

**CODE OF CHIVALRY IN KNUT HAMSUN'S  
*HUNGER* NOVEL (1921): A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS**



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**ABSTRAK**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menunjukkan kode ksatria pada novel *Lapar*. Penelitian ini untuk mendeskripsikan indikator dari kode ksatria, untuk menunjukkan bagaimana kode ksatria tergambar dalam novel ini, dan untuk menyatakan alasan Knut Hamsun mengambil kode ksatria pada novelnya. Tipe penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Untuk menganalisis novel ini, peneliti menggunakan analisis Sosiologi. Dalam metode ini, penulis menggunakan dua tipe data yaitu data primer dan data sekunder. Sumber data primer yaitu dari novel *Lapar* karya Knut Hamsun. Data sekunder diambil dari situs, artikel, biografi penulis, dan sesuai dengan buku-buku yang berhubungan dengan penelitian. Hasil dari penelitian ini memberikan beberapa kesimpulan. Pertama terdapat tigabelas indikator dari kode ksatria dalam novel ini. Kedua, kode ksatria tergambar pada novel ini melalui karakter dan peristiwa. Ketiga, alasan mengapa Knut Hamsun mengangkat kode ksatria pada novelnya yaitu untuk merespon masyarakat pada masa itu. dia peduli terhadap orang miskin yang berada disekitarnya.

**Kata Kunci:** *Lapar*, Sosiologi, Kode Ksatria, Knut Hamsun

**ABSTRACT**

This study aimed at investigating the code of chivalry in *Hunger* novel. The study described the indicators of code of chivalry, showed how it was depicted in the novel, and revealed the reason of Knut Hamsun why he addressed code of chivalry in his novel. The type of this research is qualitative research. In analyzing this novel, the researcher used Sociological analysis. In this method, the writer used two types of data sources namely primary and secondary data sources. The primary data sources were taken from *Hunger* novel by Knut Hamsun. The secondary were taken from websites, articles, biography of the author, and the appropriate books which dealt with the research. The result of the study showed the following conclusions. First, there were thirteen of thirty-six indicators of code of chivalry in the novel. Second, code of chivalry depicted in this novel through characters and events. Third, the reason why Knut Hamsun raised code of chivalry in his novel is to respond the society at that era. He concerned with the poor people around him.

**Keywords:** *Hunger*, Sociological, Code of Chivalry, Knut Hamsun

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

This research is about code of chivalry in *Hunger* novel by Knut Hamsun. There were some researches about *Hunger* novel as a primary source and used different issue and theory to analyze this novel, among which the research of Knut

Hamsun's *Hunger*: A Self-Narrative towards a Self-Discovery by Manireh Arvin, 2005.

*Hunger* novel by Knut Hamsun was published in 1921. This novel described the story of the author experience of poverty but he had a passion to fulfill its entrails. But he did not forget the people with the same experience, even he was willing to pawn his items for the people around him who needed a help. The story was so dramatic, it told us up and down about life. Many issues were raised in this novel. One of the issues was code of chivalry, but not many researchers analyzed code of chivalry issues that contained in the novel.

In this novel, the researcher described about code of chivalry. Code of Chivalry refers to the moral system that introduces the concept of modesty. Knight is a famous warrior class in Medieval Times. Knight uses the code of ethics called Code of Chivalry. At that time, people believed the code of chivalry as a ethics code of moral, spiritual, social and it shows the character of a warrior. According to Franz Magnis Suseno (1989, p. 15) states, "Every person needs to morality, but not everyone needs ethical". But keep in mind that modern day code of ethics is indispensable in everyday life. For example, when we tell the truth, respect for others or defend the truth, and others. Moral ethics in public life should be used as a form of consciousness based on the responsibility. People must have the responsibility for what has become the choice. Meanwhile, according to Gary Milby (2006, p. 13) stated that "chivalry is the dutiful pursuit of such qualities as bravery, courtesy, honor, and gallantry towards women".

