



**PATRIOTISM: NEW WEAPON OF ENGLAND CAPITALISTS**

**REFLECTED IN “DRUMMER HODGE”**

**BY THOMAS HARDY**

**A FINAL PROJECT**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for**

**For S-1 Degree in English Literature**

**In English Department, Faculty of Humanities**

**Diponegoro University**

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**SEMARANG**

**2019**

## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by him without taking any results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, S-3 degree and diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that he does not take material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

*A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination and hard work*

**Colin Powell**

*To my grandfather, Kol. (Purn.) R. Suharto (alm), I made it.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The writer is very grateful to his Almighty God who has given His bless, strength, guidance and hope to the writer. Only His will, this final project entitled *Patriotism: New Weapon of England Capitalists Reflected in “Drummerh Hodge”* by *Thomas Hardy* could be finished. The writer also would to show his special gratefulness and honor to his final project advisor, Drs. Jumino, M. Hum., M. Lib. for his patience and any counsel that he gave to help this final project accomplished. The writer also would to say his gratitude to these following persons:

1. Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Dr. Nurhayati, M. Hum.
2. Head of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Dr. Agus Subiyanto, M. A.
3. All of the great lectures in English Department, particularly in Literature section for their academic guidance, precious knowledge and motivation during the writer's study in college.
4. My dearest parents, Ir. Ritoaji Narasyudo and Katharina Susilowardani, S. Sos. who always give support, motivation, help and sweet reminder to finish his final project. Also, their willingness to fund the writer's college and cost of living.

5. The writer's partner, Adelia Nataly Andaruni; thank you for being there in any conditions.
6. The writer best friends, Yustinus Setya Nandi Wardhana, S.K.H. and Pius Dimas Gustama, A.md.T. who have been graduate first; thank you for your happiness and ten years and still counting friendship value.
7. Krisna Haryo Yudha, Abraham Triargado, Fatkhul Khakim and Muhammad Ihsan, the writer's first gang in college. Thank you for your help and memory in this college life.
8. The Pascol, thank you for all of your honest friendship and unforgettable ridiculous memories.
9. PRMKers Faculty of Humanities; thank you for your support.
10. All of England Department students who always give information, help and value of life; thank you.

The writer realizes that this final project is far from being impeccable. Therefore, he is very welcome for any constructive criticism and suggestion to make this final project better and more valuable. Finally, he hopes this final project would be helpful for the readers.

Semarang, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Nikolaus                      Natal  
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## **ABSTRACT**

In this paper, the object that will be analyzed by the writer is one of the Thomas Hardy's poems entitled *Drummer Hodge*. The matter that will be analyzed are intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The aim of this writing is to give a deeper explanation about patriotism reflected in the poem. The writer used library research method and sociological approach; meanwhile, the theories used are symbol, allusion and patriotism theory by Leo Tolstoy. The writer found in this poem that Thomas Hardy showed the struggle of the English hodgees and their patriotism in the era of Boer War II as the result of the British government exploitation. In brief, this paper would be an explanation of how the capitalist or ruling class exploit the hodge..

Keywords: patriotism; capitalists; symbol; allusion; Boer War II

## **ABSTRAK**

Objek penelitian dari karya tulis ini adalah salah satu puisi karangan Thomas Hardy yang berjudul *Drummer Hodge*. Hal-hal yang akan dianalisis oleh penulis antara lain unsur-unsur intrinsik dan ekstrinsik dari puisi tersebut. Tujuan utama dari karya tulis ini adalah untuk memberikan penjelasan yang lebih dalam tentang semangat patriotism masyarakat Inggris pada era Perang Boer Kedua yang tercermin dalam puisi tersebut. Penulis menggunakan metode riset pustaka dan pendekatan sosiologi sastra sedangkan, teori yang digunakan anatara lain; symbol, allusi dan patriotism oleh Leo Tolstoy dalam menganalisis puisi tersebut. Dalam puisi ini, penulis menemukan bahwa Thomas Hardy ingin menunjukkan eksploitasi dari pemerintah Inggris dalam perjuangan dan semangat patriotisme kaum buruh tani Inggris dalam era Perang Boer Kedua. Karya tulis ini akan menjelaskan sistem kapitalis atau penguasa mengeksploitasi para buruh tani di Inggris.

