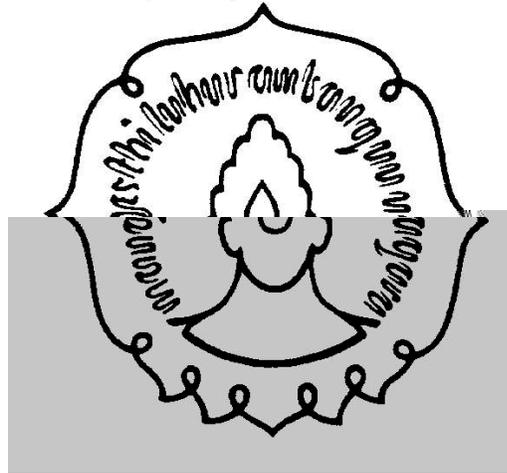


**NATURALISM AS REFLECTED IN STEPHEN CRANE 'S
SHORT STORY *THE OPEN BOAT***



Minor Thesis

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of
Requirement for the Sarjana Sastra Degree
In English Department. Faculty of Letters and Fine Arts
Sebelas Maret University**

By:

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Motto-

*Hai orang-orang yang beriman,
Jadikanlah sabar dan sholat sebagai penolongmu,
Sesungguhnya Allah beserta orang-orang yang sabar
(QS. Al Baqarah 153)*

Mulai dari diri sendiri

Mulai dari yang kecil

Mulai saat ini

(KH. Abdullah Gymnastiar)

Dedication

Faithfully, This minor thesis is dedicated to :

- *My beloved Bapak and Ibu*
- *My dearest sister and brother*
- *All friends who always love me*

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Finally, I realize that the minor thesis is still far from being perfect, some suggestion and developing critics would be gratefully accepted. Hopefully, this thesis would be beneficial to all students and readers.

Surakarta, April 2003

Erni Yusrina

Naturalism as Reflected in Stephen Crane's Short Story

The Open Boat

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Abstract

*This research is a kind of library research. The main data is taken from Stephen Crane's short story *The Open Boat*. The purpose of the research is to find out how the naturalism aspects are reflected in Stephen Crane's short story *The Open Boat*.*

To come to that purpose, the researcher applies the structuralism Theory to analyze the problem. Besides, the researcher also applies the naturalism aspects based on Vernon Louis Parrington's idea.

*Through the analysis, it is found that there are some naturalism aspects in the element of the short story of *The Open Boat*. The naturalism aspects that can be found in Stephen Crane's short story of *The Open Boat* are; frankness, objectivity, philosophy of determinism and bias in selection character.*

1. Introduction

Background of Choosing the Subject

Literary works consists of several genres, they are novel, poetry, drama and short story. The short work of fiction is one of the oldest forms of literature. From the four literary genres, the researcher is much interested in analyzing short story because of some reasons. First, short story has various theme such as: love, murder, humanity, death, cruelty and many other.

Second, The researcher only need short time to read and comprehend the short story. It is directly known that the story tells about. Third, the language used in the short story is easier to be understood than any other genres. Besides, short story has special characteristic as stated by Guerin;

...that the short story by its nature; concentrates upon a single incident or action. It has few characters, its setting and characterization must be rather evoked than developed in detail. Its effect must be made quick and sharp since the most effective story is short enough to be read at one sitting (1979:7).

Stephen Crane was one of the American short story writers. He was born on November 1, 1871 in Newark, New Jersey. He was the last fourteen children of a Methodist minister Reverend Jonathan Townley Crane and Mary Helen Peck Crane. He lost his father in the age of eight and it make him moved numerous times with his family before settling in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

Crane entered Syracuse University but preferred baseball to academics and left after one semester. With a desire to pursue journalism Crane moved to New York City, where he worked on his first book *Maggie; a girl of the street* which he published at his own expense in 1893. After his novel about civil war *The red badge of courage* (1894) was serialized in national news papers, Crane took a job as a roving reporter for a newspaper syndicate. He traveled throughout the American west and Mexico and later covered the

Cuban insurrection against Spain. In 1897 a ship he was on sank off the coast of Florida and Crane used this experience in his story *The Open Boat*.

