

# LECTURE NOTES

SEM 4: ENGA-CC8

## Lecture Notes on the theme of survival and its significance in "Robinson Crusoe":

### I. Introduction to the Theme of Survival

- Definition: Survival refers to the act of staying alive and thriving in the face of adversity or challenging circumstances.
- Significance: The theme of survival is a central concern in "Robinson Crusoe", as the protagonist must use his skills, resources, and ingenuity to survive on a deserted island.

### II. Crusoe's Survival on the Island

- Initial struggles: Crusoe faces numerous challenges when he first arrives on the island, including finding food, building shelter, and coping with the psychological effects of isolation.
- Adaptation and resourcefulness: Crusoe uses his skills and resources to adapt to his new environment, including building a hut, hunting for food, and creating tools.
- Spiritual and emotional struggles: Crusoe also faces spiritual and emotional struggles, including feelings of loneliness, guilt, and redemption.

### III. The Significance of Survival in "Robinson Crusoe"

- Commentary on human nature: The novel offers a commentary on human nature, including our capacity for resilience, adaptability, and survival in the face of adversity.
- Exploration of the human condition: The novel explores the human condition, including our relationship with nature, our need for companionship and community, and our capacity for spiritual growth and redemption.
- Reflection of 18th-century values: The novel reflects the values of 18th-century England, including the importance of hard work, self-reliance, and individualism.

### IV. Symbolism and Imagery in the Novel

- The island as a symbol: The island can be seen as a symbol of isolation, loneliness, and the human condition.
- The sea as a symbol: The sea can be seen as a symbol of chaos, uncertainty, and the unknown.
- Imagery and description: Defoe's use of imagery and description creates a vivid picture of the island and its inhabitants, and serves to underscore the themes of survival and the human condition.

## **V. Historical and Cultural Context**

- 18th-century England: The novel reflects the values and attitudes of 18th-century England, including the importance of colonialism, trade, and individualism.
- The rise of the novel: "Robinson Crusoe" was one of the first English novels, and it helped to establish the novel as a popular literary form.
- Influence of other literary works: The novel was influenced by other literary works, including "The Odyssey" and "The Tempest".

## **VI. Conclusion**

- The theme of survival is a central concern in "Robinson Crusoe", and it serves to underscore the human condition and our capacity for resilience and adaptability.
- The novel offers a commentary on human nature, and it reflects the values and attitudes of 18th-century England.
- The novel's use of symbolism, imagery, and description creates a vivid picture of the island and its inhabitants, and serves to underscore the themes of survival and the human condition.

## **VII. References**

- Defoe, D. (1719). Robinson Crusoe. London: W. Taylor.
- Rogers, P. (1979). Robinson Crusoe. London: Allen & Unwin.
- Watt, I. (1957). The Rise of the Novel: Studies in Defoe, Richardson, and Fielding. London: Chatto & Windus