

Ruination of Life in *Harvest* (2013) Novel by Jim Grace

THESIS

*Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain
the Strata one (S1) Degree in English Department*



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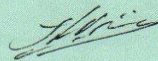
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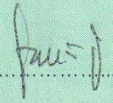

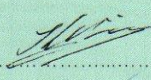

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ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini merupakan analisa novel *Harvest* (2013) karya Jim Grace. Masalah yang diangkat adalah bagaimana novel ini merefleksikan isu kehancuran hidup dua karakter yang ingin mencapai keinginannya dengan melakukan tindakan dan perlakuan yang buruk. Tujuan penganaliasaan ini adalah mengungkapkan sejauh mana novel ini menggambarkan topik kehancuran hidup dua karakter yang disebabkan tindakannya sendiri dan sejauh mana konflik dan setting memberikan kontribusi untuk mengungkapkan hal tersebut. Analisa ini dikaitkan dengan konsep (theory) *Power* oleh Michel Foucault and *Repression* oleh Sigmund Freud. Kedua karakter merupakan pendatang yang merampas hak penduduk setempat, melakukan penindasan, menjadi pemimpin yang tidak adil, serakah dan semena-mena. Hasil analisa menunjukan bahwa masyarakat melakukan perlawanan sehingga kedua karakter menerima kehancuran di dalam kehidupannya.

Kata Kunci: Pendatang, Kehancuran, Kehidupan.

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The Writer

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CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

There are many ways people do to improve their lives. One of them is by leaving their homelands and setting a new life in a new area. Each area has different livelihood, tradition, culture and religion. Consequently, the newcomers are required to adapt in order to fit in well within their new lives environment. However, not all of the newcomers are able to adapt well and quickly. The uneducated newcomers, for example, often find it difficult to adjust since they have lack of knowledge and skills. Hence, these conditions make it difficult for them to get a job. As a result, they are left jobless. Meanwhile, the educated newcomers who manage to adapt with the new livelihood, tradition, culture, and religion are valued by the villagers in the new area well without leaving their owns. They socialize and fit in well with their new surroundings. Having sufficient educational background or knowledge and skills, these newcomers find it easier to get a good job. Surprisingly, some are not only able to live well, but also exceed their limit. Being steered by their passion and lust to dominate in their new community, these newcomers are determined to do anything to reach their dreams. They would do anything to achieve their dreams and personal interests. Thus, their actions have brought them into the ruination of their own lives.

The American Heritage of the English language (2010) defines ruination as the act of ruining something or the condition of being ruined. Ruination of

life in this analysis refers to the result of harsh actions which are done by the newcomers to the villagers and travellers. They do not realize that the tense that they give make other do rebellion to them. In other words, they are going to get back what they have done to other people in their lives. They mistreat the villagers and travellers. The consequence is they become greedy and immoral. They do not realize that their ambitions make them become inhuman. Therefore, the newcomers get external bad impacts from their harsh actions to other people.

The newcomers who ruin their lives are caused by their inhuman actions to the villagers and travellers in the rural of England. In making their plan work, these skillful and knowledgeable newcomers try to be landlord, control the villagers and the land by setting two areas; they are agriculture and wool industry. In agriculture area, the newcomer forces the villagers work as labourers and they must pay taxes and rents to the land. Thus, the villagers are warned to improve their lives since they are not hired in wool industry area. The villagers cannot resist them because they are powerless. They are lack of knowledge and skill since they leave in rural which it does not have school to be visited. They also do bad treatment to the traveller since they want to protect his position. Those newcomers become superior; whereas, the villagers and travellers become subordinate in that area.

Subordinate people tend to get violence and expropriations of properties, land and freedom which make them suffer in their own area. It is difficult for them to survive. These are done by superiors to maintain their position. Another

way to resist their position is to do competition among them. They will do anything to make their goals are achieved although they must hurt and overthrow others. Their greediness and inhuman actions to reach their ambitions have brought them into the ruination of their own lives.

The issue about ruination of life is quite interesting to be analyzed and explored since it relates with human life which give us so many lessons to be learned. One of literary works that discuss about it is the novel *Harvest* (2013) written by Jim Grace. This novel shows how the superior ones invite ruination to their lives since they give bad treatment to other people in order to achieve their personal interests.