That same year, deeply in debt, he moved to England, where he became serious ill with tuberculosis. He increased his writing schedule in an attempt to make money, drafting thirteen stories and publishing his second volume of poetry, among other works, but his health failed him. Crane died at the age of twenty-eight, having produced enough articles, stories, novel and poems to fill a twelve-volume set.

The researcher is interested in the short story *The Open Boat*, because the story tells the one who survives against nature. The characters in this short story are the captain, the oiler, the cook and the correspondent and the nature in this story are the wave, the wind, the sea, the storm, the gulls and the shark. The character in the story have to face the wild nature at the sea in a small boat. The man in a desperate situation but nature continues in its ways regardless of what might happen to them.

What can man do when faced with a universe that has no sympathy for him? How can we survive alone against nature? As the characters in the story come to realize, our only hope is in our sympathy and concern for other human beings. They realize that they are in a group. They know what it is like to be alone in a cruel world. More importantly, they don't have to be alone because they can turn to other people's help.

1.2 Problem Statement

In order to reach the goal, the researcher draws the problem statement:

How are aspects of naturalism reflected in the short story of *The Open Boat*?

1.3 Theory

1.3.1 Structuralism

Literature is a multi-interpreted study. Different readers may have different interpretation on the same literary work. Jonathan Culler in Selden suggest; ... the real poetical object is not the work itself but the ability of the reader to comprehend the work (1991; 68). Thus, a literary critic should explain how a literary work can be comprehended.

In analyzing a literary work, it must begin with the internal structure of literary work. In this research the researcher uses structural theory to answer the problem stated before because the aim of structural analysis is to reveal as accurate as possible and more deeply the relationship of the whole elements in a literary work, as stated by A Teeuw:

Analisa struktural sendiri bertujuan untuk membongkar dan memaparkan secermat, seteliti, semendetail, sedalam mungkin tentang keterkaitan dan keterjalinan semua anasir dan aspek karya sastra yang bersama-sama menghasilkan makna menyeluruh (1988: 135).

Here, the researcher uses Structuralism theory which focuses on the structure inside literary work such as plot, character, theme, setting of place

and setting of time. By using Structuralism Theory the better understanding of short story *The Open Boat* could be comprehended. It is hoped that the goal of the research will be revealed.

1.3.2 Naturalism

A new type of realism was introduced into American literature in the beginning of 1890. An advanced realism was commonly called *Naturalism*. In studying human life, the naturalist used the discoveries and knowledge of modern science. He believed people were not really free, rather their lives, opinion and morality were all controlled by social, economic and psychological causes.

The subject matter of naturalist's writing deals with raw and unpleasant experiences, which reduce characters to degrading behavior in their struggle to survive. These characters are mostly from the lower - middle or the lower class. They are poor, uneducated and unsophisticated.

The milieu is the common place and un-famous. Life is usually the dull round of daily existence. The naturalist discovers those qualities in such characters usually associated with the heroic and adventurous acts of violence and leading to desperate moments and violent death. The suggestion is that life on its lowest level is not so simple as it seems to be.

The naturalist describe the characters of his writing are conditioned and controlled by environment, heredity, chance or instinct, but they have

compensating humanistic values which affirm their individuality and life. Their struggle for life becomes heroic and they maintain human dignity.

Human is the victim of force either inside force or outside force that always press him as stated by Vernon Louis Parrington:

... Naturalism is pessimistic realism, with a philosophy which sets men in a mechanical world and conceives of him as victimized by that world. Certain in conscious exaggerations of naturalism since men are victimized either by outer forces –the milieu or by the inner drives impulses and instincts the naturalist from much brooding is subject to certain temptations (www.yahoo.com)

Naturalist assumes that man is subject to the law of nature. Nature has nothing to do with human life. They must obey the nature's law and they do not have freedom to act as he chooses.

Basically, the naturalist describes human life extraordinarily and more sensational. Their attempt rather was to represent the intermingling in life of controlling forces and individual worth.

Stephen Crane, The first American naturalist was not much influenced by the scientific approach. He was a genius with amazing sympathy and imagination. In his story *The Open Boat*, Crane shows how even life and death are determined by fate. After shipwreck, four men struggle to stay a live. In the end, three live and one dies.

Naturalism in literature sometime depicts the relationship between individual and nature, focusing on the characters in their environment. One

such naturalistic explore in the short story *The Open Boat* is nature's indifference to humanity's fate.

