

**The Death and the Backstories of the Main Characters in Thornton  
Wilder's novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey***



*Thesis*

*Submitted to Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University in Partial  
Fulfillment of Requirements to obtain a Sarjana Degree in English*

**BY**

**Ahmad Misuari Gibran**

**F21115501**

**English Department**

**Faculty of Cultural Sciences**

**Hasanuddin University**

**Makassar**

**2019**



Optimization Software:  
[www.balesio.com](http://www.balesio.com)

THESIS

**The Death and the Backstories of the Main Characters in  
Thornton Wilder's novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey***

BY

AHMAD MISUARI GIBRAN

Student No. : F21115501

It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
and is declared to have fulfilled the requirements.

Approved by

Board of Supervisors

Chairman

Secretary



**Dr. Raden S.M. Assagaf, M.Ed**  
NIP. 196211091987031002



**Abbas, S.S., M.Hum.**  
NIP. 197507222008121002

Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences  
Hasanuddin University

Head of English Department



**Prof. Dr. Akin Duti, MA.**  
NIP:196407161991031010



**Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl.TESOL**  
NIP:196012311986011071



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES  
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY

AGREEMENT

Today, Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 2019, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by AHMAD MISUARI GIBRAN (No. F21115501) entitled, **The Death and the Backstories of the Main Characters in Thornton Wilder's novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey***, submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S.) Degree at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, May 28<sup>th</sup> 2019

BOARD OF THESIS EXAMINATION

- |  |                   |        |
|--|-------------------|--------|
| 1. Drs. Raden S. M. Assagaf, M. Ed.    | Chairman          | 1..... |
| 2. Abbas, S.S., M. Hum.                | Secretary         | 2..... |
| 3. Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl.TESOL. | First Examiner    | 3..... |
| 4. Dr. Herawaty, M. Hum.,M A.          | Second Examiner   | 4..... |
| 5. Drs. Raden S. M. Assagaf, M. Ed.    | First Supervisor  | 5..... |
| 6. Abbas, S.S., M. Hum.                | Second Supervisor | 6..... |



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES  
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY

APPROVAL FORM

With reference to the letter of the Dean Faculty of Cultural Science Hasanuddin University No: 1332/UN4.9.1/DA.08.04/2019 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm approve the thesis draft to be examined at the English Department Faculty of Cultural Science.

Makassar, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019

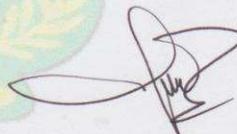
Approved by

First Supervisor,

Second Supervisor,



Drs. Raden S.M. Assagaf, M.Ed  
NIP. 196211091987031002



Abbas, SS., M.Hum.  
NIP. 197507222008121002

Approved for the Execution of Thesis Examination by  
The Thesis Organizing Committees

On Behalf of Dean  
Head of English Department,



Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A.Dipl.TESOL  
NIP. 196012311986011071



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES  
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY

DECLARATION

The thesis by **AHMAD MISUARI GIBRAN** (No. F21115501) entitled, **The Death and the Backstories of the Main Characters in Thornton Wilder's novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey***, has been revised as advised during the examination on May 28<sup>th</sup> 2019 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners :

1. Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl. TESOL. First Examiner



2. Dr. Herawaty, M. Hum., M.A. Second Examiner



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, the writer would like to give a lot of praises and thanks to Allah SWT. who had given His bless the life of the writer, and gave him the motivation to complete this thesis. The writer also hoped may Allah SWT always gives His blessings to all of us. The writer would also give the Shalawat and regards to the Prophet Muhammad PBUH. who had guided all of people from the darkness to the light.

The writer would also say thanks and give appreciations to his parents Sulaeman Fattah and Jasmawati Djemmang and all of his family, who had given their loves, aid, supports, motivations, and prayer for his success in completing his studies as a college student because the prayer and supports from the family are also the most important things for the writer in his completing his study.