Kata kunci: patriotism; kapitalis; simbol; alusi; Perang Boer Kedua

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Patriotism has an important part in society. All countries in the world need patriotism spirit from their citizen to build their country itself. People think patriotism is about war. Exactly patriotism is about sacrifice and the symbol of citizen's love to the state and about what they can give for their country. Government will do everything to build patriotism among their people. Government is targeting youths because they are the next generation of their country. When the patriotism grows among the citizen, then the government will uses it for the country. In literature, the writer found this phenomena in "DrummerHodge", a poem by Thomas Hardy.

"Drummer Hodge" is a poem written by Thomas Hardy which implicitly satirizes patriotism and describe how suffer the young soldier from Boer War II. In brief, this poem uses Boer War II as the background. "Drummer Hodge" talks about young hodge or farmer who is sent to the warfare in South Africa far from their homeland. The hodge is young and innocent. The young hodge died unknown in the battleground.

In that era, the condition of English society was recently facing the revolution industry. Many agricultural land transform to the industrial area. The south of England is the nation pastoral area and many people work as agricultural

laborers, called Hodge. The south part of England also famous with the low wages of worker. Many of the Hodge is uneducated because in that era education was a privilege for the noblemen and the higher class. The Hodge usually got education by the religion in the “Sunday school” which containing political issues. Therefore, due the industrial transition, many agriculture rural become industrial are. This is occurs many Hodge become jobless.

There are many things that make this poem more attractive. One of them is the reason of the young hodge comes to the war in South Africa. Thomas Hardy is an author who lives in south part of England which was a pastoral area. He is the witness of many young hodge went to the Boer War II.

There have been many journals and final projects discussing about “Drummer Hodge”. The previous journal or final project mostly discuss the Boer War II itself, post-colonialism, and so on. None of them shows the patriotism spirit of the young hodge who have been sacrifice his live in warfare and the state exploits their spirit for the advantage of some people.

People in all country have patriotic feeling. Those feelings can make people do something for their country and they can be related to the government policies. Therefore, the writer interested to analyze the patriotism in “Drummer Hodge”. The writer hopes this paper will help people to understanding patriotism in real life.

## **1.2. Research Question**

This research is focused on the following:

1. Why does the young hodge join the army to participate in Boer War II in South Africa?
2. Why does the capitalists use patriotism as the weapon?

## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

### 2.1. Intrinsic Elements

#### 2.1. Symbol

Brain, et al. defines “symbol is , is put simply, something which stand for something else” (1986: 640). Therefore symbol can be interpreted as some choosen words used to replace the literal meaning and everyone can understand the meaning without knowing the deeper knowledge about the context. It is more general. As an example the poetry of “The Boston Evening Transceipt” by T. S. Eliot:

#### 2.2. Allusion

Perrine elucidates “allusion is a reference to something in history or previous literature is like a richly conotative word or a symbol, a means of suggesting far more than it says” (1969: 1943). On the other hand, Kennedy states that “A myth that it can be believed. Throughtout history, myths have accompanied religious doctrins and rituals” (1976: 620). Allusion is choosen words which are used to make an indirect reference in literature works. Allusion is diffrent from symbol in literature. The difference is that allusion needs some knowledge of a context from the reader to understand the true meaning.

## **2.2. Extrinsic Elements**

### **2.2.1. Patriotism**

Tolstoy a Russian writer states that “Patriotism, as a feeling of exclusive love for one's own people, and as a doctrine of tile virtue of sacrificing one's tranquility, one's property, and ever, one's life” (1901: 112). Therefore, patriotism is a feeling that make people love their country and those people will do anything for their country.

Patriotism itself can grow among the society in a country, no matter the gender and their religion. Tolstoy in his book states that patriotism used by the ruling class such as the capitalists, journalists, artists, scientists and so forth for their own advantageous. They have all power to make big influences to the people and government. The influences are always supporting patriotic feeling and they will exploit the patriotic feeling among the people and government for their benefits.

Government as a class who have the power to control the state and as a capitalist agent also can influence people to grow a patriotism spirit in their people. The ruling classes use the advantage of patriotism for their need and exploit the unlabored masses with the doctrine about patriotism.