1.2 Ruination of Life

There are two words to form the terminology that need to be explained in this analysis, they are *ruination* and *life*. The first is ruination. According to Collins Concise Dictionary (2004) *ruination* is the act of ruining and the state of being ruin. In Encyclopedia (2016) *ruination* is the action or fact of ruining someone or something or of being ruined. The second one is life. According to The American Heritage of the English Language (2010) *life* is the property or quality that distinguishes living organisms from dead organisms and inanimate matter, manifested in functions such as metabolism, growth, reproduction, and response to stimuli or adaptation the environment originating from within the organism. In Merriam-Webster (2017) *life* is the quality that distinguishes a vital and functional being from a dead body. Ruination of life

in this analysis refers to the result of the harsh actions which superiors one give to the other people in order to achieve their personal interests.

1.3 A Brief Description of the Author's Biography

Jim Grace is an England Journalist and novelist. Nikola Tesla (2013) in Goodread says that Crace was born in Hertfordshire, England, the United Kingdom in 1946. He grew up in Forty Hill. It is an area at the edge northern of Greater London and it closes to Enfield where Crace attended Enfield Grammar School. He moved to Birmingham when he studied for a degree at the Birmingham College of Commerce. He continued his studied in English arts and Literature at university of London. He was awarded as an external Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of London in 1968. He travelled overseas with the United Kingdom Organization, Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO) to Sudan. Two years later he returned to the United Kingdom and he worked with the BBC as a writer in educational programs. He lives in Rural Warwickshire with his wife and his two children; Pamela Turton, Thomas Charles Crace and Lauren Rose Crace.

He began his writing career by publishing his short story in 1974. The British Council Literature (2017) says that his first work of prose fiction is *Annie, California Plates* in The New Review. He wrote a number of short stories and radio plays in the next 10 years. *Helter Skelter*, *Hang Sorrow* and *Care'll Kill a Cat* short stories were published in 1975. They are continued by *Refugees* which it had become a winner of Socialist Challenge Short Story

competition in 1977. His short stories also became audio drama on BBC Radio; such as *The Bird Has Flown* (1976), *A Cost of Many Colours* (1979) and *Seven Age* (1980).

After publishing seven short stories, Jim Grace tried to write novels. Nikola Tesla (2013) in Goodread states that Jim Grace had published 13 novels. He published his first novel entitled *Continent* in 1986. His second novel is *The Give of Stones* (1988) and it is followed by *Arcadia* (1992), *Signal of Distress* (1994), *The Slow Digestions of the Night* (1995), *Quarantine* (1997), *Being Dead* (1999), *The Devil's Larder* (2001), *Six* (2003), *The Pesthouse* (2007), *On Heat* (2008), *All That's Follows* (2010) and *Harvest* (2013).

In his conversation with Boy Tonkin in English Pen Talk Show on April 2014, Grace says that *Harvest* was his last novel. He is an award-winning English novelist. His first novel *Continent* was judged as Whitbread First Book Award and Guardian Fiction Prize in 1986. *Quarantine* was Whitbread Award Novel in 1997. In Jim Grace Wins IMPAC Award for Outstanding Harvest's article written by Eileen Batters by on June 17 2015 which was published by The Irish Times announced that Literary IMPAC Dublin Literary Award has been won by the British writer Jim Grace with his dramatically pastoral *Harvest*. Grace's win is a victory for the art of fiction for harvest novel. He is the 4th Briton to win the prize worth €100,000 which is now in its 20 year. In this article also says that his novels such as *Arcadia* (1992), *Signals of Distress* (1994), *Quarantine* (1997) and *Being Dead* (1999) winner of the US National

Books critics Circle Award and it possesses a political sensibility and it is interested in the collapse of communities.

British Council Literature (2017) states that Jim Crace received E. M. Forster Award by the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1992 because he had published many best literary works. They are including *Quarantine*, *Continent*, *Being dead* and so on. He became a Fellow of the Royal Communities of Literature in 1999. In 2000, he received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Central England for Distinguished Literary Achievements. His achievements prove that he is really talented novelist.

British Council literature (2017) also states that Jim's works have been translated into more than twenty-five languages. His novels genres are realistic fictions and historical fictions. His career as a writer has been marked by a set of formal, ethical and aesthetic interests which set him apart from the mainstream of writing in English. His essential themes are contemporary life which makes him as powerful political writer. Crace's works have consistently used an imaginary. His first book, *Continent* (1986), consists of seven interconnected stories set on an imaginary, *Arcadia* (1992), his third book, is set in an imaginary British city in the future and his last novel *Harvest* (2013) is also set on an imaginary.