In order to make the research of naturalism aspects in the short story of *The Open Boat* clear, the researcher uses naturalism aspects according to Vernon Louis Parrington's idea. The naturalism aspects are as follows:

1. Objectivity: human beings are seen as the victim of destiny or fate. Naturalism does not comment on the morality or the fairness of the situation in which characters find themselves.
2. Frankness: frank in the portrayal of human being as animal driven by fundamental argues feels fear, hunger and sex.
3. Amoral attitude toward material: an amoral view of the struggle in which animals finds themselves, neither condemning not praising human being for action beyond their control.
4. Philosophy of determinism: Naturalism works tend to emphasize either biological or a social-economic determinism. The naturalist takes no note of the common people. Common in so far as their interest, their lives and the things that occur in them are common and ordinary. Terrible must happen to the naturalist's character. No matter how hard they were trying to stay alive, it would be end with tragedy because the philosophy assumes that human life is controlled by an-unavoidable forces.
5. Bias toward pessimism in selection of detail: the naturalist seems to feel is vicious trap activity.

6. Bias in selection of characters which are usually three types are:
 - a. Characters marked by strong physics and small intellectual activity.
 - b. Character of excited neurotic temperament, at the mercy of mood driven by forces that they do not stop to analyze.
 - c. An occasional use of a strong character whose will is broken.
7. Characters are subject to certain temptations: desire to change his or her fate, sex and animal impulses. In realism, the character has at least some degree of free will, which they are able to exercise to affect their situation. Naturalism assumes humans have little if any control over what happens. Rather, things happen to people, who are at the mercy of a variety of external and internal forces as if they were marionette whose movements are entirely determined by forces beyond their control.
8. Complexity and American determinism: complexity springs from:
 - a. Machinery industrialism
 - b. The great city
 - c. Centralization of wealth
 - d. Mechanistic Psychology. (WWW.Yahoo.Com).

The primary goal of the late nineteenth century American Naturalists was not to demonstrate the overwhelming and oppressive reality of the material forces present in our lives. Their attempt rather was to represent the intermingling in life of controlling forces and individual worth.

As mentioned previously, the purpose of the study is to find out how are naturalism aspects reflected in Stephen Crane's short story *The Open Boat*. To help reaching the goal, literary theory is therefore essential to be applied because it is a systematically method applied to analyze the object of analysis, so that the characteristics and the essential meaning of the work become transparent to the reader.

In this research, the researcher uses structuralism theory. Through structuralism theory, the researcher will analyze Stephen Crane's short story *The Open Boat* by understanding the element of the short story such as; plot, theme, character, setting of place and setting of time. Principally, the aim of structural analysis is to explain all elements of a literary work as detailed as possible in which all elements construct the total meaning. Therefore, this theory will be applied in order to reveal the elements of the short story *The Open Boat*, especially to examine in detail the naturalism aspects that can be found in each element of the short story.

Literary works tend to reveal human being's life and his phenomena. We find human problem whether it comes from human view or from his relationship with his environment. Naturalism in literature sometime depicts the relationship between individuals and nature, focusing on the significance of characters in their environment.

In order to understand the naturalism aspects reflected in the element of the short story *The Open Boat*, the researcher also consulted other theory. The

theory that is also needed to analyze the problem stated before is naturalism theory. Naturalism theory used in this analysis is naturalism theory according to Vernon Louis Parrington's idea. The researcher has to understand the deep meaning of the works by understanding and investigating naturalism aspects according to Vernon Louis Parrington's idea.

By using structuralism and naturalism theory, the researcher will analyze the problem stated before. It is hoped that by applying both theory, the researcher will be able to answer the problem.

In order to reach the goal of the study, the researcher will do guide step analysis. Firstly, the main data Stephen Crane's short story *The Open Boat* is carefully read and comprehended. The text relevant to the problem are selected, while the unnecessary ones are excluded. Secondly, the researcher looks for the correlation of the data by using chosen theory. The researcher will analyze the data based on structuralism and naturalism theory emphasizing on the naturalism aspects that can be found in the element of Stephen Crane's short story *The Open Boat*. At the last section, the researcher will draw the conclusion from the analysis.

2. Analysis

In this part, the researcher would like to answer the problem of the research. The problem deal with the naturalism aspects reflected in Stephen Crane's short story *The Open Boat*.