There are a lot of difficulties and problems that the writer faced when making this thesis, but all of them are able to be solved by people who had aided and given him solutions. First, the writer would like to say thanks and give appreciations to the supervisors Drs. Raden S.M. Assagaf, M.Ed, and Abbas, SS., M.Hum., who had given a lot of solutions and advices in supervising the writer's process, and the writer would also say a lot of thanks to all of the lecturers in the English Department who had guided him from the start until the end.

The writer actually realized that there are many errors and mistakes in this thesis. Hence, the writer would like to accept all forms of critique and suggestions from the readers. At the end, the writer hoped that all of the contents in this thesis would also be useful for everyone and the future.

Makassar, May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019

Ahmad Misuari Gibran



## ABSTRACT

**AHMAD MISUARI GIBRAN.** *The Death and the Backstories of the Main Characters in Thornton Wilder's novel The Bridge of San Luis Rey* (Supervised by **Raden S.M. Assagaf** and **Abbas**)

The reference of this thesis is heavily inspired by various social situations and events that are common in reality, and this thesis is written in order to analyze the chronology of the incident, the function of the victims' respective backgrounds, and the roles of the minor characters in the novel.

The approach method that the writer uses in this analysis is the genetic structuralism method where it describes the importance of the chronological event and the death of the victims, with the victims' backgrounds and the roles of the minor characters served as the supporting elements. The analysis procedures of this thesis are the gathering of the data, the explanation of the points that are related to the gathered information, and the last part is the conclusion. The importance of using the genetic structuralism method in making this thesis is due to the novel representing the values of life, the social reality, and the cultures of a society in the past.

The result of this analysis exposes the detailed chronology of the five victims' death during the collapse of San Luis Rey bridge and the connection between the victims' backgrounds, the minor characters, and the accident that killed the victims. The event is found in a hypothesis that is written by Brother Juniper in form of a thick-sized book, but the background of the main characters and the minor characters' roles that are related to the event and the victims are the most prominent factors that supported the plot development and the chronology of the event in the novel.

**Keywords** : accident, death, flashback, incident



## ABSTRAK

**AHMAD MISUARI GIBRAN.** *The Death and the Backstories of the Main Characters in Thornton Wilder's novel The Bridge of San Luis Rey* (dibimbing oleh **Raden S.M. Assagaf and Abbas**)

Rujukan dari penelitian ini tampak terinspirasi dari berbagai keadaan sosial dan peristiwa yang biasa terjadi dalam kehidupan nyata, dan penelitian ini dibuat untuk menganalisa kronologi sebuah kejadian, fungsi dari latar belakang tiap-tiap korban kejadian, dan berbagai peran karakter pendukung dalam novel.

Metode pendekatan yang digunakan oleh penulis dalam penelitian ini adalah metode pendekatan strukturalisme genetik dimana penelitian ini membahas bagian terpenting di balik kejadian secara kronologis dan kematian para korban, dengan latar belakang masing-masing korban dan peran para karakter pendukung sebagai elemen pendukungnya. Langkah-langkah penyusunan analisa dalam penelitian ini antara lain pengumpulan data, penjelasan dari poin-poin yang berkaitan dengan informasi yang telah dikumpulkan, dan bagian terakhir adalah kesimpulan. Penggunaan metode strukturalisme genetik dalam menyusun penelitian ini adalah dikarenakan novel ini mewakili nilai-nilai kehidupan, realita sosial, serta kebudayaan suatu masyarakat di masa lalu.

Hasil dari analisa ini memaparkan kronologi kematian kelima korban peristiwa runtuhnya jembatan San Luis Rey dan hubungan di antara latar belakang para korban, para karakter pendukung, dan kecelakaan yang menewaskan para korban. Peristiwa ini ditemukan dalam hipotesis yang ditulis oleh Brother Juniper dalam bentuk buku yang berukuran tebal, namun latar belakang tiap-tiap karakter utama serta peran para karakter pendukung yang berkaitan dengan peristiwa inilah yang merupakan faktor-faktor paling utama dalam menyusun perkembangan alur dan kronologi peristiwa dalam novelnya.

