

**THE BRAINWASHING SYSTEM OF THE RULING PARTY IN
ORWELL'S '1984'**



A THESIS

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University in Partial
Fulfillment of Requirements to Obtain an Undergraduate Degree in English Department

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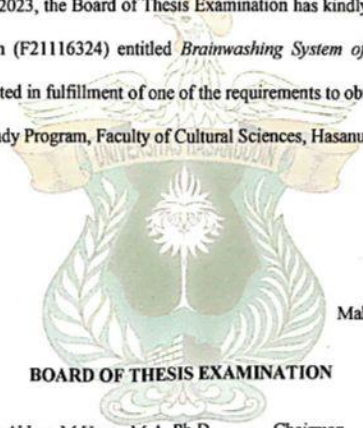
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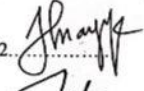



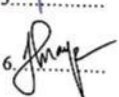
AGREEMENT

On Friday, 23th June 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Qais Zhafran Reyhan (F21116324) entitled *Brainwashing System of the Ruling Party in Orwell's 1984* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University



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The thesis by Qais Zhafran Reyhan (F21116324) entitled "*Brainwashing System of the Ruling Party in Orwell's 1984*" has been revised as advised during the examination on 23th June 2023 and it approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners.

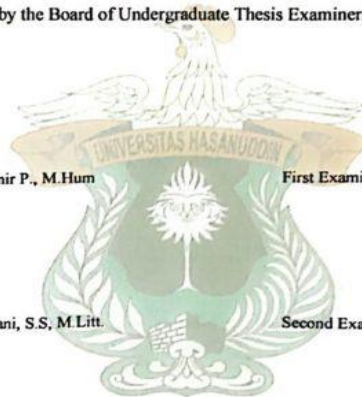
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With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 362/UN4.9.1/KEP/2020 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Qais Zhafran Reyhan (F21116324) to be examined at the English Literature Study Program of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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...

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- **Dra. Nasmilah, M.Hum, Ph.D.** as the head of English Department and **Sitti Sahraeny, S.S., M.App.Ling.** as the secretary of English Department. For all other lectures in the English Department for their teaching and knowledge towards the years and academic staffs of English Department who help the researcher for the administration process
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- **My Discord Family** who always reminds me and set my priority straight.

The researcher realizes that this thesis has flaw and far from perfect. Therefore, all critics and suggestions would be welcome to make this thesis better. The researcher hopes that this thesis will be useful toward future researcher that researching similar topic.

Makassar, 8 May 2023

The researcher

Qais Zhafran Reyhan

ABSTRACT

Qais Zhafran Reyhan. 2023. Brainwashing System of the Ruling Party in Orwell's *1984* (Supervised by Herawaty Abbas and Andi Inayah Sorayah.)

The purpose of this research are (1) to describe the brainwashing system that tries to control characters in Orwell's *1984*, and (2) to analyze the brainwashing process implemented by the ruling party illustrated in Orwell's *1984*.

In this research, the researcher used Structuralism Approach to find the brainwashing system tries to control the characters portrayed in the novel and use Lifton's thought reform theory to analyze the brainwashing system of the ruling party. The researcher used a descriptive method because it is to describe systematically a situation, problem and the system of brainwashing itself.

Through this research, the researcher found that the novel reveal the brainwashing system where the ruling party uses these categories to brainwash. These categories are Historical, Language and Torture. The researcher also found through Lifton's theory of step-by-step brainwashing system of the ruling party namely Assault on Identity, Guilt, Self-Betrayal, Breaking Point, Leniency, the Compulsion to Confess, the Channeling of Guilt, Re-education: Logical Dishonoring Progress and Harmony and the last Final Confession and Rebirth.

Keywords: System, Structuralism Approach, and Brainwash

ABSTRAK

Qais Zhafran Reyhan. 2023. Sistem Cuci Otak Partai Penguasa di Orwell 1984 (Dibimbing oleh Herawaty Abbas dan Andi Inayah Sorayah.)

