

CORRUPTION, OFFICIALS' ATTITUDE, AND MECHANISM OF OFFICIALS ELECTION IN A HISTORY OF NEW YORK BY WASHINGTON IRVING

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ABSTRACT:

This study aims at analyzing how Irving actually used the Dutch history in America as a means to attack the new American government in 19th century. A History of New York is a parody written by Washington Irving that is full of innuendo. Irving made the history of the Dutch rule in North America in the 17th century as a bridge of criticizing the New American government in the 19th century. By using representation theory and the New Historicism approach, this research seeks to see the implicit meaning presented through parody and satire by Irving in his work A History of New York. This research discusses how Irving insinuated governors, officials and council members. The result of the study find that corruption practices, bad attitudes of the state officials, and the mechanism of the election of state officials are things that are actually being "attacked" by Irving, but the use of hilarious parody to insinuate requires a historical context to reveal what Irving wants to criticize.

KEYWORDS: parody, satire, representation, new historicism

INTRODUCTION:

Washington Irving's work about the past of New York was deliberately titled with word 'history', but it was written in the form of parody in which is full of innuendo. This is odd for historical writing, because it uses literary form and language. Accordingly, it must be treated as literary work. That work is still relevant today, more than two hundred years since it was published in 1809. The presented allegory and

satires are still sharp because they are still suitable today, if they are viewed from the deep meaning expressed by the work. The past New York was the Dutch colony in North America. It was created into a parody by Irving to criticize the new American government which was formed in the dawn of 19th century. His work imitates the history of New York written by Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchil.

This study aims at analysing how Irving actually used The Dutch history in America as a means to attack the new American government in 19th century by using Representation theory and New Historicism approach. The governor figures who ruled New Netherland (New York now) and other supporting figures in the story were used as a means of political satire in the New American government. This innuendo or satire is conveyed either directly or indirectly in Irving's work. Nevertheless, this study also uncovers that Irving's parody in A History of New York is eventually aimed at two eras, namely the New Netherland period in the 17th century and New America in the 19th century.

Satire is a phrase that laughs at and rejects something, which at the same time satire contains criticism about human weaknesses. The main goal is to carry out ethical improvements (Keraf, 1985, p. 144), while parody is an imitation of a serious work with humorous way. Satire and parody are actually related. When parody is directed at the work of others, satire attacks more to the real world (Fischer, 1999, p. 6). Irving satirized directly and indirectly throughout the story. Irving's direct insinuation is to compare the situation of the New American government with the New

Netherland government. Meanwhile, satire indirectly attacks the situation of the New Netherland government which is illustrated by various figures in the form of jokes to insinuate the New Netherland government itself. The Governors of New Netherland in the fiction of A History of New York are only three figures since its establishment until the end of the colony, whereas in the historical reality the amount of New Netherland leaders were more than three people. These three governor figures were deliberately adjusted to the amount of presidents during the early American administration, when Irving published his parody. Between the New Netherland and New American governments is always associated with the similarity of characteristics presented through allegory.

Through the story of Van Twiller's administration, this writing concentrates only to his era; we can observe three layers of text in Irving's work. **First**, the top surface of the text is a parody or humorous story about the story of a hilarious government with silly leaders. In the **second** layer, this story satirized Van Twiler's government that really existed in the history, but it is difficult to grasp the meaning if the allegory through Irving's joke were not opened by linking the history of the government of the real Wouter van Twiller. If Irving's work is perceived by digging into its historical background, it is able to be understood by trying to grasp the allegory at the same time. It is as if we expose the other side that Irving also wanted to convey. In the **third** layer, we get a comparison with officials in the New American era, because Irving compared directly between the aldermen and the New Netherland council, but frequently his innuendo is covered with jokes. Accordingly, this third layer is also not easy to trace if we do not consider how Irving assessed the government in his time through the background of Irving's life context. These three things are intertwined in the text, and are not

easy to trace.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

When Washington Irving produced his work The Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent in 1819 in the form of a collection of short stories, his name soared famous into Europe. The interest of the public of United States of America (USA) for his work was mainly due to the existence of two stories that illustrate the life of the Dutch society in America in the 18th century, namely "Rip van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow". "Rip van Winkle" describes the life of Dutch people in America in the transition period when it was still a British colony, then a period of American independence. Meanwhile, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" describes the lives of the Dutch in a small village in America in the post-independence period.

