farmers are the part of the nation as well as the world's economic life.

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Skripsi ini membahas karya Hamlin Garland yaitu "Under the Lion's Paw" dan "Up the Coolly" yang diambil dari kumpulan cerita pendeknya yang berjudul *Main-Travelled Roads*. Cerita "Under the Lion's Paw" berkisah tentang keadaan yang memilukan dari seorang petani jujur yang jatuh dalam gengaman seorang spekulan. Sementara itu, cerita "Up the Coolly" berkisah tentang kemarahan seorang petani terhadap kakaknya yang sukses menjadi aktor di kota. Studi ini akan menganalisa dua buah permasalahan. Pertama adalah penokohan para petani di dalam cerita "Under the Lion's Paw dan "Up the Coolly". Kedua adalah penggambaran para petani Amerika Barat Tengah dari tahun 1860an sampai dengan 1890an dilihat dari penokohan tersebut.

Skripsi ini menggunakan metode studi pustaka. Penulis menggunakan pendekatan sosial budaya dan sejarah untuk menelaah kondisi sosial dan ekonomi para petani Amerika Barat Tengah pada akhir abad ke 19. Penerapan teori-teori sastra dan ulasan tentang Amerika Barat dari tahun 1860an sanpai dengan 1890an, akan digunakan dalam menjawab permasalahan-permasalahan tersebut.

Permasalahan pertama menunjukkan di dalam cerita "Under the Lion's, Paw", Stephen Council seorang petani yang baik and ahli. Timothy Haskins seorang petani yang tidak punya uang, tidak punya harapan, dan menjadi korban seorang spekulan. Disisi lain, di dalam cerita "Up the Coolly", Grant McLane harus menanggung beban dalam melunasi hipotik atas tanah pertaniannya. Dia hidup dalam kemiskinan dan kemuraman.

Permasalahan kedua menunjukkan para petani Amerika Barat Tengah dari tahun 1860an sampai dengan 1890an hidup dalam kemiskinan. Mereka memiliki stratifikasi sosial yang rendah dalam masyarakat. Mereka korban para spekulan. Para petani merasakan kerasnya kehidupan di tanah pertanian. Mereka mengalami penurunan nilai-nilai individu. Bagaimanapun juga, mereka adalah orang-orang yang berdikari yang menggantungkan hidupnya pada tanah pertanian.

Jadi, Stephen Council and Timothy Haskins di dalam cerita "Under the Lio's Paw", dan Grant's McLane di dalam cerita "Up the Colly" dapat menggambarkan para petani Amerika Barat Tengah dari tahun 1860an sampai dengan 1890s. Mereka merasakan kerasnya kehidupan di daratan dan menanggulangi banyak masalah saat tinggal di sana. Melalui karyanya *Main-Travelled Roads*, Hamlin Garland mau mengungkap penderitaan dan kemiskinan para petani di Amerika Barat Tengah. Melihat kesulitan-kesulitan hidup di daratan, mereka menginginkan reformasi di bidang pertanian untuk mendapatkan hidup yang lebih baik. Disamping usaha dalam melawan tekanan ekonomi dan para spekulan, mereka kerap kali terabaikan dalam kehidupan perekonomian di Amerika. Bagaimanapun juga, petani Amerika Barat Tengah adalah bagian dari kehidupan perekonomian bangsa dan dunia.