
THE REPRESENTATION OF THE WORLD AND THE SELF IN *THE SALT PATH*
BY RAYNOR WINN: TRAVEL LITERATURE ANALYSIS

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Abstrak

Karya sastra sebagai dunia imajinasi pengarang dapat dipengaruhi oleh berbagai aspek, salah satunya adalah pengalaman hidup pengarang itu sendiri. Salah satu karya sastra yang berdasarkan pengalaman nyata penulisnya adalah novel berjudul *The Salt Path* (2018) karya Raynor Winn yang menjadi objek dalam penelitian ini. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis representasi penggambaran dunia dan pengungkapan diri penulis yang dikaitkan dengan teori sastra perjalanan Carl Thompson. Metode penelitian yang digunakan ialah metode kualitatif. Teori travel wrting Carl Thompson yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini berfokus pada dua aspek yaitu reporting the world dan revealing the self. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa author menggambarkan dunia dengan perspektif objektif dan subjektif. Author menggunakan strategi retorika seperti menyampaikan reality of the world, eyewitness claim, reaction to the world, visualization description, observation method, dan Exploration of other. Author tidak hanya menceritakan pengalaman perjalanan eksternalnya saja, namun juga perjalanan internal penulis. Sementara itu, dalam revealing the self author mengalami tiga fase yaitu recall-memories, self-realization, dan self-discovery. Sehingga merujuk pada kesimpulan bahwa author menggunakan penulisan romanticism.

Kata kunci: Penggambaran Dunia, Pengungkapan Diri, Sastra Perjalanan, *The Salt Path*

Abstract

Literary works as the author's imaginative world, are greatly influenced by various aspects, one of which is the author's own life experience. One of the literary work based on the author's real experience is the novel entitled *The Salt Path* (2018) by Raynor Winn, the object of this research. The purpose of this study is to analyze the representation of the reporting the world and revealing the self of the author which is associated with Carl Thompson's travel writing theory. The research method used is a qualitative method. Carl Thompson's travel writing theory used in this study focuses on two aspects, namely reporting the world and revealing the self. The results of the study show that the author describes the world with objective and subjective perspectives. The author uses rhetorical strategies such as conveying the reality of the world, eyewitness claims, reactions to the world, visualization descriptions, observation methods, and exploration of others. The author not only tells her external journey, but also the author's internal journey. Meanwhile, in revealing the self, the author experiences three phases, namely recall-memories, self-realization, and self-discovery. So it refers to the conclusion that the author uses romanticism writing.

Keywords: Reporting the World, Revealing the Self, Travel Writing, *The Salt Path*

PENDAHULUAN

Literature as an imaginary world created by an author is greatly influenced by various factors, including the author's life experiences. According to Wellek and Warren, literature can reflect life, social reality, even a person's inner or subjective world (Wellek & Warren, 2011, p. 89). The author's inner or subjective world can consist of feelings, thoughts, and also a person's life experiences which then become an inspiration for the author. This is in line by Sugihastuti's statement which says that literary works can be used as a forum for authors to convey their ideas and experiences (Sugihastuti, 2007, pp. 62-73).

One of the literary genres that is taken from true stories and based on the author's experiences is travel literature or also called as travel writing. According to Carl Thompson, travel writing is almost always a retrospective account, a first-person narrative of the author's travel experiences, unknown places and people (Thompson, 2011, p. 14). The variety of reasons for travelers to travel such as education, entertainment, and seeking experience in new places creates interaction with new places, cultures, and people. Some travelers decide to report the results of their travels in the form of writings that can be called travel literature. Thus, travel literature contains news about the wider world, such as spreading information about unknown places and people based on the author's experience (Thompson, 2011, p. 62). Because of the differences in experiences and perspectives, travel writing often shows the subjectivity of the author. Thus, Thompson states that travel writing is a non-fiction form of the fiction (Thompson, 2011, p. 15). This is because most travel literature has characteristics like prose, namely narrative, characters, setting, and so on. According to Fussell, travel writing have a more dominant literary element. He explains that travel literature is generally presented in narrative or prose form, and is divided into several categories (Fussell, 1980, p. 203).

However, travel writing is a simple written that contains objective characteristics, and this is debated because the language used in it is subjective as literary language in general (Anjarsari, 2015, p. 67). As is commonly known, an objective perspective is a viewpoint that is based on something that is physically real and concrete. This is related to travel writing that it is written based on real experiences of the author and it should related to what really exists in the world and can be proven with data. Meanwhile, subjective perspective is interpreted as a perspective carried out by the author by involving their feelings. This is what then underlies the importance of studying travel writing by studying the language used in it. In travel writing, these objective and subjective views can

influence the writer on how the story can be understood by the reader, and the writer's perspective of the new place. In addition to trying to convince readers, travel writing also emphasizes that the references used are based on facts, not fiction or fabrication (Kurniawati & Atikurrahman, 2021, pp. 74).