Ten years before The Sketch Book, Irving had written the lives of the Dutch in the 17th century near the Hudson River, North America. This work entitled A History of New York was published in 1809. It was not Irving's first writing, but he began to be noticed and became popular in America as a writer of literary works, especially in New York City, because of the selection of narrative subjects in A History of New York, namely the Dutch New York community. A History of New York tells the life of the Dutch people in North America since the beginning of Dutch colonization in the New Netherland, during the reign of three governors who ruled the area until the fall of the colony into British hands in 1664. The New Netherland region later became named New York under the British rule.

The story of the Dutch New Yorkers was actually touched in Salmagundi (published in 1807), a literary magazine made by Washington Irving, William Irving, and James Kirke Paulding. The passage that briefly portrays Dutch immigrants in New York in the past was

written by James Kirke Paulding, and that section inspired Washington Irving to write his work. (Bradley E. L., 2009, p. 26)

According to Elisabeth P. Funk (2009, p. 123), The Knickerbocker History is a treasure trove of Dutch popular culture in the Hudson Valley are present in it such as historical and religious legends, derisive or tall tales and supernatural stories including ghosts, witches, omens, and visions. Religious legends are represented through the story of St. Nicholas. In another article, Judith Richardson (2008, p. 87) cites Funk's statement that the Dutch like other groups in the New World brought their culture along with their legends.

Irving's creativity used American elements, especially in the background, which describe the beauty of the American nature on the banks of the Hudson River making Irving's writing different. Funk (2005) in her article "Knickerbocker's New Netherland: Washington Irving's Representation of Dutch Life on the Hudson" tried to understand Irving after outlining the pros and cons opinions of A History of New York's writings. According to her, Washington Irving at least recorded the life of an ethnic Dutch who lived in the 17th century near the Hudson River. In the 19th century when Irving lived, this Dutch community had begun to be displaced from New York life. With the publication of Irving's work, the people of New York were reminded again about the existence of ethnic Dutch in New York.

When Irving published A History of New York in 1809, researchers thought Irving was parodying the history of the city of New York. Mary Witherspoon Bouwden (1975, pp. 164-167); and Bradley (2009, p. 29) believe that Irving was insinuating the political situation at his lifetime through the three New Netherland governors he presented, namely Wouter van Twiller, Willem Kieft, and Peter Stuyvesant. Meanwhile William Bedford Clark (1982, p. 225) stated that Irving's writings always relate

to human experiences that are conveyed very humorous. Narrator Irving, who is a character named Geoffrey Crayon, in a collection of short stories Bracebridge Hall (published 1822) stated in the final paragraph of "The Author" that: "I have always had an opinion that much might be done by keeping mankind in good humour with one another" (Irving, 2015, p. 15). This shows that Irving did indeed consciously using humour as a means to describe the experience of human life. Irving's expertise in writing was recognized as far as Europe (Pancost, 1987, p. 180). At least, at the beginning of the formation of the American nation, Irving was considered as a writer who could be proud of. However, although many had praised and considered Irving to be an early American writer who sought to create American characteristics works, not a few were condemning his work. Some ethnic New Yorkers felt offended by the disrespectful treatment of their ancestors.

For more than a century Irving's writings received criticism and praise from various groups, namely historians and literary researchers, as well as from Dutch descendants of New York. However, Irving once expressed regret at certain families in his letter in 1837. Funk (2005) mentioned that in the second edition of A History of New York (1812), Irving omitted some of the offensive jokes. This shows that Irving paid attention to the criticisms directed against his work. A History of New York has been revised three times, namely in 1812, 1819, and in 1848 (McGann, 2012, pp. 350-351).

Irving showed how he used the Dutch New York as a means to satirize the government at the time, but at the same time it represented this ethnicity as one of the immigrants in the US. The representation became a problem because of this means. At the surface of the text, the Dutch became characters of the story and to be mocked, but Irving's target was actually the New

American government people. Accordingly, the representation theory is needed to be used here.

According to Stuart Hall (1997, p. 15), representation is an important part of the process in which meaning is produced and exchanged among members of a culture. The concept of Stuart Hall's representation is used here as the basis for this research to see how Washington Irving represents the past of New York through 17th century Dutch society, so that the representation produces a certain image about this ethnicity. The reappearance of 17th century New York Dutch society in a parody style gave this society certain unusual characteristics, whereas Irving intended on insinuating the New American government in the 19th century, when the parody of *A History of New York* was published.