**Kata kunci** : kecelakaan, kematian, kilas balik, peristiwa



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER .....	i
APPROVAL FORMS .....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	vi
ABSTRACT .....	vii
ABSTRAK .....	viii
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	ix
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Background .....	1
1.2 Identification .....	2
1.3 Scope of the Problem .....	3
1.4 Statement of the Problem .....	4
1.5 Objectives of the Problem .....	4
1.6 Sequence of the Chapters .....	5
CHAPTER II LITERARY REVIEW .....	6
2.1 Previous Study .....	6
2.2 Theoretical Framework .....	8
2.2.1 Formalist Structuralism .....	9
2.2.2 Sociological Aspects .....	11



• Character.....	11
• Theme.....	13
• Plot.....	15
• Setting.....	17
2.3 Extrinsic Aspects .....	18
• Death.....	19
• Accident.....	20
• Social Reality.....	21
CHAPTER III METHODOLOGY .....	22
a. Research Methodology.....	22
b. Sources of the Data .....	22
c. Data Collection.....	23
CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS.....	24
4.1. Why do the bridge collapse incident and the death of some characters become the most important points of the plot? .....	26
4.2. What are the functions of the different backgrounds of some characters insupporting the plot development? .....	39
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION .....	51
Bibliography	
APPENDIX	
1. Biography of Thornton Wilder	
2. Synopsis of the novel <i>The Bridge of San Luis Rey</i>	



# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the background, identification of the problems and the writer's purpose in writing this thesis.

### 1.1. Background

Literature is an artistic work that contains various beautiful elements in its contents, and it is purposed to express its artistic values and entertain the readers. Literature consists some works, such as novels, short stories, poems, and dramas, and it also has various genres, from comedy, horror, to tragedy, with some of them are based on events that occurred in real-life history.

One of the main examples of literature is novel. Novel is a form of literature that contains the arranged written form of a literature, and the arranged stories form the chapters of the storyline. The purpose of a novel is to demonstrate the concept of the social reality and conditions that inspired the story in order to entertain the readers. A novelist should have a good preparation, references, and idea before writing the stories and gathering them as a continuous plot.

Despite being a fictional work, the story and the setting of a novel are actually influenced by the social condition and various events in the past which give the novelist references to make a story, and the genre of a novel is also influenced by the



reality, social conditions, and the events that are witnessed by the novelist, for instance, if the novel is a tragic novel, the inspiration always comes from various unpleasant events such as disasters, accidents, warfare, and many others. Weliek (1948 : 219) described that novel is a form of narrative text that is based on the reality where it was written, and the language of the text is elevated as a form of description of something that actually never happened in real life.

In this thesis, the writer would like to analyze a novel titled *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. It is a novel written by an American author named Thornton Wilder, and this novel is about an incident in 18<sup>th</sup> Century where the Incan bridge collapsed, killing five people who were crossing it. This novel also explains the flashbacks of the five victims and their experiences during their lives.

The writer would like to analyze the death of the main victims and their different backgrounds within the story, and the incident that killed the main characters is considered serious as the incidents that caused people's death are common in reality, and the reason why the writer chooses this analysis is due to the story containing several serious contents that have something to do with the death and the social backgrounds as the entire story of *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* contains these aspects.

## 1.2. Identification



In this thesis, Wilder in the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* described the collapse incident, the victims' backgrounds, and the social life in the 18<sup>th</sup>

Century, and the writer would like to analyze the death of the five victims, the different backgrounds of the characters, and the important points of various minor characters' roles. The writer would also like to find out how these points would be analyzed in this thesis, and find out the connection between the first and the second topic of this thesis

Since this novel focuses on the characters' death and their backstories, the writer identified these primary aspects:

1. The reason why do the collapsing of the San Luis Rey bridge and the main characters' death become the primary points of the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*.
2. The backgrounds of some mentioned characters in the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, and the involvement of the minor characters' in every character's background.

### 1.3. Scope of the Problem

The writer focuses on these two aspects. The first is the reason behind the bridge collapse incident that caused the death of five mentioned characters, and the second is the different backgrounds of the characters and the supporting characters' roles in every background, as there are some parts of the background and the minor characters' involvement that are found in the main characters' plot developments the event occurred.