Carl Thompson's travel writing theory (2011) reveals that to study travel writing, there are three ways to look at patterns of travel writing. These are Reporting The World, Revealing The Self, and Representing The Other. The following are the explanation of the concepts based on Carl Thompson's theory:

1. Reporting the World

Thompson stated that travel literature must provide information on the state of a place, people, and even the world (Thompson, 2011, pp. 16-17). Information related to the place, people and world described by the author is developed in the notes so that it can form the setting of the place, time setting, characters and characterization as can be the characteristics of the literature itself. Because, travel literature is the result of the author, this writing certainly uses a first-person perspective so that the knowledge provided certainly contains a perspective that tends to be subjective.

Meanwhile, according to Carl Thompson, in travel writing there is a rhetorical strategies used by the author in narrating travel writing to claim their authority, namely convincing the reader that the author is conveying a fact based on their experience. These are conveying reality of the world that contains information around the world based on travel process of the author, it could be legenda, history, myth, and so on. Next, There are eyewitness claims which confirm that the narrator tells their experiences based on events they experienced in real life. This is because the author wants to convey that they actually observed themselves or were directly involved in the trip and really saw what was there. This is what then causes many phrases such as 'I saw' and 'I visited' used by the author. Thus, the form first person pronoun have a function as rhetorical functions, which directly mark the text as a statement from someone who really experienced and was involved in the narrated scene (Thompson, 2011, p. 65). Another way that travelers can confirm the accuracy of their travel accounts is by conveying their feelings about the sights or new things about the world they have just seen through their own observations (Thompson, 2011, p. 66). Conveying feelings about the scenery which is usually marked by the author's narrative and expressions that they are amazed, disgusted, afraid, or expressed feelings of interest in response to new things they encounter on their journey (Thompson, 2011, p 67).

Next, In conveying reporting the world in travel writing, it is important to visualize the views conveyed by travelers. Travelers often use their own perspective when observing new things they used, so they often visualize it with simple language or using parable method for some unfamiliar things, this is part of the observation method. Meanwhile, observation method is used to emphasize the element of traveler objectivity. Observation method can be carried out by reporting in detail the movements, locations, times and activities carried out by the traveler (Thompson, 2011, p. 76). The last one is the frequent use of exploration traces of other figures who have an impact on the traveler's journey. Travelers are usually aware that they are inspired by other explorers and therefore want to make the same journey. According to Thompson, travel writing writers often realize that they are following in the footsteps of other writers' explorations (Thompson, 2011, p. 92).

2. Revealing the Self

Thompson argues that travel literature is often oriented towards the author and focuses on exploring and presenting the subjectivity of the travel writer to explore and report the world (Thompson, 2011, p. 185). The narrative used by the author greatly influences how the depiction of the world is conveyed by them regarding the situation, conditions, and circumstances in the scene. As expressed by Thompson, the travel literature genre tends to produce writings that are almost entirely about the traveler or the author (Thompson, 2011, p. 98). The interaction between the traveler and other people, new environments, and new cultures encourages the author to write narratives that seem objective in a subjective way. The purpose of the internal journey is the feelings and emotions that arise during the journey, this can be in the form of the traveler-narrator's personal internal conflict and his thoughts. In fact, in some cases we often find many travel notes that center on the traveler-narrator, not only the places visited but the much wider world, namely encouraging narrative introspection and self-analysis of the traveler (Thompson, 2011, p. 111).

Just like reporting the world, revealing the self also has rhetorical techniques in writing. According to Carl Thompson, there are three rhetorical strategies that are often used by authors in travel writing such as recall memories, self-realization, and self-discovery. First, Recall-memories are past memories that appear during the trip, this is also about the author's feelings and thoughts during the trip. Second, Self-realization is also called the climax phase about the author's thoughts and feelings which then show a new perspective on the 'self' in the author. Third, the self-discovery phase is a phase of self-acceptance and

discovery of a new 'self'. Based on the strategy of revealing the self carried out by travelers, it is said to have been influenced by two eras, namely the Enlightenment era which was later referred to as the Enlightenment Self which tended to prioritize the search for facts and empirical statements into its narrative (Thompson, 2011, p. 117). Meanwhile, the Romanticism era which was later referred to as the Romantic Self tended not only to observe, but also to react by expressing opinions about events around it which were expressed in its narrative.