Understanding representation involves three things, namely 'to stand for' which means to symbolize; 'to speak or act on behalf of' means to represent; to re-present means 'to bring back'. In practice, the three notions of representation often overlap (Giles & Middleton, 1999, pp. 56-57). Based on what Hall, Gilles and Middleton stated, it can be formulated that representation is an "external display" that is presented through symbols, images, and the most important is language that transmits certain meanings. Thus, the meaning is the "inner view" which is produced and transmitted. Representation includes symbolizing, reflecting, and re-presence. The meaning will be presented and transmitted through a system of representation (Baga, 2019, p. 113). Thus, representation is the production of meaning from concepts in our minds through language. The existence of a link between concepts and language allows us to refer to real world objects, people or events, as well as the imaginary world from imaginary objects, actors and events; according to Stuart Hall (1997, p. 17).

METHODOLOGY:

The method used in this study is the New Historicism (NH) approach. The New Historicism approach applies how two-way strategies are aimed at the past and the present. The contextual references to New America are used to link the picture of the New Netherland around the 17th century to what happened in the early 19th century. This approach is used with consideration of the problems and objectives presented in this study, namely the representation of 17th-century New York Dutch society which was used as a means to construct the myths of the New American nation in the 19th century.

Historical background is needed to see and examine conflicts that occurred in the past as the context, then, how the historical background affects fiction texts internally. Questioning the relevance of the text to history is an approach taken by New Historicism (NH). NH considers that the textual approach that focuses on the text and aesthetic aspects is less able to see the relationship of the text with the world that produces the text. Though the world of imagination built by the author is a way to bring back, respond to, and participate in constructing reality (Gallagher & Greenblatt, 2000).

Budianta (2006, pp. 11-12) states that NH focuses its attention on finding creative power as expressed that literature is inseparable from the influence of the social, political, and economic forces that surround it. All internalized in the text. This shows the difference between NH and its predecessor in making a historical approach to the text. The previous historical approach merely saw the text as a reflection of society. NH provided a new breakthrough by showing that the text can also be a claim against the social situation so that it produces an impact on the community.

Gallagher & Greenblatt (2000, p. 19) stated that NH analysis involves so much

knowledge. Thus, we can conclude that the methods used by NH in approaching a work are in various kinds, not based only on one way but a mixture of various methods of approach. However, NH remains based on the search for the implication of the past in the literary text by transcending the boundaries of formalist literature.

The study conducted by NH is still carried out by searching forms through close reading, but NH is not fixed on the boundaries of the form. It moves further to achieve its goal of looking for internalized cultural and social influences in the text. This study does not only want to show that literature is a reflection of social reality when the author writes his story, or the social reality that the author wants to convey, but also wants to find out what ideas the author actually wants to convey by representing a community.

The NH approach observes the relationship of the text to history (it can relate to political, economic, and social condition). To uncover matters relating to history, we must search for how the text relates to history. The matters relating to history in a work of fiction are not always clearly visible, but they can be internally implied such as in the author's tone, and how to construct narratives and characterizations in the text.

DISCUSSION / ANALYSIS:

Satire for the New America Leans on New Netherland:

Washington Irving made the story of the New Netherland as a backrest to criticize New America; it can be seen in the story of A History of New York written by him. The figures and events that were created by Irving became a fictional story about the New Netherland government that had many similarities with the New American government in 19th century. Since Irving had the intention of revealing the failure of Jefferson's government (Bowden,

1975, pp. 164, 167-168), then what raised to the surface of fictional texts about New Netherland, also about the failure and unreliability of its leaders.

Irving, of course, had made selections in presenting his fictional works. It can be seen at least in displaying three New Netherland leaders who were as same as the USA in 19th century. Until 1808, there were only three American presidents, and there were also only three governors of the New Netherland in the story of Irving, even though there were actually more than three governors in the history of New Netherland Colony. The failure of Jefferson's government was because it repeated a colonial style of government that was concentrated on someone, on Irving's consideration. Consequently, it bore mistakes in government administration, and this endangered the new form of American nation.

The following is a chart of the form of Van Twiller's administration depicted in A History of New York using a colonial style. His administration was compared by Irving to the New American government during the first three American presidents.