In analyzing short story as a form of literature, the understanding of its elements is really necessary. It can be seen in the following statement: ” To analyze a literary work is to identify the separate parts that make it up, to determine the relationships among the parts and to discover the relation of the part to the whole”. (Kenney.1996: 5).

A short story consists of some elements and these elements form a unity so that they cannot be separated from each other. The elements are: plot, character, and theme, setting of place and setting of time. The researcher will describe them all and after that the researcher will discuss the naturalism aspects that can be found in the elements of the story.

2.1 Character.

Character is one element of a story that cannot be neglected. Through character the process of analyzing will run well. One thing should be remembered that in judging the fictional character, there are certain questions that seem appropriate. Two of the most important things are what is the relevance of this character to the research? And in what way does the character contribute to the story of which he is a part?

The characters of the short story *The Open Boat* are: the captain, the oiler, the cook, and the correspondent. The four men have to struggle to be survived in the wild nature. Each of these men represents a different role in

society. The captain as a leader, the oiler as an ideal citizen, the correspondent as an average man and the cook as a worker.

In portraying characters, Crane describes them as the way they were. The captain was the leader of the boat. Although getting injured, he was a wise man with good leadership. He really knew what should he do as the captain. He gives instructions to the other three men to keep the boat run well. The oiler, was a good person. Actually he was someone who oils machinery in the engine room of a ship. But what he was done in the story is more than being an oiler.

The cook was a person who worked as cook in the ship. He does not know what should he do to overcome his problem. In the hardest time, he was just thinking about 'ham sandwiches'. While the correspondent was Crane himself. He roles his own character. He becomes one of the passengers of the boat and he was wondering why he was there, in a little boat.

Through the analysis of character, the naturalism aspects that could be found in the short story of *The Open Boat* are **objectivity**. Human being is seen as the victim of destiny or fate. Fate brought the characters of the story got shipwreck and being involves in an adventurous life at the open boat. All they have to do was trying to stay a live. So, they have to think the way out of the problems.

The character's thinking was logically. They realize that they could not stay longer in the small boat, waiting for help because nobody knew their

existence. "Well," said the captain, "if no help is coming, we might better try a run through the surf right away. If we stay out here much longer we will be too weak to do anything for ourselves at all."(TOB: 17)

They were thinking of what should they do to get out from that place safely. They held conference in the boat; finally they decided to take the boat as far as possible to the shore. When the boat swamped sure, all the men were ready to jump out from the boat.

"Now, boys," said the captain, " she is going to swamp sure, all we can do is to work her in as far as possible, and then when she swamps, pile out and scramble for the beach. Keep cool now, and don't jump until she swamps sure."(TOB p.17).

The third wave moved forward, huge furious, implacable. It fairly swallowed the boat, and almost simultaneously the men tumbled into the sea.

The other naturalism aspects that can be found through the analysis of character is **bias in selection of character**, especially an occasional use of strong character whose will is broken. The character of the oiler shows it.

The Oiler in this story is an ideal citizen. He is a good man. He always ready to do something. When the formidable billows came to break and roll over the little boat in turmoil foam, he shows his ability to run the boat. "This Oiler, by a series miracles, and fast and steady oarsman ship, turned the boat in the middle of the surf and took her safely to the sea again". (TOB:8).

The oiler plied the oars until his head drooped forward, and the overpowering sleep blinded him and he rowed and rowed.

Actually he was the strongest person in that boat, but his destiny said differently. Although he was try hard to be survive, the oiler 's destiny asked him to be death. His will was broken because his struggle to be survived end with his own death.

2.2 Setting

The element of fiction which reveals to us where and when of events are called setting. In other words, the term of setting refers to the point in time and space at which the event of the plot occurs.

Through the analysis of setting, the researcher hopes to be able to give explanation about the importance of setting in this novel. Something hidden that must be researched in the setting, the values which embody the literary work.

Crane's description of places and events are both realistic and poetic. His style is far more exciting than that of the other naturalists. He uses colors and words sounds to create brilliant impressions. Not surprisingly because he was a good poet.

Through the analysis of setting of place and setting of time, the researcher could not find the naturalism aspects in the story of *The Open Boat*. But the researcher find the naturalism characteristic in the analysis of setting that the milieu is the common place and un-famous. The naturalist found that human's quality is connected with heroic and adventurous things

such as violent and passion of sex or physical defenses leading to the desperate situation and violent death. This thing is amazing and influence human life.

