

ABSTRACT

Natsume Soseki's The Heredity of Taste (1906) is a novel that considered as historical fiction and it stands as the only work ever written by Soseki that talks about war. Set just after the conclusion of The Russo-Japanese War, the novel tells of the mourning process of the narrator haunted by his friend's death and how the narrator tried to understand the notion of war. The story reveals Soseki's attitude to the atrocity of war, specifically to The Russo-Japanese War of 1904 - 1905, and to the personal tragedies and loss of individuality of young men in the battlefield, and the sacrifice made by both the living and the dead.

This study will be focusing in the true event that occurs inside the novel which is The Russo-Japanese War. The description of the war as the setting and the narrator's idea in seeing the war inside the novel somehow expressed the author's intention and personal feeling toward the social and political upheavals following The Russo-Japanese War. The method used in this study is library research and descriptive analysis through literature. Expressive theory introduced by M.H. Abrams is used as a tool to analyze the story from the setting and the character. The output of this study is to expose the notion of war brought by the novel and most importantly to interpret one literary work by using certain perspective.