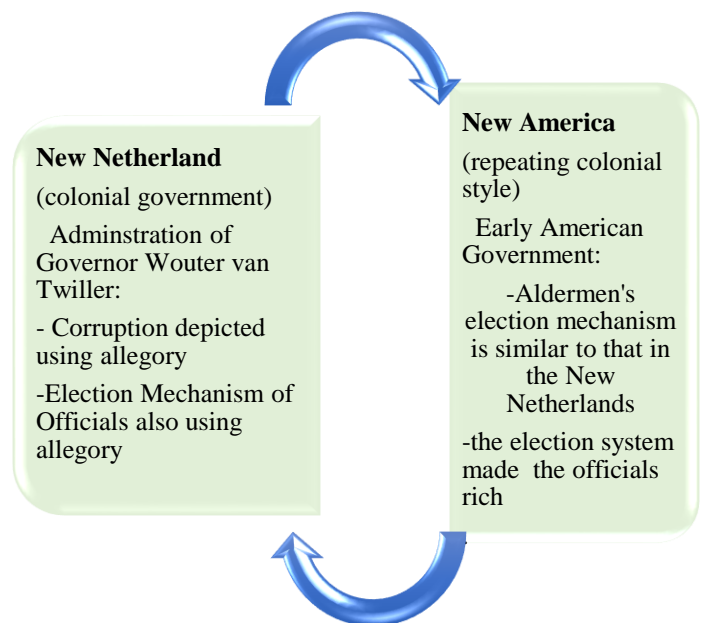


Chart.1. Satire of New American Politics relied on the New Netherland

Irving directed his satire in *A History of New York* in several ways. **First**, if Irving insinuates the government system and events in New America, then he generally attacked firstly to the New Netherland administration. After that, he compared to the administration of the New American government. **Second**, on the contrary, if Irving wanted to attack the figures living in his time in the early 19th century, then he would cover the figures of the New Netherland with various allegory and figure of speech. He only gave the equality of characteristics of the figures. Since the figures was neatly wrapped in allegory, then the personages were presented as fictional characters in *A History of New York*. Obviously, those who got Irving direct satirical attacks firstly were the characters in New Netherland, even though they were fictional characters but they were representation of personages in New Netherland. They served as a bridge to attack individuals in the New American government.

Since his work had caused misunderstanding from Dutch descendants in New York, then in "The Apology" Irving stated that he did not intend to harm anyone with the publication of *A History of New York*. He actually wanted to reveal something else but it was affected to his own brother, here Irving aimed his nation brothers, the Dutch descendents (Irving, *The Author's Apology*, 2004).

A work of fiction is planned, arranged and selected when written by the author. Irving really wanted to raise the history of the failure of the New Netherland to compare it with the failure of the Jefferson government in the early 19th century. The failure of the management in New Netherland government is a historical fact. However, New Netherland personages who are presented with only one side of their characters in a work of fiction provide an image to those who have existed in the history. Furthermore, the personages became the representation of

ethnic Dutch in New York. Here, the representation of Irving about the Dutch ethnicity became a problem (Baga, 2019). This happens because the Dutch ethnic became a means of Irving's story.

Governor and Board Members of the New Netherland:

For more details on how Irving used the Dutch New York in the past as a means, we can examine as follows. The picture of a centralized government and far from the surveillance of the mother country in the Netherlands provided an effect in New Netherland officials; they were being selfish shown by the text of the *A History of New York*. However, the picture can only be understood after the wrapped with funny things parables are revealed.

In the era of the first governor of New Netherland in the 17th century, namely Wouter van Twiller, there were three things that emphasized the description relating to government administration, namely how the governor governed and how councillors were elected in government; and their behaviour. The New Netherland's initial government did not refer to a particular president during the New American period, but rather to the mechanism of electing New American officials. The mechanism was insinuated through the New Netherland government of its first governor, namely Governor Van Twiller.

Governor Van Twiller's figure and board members of the New Netherland are described with some uncommon characteristics. **First**, they were very fond of eating; **second**, they were fat; **third**, they were very fond of smoking with pipe. When the story was explored, these characteristics imply metaphors or parables of how the government and administration of Governor Wouter van Twiller were carried out. The administration was a lot of corruption, the bad attitude of officials, as well as the

uncommon mechanism for selecting the officials.