## 1.4. Statements of the Problem

Based on the identifications, the writer would like to analyze some statements of these problems :

1. Why do the bridge collapse incident and the death of the characters become the most important points of the main plot of the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*?
2. What are the functions of the different backgrounds of some characters in supporting the plot development of the novel?

## 1.5. Objectives of the Problems

The writer's purposes in this thesis are :

1. To analyze why do the tragic bridge collapse incident and the death of the characters become the most important points of the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*
2. To analyze the function of some characters' backgrounds that supports the plot development of the novel, and find out the connection between these topics and the main problem of the analysis



## 1.6. Sequence of the Chapters

The sequence of this thesis consists five chapters:

The first chapter is the introduction that describes the background of the research, identification of problems, scope, statements, purposes, and the sequence of the chapters in this thesis.

The second chapter is a literature review that contains all reviews from the experts and the theoretical frameworks that are used to analyzes a literature work.

The third chapter is the methodology of the research. This chapter explains how the writer gathers and analyzes the data and the details of a literature work.

The fourth chapter is the analysis. This chapter contains the presentation of the problems which purpose is to analyze all of the main issues that are found in the plot of the novel, as well as the development of the story and the intrinsic aspects that are found in the novel.

The fifth chapter is the conclusion. It mentions the review and the writer's brief opinion about the analysis that had been written in the fourth chapter, and also the further recommendation from the reader.



## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter reviews the previous studies and explains several information and the method that would be used writing in the analysis.

#### 2.1 Previous Study

In this section, the writer would like to describe and explain some previous studies about the analysis and studies about genetic structuralism and social realities in various literature works, particularly novels. Previous studies are obviously the most important sources that are required in order to analyze a chosen subject as these things could become the primary references that could help the writer in making a thesis. The concepts that would be explained in this section the concept of death, the characters' backgrounds, and the social background of people in the past that are found in Wilder's novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*.

Talking about the death concept that is analyzed in this thesis, this concept has something to do with Thornton Wilder's another work, namely the play *Our Town*. Wahyuni Amir (2006) in her thesis analyzed the "Love and Death" elements of *Our Town*, as her thesis analyzed the love between George Gibbs and Emily Webbs, and

of the latter. In the drama *Our Town*, the death scene of the story is very different from the death scene of *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* where the characters' deaths in *Our Town* are considered normal, while the characters of *The*



*Bridge of San Luis Rey* died in a tragic incident, which made the plot of the latter containing a tragic story.

On the other side, the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* also exposed the different backgrounds of the mentioned characters as all of them came from different social communities. Nirwana (1999) in her thesis about Edward Albee's play *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* mentioned and analyzed that historical background and social intercourses in community are the main component of making a literature work, and the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* itself contains the historical background, cultural aspects, and social reality. However, *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* described the social reality of Peruvian people in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, while *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* described the social reality and cultural aspects of Post-World War II American people. Sismayanti (2008) in her thesis about Charles Dickens' novel *Oliver Twist* also analyzed the social reality of a country in the past. However, unlike Thornton Wilder's *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* that describes the social reality of Peruvian people, *Oliver Twist* is a novel that describes the social condition and reality of Victorian-era British people in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The similarity between this thesis and these studies is the similar analysis of the topic where these texts analyzed the problems by using the method of genetic

ism as the main points are related to social realities and experiences, that these previous studies also analyzed the extrinsic social elements that



are used as the inspirations of literature work, although there are several differences in the topic that are described by the respective writers.