People in the world are very uncomfortable with a word called “war” but war still exists in the world, as Tolstoy states that “...the war is produced by patriotism...Patriotism and its results--wars--give an enormous revenue to the newspaper trade, and profits to many other trades...” (1901: 14). War will still

exist in the world because it makes big profits for some people or companies in the world. In addition, Kropotkin mentions that “In fact, all wars in Europe during the last hundred and fifty years were fought for industrial advantages and the right of exploitation” (1914: 5). In brief the government as the authority uses patriotism spirit of the youth for another purpose, especially industrial purpose.

### 2.2.2. Capitalists

Marx states that “...self-expanding power which creates value, namely, labour-power, which not only reproduce the value paid for it by capitalists, but produce produces a surplus value...” (1887:573). Capitalists as the relation between people in economy and social things. The private ownership also the capitalists enrich their capital with expanding the worker. Therefore, to gain the maximum of capital, the capitalists needs to exploit the workforce.

### 2.2.3. The Description of English Capitalists in 1880's

Dumet in his book states that “gentleman capitalism plays an important role....the ‘military-fiscal’ states that Britain’s aristocratic government constructed to fight the wars of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, with the alliance between aristocracy and finance.” (2014:64). The British noblemen, one of the agent of capitalists in 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century fund the war in that era. Still in Dumet book, he says that “The British aristocracy, confronted by falling of agricultural rents and Radical attacks on landed wealth, sought alternative source of income to buttress their position....At the same time many aristocrats traded broad acres for bonds and securities.” (2014:64). It can show that many landlord sell their agriculture land to the stock banking to gain more profit for their own benefit.

This situation happens because the condition of agriculture in England was de  
 As the result of this phenomena, many hodes previously work in agricul  
 sector become jobless.

### 3

## RESEARCH METHOD

### 3.1. Method of Data Collection

#### 3.1.1. Library Research

This study requires library research in order to show the relation between patriotism and capitalists in the Thomas Hardy's "Drummer Hodge". George sates that "the logic of the library research process is the movement from what exists to what is worth using (2008:21). Library research is a method to help writers to find evidences and supports that may help the writer to analyze their writing. Many writers use library research as a method because library research could show the evidence of the past event that support the literary analysis. Therefore, library research could show the relation between literature and some historical event.

### 3.2. Research Approach

#### 3.2.1. Sociology of Literature approach

The writer applies sociology of literature approach in this writing. He uses sociology of literature approach to found the relation between patriotism and capitalists in England society. Kharbe states that;

“Sociological approach to literature, takes into account, the author's social origin and socio-cultural background in which he is born and brought up. It is an attempt to relate the author with the social

surroundings, because the social surroundings affect the author sensibility and goes on in the making of the literary creation. The study of this background-of the social surrounding naturally, helps the reader to understand the creation a great deal, as it place the book /the creation in proper perspective” (2009: 205)

Sociological of literature approach is the one of the literary approaches focusing on the society at that time. The writer of literary work would be indirectly affected by the society surrounding the writer. Therefore, the reader could understand the social phenomena in the literary work era by reading and analyzing the book.

## 4

**PATRIOTISM: NEW WEAPON OF ENGLISH CAPITALISTS  
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**4.1. Intrinsic Element**

4.1.1. Symbol

Thomas Hardy’s “Drummer Hodge” contains symbols as reference to something that have deeper meaning. In the first stanza line two below, the writer found a unique symbol.

They throw in Drummer Hodge, to rest  
Uncoffined — just as found:

From a quote from “Drummer Hodge” above, the reader could found word “Uncoffined”. “Uncoffined” word itself is not usual English word used by the people. This word has a deep pathetic meaning. The denotation meaning of uncoffined is about something freely. But, if we see the previous line, the reader could know the main character, the drummer hodge is dead. Word uncoffined in this poem has a connotation meaning. The connotation meaning is a symbol of the drummer’s destiny after his quietus. The drummer hodge’s destiny is death in

unknown and buried with unknown tomb and appropriate ceremony. Words “just as found” emphasize this situation.

#### 4.1.2. Allusion

Allusion in “Drummer Hodge” is an intrinsic element that indirectly reference to a situation and historical event, especially in Boer War II.