CORRUPTION:

Irving actually wanted to insinuate the problem of corruption practices that occurred in the New Netherland government, but he used allegories in conveying this practice. Through the first governor of New Netherland, Irving depicted an allegory how a governor governed. Governor Wouter van Twiller had unusual habits. This was illustrated by Irving in a very funny way. Van Twiller was depicted to be fond of smoking with pipe, and pondering for a long time without a decision as if the habit was related to the meaning of his name which means 'doubtful' according to the narrator of the story. Governor Van Twiller would need smoking his pipe for a long time without making any decisions. If the governor sat in his throne, he does not hold the sceptre but instead holds his tobacco pipe. Moreover, he was really fond of eating and sleeping. The following quote shows the Governor's habits.

He took his four stated meals, appropriating exactly an hour to each; he smoked and doubted eight hours, and he slept the remaining twelve of the four and twenty. Such was the famous Wouter Van Twiller (Irving, *A History of New York*, 1983, p. 465).

These descriptions are allegory in describing how Governor Van Twiller carried out his government. The description of the Governor who was very fat with four meals a day, and having an interval of one hour at each meal, then he was eight hours in doubt, and twelve hours he slept. It means that the governor did not do anything for twenty-four hours, but the governor with such characteristics was very prosperous and famous in New Netherland Colony. These pictures are strange, but because it is a parody, we have to figure out where the meaning is purposed.

We can examine the characteristics of the governor conveyed by making fun of him that he was actually a governor who was slow and stupid. His pleasure in smoking with pipe is related to his ability to make decisions. Meanwhile his sceptre was a tobacco pipe is an odd description. Van Twiller's sceptre is unique and funny, because it is only a tobacco pipe. However, if we consider this to be a figure of speech to the reality of Van Twiller's administration, we must trace the history of the real Van Twiller's government.

In the book of Henri and Barbara van der Zee (1978., pp. 52-73), it is mentioned that in the history, the Governor of the New Netherland who was appointed by The Dutch West India Company (WIC) at the end of 1632 was a young man who was only twenty-seven years old named Wouter van Twiller. This is different from the story of Van Twiller in Irving's version in *A History of New York*, which is narrated as an old man. Van Twiller in the history was the nephew of Killiaen van Rensselaer, one of the WIC members and a jewel trader who was also a patroon in New Netherland. Patroon was the owner of the land which was given a treaty by WIC in 1629. When WIC issued a Patroonship to attract the interest of many people who wished to live in New Netherland to cultivate land, WIC actually intended to monopolize the fur trade, so patroon could not participate in the fur trade. A patroon might not live in New Netherland, but he must employ his fields to someone else. Killian van Rensselaer was a patroon who did not live in New Netherland. He remained in the motherland, the Netherlands. As a matter of fact, Killiaen van Rensselaer had a very large land called Rensselaerwijk in Albany, New Netherland (see figure 1).

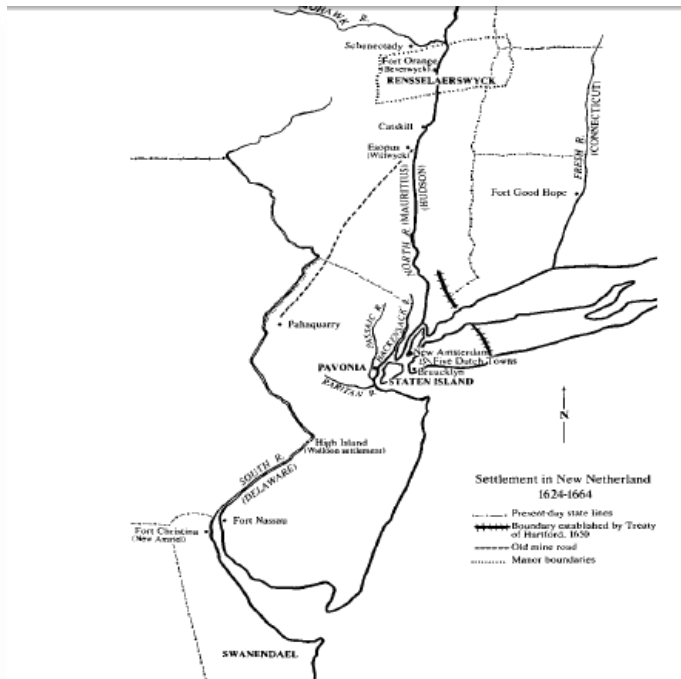


Figure 1. Rensselaerwyck

Map of New Netherland with Rensselaerwyck in the north of the Fort Orange area (Van der Sijs, 2009, p. 23)

Van der Zee further stated that Van Twiller jumped his career so fast because previously he was just a clerk at the WIC headquarters in Amsterdam. According to the allegations of many people, his uncle played a role in the appointment of Van Twiller. Nepotism in the 17th century was something common in Holland (Fabend, 2012, p. 22). However, the uncle once sent a message to him to always be diligent, humble, religious, and careful in everything. Apparently, the nephew who had become governor of the New Netherland did not heed the uncle's advice.