## 2.2 Theoretical Framework

In this section, the writer would like to guide the readers to a topic about the exposition of several theory basis that is used to analyze the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*. In order to analyze a fictional work such this novel in a scientific way, theoretical frameworks are completely necessary, and these aspects serve as the basis to examine the writer's analysis. Before analyzing a work, the writer required a theory to build and support the discussion and explanations in the analysis of the text just like the other analysis research. Several examples of real-life elements that are found in literature works, especially novels, are the aspects of social life and problems such as conflicts between two or more people, family issues, social stigma, disaster, death, and other problems. Gordon (1961 : 2) said that novel is a narrative text which contents are completely based on various events in the contemporary reality, indicating that the content of a novel is always related to the reality where the author lived and wrote the story. These elements are always present within the text, and they are useful to help the readers or the audiences who tried to understand the meaning of real-life problems. A fictional event that is written in a literature work

to represent and reflect the social life of people in the past, which gave the lot of idea and inspiration to develop the contents of his or her work. The



author's work could also lead the readers and the researchers analyzing the entire story and the components that became the factors behind the fictional event.

The writer should find several theories from the experts as a way to explain the theory that would be used in this thesis, and the theoretical frameworks are required to analyze the overall story and the chosen topic of the novel. When analyzing the novel, the writer would use the said theory as his or her method to find out the answer and solve the problems that the writer analyzed.

The theoretical frameworks that would be used to analyze the problems that become the discussed topics in this thesis are:

### **a. Genetic Structuralism**

Genetic Structuralism is a form of structural concept that comes from a French sociologist named Lucien Goldmann. Goldmann wanted to expose the extrinsic elements of a literature based on the social life and the "world view" as the previous structural theory did not describe the details of the extrinsic element and it was too weak to analyze the social problems that are adapted in a work. Goldmann (1981 : 111) said that the world view is a logical and coherent perspective that is related to the relationship between humans and the universe, but it is completely different in

literature works where the view is deemed as an imaginary view. Genetic Structuralism is described as an analysis of structuralism that focuses on real life in a literary work, while the structure often focuses on the internal aspects



such as the characters, theme, and the setting of the story, indicating that the latter is not strong enough to show the detailed information about the extrinsic elements based on the social reality when a literature work was written. Genetic Structuralism has a great contribution in literary reviews where this theory entirely describes the connection between a literature work and the real life history that inspired the work. Goldman in Faruk (2003:12) also said that a work is a structure. However, the structure is not static, but a product of the structural and destructural processes in history that is known by the people. Suwardi (2008 : 56) on the other side also explained that a genetic structuralism research views a literature work from two different sides: external and internal, and the study is started from the intrinsic research as a base and the extrinsic element where the research is connected with the reality and fact.

. In this thesis, the writer would like to use the genetic structuralism approach to analyze the bridge collapse incident and the death of some characters in the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, and the writer would also analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of this novel. The intrinsic aspects of this novel are the plot, setting, theme, characters, and the point of view. Meanwhile, the extrinsic elements of the novel are the social reality and real-life events that inspired the event that is written in this novel.



## **b. Intrinsic Aspects**

Intrinsic aspects are the main component that build a literature work, and they are the internal parts that are found inside the story of a work. The primary purposes of the intrinsic aspects in a literature work are to ease the readers know the main components of the text and to introduce the chronological story behind a mentioned event in the work. The intrinsic aspects are important in the writing of a literature work as they could expose everything that are involved in the plot development, from the characters to the setting.

In every literature work, there are four main intrinsic aspects that the writer would like to explain:

- **Character**

Character is one the main intrinsic elements in a literature work where this element has several fictitious people with their own characteristics, from protagonists to antagonists.

Marsh (1995 : 26) said that characters are the fictional people in the work, and they are the part of someone's life that we read, and we might dislike, admire, or sympathize with them, and Halsey (1987 : 163) also explained that a character is a

that is used as a primary representation of a novel, play, and many others.



In fact, characters are fictitious people that is made by the author, and they are known by their social lives and how they act when someone reads a work such a novel or watching a play. The author also describes the characters by their psychological developments, the way they feel and think, and the society around them. Characters are the most important intrinsic aspects among the other aspects as the fictitious people in the story have a lot of roles and functions that caused various development in the story, from starting an event, facing a conflict, and solving various problems. There are several classification of characters in a work :

- Major character :

A character or a group whose serves as the main focus of the story, and he/she has many roles that become the main focus of the story. There are two divisions of major characters : The major protagonists, and the major antagonists

- Protagonist :

A character or a group that becomes the focus of a story due to their most important role

- Antagonist :

A character or a group that are against the protagonist, and they are always described as the enemies



- Minor character :

A character or a group that support the main characters. There are also two divisions of the minor characters : The minor protagonists, who support the main character and the minor antagonists, who support the opponents.