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah (1) untuk mendeskripsikan sistem cuci otak yang mencoba mengatur tokoh-tokoh dalam Orwell's 1984, dan (2) menganalisis proses cuci otak yang dilakukan oleh partai berkuasa yang diilustrasikan dalam 1984 oleh Orwell.

Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan Pendekatan Strukturalisme untuk menemukan fenomena cuci otak terhadap tokoh-tokoh yang digambarkan dalam novel dan menggunakan teori *thought reform* Lifton untuk menganalisis sistem cuci otak partai yang berkuasa. Peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif karena dapat menggambarkan secara sistematis suatu situasi, masalah dan fenomena.

Melalui penelitian ini, peneliti menemukan bahwa novel tersebut mengungkap beberapa fenomena cuci otak dimana pihak yang berkuasa meng kategorikan untuk mencuci otak, yaitu Historis, Linguistik dan Fisik. Peneliti juga menemukan melalui teori Lifton langkah demi langkah sistem cuci otak dari partai yang berkuasa yaitu Penyerangan atas Identitas, Rasa Bersalah, Pengkhianatan, Titik Kehancuran, Belas Kasihan, Paksaan untuk Mengaku, Penyaluran Rasa bersalah, Pendidikan Kembali: Kemajuan dan Keharmonisan, Penyerangan terhadap Logis dan Pengakuan Terakhir dan Kelahiran Kembali

Kata Kunci : Sistem, Pendekatan Strukturalisme, dan Pencucian otak

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of study, identification of problem, scope of problem, statement of problem, objective of the research, and sequence.

A. Background of Study

Brainwash is word that would be the core of this thesis. Researcher found that there not much thesis try to research this theme. Brainwashing itself according to the *Cambridge Dictionary*, to make someone believe something by repeatedly telling them that it is true and preventing any other information from reaching them.

Brainwash happen in all society from a small space like in an organization to the grand worldwide scales like a movement. This bring Social issues and it is a never-ending discussion. By the time, new issues will always arise as the population grows. One way to see social issues is through literature. Long (1909:13) noted that literature means simply the written records of the race, in the narrower sense, is the artistic record of life. Based on this explanation, literature is a cup that gives a reflected real-life situation in a real society.

Literary work is the product of literature. There are two types of literary works namely imaginative and non-imaginative. Imaginative literary works are literary works that emphasize the 'imagination' or the fictional nature while non-imaginative literary works are literary works that have many factual elements in them.

There are three forms of literature, namely poetry, prose and drama. The researcher wants to examine the prose in which there is a novel. Peck and Coyle (1984:102) stated that novel is a prose telling with a great amount of detail on every page, and usually reveal human values. Based on this definition, novel is the result of literary works contained in reality in the form of events, values, outlook on life in a society.

One of the most notable author is Eric Arthur Blair or mostly peoples known him as George Orwell. He created works that are famous which are *Animal Farm*, *The Road to Wigan Pier*, *Homage to Catalonia* and *1984*.

1984 is a novel tells the reader about a dystopian society where injustice thrive and ruled by a totalitarian government. Winston Smith is a party member that work in the ministry of truth, he never like the Ruling Party and its leader name Big Brother who monitored everything and everywhere it people. One day he found a diary and start pouring his thoughts in it which is a punishable crime. He continue to rebel against the party and found someone who help him in his rebellion until they both got caught and sent to prison where they both are torture until the brainwash process complete. When the brainwash process complete Winston has reborn, never to defy the Ruling Party and now love the Big Brother

The researcher sees there a system that tries to control the society reflected in *1984*. This novel portrayed a Dystopian society where Totalitarian Government rule, a government that everything is monitored by the Ruling Party and their punishment to those who are not abiding the law. The Ruling Party implemented a language called Newspeak, an Avatar that monitored people private lives called Big

Brother and last four ministries that control the society. The Ruling party brainwash the peoples for their own agenda through many systems that are created to control their thoughts and actions.

The researcher chose this novel as the object of this study because the researcher found interest in the struggle of Winston and Julia to uncover the truth, The Totalitarian government itself and how the Ruling Party in the novel systematically seizes power through brainwashing its peoples.