In only five years, in September 1637, the States General, the Dutch parliament which in the 17th century with the Chairman of The Dutch Republic, Prince of Orange, ruled the Netherlands; and De Heeren XIX (the Lord XIX), the shareholders of WIC appointed Van Twiller's successor. Van Twiller noted a very bad reputation in his government. He was known as a lazy young man, and was very fond

of getting drunk. In fact, the news of his act reached Virginia Colony. The fatal thing was that he enriched himself together with his colleagues. The governor owned ten thousand hectares of land on Long Island, and he gave more than that to his company colleague, Jacob van Curler (Commissary for Fort Goede Hoop). This area was the beginning of New Amersfoort, or now called Flatlands as the beginning of settlement on Long Island, United States. In 1637, Van Twiller expanded his fortune by buying Nut Island, now Governor's Island, and two smaller islands in Hell Gate.

O'Callaghan's account (1846, p. 172) stated that a striking type of character controlled almost all employees of WIC companies, namely by enriching themselves and accumulating wealth without regard to the objectives of establishing WIC and the colony. The governor and the board members had taken for them what was become public property. Van Twiller and his councillors received from the Indian tribe three lands on Long Island which were estimated to be ten up to fifteen thousand hectares wide without the knowledge of the directors in the Netherlands (De Heren XIX). The governor established tobacco plantations in one part, while his colleagues make agriculture in other parts.

William Elliot Griffis (1909, pp. 55-59) was somewhat more positive in seeing Van Twiller. He stated that the golden age of WIC was during the reign of Van Twiller. Although Van Twiller made some mistakes, it was caused by his busy schedule and he was always misinterpreted. Van Twiller was the type of person whose energy never runs out. He was an enthusiastic agriculturalist; he built many dairying, fruit plantations, and agriculture. In addition, he repaired the fort and built many windmills. Although Griffis said that the governor also bought fifteen thousand hectares of land including several small islands, as well as parts of Long Island, and Governor's Island, it

was because of his character that cared well for his future. Van Twiller might have abused his position, but he was eventually dismissed from the company. However, Griffis added to defend Van Twiller that WIC did not pay for the land that was managed by Van Twiller and his colleagues at that time, accordingly Van Twiller and his colleagues became rich and owned lands because they managed the land for themselves. In other words, Griffis wanted to state that WIC was also not doing its job properly. When Van Twiller was removed from his office, he was still a wealthy man. He owned a house, fields, tobacco plantations, and he became one of the richest people in the colony.

Thus, we understand Irving's description in his fiction about Governor Wouter van Twiller who was only thinking about food, fond of sleeping and smoking pipe in his description, but his life was very prosperous. This is Irving's allegory to the real Governor van Twiller. He lived by corrupting what was supposed to be company ownership. He had large tracts of land, and moreover tobacco plantations that he still owned despite being terminated by WIC. Van Twiller was also depicted by Irving that he was sitting on a throne holding a tobacco pipe. It can be said that this is an allegory of Wouter van Twiller's original power over his tobacco plantations on Long Island. On this stage, Irving criticized New Netherland administration under Van Twiller which was full of corruption.

The Attitude of the Officials:

A History of New York was not merely depicted the governor, but also New Netherland councillors also got strange and hilarious descriptions. In the description of the members of the council called burgomeester, Knickerbocker, the narrator of the story, always made a comparison between the New American government when he lived in the early 19th century, and the New Netherland government in the early 17th century. Here, Irving through his

narrator directly criticized the New American government at the time, which seemed similar to what happened in New Netherland. According to Knickerbocker, in contrast to what happened in New Netherland, the governors in America at that time (in the 19th century) could at any time be silently dismissed and corrected by his own party and reviled by the whole community as shown in the text, "doomed to bear the secret goadings and corrections of their own parties, and the sneers and revilings of the whole world beside." (Irving, A History of New York, 1983, p. 468).