2.2.1 Setting of Place

In the short story *The Open Boat*, nature is depicted as the player who holds all the cards and makes all decision. Actually, the story of *The Open Boat* was set in the real open boat at the sea as the same as the title of the story. The first setting to be met is a picture of the sea where the shipwreck man knew the color of the sky. There was no limit between the men and the sea, only the gunwale of the boat, which separated them from the sea. Crane describe the situation of the man at the sea clearly:

“As the boat bounced from the top of each wave, the wind tore through the hair of the hatless men, and as the craft plopped her stern down again the spray slashed past them. The crest of each of these waves was a hill, from the top of which the men surveyed, for a moment, a broad tumultuous expanse, shining and wind-raven. It was probably splendid. It was probably glorious, this play of the free sea, wild with lights of emerald and white and amber”. (TOB: 3)

From the quotation above, it is obviously seen that it was a picture of the wild sea with the wild wave. The condition and situation over there was beyond our imagination. Stranded on the ocean in a ten-foot boat. All they have was each other; they were trying to be saved together. All day, the men

at the sea facing a lot of troubles. They have to face wild wave, strong sea-wind and the thunder on the sky.

The second setting to be met in the story is the situation on the open boat at the sea. Crane describes the condition of the boat as "smaller than bath-tub". A seat in the boat was not unlike "a seat upon a bucking broncho". Crane describe the difficulties faced by the men on the boat to change his seat as follow"... it is easier to steal eggs from under a hen than it was to change seats in the dinghy..."(TOB p.4) It was all done with the most extraordinary care.

The setting of the story *The Open Boat* ends with the situation on the beach after all the men trying to survive by jumping out from the boat and swimming himself to reach the shore.

"It seems that instantly the beach was populated with men with blankets, clothes, and flasks, and women with coffee-pots and all the remedies sacred to their minds. The welcome of the land to the men from the sea was warm and generous, but a still and dripping shape was carried slowly up to the beach, and the land 's welcome for it could only be the different and sinister hospitality of the grave" (TOB: 20)

2.2.2 Setting of time

Setting of time in the story of *The open Boat* began in the day when the ship got an accident. They stay thirty hours in the ocean. All day they faced a

lot of troubles until they lay heavily in the boat's bottom in the evening. They have to face wild wave, strong sea wind and the thunder on the sky.

When the night goes down, it was surely a quiet night. Crane depicts this situation beautifully.

“A night on the sea in an open boat is a long night. As darkness settled finally, the shine of the light, lifting from the sea in the south, changed to full gold. On the northern horizon a new light appeared, a small blueish gleam on the edge of the waters. These two lights were the furniture of the world. Otherwise there was nothing but waves”. (TOB: 12)

There was only the waves that accompanied the men in the boat at night. Only the correspondent stay awake in the late at night, and when he opened his eyes, the sea and the sky were each gray hue of dawning. The morning appeared finally, in its splendor, with a sky of pure blue, and the sunlight flamed on the tips of the waves.

The sea becomes the setting of Stephen Crane' story *The Open Boat*. It is the common place and it becomes one of naturalism characteristics that the milieu is the common place and un-famous. Sea is a common place where everybody may get there and do some activities. But stranded in the ocean, nobody wants to do it, even the bravest ones.

2.3 Plot.

Talking about plot however is not only noticing the arrangement of events in temporal sequence but it should deal with the causal relationship, as stated by Kenney in his book *How to Analyze Fiction*:

“Plot reveals events to us, not only in their temporal but also in their causal relationship. Plot makes us aware of events not merely as elements in a temporal series but also as an intricate pattern of cause and effect” (Kenney.1966: 14)

As plot is an arrangement of events, there must be some division in it. In general the division called beginning-middle and end. The plot of the short story *The Open Boat* is flashback style. The story is intended to be after the fact, based on crane’s own experience with three other shipwreck men. He was on his way as a war correspondent on the steamer “*Commodore*”, which on January 1, 1897, left Jacksonville Florida with ammunitions for the Cuban insurrectionist.