3. Representing the Other

Travel literature certainly links the encounter between new cultures, people, and environments, so this is what then encourages the representation of the other in travel literature during the journey between the self and other cultures (other). Sometimes other cultures that are highlighted are not only the differences but also the low opinion of other cultures (Thompson, 2011, p. 133). The low opinion of a culture is not always the new culture encountered but also the culture of origin of the traveler, for example when they find another culture that is more advanced and feel inferior in the midst of a superior community culture.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research employs a qualitative method, emphasis on the context and meaning contained in social interactions, experiences, or certain events. In line with that statement, Cropley said that research using qualitative methods is used to analyze a person's experience in terms of thoughts or words (Cropley, 2022, p. 122). More than that, qualitative research is also used to understand and analyze significantly about an individual or group related to social and humanitarian issues. Thus, it can be concluded that qualitative research is very crucial to be applied in analyzing data related to other than numbers such as words sentences, thoughts, and closely related to social or humanitarian issues. Therefore, this study applies a qualitative method because it is aligned with the data to be collected, namely analyzing texts, thoughts, interests, motivations, and actions contained in the book being studied, in order to obtain complete and in-depth information about the representation of reporting the world and revealing the self in the book *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn.

Data collection was carried out by repeatedly reading *The Salt Path* book, then matching the narrative with the relevant theory. The next stage was data analysis, in data analysis, we will begin processing the data obtained from previous data collection results.

The verified data will be explained and categorized based on Travel Writing aspects of the author according to the findings. Once the data analysis is complete, the discussion can be further developed, leading to a conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Reporting the World

Datum 1

Geevor was a working tin mine until it finally closed in 1991; in the same decade that saw the last of the English tin mine close, its pumps were switched off and the shafts flooded to sea level. That day it was closed, a silent, deserted tin mine in a perfect state of repair. Beyond Geevor, back on the path, and the ruins of a dead industry are all around (Winn, 2018, p. 137).

The quote above shows how the author explains the history of the establishment of the location of Geevor, Cornwall tourist attraction. Apart from that, the author also explains what she saw directly, namely in the form of former industrial ruins, destroyed machine houses and damaged chimneys which provide the latest information about the places she visited. The author's depiction of the world involves including information in the form of facts about the places she visited. This shows the author's knowledge of the history of the place she visited, even though she does not say where she got the knowledge from, for example news and so on. This refers to the **Reality of the World** named information about the world conveyed by the author. Moreover, this shows that the author was trying to convey the results of her **Observations Method** (Thompson, 2011) about the places she has visited, both historically and the facts she saw directly there. Indicated by the statement *“That day it was closed, a silent, deserted tin mine in a perfect state of repair. Beyond Geevor, back on the path, and the ruins of a dead industry are all around”*.

Datum 18

Sitting on a bent hawthorn branch, I watched the sun set behind the Hangman and away into the west. The tent was pitched low amongst the gorse and heather where Moth scribbled in a notebook. (Winn, 2018, p. 50)

Based on the quote above, the author uses the personal pronoun in the form of the word "I" which provides information that the author uses a first person point of view in writing the story and this pronoun used in a whole story of this memoir. Apart from that,

the author also uses the phrase "I watched" which serves to mark the statement that the author was really there and experienced that activity as what Thompson said. This is tend to the **Eyewitness Claim**.

Datum 25

We sat on the hot grass, our legs weak, mild nausea building, not just from heat exhaustion, but also from the view. The path followed the sharp edge to the point and then just disappeared. It had to lead somewhere, but wherever that was, it was going to be down a steep, near vertical hillside. (Winn, 2018, p. 82)

In this quote, the author mentions "*mild nausea*" and "*not just from heat exhaustion, but also from the view.*" which is a description of the author's personal emotional feelings and physical. This statement came when they were traveling through Morwenstow, which has a steep and winding track. This is a response given by the writer which can be called pre-rational and leads to the writer's internal reaction which is triggered by the situation they are facing at that time. Apart from that, there is also the use of physical sensations or also known as somatic such as "*our legs weak*" which indicates that their body is tired from what they are doing at that time. According to Carl Thompson, this is a mixture of the writer's emotional feelings which often work at pre-rational and somatic levels (Thompson, 2011). Pre-rational is the writer's personal emotional impression conveyed in his or her travel writing, while somatic is the bodily reaction or physical condition that the traveler wants to describe in his writing to strengthen the message he or she wants to convey. So This quotation refers to **Reaction to the World** and the **Observation Method** (Thompson, 2011) because she also reports the movements and activities they do at that time.