From all the literary works of Knut Hamsun, one of them is *Hunger* novel, it showed about the Code of Chivalry and struggles of life. As explained by the Duke of Burgundy in the 14th century, he used words that described the virtues that must be shown in the Knights Code of Chivalry include, wisdom, modesty, courage, honesty, sacrifice, generosity, faith, loyalty, trust, hope, honor, modesty, charity, justice, and others. According Gary Milby, in his book *The Chivalrous Man* (2006, p. 17) there were thirty-six the code of chivalry added additional detail and insight into the daily lives and mandates guiding knightly behavior, but from the analysis of the writer there were just thirteen code of chivalry.

There are several reasons why the researcher is interested in analyzing this novel. First, the story showed the struggle of life of the writer. Second, the researcher is interested in the principles and morality which he held in his grasp. Third reason that there is a moral in this novel. Many moral messages that can be applied in the environment around us.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

This research is qualitative method. It used descriptive analysis. The object of this research is *Hunger* novel by Knut Hamsun (1921). This research is about analysis of the code of chivalry in the novel. The type of data and data source divided into two namely primary data source and secondary data source. In conducting the study, the researcher used the technique of collecting data, as follows: (a) Reading the *Hunger* novel repeatedly, (b) Searching on the internet to get some information and articles related to the research objectives, (c) Taking note of important information using both primary and secondary data source, (d) Identifying problems and finding data, (e) Arranging the data into several sections according to their classification, (f) Making conclusions and recommendations based on the data in the analysis.

## **3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

### **3.1. The Indicators of the Code of Chivalry**

There were thirteen of thirty-six indicators of the code of chivalry. The indicators of the code of chivalry would be explained in below.

#### **3.1.1. Living in life and that is worthy of respect and honor**

In this novel showed life one's life so that it is worthy of respect and honor when when the narrator gave the good impression to pawnbroker. He said good bye to that fire-office, he acted as if he had high position. The pawnbroker bowed politely to him. So he felt honored and then he turned again to repeat his good bye to the pawnbroker.

### **3.1.2. Protecting the innocent**

Protect the innocent explained in the novel when the narrator helped the old man who was hungry. It can be seen in the novel when the old man asked the narrator to give him a glass of milk because he did not eat since yesterday so he felt hungry. Then the narrator asked the old man about work. When he knew that the old man was a binder and hungry, so the narrator tried to help him with pawn his waistcoat.

### **3.1.3. Exhibiting self-control**

Exhibit self-control explained in the novel when the narrator saw a little girl asking for money. He did not want to give money to the little girl but he promised to give her the money if he meet again.

### **3.1.4. Respecting women**

Respect women explained in the novel when the narrator in the Slotsbakken hill and he passed with two ladies. The narrator gave a chance to that women to walk first.

### **3.1.5. Exhibiting courage in word and deed**

Exhibit courage in word and deed explained in the novel when courage of he narrator has been back. It can be seen in the novel, when the narrator wanted to write back the article that entitled “Crimes of Futurity” and he wanted to write comparing his work with Kant’s work about philosophical cognition.

### **3.1.6. Defending the weak and innocent**

Defend the weak and innocent explained in the novel when the narrator met with the shop-boy. The narrator was defending the old lady of the poor cake vendor by giving her money. He would never forget the poor.

### **3.1.7. Always keeping one's word of honor**

Always keep one's word of honor explained in the novel when the narrator had recollected an old debt. The narrator remembered that he was a honest and honor man.

### **3.1.8. Always maintaining one's principles**

Always maintain one's principles explained in the novel when he was in the pawnbroker. From the evidence above, the narrator was grateful to pawnbroker for his civility. He also said that he kept his principle.

### **3.1.9. Avoiding deception**

Avoid deception explained in the novel when he realized that he was someone who was honest and principled. The narrator avoided deception because he is an honest person. Almost he would have pawned his friend's blanket just because he wanted to get his food and drink. But finally he realized that what was done was not in accordance with his personality.

### **3.1.10. Exhibiting manners**

Exhibit mannersexplained in the novel when the narrator bought some food to carry. He bought of cheese and a French roll. Then the narrator was going to give the greeting politely to that women.