The researcher is also interested to do this study because the researcher see the similarity of social problems reflected in *1984* with this modern era. That can be connected with biggest problem which are Terrorist Group example like ISIS down to a smaller problem like Peoples Organization.

B. Identification of Problem

After reading the novel several times, there are some problems that occurs in the novel *1984* mentioned below;

1. The impact of totalitarian government.
2. The Winston's act of rebel.
3. The psychological condition of the main character caused by the totalitarian government.
4. The social condition under the totalitarian government.
5. The brainwashing system of the ruling party.

C. Scope of Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the researcher only focuses to identify the brainwashing system that tries to control main character and minor characters in Orwell's *1984* and to analyze the brainwashing process implemented by the ruling party illustrated in Orwell's *1984*.

D. Research Question

After limiting the research question, the researcher formulates two states of problems as follows:

1. What are the brainwashing system that tries control the characters in Orwell's *1984*?
2. How is the brainwashing process implemented by the Ruling Party illustrated in Orwell's *1984*?

E. Objective of Study

Based on research question above, the objective of this study are;

1. To describe the brainwashing system that tries control the characters in Orwell's *1984*
2. To analyze the brainwashing process implemented by the ruling party illustrated in Orwell's *1984*.

F. Sequence

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter one consists of Background of Study, Identification of Problem, Scope of Problem, Research Question, Objective of Study, and Sequence. Chapter two consists of Previous Study, Structuralism approach, and Brainwashing System. Chapter three consists of methodological

Design, Method of Collecting Data, and Method of Analyzing Data and Research Procedure. Chapter four contains the Finding of the research. Lastly, Chapter five includes Conclusion and Suggestion.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the researcher provides some explanation of previous study, structuralism approach, and brainwashing.

A. Previous Study

The researcher found several studies related to the topic of the research that will help the researchers as the references for this study. The first study is written by Laily (2016) wrote *Brainwashing as a Strategy for Building Uniformity Reflect in Lois Lowry's The Giver (1993): Sociological Approach*. This thesis explain what are the characteristics of brainwashing, the process of brainwashing and to reveal the underlying reason how Lois Lowry address brainwashing based on sociological approach. The similarity of this thesis are the keyword brainwahsing and the theory it used, while the different is this thesis use Lois Lowry's *The Giver* while the researcher use George Orwell's *1984*.

Second, Nabila Maulidio (2016) in her thesis *The Structure and World View of George Orwell's 1984: A Genetic Structuralism Application*. This thesis used genetic structuralism theory to focus on the world view of George Orwell by looking at the literary structure that focuses on the relationship of the main character and the social structure that help shapes *1984*. The result of this thesis is that Orwell's worldview is a humanism, portrayed in the characterization, setting and theme of *1984*. The researcher found that the similarity is the novel which is *1984* by George Orwell while the difference is that Nabila focused on the worldview of

George Orwell while the researcher only focuses on the brainwashing system of the Totalitarian Government.

Third is Yusliana (2017) who wrote a thesis entitled *The Social Criticism in George Orwell's 1984* which explained the kind of social criticism and the effect of totalitarian government on the characters in the novel *1984*. Yusliana concluded that the Totalitarian government which the party has an absolute power would try to control its citizens. The Similarity is only the novel while the differences are this thesis focus to critics the society of Totalitarian Government while researcher focuses on the brainwashing system of the Totalitarian Government.

Lastly, Muhammad Naufal (2021) entitled *The Impact of Totalitarian Government in Orwell's 1984*. Naufal used genetic structuralism approach by Lucien Goldman. This thesis explained how the Totalitarian Government that are portrayed in the novel could impact to the life style of it citizen the same way happened in the real world a country that are ruled by a totalitarian government. The researcher found that the novel and a keyword of Totalitarian are similar but the Researcher focus on the Brainwashing System while the Naufal focus on the Totalitarian Government only.