- Static character :

A character whose status is never changed, his/her position remains the same until the end of the story.

- Dynamic character :

A character whose status often changes depending on the condition or their affiliation in the plot

In the novel of *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, there are various characters that could be found in the text, with Brother Juniper and the five mentioned victims (Dona Maria, Pepita, Esteban, Uncle Pio, and Don Jaime) served as the major characters due to their function in causing the main event of the novel, while the others served as the supporting or minor characters that supported and helped the development of the plot despite only appeared on some occasions.

- **Theme**

Theme is a general subject that refers to something that becomes the main topic,

made through the authors imagination, characterization, and the characters

the text. It is the second main intrinsic aspect of literature, as it is the main



composition that created the topic that mentioned everything that occurred within the plot of a work.

Meine (1958 : 749) said that theme is a subject or a topic that is written or spoken by someone as a subject of a text or a discussion, and a short dissertation that are composed by students, while Gill (1995 : 195) explained that theme is a subject of a discussion or a writing, and every fictional works has its theme. A theme may discuss the problems that occurred in this life, the author's view and his/her reactions toward the society in the real life, and Stanton (2007 : 36) said that theme is the meaning that explains the elements of a literature work in an easy way akin to the main ideas, principal objective of the text, and the main aspects of humans' life.

*The Bridge of San Luis Rey* is a tragic-themed novel where it tells the reader about an accident where a hanging bridge collapsed and killed five people who were crossing it, making it the most tragic scene in the story. Another tragic concept in this novel is the death of a friar named Brother Juniper. He was punished in front of the public for writing a heretical hypothesis about the victims' death during the accident, with his book being burned. Since the characters' deaths are the main point of the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, it is considered one of the tragic stories in literature world.



- **Plot**

Plot is an arrangement of the incidents that the author writes in his or her work, and it contains various actions that gives the specific focus to the story. The hidden contextual meaning, contradictions, conflict, a character's social development, and the causality of a case are also present in every plot of a literature work. All of these aspects build the quality of a literature work that can be recognized by everyone, especially the readers. The arranged development of an incident in a plot always depends on the difficult level of the story, and the author would also used his or her idea and various method to write the chronology of an event in the work depending on what he or she had seen in reality.

Keraf (1989 : 148) mentioned that a plot is a core of a story that arranges the connection between an act and the other acts and exposes causality element in various aspects, for instance, the connection between two or more incidents, characters and his or her roles, and the relationship between the situation and the characters roles and involvement at the same time.

There are five parts of plot that composed and arranged the development of the whole story of a literature works. Each of these parts has its function to arrange the complete form of a work. The examples of these divisions are:



a. Exposition:

This part is the introduction of the characters in the text, and it shows the relationship between the characters, their purposes, their motives, and who they are. The most important point of this part is the audience wanted to know the main protagonist, and the protagonist wanted to know his purpose and the risk that he or she would face if he or she is failed to fulfill this purpose.

b. Rising Action:

In this part, everything starts with the main conflict of the story that is caused by an unpleasant incident such as a character's death, or a disaster. The rise of the action also lead the main character to the climax or the decision to face the problems and conflicts.

c. Climax:

This part exposes the main character's decision to deal with an antagonist or facing a dangerous event that leads to the motive of the main character's action. The character would use everything he or she know to face various problems that must be solved.

d. Falling action:

In this scene, everything that occurred in the event goes worse and this part contains the story that becomes the most serious problem that the protagonist

aces



e. Resolution:

Resolution is the final moment of a conflict between the main protagonist and the main antagonist, leading them to the result why an event happens and the meaning of the event itself

Talking about the plot of *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, it is a novel that tells the readers about an ancient hanging bridge that collapsed and killed the victims. The accident that killed the victims is found the first part of the plot, following the characters' introductions, backgrounds, and the conflicts in the next parts until the climax of the story.