### **3.1.11. Being polite and attentive**

Be polite and attentive explained in the novel when the narrator met the girl near Stortingsplads. The narrator ave advice to Mary, women who invited by a prostitute girl to go with him. But he had no money and he refused the subtle invitation of the girl. He can only advise her to get out of the black valley and improve her life.

### **3.1.12. Being respectful of host, women, and honor**

Be respectful of host, women, and honor explained in the novel when the narrator felt happy and honored when he suffered as an honest person. The narrator felt he had no heavy burden in his pocket when he gave all the money to the old woman cakes seller. Instantly he was happy to be an honest and honorable person.

### **3.1.13. Loyalty to one's friends and those who lay their trusting in thee.**

Loyalty to one's friends and those who lay their trusting in thee explained in the novel when he met his best friend which lend blanket. The narrator very loyal with one of friend named Hans Pauli that lend him a blanket. He promised that he will returned that blanket when he already well.

## **3.2. How the Code of Chivalry Depicted in *Hunger* Novel**

Code of Chivalry depicted in this novel through characters and events. Through characters, code of chivalry depicted by the helpful character, patient person, altruistic character, optimistic character, hard working character, corageous person, honest character, and compassionate character. Through events, the researcher found the events that showed code of chivalry such as the event of starving, the event of helping narrator, the event of giving food, the event of pawning waiscoat, and the event of giving advice.

## **3.3. The Reason Why the Code of Chivalry Addressed in te *Hunger* Novel**

The reason why Knut Hamsun addressed the code of chivalry in the novel. That's because he wants to show a journey of his life when he was struggling against the hunger he experienced. But on the other hand if someone asks for his help even though he is hungry, has not eaten for days, he will try to help those people. He gave up his one by one property mortgaged just to help others. For he is determined to maintain the value of

life that he believes, even though he himself is being hammered by the bitterness of his life. He is someone who is principled. From there it can be seen that the issue of code of chivalry is inherent in this novel.

### **3.4. Discussion**

Knut Hamsun reflected his social criticism view in the novel about code of chivalry issue. The result of the study support the theory by Gary Milby about code of chivalry that is indicated by thirteenth mandates guiding knightly behavior. Based on the theory of sociology of literature, sociology and literature imposed on the writings of critics and historians of literature which are mainly targeted at the ways someone authors influenced by the status of its class, the ideology of the people, the circumstances of economic-related work, and the type of intended reader (Abrams, 1981, p.178)

This novel shows the code of chivalry between the author's life journey and the social reality of the time. This novel is a form of social criticism in social society at that time. In World War II, when he supported the Nazis and that caused him to be accused by Norwegian society as a traitor. Yet many people do not know that he does it solely to defend his country from Nazi atrocities. In fact he also saved many Norwegian Jews from the grip of the Nazis. But despite defending his own country, the traitor's stamp remains inherent in the name of Knut Hamsun. There are no street names in Norway that use his name. All that remained was a statue of Knut Hamsun's chest in front of the publishers of his books. Before he died, he had principled to the end of his life he would never lick his own saliva and accept harshly when he was stamped as a traitor in his own country.

From the incident can be concluded that the existence of a case of betrayal occurs when people assess and see the behavior of Knut Hamsun during his life. From these data it can be concluded that there is a close relationship between the novel and the events as he struggles to become a starving writer and struggling to defend his country.

So this novel is a social response from Knut Hamsun to Norwegians who seem to implicitly say that life must be fought even if it is difficult to walk. One day we will get the results as we want if we keep trying and working hard. And be honest even if the honest ones suffer.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Referring to the problem statement and the analysis in previous chapters of Hunger novel by Knut Hamsun using a sociological analysis, finally the writer can conclude in the following conclusion.

Based on the sociological analysis, the writer found thirteen indicators of code of chivalry in the Hunger novel. From the thirteen indicators it is explained that this novel in it describes a code of chivalry shown in various characters that exist in Hunger novels. The knight has a great character and hold on to virtue. According to Gary Milby (2006, p. 17) stated that "The knight is sworn by oath to defend his lord and those who depend upon him. He seeks to defend his lady, family, nation, and all those he deems worthy of loyalty".

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