It can be concluded that the similarity between the researcher current study and three last previous study is the Object are *1984* written by George Orwell. The differences are the first study is similar to what the researcher aims for which brainwashing and the theory of structuralism approach. The only different is the object of the researcher which is *1984*.

The second study focuses on the worldview of George Orwell. The third study focuses on the social criticism that are portrayed in *1984*. The last study focus on the Totalitarian Government and try to explain the connection of the novel and what happen in the real world through genetic structuralism.

B. Structuralism Approach

In order to answer the research questions mentioned in chapter I, the researcher used structuralism approach. Barthens (2001:55) mentioned that structuralism was introduced in France by the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure who developed the study of language in early twentieth century. Saussure is a linguist who interested in study of language and he used structuralism to discover his study of language.

Barthens (2001:43) defined structuralism as an idea that structures of literary text which elements interrelated and influence each other as a whole entity. Teeuw (1984:135) argued that structural approach tries to describe the function of each element of literary work as structural unity that produced a comprehensive meaning. In addition, Wellek and Warren (1949:140) explained structural approach, which consists of material and structure of the text of the literary works. It can be said that the structure of literary works is composed by form and content. The form is the way the author writes, while content is the idea that an author expressed in writing.

Based on definitions above, it can be concluded that structuralism approach is an approach that analyze literary works using internal elements of the text. The intrinsic elements consist of character, setting, plot, and theme. The complete explanation of instrinsic elements are mentioned below:

1. **Character**

The next essential story element is a Character. The character can be defined as any person, animal, or figure represented in a literary work.

Abrams (1999:32) defined characters are the persons who are represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader who has certain moral intelligence and emotional qualities that could be identified from their words and action. Stanton (2007:35) stated that characters divided into major or main character and minor character. As the major character of a story, this character is the most important and has a big part of a story. This major character will be the one involving in everything that happens along the story. Furthermore, the major character will be helped by minor characters. Each minor characters has a specific impact to complete the story by influencing the main character in a certain way.

In addition, Tarigan (1985:76) stated that character can be divided into main, second and supporting characters. That characters are divided based on the frequency of getting in touch with other characters. The main character has the more important role in the story and undergoes more description than other characters. Secondary character is the character who plays a part in a story and influenced the main character to do something. The last one is supporting or additional characters are the characters who have no important role because their appearance is just to complete, serve and support the main character.

From the statement above the researcher concluded that character is a person or a being that appear in literary work that has both emotion and action that the reader could distinguish, and that the character is divide into two which are major characters that has a big impact and the important character in the story and minor character that are appear to serve briefly to the story or only to support the main character.

2. **Plot**

Stanton (1965:14) stated that plot is the entire sequence of the events in the story that presented in as sequence of interrelated. While Perrine (1993:41) mentioned that plot is the sequence of events or events which the story is composed and it may conclude what the characters says or thinks, as well as what he does, but it leaves out a description and an analysis and concentrates ordinarily on major happening. Kenney defined plot as mentioned below:

Plot is the highest importance in expressing the meaning of a work of fiction. It is through plot that the author organizes the raw material of experience, and an author's way of organizing experience must tell us a great deal about his way of understanding experience that is, about the meaning experience has for him. Surely, our sense of meaning of experience is closely tied to our understanding of what, because what and it is the business of plot to clarify causal relationship. (1966:23).

Wellek and Warren (1949:224) implied plot is the narrative of play, tale or novel. The plot (narrative structure) is itself composed of smaller narrative structures (episodes, incidents) and it is customary to speak of all plots as involving conflicts (man against natures, man against other man, or man fighting with himself). Moreover, Abrams (1999:227) mentioned that there are five essential

parts of plot according to Freytag's pyramid namely exposition, raising action, climax, falling action, and denouement.

