

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

For Whom the Bell Tolls is a long novel. It opens with Robert Jordan belly-down on a pine forest in Spain observing a bridge he has been ordered to blow up. At the conclusion, Jordan is once again belly-down against the Spanish earth; this time the snow covers the pine needles and he has a broken leg. He is carefully sighting on an enemy approaching on horse back, and he feels he is ready to die. Between the opening and the closing paragraphs, more than four hundred pages have passed covering a time of period of only seventy hours. At the center of all action and meditation is the bridge. It is the focal point of the conflict to which the characters are drawn back again and again.

In what was his longest novel to that point, Hemingway forged a tightly unified plot: a single place, a single action, and a brief time. From this plot, Robert Jordan in doing his mission he faces a lot of difficulties and involves a series of conflicts. In that war, there are only one choice: a hero or a coward. The fact is that Robert Jordan's heroic

character appears instead of his cowardliness. His character development takes place almost within suspended time. He tries to condense an entire life in those seventy hours or three days. Every thing moves toward the time when the bridge must be blown. During those three days Robert Jordan shows the way he settles his conflicts and difficulties. Through heroism he is capable to carry out his mission. The bridge is at last exploded, and to do it the heroic action is required to defend an entry point. Unfortunately, it costs Jordan's life. He dies in action which prove futile in military terms but become a standard measure of courage and commitment. He sacrifices his life by his choice to die in battle as an honorable hero, and not as a coward who kills himself.

Robert Jordan's heroism obviously can be found in three elements of the story: plot, characterization, and setting because in them there are enough proofs to strengthen the conclusion. Those three elements have one sameness; each of them points the same characteristics of heroism. The plot and the setting of the story very much helps to Jordan's character to emerge as heroic character. The events along the seventy hours of Jordan's life in the Civil War and his

natural character presents his heroism. By this research, the writer finds that Hemingway conveys heroism integrally in the three major elements of the novel respectively plot, characterization, and setting. Proofs of the heroic atmosphere found from those elements are such as courage or bravery, fighting spirit, thoughtfulness, strong desire, desperation of risk taking, and idealism. All those characteristics intentionally exist within the character of Robert Jordan.

The plot of the story develops due to the central conflicts caused by the mentioned characteristics of heroism. The characterization of the hero is also dominated by such atmosphere. Even the setting takes the location of Civil War involving the two dissenting groups who attack each other. The war can be the multi-interpretable setting as mentioned above.

BIBLIOGRAFI