Datum 34

A glimpse of green through the trees made us scramble through the undergrowth, throw our packs over and paratrooper roll under an electric fence into a lush green corner of a field, surrounded on three sides by trees and in a slight dip, completely hidden from view. We pitched the tent and, desperately hungry, ate the last of the rations, leaving four digestive biscuits for breakfast. It didn't matter; we'd be in Clovelly the next day. (Winn, 2018, p. 65).

Objectivity is manifested in very specific and verifiable details with **Observation Method** (Thompson, 2011). For example, "*A glimpse of green through the trees made us scramble through the undergrowth, throw our packs over and paratroopers roll under*

an electric fence into a lush green corner of a field, surrounded on three sides by trees and in a slight dip, completely hidden from view." The depiction of their movements clearly shows their specific actions. The description of the place where they stopped to pitch their tent is also a visual observation that can be measured and observed. However, subjectivity also plays a role in sentences such as *"desperately hungry"* describe the author's emotional and physical condition and provide insight into her personal feelings about hunger. Apart from that, there is the phrase "It didn't matter" which not only describes the facts about their physical condition, but also the great emotions they experienced at that time. Not only that, the sentence *"It didn't matter; we'd be in Clovelly the next day."* reflects the author's attitude and views on the situation. They were hungry but not too worried because they knew they would reach their next destination soon. This conveys subjective nuances in how they react to a situation. This is also **Visualization Description** used by the author to visualized the view.

Datum 50

I reread Five Hundred Mile Walkies and told myself again that we could do this. Mark Wallington had romped along the South West Coast Path with a borrowed rucksack and a scruffy dog. We could do this, no problem. (Winn, 2018, p. 18).

In this quote, it is clear that the traveler indirectly states that she has the intention to make the same trip as Mark Wallington. This is indicated by the fact that she rereads the book and then strengthens her resolve. Travelers say *"told myself again that we could do this."* and *"We can do this, no problem"* refers to how the traveler convinces herself that the traveler can make the trip and tend to subjectivity of the author. In addition, the mention of *"borrowed rucksack and a scruffy dog"* emphasizes the simple equipment carried by travelers and dogs which at times can burden travelers. This is what then motivates travelers to travel and strengthens their determination by convincing themselves. The simple conclusion is that the book not only provides information about the South West Coast Path to travelers but also provides inspiration and motivation to travel amidst the traveler's confusion and sadness.

B. Revealing the Self

Datum 57

We came out of the shop with a slightly heavier rucksack and two pounds seventy in the purse. But we did have a Mars bar each.

The first time I saw Moth across the sixth-form college canteen was eighteen. He was wearing a white collarless shirt as he dipped a Mars bar in a cup of tea. (Winn, 2018, pp. 44-45).

Memories of the first time she saw her husband resurfaced, the traveler even remembered what clothes her husband was wearing when they first met. Also mentioning Mars chocolate bars which were the beginning of the reason why the memories emerged. Eating Mars chocolate bars with someone she considered very important in a very sad situation made it the right time to reflect on her youthful memories. Added to that is the fact that the author said that the chocolate-tinged memories were able to erase her sadness from being cursed at by a woman with a dog they had just met. This gives an idea of how the affection and love for Moth that the author gave was very meaningful, proven by remembering their beautiful memories in the past being able to eliminate the sadness that had just happened. The narrative refers to **Recall-Memories** (Thompson, 2011) where the beach atmosphere combined with tea makes the author remember her youth with her husband. This also includes the **Observation Method** because the author reports their movements, namely going to the store and the specific amount of money they still have.

Datum 67

The path led into the valley and down to Culbone Church, the smallest church in the England, ancient, and once the site of a leper colony. Did the man believe there was some power here? I sat in the graveyard and let the utterly peaceful place wash over me. It was profoundly spiritual, nothing to do with God or religion, but a deeply human spirituality. Something of the knot I'd been carrying started to loosen. Maybe there was some power here. I cupped my hands threw air at Moth just in case. (Winn, 2018, p. 38).

The quote above was taken when the author and her husband passed a path and found a church. The author who was sitting in a grave near the church felt that there was a spiritual power enveloping her. The phrase "**Something of the knot I'd been carrying started to loosen**" is a statement that the author consciously thought that she might let go of her belief, belief in the absence of God. On another page the author mentions that she does not believe in the existence of God. However, at that moment the author actually clasped her hands and prayed for Moth's safety just in case. In the narrative, the author in her disbelief in God began to feel the presence of spiritual energy that she thought was very human. This is part of **Self-realization** that develops because there is a movement from disbelief to starting to feel the existence of God.

Datum 72

When daylight came we went to the beach and walked its full extent and back again. When the tide was fully out we foraged for seaweeds, adding slimy shreds to noodles to make a foamy green pan of slippery food. We swam in the frothing incoming tile, surfing in on powerful waves of salt water.