Through the plot analysis of Crane’s short story, the naturalism aspects that could be found in the short story *The Open Boat* are **frankness**. The naturalist frank in portraying of human being driven by fundamental argues feel fear, hunger and sex. One of human’s basic instincts explored by Stephen Crane in the story is fear. The characters of the story are human beings who feel fear if something beyond imagination happened to them such as; stranded on the ocean in a small boat and nobody knows their existence. Crane depicts the situation of the four-shipwreck man’s fear in

facing wild universe in front of them complete with their own behavior as human beings.

In the beginning, the story opens with a picture of the four men known simply as the captain, the oiler, the cook and the correspondent stranded in small boat at the sea. The nature in the form of sea, waves, storm, wind, birds doesn't care about them. Crane's description in the opening scenes show right away the antagonism of the men and the sea and nature's lack of concern for their tragedy.

“Canton flannel gulls flew near and far. Sometimes they sat down on the sea, near patches of brown seaweed that rolled over the waves with a movement like carpets on a line in a gale. The birds sat comfortably in groups, and they were envied by some in the dinghy, for the wrath of the sea was no more to them than it was to a covey of prairie chickens a thousand miles inland.” (TOB p.3)

The men are in desperate situation, but nature continues the action. The sun continues to rise and set everyday. The shore is lonely and indifferent. This indifference causes the men to feel a certain alienation from nature. They even go as far as to think of the universe as being hostile.

“ A singular disadvantage of the sea lies in the fact that after successfully surmounting one wave you discover that there is another behind it just as important and just as nervously anxious to do something effective in the way of swamping boat.” (TOB p.2)

This is however just normal activity of nature, not any act of aggression against man.

The men are pitted against an-uncaring sea. At this point, they seem to think that their destinies are controlled by some outside force.

”If I am going to be drowned- if I am going to be drowned- if I am going to be drowned, why, in the name of the seven mad gods who rule the sea, was I allowed to come thus far and contemplate sand and tress? Was I brought here merely to have my nose dragged away as I was about to nibble the sacred cheese of life? It is preposterous. If this old ninny-woman, fate, can not do better than this, she should be deprived of the management of men’s fortunes.” (TOB p.8)

The refrain accusing the seven mad gods of the sea run almost hysterically through the story. There is no fate, no purpose for their being where they are. It is the realization of this fact that brought the men to the brink of despair.

“ When it occurs to a man that nature doesn’t regard him as important, and that she feels she wouldn’t maim the universe by disposing of him, he at first wishes to throw bricks at the temple, and he hates deeply the fact that there are no bricks and no temples. Any visible expression of nature would surely be pelleted with his jeers”(TOB p.14)

It seems to them that their situation is hopeless. At one point, one of the men asks the captain if he thinks they will find light-house and they will make it, to which the captain replies “ If this wind holds and the boat don’t swamp, we can’t do much else.” (TOB p.5) Statement like these, shows the futility that the men feel in the face of indifference, yet it also makes evident the fact that there is still hope.

In other part of the story, it is said that the men were given an opportunity to be saved. First, they saw the land arouse from the sea and the lighthouse in the distance. But the wind and the sound of the low thunder came and they never be able to reach it. The second chance can be seen when they saw a man on the shore. They were sure that he knew their existence. But it was just a winter resort hotel omnibus that has brought over some of the boarders. Finally, the men become angry at the situation.

“ Well, if he'd just signal us to try the surf again, or to go to sea and wait, or go north, or go south, or go to hell- there would be some reason in it. But look at him. He just stands there and keeps his coat revolving like a wheel. The ass!”(TOB p.10)

In all part of the short story of *The Open Boat*, from the beginning until the end of the story is full description of human being's fear. Nobody cannot avoid from this fear even the bravest ones.

From the explanation above, it gives us an understanding that one of naturalism aspects that is frankness in portraying fear shows in Crane's short story *The Open Boat*. All of the characters get involved in an adventurous life. They feel fear of what would happen to them if they couldn't run away from the situation.

2.4 Theme

Theme is the meaning of the story. Theme is not the moral of the story, it is not the subject. According to Kenney in his book *How to Analyze Fiction* said that:

Theme, then, is the total meaning discovered by the writer in the process of writing and by the reader in the process of reading. The statement of the theme in a sentence or two that one may make while discussing a story can be no more than a useful simplification, a way of pointing to the more complex experience of the story as a whole. (Kenney. 1966.98)

To discover a theme in a literary work is not easy. It can be done only by a thorough and responsive reading of the story involving a constant awareness of the relation among parts to the whole. There must be also a discussion of the part of the literary work.