- **Setting**

Setting is a part that describes the place where an event happens, the time and period that the story sets, and also the social background of the story. Setting is also important as it can reveal the characteristics of a theme that is used in a work, and it also represented the social reality that became the inspiration of the story.

Gill (1995 : 291) said that setting is a part that can reveal the “personality”, theme, and the characteristics of a literature story.



In literature works, the setting is divided into three parts, and these parts are:

1. Settings of place :

The locations that are used in the entire story of a work. Every chapter of a work may have different locations.

2. Settings of time :

The period that is used as the setting of the story to represent the society in the past. The other time are also involved in the plot, but as the different positions.

3. Settings of situations :

The situations that are found as a representation of the feelings that implies the situation of an event within the story

The novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* has various settings. First, the location takes place in Peru, South America, with the bridge becomes the main location that is mentioned in the plot. Second, the novel mentions the society that lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, where the South America is influenced by Spanish and other European cultures. Third, the situation of this novel is somehow gloomy, as the death of the characters would cause a sad situation in the development of the story.

### 2.3 Extrinsic Aspects



insic aspects are the external factors that inspired the author to write his or based on the reality where he or she lived. In literature, extrinsic aspects are

the sources that inspired the author to start writing his or her work based on the social reality. The references that become extrinsic aspects of a literature works are always based on the social reality where the author was alive.

Discussing the extrinsic aspects that inspired Wilder to write the novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*, these are the main references of the extrinsic aspects:

- **Death**

Death is always described as the opposite of life, as it is something that become everyone's final destiny after his/her life ends. In the literal meaning, death is a destiny where a soul is separated from the body forever, and it is inevitable, as every living being in this world will feel the death, especially humans.

In human life, death is always considered terryfing, as many humans are afraid of being dead due to their love for this life. However, there are many humans who prepared themselves in this life before facing their deaths, and there are also several classifications of deaths:

1. Normal death where somebody's normal death is usually caused by the factor of diseases, aging, or fate. This category is common in humans' life.
2. Tragic death, which is usually caused by an unpleasant event. For instance,

ere are some people who are killed after an accident, a disaster, or a murder cident.



3. Epic death. This type is often seen in someone sacrificed his/her life during a fight or a war, making him/her a hero for everyone.

Based on the novel, the type of death that is found in its story is classified as the tragic death as the characters who were crossing the bridge fell down and died in the accident as the bridge collapsed.

- **Accident**

Accident is an event that harms one or many victims, and it is not expected by everyone. Accident itself may cause a serious impact toward the victims, from an injury to the death of someone.

In the daily life, accidents usually always caused by the recklessness of humans or a natural phenomenon that may harm the creatures. Human's recklessness are the most common factor since there are many people who do not care about the others' safety and life, and most of the victims are injured or killed in the process. Natural phenomenon can also caused a serious accident, for instance, a landslide can kill many people and cause a serious traffic jam afterwards. In other words, when someone does not prioritize the safety of the other or a natural phenomenon occurs, those factors will cause a serious accident, and this will become something inevitable.



*the Bridge of San Luis Rey*, the accident that is mentioned in the story of the obviously the bridge collapse. The hanging bridge that becomes the between Lima and Cuzco from the Ancient Incan era collapsed due to

being old, and it was not strong enough to load people. This factor eventually caused the bridge collapsed, killing all five victims who were crossing it.

- **Social Reality**

Social reality is the other extrinsic aspect that inspired the author to make his or her work. Social reality is a reality based on the society and the period where the author lives. There are various social realities that might inspired the author in making a literature work, either it is a social reality in the past, present day, or possibly the future, although the latter is the rare occasion while the former two are the common examples of the inspiration. Before writing his or her work, the author should observe and find out everything that is found in a social reality, from lifestyle to event.

The social reality that influenced the whole content of novel *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* is the spreading of European Cultures that influenced South America during the Colonialization Era where the Spanish cultures in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Peru had become widespread throughout the entrie country, with Peru uses the Spanish language as the main language.