These five essential parts elaborated below:

a) Exposition: The beginning of the story where the characters and the setting is revealed.

b) Rising Action: This is where the events in the story become complicated and the conflict in the story is revealed (events between the introduction and climax). The rising action introduces the conflict or problem in the story. During the rising action, the main character struggles with this conflict or problem.

c) Climax: the climax is the high point of the story where the conflict or problem changes or is resolved. Something happens in the climax to create a turning point for the characters in the story.

d) Falling action: The falling action is the series of events which take place after the climax; it is where the protagonist must react to the changes that occur during the climax of the story. The events and complications begin to resolve them. The reader knows what has happened next and if the conflict was resolved or not (events between climax and denouement).

e) Denouement: This is the final outcome of events in the story. The ending, any remaining secrets, questions or mysteries which remain are solved by the characters or explained by the author. Sometimes the author leaves us to think about the theme or future possibilities for the characters. The author often ties up the loose ends of the story to have the plot reach a conclusion.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that plot is a string of continuous events in a story from the start until the end. The author of literary work use plot to make the story interesting in their own way.

3. **Setting**

Kenney (1966:78) defined setting as everything that happens somewhere at some time, that elements of fiction, which reveals the where and when of events. Abrams (1999:284) argued that the overall setting of the story is the general locale, historical time, and social circumstances in which its action occurs. While Brooks and Warren (1957:687) said that setting is physical background and the element of place in a story. Moreover, Hudson implied that:

The form of material/physical setting are time, place of action of physical and physical objects such as houses, rooms, furniture, areas, and so on. Social settings include the depiction of the social-cultural conditions of the community, such as customs, ways of life, the language of the social group and the attitude of his life, and others that underlie the events of the story (1998:158).

In addition, Nurgiyantoro (1995:227) mentioned that elements of setting can be divided into three kinds namely setting of place, setting of time, and setting of culture. Setting of place refers to the location where the events of fiction take place. Setting of time related to the time when all events occurred. Setting of culture refers to the cultural conditions and assumptions. Setting of culture could be formed as a habitual, customs, tradition, beliefs, philosophies, and the way of thinking. Setting of culture is also related to the social status of characters whether it is low class, middle class or high class.

4. **Theme**

Kenney (1966:91) defined theme as a meaning, but it is not hidden and it is not illustrated. Sudjiman (1991:50) mentioned that the theme is the main idea or thought that underlies a literary work. While Aminuddin (1995:91) stated that theme is the idea that underlies a story so that it also acts as the base of the author's starting point in describing the work of fiction he created.

In addition, Stanton (1965:4) described that theme is a central idea and central purpose in a story that is explained in a simple way. It can be concluded that theme is the main idea that underlie a story written by the author.

Structuralism approach work the best to answer research questions mentioned in Chapter I. Structuralism used as an approach to convey the content in Orwell's *1984*, the researcher is able to identify the brainwashing system that tries to control main character and minor characters in Orwell's *1984* and to analyze the brainwashing process implemented by the ruling party illustrated in Orwell's *1984*.

C. The Concept of Brainwashing

Brainwashing according to the *Cambridge Dictionary*, to make someone believe something by repeatedly telling them that it is true and preventing any other information from reaching them. With this definition researcher found a system that try to control using Brainwashing in 1984. The researcher divides it into three categories which are Historical, Language and Torture.

According Taylor (2004), a man who washed his brain has a new personality, much different from before. When invited to speak, he seemed confused and what is said is not realistic, sometimes scared as a tape cassette, which is set from the beginning to end, over and over again without modification. Also he looks weird but it has the psychological strength to carry out his thought. Feeling nothing to suppress it, but was unable to use his reason realistically. Unwavering loyalty and cannot be bent at all. He does as if just instinct. The State called trance element.

Theories of brainwashing and mind control are originally developed to explain how a Totalitarian regimes appeared to systematically indoctrinate prisoners of war through propaganda and torture techniques. These theories we later expanded and modified by psychologist including Margaret Singer and Philip Zimbardo to explain a wider range of phenomena especially conversion to new religious movement. Robert Jay Lifton was one of the early psychologists to study brainwashing and mind control. He called the method used *thought reform*.

Lifton (1963:4) explained that Brainwashing is a Totalitarian, deep, compelling exceptional method of seizing total control over the human mind.

In addition, Lifton elaborate the steps how the prisoners that are being brainwash has been through.