In Amazon (2013), Colum McCann, National Book Award-winning author of *Let the Great World Spin* gives his comment about Jim Crace and his *Harvest* novel. He states:

“Jim Grace is the most generous of writers. A fabulist, and open heart, an imagination in full flight. There is something of a harvest in every book: the promise, the violence, the fall, the regain. And *Harvest* is one of his best novels ever. He is, quite simply, one of the great writers of our time.”

According to Colum, Crace has characteristic in his writing. He uses his own style to differ his novel with others. It makes his novels become unique and it is interested to be read. Jim tries to open people's minds and hearts to see what has happened in this cruel world, especially how rural people get bad treatment from powerful ones. In this *Harvest* novel, powerful ones are newcomers who come in to the villages with good impression but they have the bad aims; those are they want to take control the resources from that village. They do violence and forced labours to the villagers. At least, the villagers subordinate in their own land and they decide to move from that place to make a new livelihood in a new area.

1.4 Harvest

The novel entitled *Harvest* (2013) written by Jim Grace reflects the issue about ruination of life. Ruination of life in this analysis refers to the result of the harsh actions which superiors one give to the other people in order to achieve their personal interests. Harvest means that people will reap what they have planted. They have plans. If they reach them with good deeds; like good action and hard works, they will get success in their life. In contrary people will get failure if they do harsh actions; such as, deception and violence to others in order to make their plan works. Their failures are caused by the rebellions which are done by other people. Those wrongdoings are exposed in the *Harvest* novel

through Master Kent and Master Jordan. They are newcomers who move from the city to the rural area. They want to start a new life in the new village and they want to take control of the place and the villagers. The change of agriculture into wool industry area is settled by Master Kent. The land lord comes to him after the death of his wife, Cecily Kent, the original land owner. In controlling the area and the villagers, he becomes the bad leaders. He takes advantage from his positions to gain a lot of benefits in the bad ways. His authority is replaced by Master Jordan. He is Cecily's cousin. He claims that the land belongs to him and he takes it forcibly from Master Kent. He is more savage than Master Kent. He changes agriculture field into wool industry and it causes many disadvantages for the villagers because of this transition. In agriculture area, villagers work in the field; in contrast many of people are not hired in industry wool area which is hard for them to make their economies. They are considered as people with no skills. That's way he recruits workers from urban. He reconstructs the place into modern one. Their actions bring them into ruination of life unconsciously. In this analysis, the ruination of life is faced by two characters; Master Kent and Master Jordan.

The first character is Master Kent. He takes the land area illegally and it describes him as a tricky person. He make a new rule which makes the villagers cannot resist him. He becomes a greedy master by asking taxes and rents of the land to the villagers continuously. He has a plan to change agriculture area becomes industry area in order to get a lot of benefit for his self. He has lost social aspect in his life since he has treated the villagers and

travellers inhumanly. He ignores God's commands and prohibitions that let himself live irreligiously. He faces rebellions from travellers.

The second character is Master Jordan. He benefits his distant relative relationship with Master Kent wife to replace his authority and it improves him as a tricky person. He changes agriculture into wool production area. He recruits a little bit workers from village. He does brutal actions to the villagers and the travellers. He faced ruination since others do resistance to him.

1.5 Problem of Study

Ruination of Life appeared as an important issue to be analyzed in Jim Grace's Novel, *Harvest* (2013). There are two research questions that give contribution to revealing the issue. The research questions are:

1. How far does the *Harvest* (2013) reflect the issue about the ruination of life?
2. To what extent do the characters, the plot (conflicts) and the settings in *Harvest* (2013) give contribution in revealing the issue about the ruination of life?

1.6 Purpose of Study

This study is going to reveal about how far the *Harvest* (2013) reflects the issue about the ruination of life. Then to what extent the characters, the plot

(conflicts) and the settings in the *Harvest* (2013) give contribution in revealing the issue about the ruination of life.

1.7 Previous Study

The analysis that focuses on the same topic of this novel has not been found yet. The same novel has been analyzed by Adam Mars-Jones in their journal entitled *Beating the Bound* (2013) and the resemble title also found in the thesis written by Joshua Ryan Jackson entitled *Architecture for a Future South: Post humanism and Ruin in the Novels of Cormac McCarthy* (2015).