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We were everything we wanted to be and everything we didn't. And we were free, free to be all those things, and stronger because of them. Skin on longed-for skin, life could wait, time could wait, death could wait. This second in the millions of seconds was the only one, the only one that we could live in. I was home, there was nothing left to search for, he was my home. (Winn, 2018, pp. 216-217).

In the quote, the author mentions that they have now accepted their fate, they no longer listen to the gossip and ridicule of people who comment on their lives, such as feeling uncomfortable, disgusted, and disturbed just because they are homeless. The piece that mentions "**stronger because of them**" refers to the people they meet and belittle them because they are homeless. The author convinces herself that the ridicule and bad treatment they receive during the journey will make them stronger than before.

In addition, this **Self-Acceptance** is also marked by the author who used to deny that they were not homeless gradually realizing that in reality they had really lost their home. Those who usually did not mention their destination for fear of being belittled also began to be honest that they were going to South Haven Point which was very far away and caused people to underestimate them. The author at the end of the story began to accept her past and appreciate the present. In addition, the author also directly mentioned that her house was Moth, her husband. Previously, she always thought that the house was the building that had been confiscated, but it turned out that she realized that now Moth meant much more than anything. At the end of the story there was no more denial of the past including denial of Moth's illness and the doctor's diagnosis and the possibility of Moth's death. This is a form of self-discovery and self-acceptance of everything that happened. Self-acceptance and enlightening insight about oneself also affect the author's profession in life after the journey. The author begins to stop despairing, suppressing sadness, and being angry about everything that happens to them. This quote also refers to the **Observation Method** (Thompson, 2011) because it describes activities and

movements such as "we went to the beach and walked." and "we foraged for seaweeds" and others refer to the reporting of traveler activity at that time.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

The use of rhetorical strategies in this memoir represents the use of the author's subjectivity and objectivity. When Reporting the World, the author uses the rhetorical technique **Reality of the world** with objective and subjective sides which are proven by data, such as the use of statistical data and certain reference books. This objective side is supported by the use of the **Observation Method** which refers to the results of direct observations reported by the author to the reader. For the subjectivity side, the author gives a reaction to the world she encounters, thus proving the use of **Reaction to the World** which refers to the involvement of the author's individual feelings. Apart from that, in reporting the world, the author uses the **Eyewitness Claim** technique to report the world so that this book uses a first person perspective. Eyewitness Claim is used in both objectivity and subjectivity of the author. The Last one, the author also uses Exploration of Other, namely Mark Wallington's novel and an exploration book by Paddy Dillon. She also used the Visualization Description strategy to report the world from her exploration. The use of all these strategies is interconnected so that it can be concluded that the author uses her subjectivity and objectivity in reporting the world.

The use of rhetorical strategies in this book represents that the author uses Romantic writing characteristics. This is proven by the three stages of self-development as well as rhetorical techniques expressed by Carl Thompson. There are moments where the author uses Recall-Memories in her narrative, starting from remembering childhood memories, memories with family, memories of the first time she met her husband, and memories of when she still had a house. Recall Memories occurs for one reason, namely as a form of Reaction to the World which evokes feelings of sadness, happiness, loss, feelings of despair and so on. Next, there is the Self-Realization phase as Thompson mentioned as the climax phase. The author in her narrative expresses Self-Realization or the phase of self-acceptance to let go of their house which was confiscated, as well as the feeling of losing everything in her life, especially before this journey began.

She also experienced progress in finding herself, namely being determined to find a new job and start everything from scratch. The final phase, Self-Discovery, in this phase the author finds a new 'self', namely she becomes a writer and makes the story of her

journey into a book entitled *The Salt Path*. Apart from that, she has also accepted herself as homeless and does not need to lie about her homeless status. She, who initially claimed not to believe in the existence of God, finally came to believe in the existence of God, as an impact of this long journey.

In terms of revealing the self, it was found that the author is a writer who adopts the characteristics of Romantic writing because this travel writing is not only about external travel, namely exploring the South West Coast Path, but also the author's internal or inner journey. The relationship between the world and the self that is found is that the author uses her experience in exploring the world to find an understanding of a new 'self'.

Suggestion

Based on the findings in this study, some suggestions for future travel writing research, especially those that examine the aspects of reporting the world and revealing the self in travel writing. Carl Edward Thompson's theory of travel writing (2011) is highly recommended for further research. The researcher suggests that researchers who are interested in similar studies can find other problems with the same or different theories. In addition, other forms of literary works can also be chosen and are not only limited.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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