In the interplay between person and environment, a sequence of steps or operations *—of combinations of manipulation and response—takes place. All of these steps revolve about two policies and two demands: the fluctuation between assault and leniency, and the requirements of confession and reeducation. The physical and emotional assaults bring about the symbolic death; leniency and the developing confession are the bridge between death and rebirth; the re-education process, along with the final confession, create the rebirth experience.” (Lifton, 1963:67)

The Researcher try to simplifies the method into ten steps of how the brainwashing process is. The brainwashing process is ;

1. Assault on identity

Aspects of self-identity are systematically attacked. For example the priests were told that they were not real Fathers. This has a serious destabilizing effect as people lose a sense of who they are. Losing the self also leads to weakening of beliefs and values, which are then easier to change.

2. Guilt

Constant arguments that cast the person as guilty of any kind of wrong-doing leads them to eventually feel shame about most things and even feel that they deserve punishment. This is another piece of the jigsaw puzzle of breakdown.

3. Self-betrayal

When the person is forced to denounce friends and family, it both destroys their sense of identity and reinforces feelings of guilt. This helps to separate them from their past, building the ground for a new personality to be built.

4. Breaking point

The constant assault on identity, guilt and self-betrayal eventually leads to them breaking down, much as the manner of the 'nervous breakdown' that people experience for other reasons. They may cry inconsolably, have convulsive fits and fall into deep depression. Psychologically, they may effectively be losing a sense of who they are and hence fearing total annihilation of the self.

5. Leniency

Just at the point when the person is fearing annihilation of the self, they are offered a small kindness, a brief respite from the assault on their identity, a cigarette or a drink. In those moments of light amongst the darkness, they may well feel a deep sense of gratitude, even though it is their torturer who is offering the 'kindness'. This is another form of Hurt and Rescue, albeit extreme.

6. The Compulsion to Confess

Having being pulled back from the edge of breakdown, they are then faced with the contrast of the hurt of potential further identity assault against the rescue of leniency. They may also feel the obligation of exchange in a need to repay the kindness of leniency. There also may be exposed to them the opportunity to assuage themselves of their guilt through confession.

7. The Channeling of Guilt

The overwhelming sense of guilty and shame that the person is feeling will be so confused by the multiple accusations and assaults on their identity, that the person will lose the sense of what, specifically, they are guilty of, and just feel the heavy burden of being wrong.

This confusion allows the captors to redirect the guilt towards what ever they please, which will typically be having lived a life of wrong and bad action due to living under an ideology which itself is wrong and bad.

8. Reeducation: Logical Dishonoring

The notion that the root cause of their guilt is an externally imposed ideology is a straw at which the confused and exhausted person grasps. If they were taught wrongly, then it is their teachers and the ideology that is more at fault. Thus to assuage their guilt, further confession about all acts under the ideology are brought out. By mentally throwing away these acts (in the act of confession) they also are now completing the act of rejecting the whole ideology.

9. Progress and Harmony

The rejection of the old ideology leaves a vacuum into which the new ideology can be introduced. As the antithesis of the old ideology, it forms a perfect attraction point as the person flees the old in search of a contrasting replacement.

This progress is accelerated as the new ideology is portrayed as harmonious and ideally suited to the person's needs. Collegiality and calm replaces pain and punishment. The captors thus contrast in visible and visceral ways how wonderful the new ideology is as compared to the sins and the pain of the old ideology.

10. Final Confession and Rebirth

Faced with the stark contrast of the pain of the past with the rosy glow of the future that the new ideology presents, the person sheds any the final allegiance to the old ideology, confessing any remaining deep secrets, and takes on the full mantle of the new ideology.

This often feels, and has been described by many, as a form of rebirth. It may be accompanied by rites of passage as the person is accepted and cemented into the new order. The rituals will typically include strong statements made by the person about accepting the new ideology fully and completely, swearing allegiance to its leaders. Saluting flags, kissing other artefacts and other symbolic acts, all solemnly performed, all anchor them firmly in the new ground.