The first study is *Beating the Bound* (2013) by Adam Mars-Jones. They analyzed the *Harvest* Novel (2013) by Jim Grace. Their study focuses on the outsider who transplants himself to the village and his life since he wants to reach his desire to marry his beloved villager. Unfortunately, it gives negative perfectives from the other villagers since he became the land lord's man servant; a powerful man in that place. Adam Mars-Jones use character, setting and plot to reveal the meaning of this novel. This study deals with psychology approach by Sigmund Freud. It is about human psychology relates to the action that they did or got in the past which gives effect for their present and future life. The result of the study is the character gets identity crisis and he is marginalized by the villagers.

Second study is a thesis written by Joshua Ryan Jackson entitled *Architecture for a Future South: Post humanism and Ruin in the Novels of Cormac McCarthy* (2015). Joshua Ryan Jackson Analyses McCarthy's 10

novels entitled *The Orchard Keeper* (1965), *Outer Dark* (1968), *Child of God* (1973), *Suttree* (1979), *Blood Meridian* (1985), *All the Pretty horses* (1992), *The Crossing* (1994), *Cities of Plain* (1998), *No Country for Old Men* (2005) and *The Road* (2006). In analyzing the novels, he uses fictional devices; characters, plots (conflicts) and setting. It deals with post-humanism theory by Robert Pepperell. This study reveals about ruination of southern which is caused by the movement of predominantly humanistic thinking to predominantly post-humanistic thinking. The study is about predominantly humanistic thinking believes that human are supreme being; in contrast, predominantly post humanistic thinking believes that human are not as supreme as they think they are which give transition in human life. In humanistic thinking, they believe with their intelligence and their selves and they do not depend on technology; in contrast people often use things to finish their works rather than use their ability in post humanistic. The result of the study is it causes the ideological change to the human who bring them into ruination of their country.

The two studies above give contribution and inspiration to analyzing the issue about ruination of life. Unlike the previous study above, this study analysis the character of Master Kent and Master Jordan in *Harvest* novel by using fictional device; character, plot (conflict) and setting. Sigmund Freud concept is also using to analysis this study. This study is going to investigate about people who face ruin in their lives due to his harsh actions to treat others in achieving their ambitions.

1.8 Theoretical Framework

The analysis of this novel deals with Michel Foucault's concepts about power. According to Michel Foucault in his book entitled *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction* (1978, .94)" Power is not something that is acquired, seized, or shared that one holds on to or allows to slip away; power is exercised from innumerable points, in the interplay of nonegalitarian and mobile relation". This means that power does not orient to legitimacy; it does not belong to governance or institution only. Power also cannot be interpreted as to public is willing to accept and recognize the authorities, decisions and policies which is made by legitimate leaders. It is not a top down system and it is not hierarchy but it can come from bellow. Power can be hold by the people that come from different ranks and statuses and they exist in their selves and their lives. Power relates with relation, where there are relations there are powers.

Michel Foucault in his book entitled *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction* (1978, p.92) explains the meaning of power's relation;

"Relations of power are not in a position of exteriority with respect to other types of relationships (knowledge relationship and sexual relations), but are immanent in the latter; they are the immediate effects of the divisions, inequalities, and disequilibrium which occur in the latter, and conversely they are the internal conditions of these differentiations; relations of power are not in super structural position, with merely a role of prohibition or accompaniment; they have a directly productive role, where they come into play."

This statement shows that relations of power are not in a position of externality which is influenced by knowledge relationship and sexual relation and it is

not a super structural position which is like institution. Relations of power are strategies to benefit these different conditions to create a power. This is such a urge that people with different ranks and statuses can hold power too even though they come from the low ones. It depends on how they can see opportunities and chances to own powers in their lives.

Michel Foucault in his book entitled *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction* (1978, p. 90) also explains about power ;

“By power, I do not mean, either, a mode of subjugation which, in contrast to violence, has the form of rule.”

This statement shows that powerful people can do violence to others in order to maintain their position. It can be said as their strategies to dominate others. Furthermore, it does not have the form of the rule; such as the form of the law which make their aims work fluently. The powerful people can break the rule and they can make a new rule which must be obeyed by others.

In this analysis, superiors who have status as newcomers can read the condition and make some strategies to hold power to dominate villagers in the rural place. They lead them badly causing them to suffer in their lives and subordinate in their own area. They do robberies, harsh actions and violence to the villagers. These superiors also change villagers' cultures, traditions and they make them live irreligiously. Their treatments, however, have also done them wrong. They have become immoral people and it brings them to ruin their lives.