##### Fresh from his Wessex Home

In line eight the second stanza, there is a word “Wessex”. Wessex is an ordinary term that Thomas Hardy uses in his works. In English history, there was an ancient kingdom named Wessex. The kingdom of Wessex existed from 6<sup>th</sup> century until 10<sup>th</sup> century and was located in the south part of England. The south part of England is the central of agriculture in England. Therefore, there were many people in south part of England working as farmers. This part shows that the Drummer worked in farm. As the result of industrial revolution, many farmers lost their land so many hodes like the drummer also lost their job. It has a meaning that he was jobless. Therefore, he had to enroll to the army because it was better than does nothing.

##### Grow up a Southern three

In third stanza line sixteen, there is word “Southern”. In history, England won the Boer War II and England got the mining. England also showed their power in Africa as the result of their victory in Boer War II. England as the

winner of Boer War II declared their power in Africa. England reunited all colonies in south part of Africa and made a new colony named South Africa. As the colony of England, South Africa grew as the modern country in Africa. It had mean that South Africa became a new market for the industries. Therefore, words “Southern three” have meaning that the struggle of the Drummer Hodge in Boer War II has a good result for the government and industries. South Africa began to grow as a tree. Tree in the “Drummer Hodge” also give a meaning that South Africa evolves as a prosperous country in south Africa like a thick tree in Africa.

“Drummer Hodge” is consist with three stanzas and six lines in each stanza. Therefore, it will be 6-6-6 if it is written as a numeric formation. The numeric formation of 6-6-6 refers to some parts in King James Bible Version. In book of Revelation, one of the chapter in New Testament, number 666 has a bad meaning. The meaning of 666 is the number of the beasts that will destroy the world and human being. Number of 666 in poem as a representation that war is disaster. Therefore, Boer War II is a kind of disaster that make people suffering for it.

## **4.2. Extrinsic Elements**

### 4.2.1. Patriotism

To begin, “Drummer Hodge” takes Boer War II as the background. The Boer War II is one of England’s deathliest war in the history. Boer War II did not take long time. It happened between 1889 and 1902 in South Africa. Many country in Europe took a part in this war. England and its colonies in South Africa against

Dutch colonies in South Africa. This war was caused by the discovery of gold in Witwaterstrand.

Wessels describes that Boer War II is one of the horrific and traumatic war in the world. Each participants in Boer War II shows their power in warfare mainly England. England uses all of their arsenal to won the battle. But not only their conservative weapon. England in that era was more than confidence to win the Boer War II. But, the Royal Navy and all of the army with their most advance weapon in that era still got big casualties and lost many battle. The English government found that they need more people to join the army. Boer War II has wide warfare zone and English do not have experience with the Africa's landscape therefore, they sent most progressive weapon, their people, the Hodge.

At the beginning of the "Drummer Hodge", the main character in the "Drummer Hodge" is an English boy who joined the army as a drummer. In the line one first stanza is written "They throw in Drummer Hodge, to rest" the word "Hodge" has a meaning that the main character is a young innocent farmer. In that era, England recently faced the revolution industry. Many human labors replaced by steam machine. The agriculture was the most part of society that was influenced by revolution industry. Farmers lost their lands because their lands became factories. The fate of the hodes, people who did not have a land and work for the landlord automatically lost their job, they were jobless as unskillful hodge . Unfortunately the population of the hodge is plentiful.

The English government have a power to control their people. The England government in that era were facing the Boer War II in South Africa and

gained huge casualties. Consequently, England needed more people to join the army. They knew that the number of the hodge was very huge. The government used the spirit of patriotism of the young hodge to help them in Boer War II. In line seven second stanza, there are words “ Young Hodge...” It mean that he is a boy who does not has a job and unskillful. Young men are very easy to be affected. The government use their power to give a doctrine for the young hodge through school, church or society. However, education in that era is still an exclusive thing that not everyone can enjoy it so the hodes as the lower class people have low education knowledge. Therefore, the most possible agent that share the doctrine of patriotism was by the church because people in that era were very religious and church as the part of the government had a big influence in the society.

Still in the same line with the words above, in the line seven second stanza states that “Young hodge the drummer never knew--“ it has mean that the young drummer is an innocent boy. He does not has the clear reason and objective why he come to the warfare. The reason for he is because his country sent him to the warfare. His country exploits his spirit of patriotism. Word “drummer” has a satire meaning, Drummer regiment in the body of army especially in western culture is an important part. The drummer has a job to send a message for another troops by their drum because there was no a telecommunication instruments yet. Besides, the drummer also becomes a mascot for the group of army therefore drummer regiment contains many boy but in first stanza of the poem shows that he is dead. The drummer is buried unknown and he does not get a respect from the

government as if he is a true patriot who sacrifices everything even his life is just for his country.