The theme of Stephen Crane's works generally about human life and human relationship. Crane tended to explore human life in most of his work because he had great interest in this matter.

The theme of Crane's *The Open Boat* is exhibited by the four character's struggle to survive as the sea carelessly tossed their boat around. The Captain, The Oiler, The Cook and the Correspondent have to fight together to overcome the forces beyond control.

Through the analysis of theme, the naturalism aspects that can be found in the story of *The Open Boat* are **philosophy of determinism**. The

philosophy assumes that an-unavoidable forces control human life. Terrible must happen to the naturalist's character. No matter how hard they trying to stay alive, it would be end with tragedy.

From the onset of the story we see the part of the world that is the sea through the eyes of the shipwreck men. We can see how hard they were trying to be survived in the open boat at the sea. Not the weak correspondent or the injured captain or the ineffectual cook, but the oiler, the man, who by his endurance saves the other three is thus the singled out for destruction. While the captain clings helplessly to the plunging boat, the cook paddles himself as if he were in a canoe, and the correspondent is caught in a deadly current, the oiler swims strongly. He was "a head in the race". But the land requires its sacrifice, the oiler dies at the water's edge: "In the shallows, face downward, lay the oiler. His forehead touched sand that was periodically, between each wave, clear of the sea "(TOB p:20)

The others are welcomed by the blankets, but for the oiler is a shroud. The only welcome of the land is in the grave. Crane through *The Open Boat* show us that nobody cannot avoid his fate. If fate asks someone to be death today, no matter how hard he is trying to stay alive, he will be death today.

The theme stresses the point that man, afloat in the sea, find him in a precarious position owing to nature's indifference to his well-being. If however nature and its creature do not care about man, man cares about himself by constructing hope, established 'a subtle brotherhood of man'. He

has no freedom to act as he chooses. Nature is not only indifference, it is hostile.

3. Conclusion And Suggestion

3.1 Conclusion

From the analysis above, it can be seen that some aspects of naturalism are reflected in Crane's short story *The Open Boat*. The naturalism aspects that can be found in the story are: objectivity, frankness, philosophy of determinism and bias in selection of characters, especially an occasional use of a strong characters whose will is broken.

The aspects of objectivity can be found in the analysis of characters, whose thinking was logic. The aspects of frankness can be found in the analysis of plot. Crane's was frank in portraying human being's fear. While the aspects of philosophy of determinism can be found in the analysis of theme, where an-unavoidable forces control human life. The aspects of bias in selection of characters, especially an occasional use of a strong character whose will is broken can be found in the character of the oiler.

In portraying his characters, Crane used a simple picture. His characters were just like human beings. All things he wrote such as the description of the sea, the wave, the storm and the situation on the boat, could be read clearly

because it was a fact. Crane draws his reader into the life of his fiction by making them experience a sequence of sensation.

His criticism on life is just like a mirror where everybody can see his own behavior, attitude, and action. Hopefully, with that mirror, we can act, behave much better and wiser.

Stephen Crane's *The Open Boat* gives us a doze of reality that at first seems bitter, but it gradually induces a catharsis and in the end stands as testament to the human spirit. We will not feel alone because we can always turn to another person.

3.2 Suggestion

The researcher realizes that this research is still far from being perfect. The research is limited on the analysis of naturalism aspects reflected in the story of *The Open Boat*.

Stephen Crane's works offer us many kinds of human life phenomena. It will be interesting to analyze Crane's work with other points of view such as; sociological, psychological and many other.

After reading Stephen Crane's work especially *The Open Boat*, the researcher hopes that the reader in general and she herself can take some lessons from the story. The researcher hopes that the reader will give more appreciation to the nature. It is doubtless that we cannot live without nature so; we have to keep it at all time.

Besides, Stephen Crane's *The Open Boat* gives us a reality that nothing impossible. Anything can happened to everyone. Not only the four shipwrecks man but also us as human being. We do hope that terrible will not come to us but who knows God's plan. So, stay close to our God

Last but not least, a part from any weakness of the research, this one is expected to give benefits especially for the students who are interested in conducting further study of Stephen Crane's work.

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