The analysis also relates to the concept of *Repression* by Sigmund Freud. According to Breuer and Freud in Simon Boag's book untitled *Freudian Repression, the unconscious, and the Dynamics of Inhibition* (2012, P.5)

"Repression is described as fending off of incompatible ideas that arouse unpleasure (such as shame, self-reproach and psychical pain) with the consequence of preventing the repressed ideas from association with conscious thinking." It shows that repression are done by people if they got bad treatments or fell of something that unpleasure from others such as rebukes, suppression, violence and so on. The main of repression is turning something away and keep in it at a distance from conscious. This repression ide comes from consciousness and it will be placed by unconsciousness.

According to Simon Boag's book entitled *Freudian Repression, the unconscious, and the Dynamics of Inhibition* (2012, p.68-67) about the meaning of consciousness and unconsciousness:

"Consciousness is in general a highly fugitive state. What is conscious is conscious only for a moment. Our awareness turns from one event to another, and so what is actually conscious at any time is small in comparison to everything that is known to the individual. Conscious is determined by the psychical fiction of attention, whereby whatever we turn our attention to can be described as cautiousness. Consequently, whatever we are currently unaware of can be described as unconscious".

Consciousness is impermanent and people are aware about something just for a moment since they have others sequence of events in their lives. If they have priority events in their lives, they concern and remember about those. They forget about other events if they are not important for them. Consciousness also can be said as people's memories about repeated bad events or bad treatments that they get from others. People who do not want to bring up those bad treatments memories to surface which make them become anger, fury

and doing opposition, they choose to repress. Some events that they repress come into unconsciousness.

In this analysis, repressions are done by villagers and travellers. They always get bad treatments from superiors such as, violence, rebuke and inhuman actions. They often get tension from superior ones. They only repress and repress it. When they cannot suppress it anymore, they do rebellion to the superior ones. They manage strategies to against them.

The analysis of this novel is supported done through text based interpretation. Glen and Gray (2014:178) state that text-based interpretation is the approach that based on the analysis and interpretation to text itself, which nothing more than what is whole text about. It focuses on character, plot (conflict), and setting. In this analysis, text-base interpretation is done by taking the meaning or interpretation base on the text itself.

Character is an important element to reveal the meaning of a novel. Abrams (2009:32-

33) states that characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader/s as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue—and from what they do—the action. In literary works, the characters help reader to understand and catch the meaning of the works. The characters that will be analyzed in the novel are Master Kent and Edmund Jordan which is called as the masters by villagers. The analyses of the characters are done through actions, thoughts and how they react toward certain conflicts of circumstances. These superior

characters have several strategies and action to maintain their positions and their wanted. In order to maintain their positions they do bad treatments to others.

Another fictional device used to analyze the novel is plot (conflict). Conflict is an important part to make up the plot. Guerrin (2005) says that conflict can be divided into two forms: internal and external conflicts. Internal conflict is the conflict which occurs between a character and him. Meanwhile, the external conflict is the conflict that occurs between character(s) and the environment. In order to analyze this novel, the identification of plot (conflict) gives contribution to find character actions which make them ruin their lives. In this analysis, the bad treatment which are got by the villagers and travellers make the conflicts become higher and higher. It will raise its climax.

The third important element to analyze this novel is setting. According to Gleen (2008: 294) setting involves place—not just the physical setting, but also the social setting (the morals, manners, and customs of the characters). Setting also involves time—not only historical time, but also the length of time covered by narrative. Setting includes atmosphere, or the emotional response to the situation, often shared by the reader with the characters. In this analysis, setting refers to the place, situation and atmosphere. They include rural area, furious, full of tense, anxiety, sadism, suffering and shocking

1.9 Methodology

The analysis of the novel *Harvest* (2013) by Jim Grace is done through text-based interpretation. The analysis of fictional devices such as character, plot (conflict) and setting also give contribution in interpreting the text. In addition, these elements are analyzed based on the concept of power by Michel Foucault and the concept of repression by Sigmund Freud. The characters which are analyzed in this study are the characters of Master Kent and Master Jordan as the newcomers. They do the harsh actions in orders to reach their personal interests. Plot, especially conflict is important element to help writer to analyze the *Harvest*. There are two conflict; internal and external. The superior ones do harsh action in order to achieve their personal interests. They do robberies, violence, inhuman action and brutalism. Those are faced by villagers and travellers. When they can repress it anymore, they do rebellions which bring the ruination of lives toward the superior ones.