Back to the second stanza line two, this stanza talks about the drummer hodge's feeling in the war. The words "Fresh from his Wessex home--" shows that he is untrained in war. He is a new guy sent to the war without experience and good training whether physically or mentally. The government took the hodge from his home to fight against Boer in Boer War II. Cheney describes "the war that followed began with a series of Britain defeats..." Boer War II endures big casualties for Britain. Therefore, Britain should mobilize more troops to the warfare. From this stanza it can be shown that Britain needed more people to join the army. According to Tolstoy "This occurs because the ruling classes (including not only the actual rulers and their officials, but all the classes who enjoy advantageous position-the capitalists, journalists and most of the artists and scientists) can retrain their position, exceptionally advantageous in comparison with that of the laboring masses..."(1901:14). It has mean that the ruling classes will use their power to control the lower class. In "Drummer Hodge", the hodge hear is a farmer that did not have power in society.

The word "Wessex" is an old kingdom in Midieval Anglo-Saxon Era in England. Thomas hardy describes Wessex as a pastoral area in the south of England and it inspirited by his homeland. Thomas Hardy uses Wessex as the pastoral area to state that the character who died in the poem is a farmer or hodge.

Still focusing on the second paragraph, mainly in the line eleven until twelve, there are sentences that written "And why uprose to nightly view" and

“Strange stars amid the gloam”. These sentence has the purpose to tell the reader about the Drummer Hodge’s struggle in the Boer War II warfare. He faces the peculiar situation. He fights for his country and for his live in the unknown place in South Africa. South Africa is different from England in every aspect; the people, climate, temperature, topology and so forth. These aspects give some tension in his life. As a patriot it should be not very important but for the young hodge who gets his patriotism by doctrine it makes him very stressfully because his place is not in the war.

In first stanza, it shows how the Drummer Hodge is buried without any respect while the last stanza describes the result of his patriotism and his struggle in the war. The third stanza tells about the situation after the Drummer Hodge died and buried. In the line thirteen “Yet portion of that unknown plain” shows when he died he does not get anything. Actually, he should get tribute for his services.

The next line is “Will Hodge for ever be;”. The sentences tell the kindness of the drummer for his country even the government does not cherish his patriotism will be forever because patriotism is not shown but felt by the other. Line fifteen “His homely northern breast and brain” tell the reason that he still fought in the war. The homeland, his country that he love always in every single breath he takes. His memory of his home is the hope for the next generation.

Line sixteen and seventeen “Grow up a Southern tree,” and “And strange-eyed constellation reign” these sentences have meaning that the goal of the government has been fulfilled by the Drummer Hodge’s sacrifice. In the end of the Boer War II, England won the battle and took the gold mine. South Africa

become one of the super power country in Africa. Word “southern” mean South Africa as the colony of England. When South Africa becomes the most powerful country in the Africa, it also makes a new hope for the capitalist to open new opportunity in new land. Government also can sell their industrial product in Africa. The last line, line sixteen, “His stars eternally” means the patriotic feeling to his country of the Drummer Hodge will be forever hi is death. His spirit w remembered by his family, friend a people who left for their country.

## 5

### CONCLUSION

Patriotism basically is a good spirit which should be owned by every citizen in a country. The spirit of patriotism can develop the country to become a better country but some people use patriotism only for their advantages. The people who have the power to ruling usually use their power to doctrine the inferior people. Unfortunately sometimes government is under control of those people. Patriotism itself can be good or wrong depending on the people behind it.

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*Drummer Hodge*

## I

They throw in Drummer Hodge, to rest  
    Uncoffined—just as found:  
His landmark is a kopje-crest  
    That breaks the veldt around;  
And foreign constellations west  
    Each night above his mound.

## II

Young Hodge the Drummer never knew—  
    Fresh from his Wessex home—  
The meaning of the broad Karoo,  
    The Bush, the dusty loam,  
And why uprose to nightly view  
    Strange stars amid the gloam.

## III

Yet portion of that unknown plain  
    Will Hodge for ever be;

His homely Northern breast and brain  
Grow up a Southern tree,  
And strange-eyed constellations reign  
His stars eternally.

This poem is in the public domain.