In contrast, the Dutch governors of the New Netherland in the 17th century had authority that was not controlled by the authorities in the Netherlands (mother country) that were so far from the colony. The governors became tyrants in his colony when governing their territory, because they were responsible only to the mother country. However, the mother country did not seem to care about all complaints about their governor. The mother country always only wanted good income reports from the colony. Here lies the difference between the governors of New Netherland and the governors of New America.

Bowden (1975, pp. 167-168) stated that although Irving intended to carry out attacks on national politics and American political personages, his satire was rooted in contemporary New York problems. Bowden doubts that personages in US history were parallel with figures from the New Netherland in the stories of Irving, such as Governor Wouter van Twiller who resembled to President Adams, while Governor Peter Stuyvesant equalled to President James Madison. This had been widely denied, but many critics agreed that the characters of Governor Kieft were associated with satire on President Thomas Jefferson.

Bowden also stated that the allegory of political institutions and their failures were numerous in A History of New York. Bowden's

statement matches what is shown on the text. 'Aldermen' is a term that emerged during British colonial rule replacing the term burgermeester during the Dutch colonial period in North America. It seems that until the life of Irving the term 'Aldermen' was still used in New York. The Aldermen and his assistants were officials in the 19th century; they were similar to the council in Van Twiller's administration in A History of New York. The Aldermen and his assistants received many satire attacks from Irving. Irving made a direct comparison between the Aldermen and his assistants with the New Netherland council.

The mechanism for selecting officials at the time of Van Twiller was paralleled by Irving with the mechanism of the 19th century America in his story. Van Twiller's figure was assisted by the judicial board (a board of magistrates) to overcome difficult legal problems in the colony. When this council was formed, they immediately supervise the police field. This institution consists of schout or bailiff. According to Jacobs (2005, pp. XV, 106), it is stated that schout is a law enforcement officer, with a task that combined being a sheriff and a prosecuting attorney. In the Netherland, the duty as a public prosecutor in criminal matters handled by a schout and in rural areas by baljauw (district magistrate).

Knickerbocker explained that in the present (Knickerbocker's era in the 19th century) this schout or bailiff had power between the mayor and the sheriff. Then, in Van Twiller's administration there were five burgemeesters. Burgemeesters (plural in Dutch) were executive urban magistrate whose positions were equal to those of the aldermen (councillors) in the Knickerbocker era of the 19th century, and five schepens. Schepen (plural in Dutch: schepenen or schepens) was member of municipal court of justices. The jurisdiction of burgermeester and schepen covered New Amsterdam, from Manhattan to Fresh Water (the Connecticut River), as well as Long Island. All criminal

matters were handled by burgemeester and schepen except capital offenses. (Jacobs, 2005, pp. XV, 169)

Through Knickerbocker, Irving made a mockery of the New Netherland government during the Van Twiller era, simultaneously he was also satirizing the American government during his life in the early 19th century. The citation below is a description of the duties of burgemeesters and schepens in A History of New York.

-- five burgermeesters, who were equivalent to aldermen, and five schepens, who officiated as scrubs, sub-devils, or bottle-holders to the burgermeesters, in the same manner as do assistant aldermen to their principals at the present day; it being their duty to fill the pipes of the lordly burgermeesters -- see that they were accommodated with spitting boxes -- hunt the markets for delicacies for corporation dinners, and to discharge such other little offices of kindness, as were occasionally required. (Irving, A History of New York, 1983, pp. 468-469)

Actually the description of the task of this schepens is satire from Irving on how a judicial institution works. Without having to get a description of how burgermeester worked, we have gotten an overview of how the maid worked.

Irving used many of figures of speech in describing how this institution worked, so that where the purposed meaning cannot be easily understood. Nevertheless, if the meaning of the figurative language is uncovered, Irving's humour is right on target in describing the judiciary which was full of fraudulence. The citation above shows the Schepen's role as a surrogate player, and sub-devils or "surrogate demons", it senses so hilarious when the terms are interpreted literally, but those terms indicate not a literal meaning but a parable, and burgermeester here was the main "devil".

The schepens were in charge of carrying bottles, paying attention to boxes of spit, looking for delicious food for the corporation, and others. These are strange pictures for bailiffs. Through this description, Irving was hiding his figurative meaning. The Schepens actually played an important role in running fraud. The reference to the meaning is given by the statement "to discharge such as other little offices of kindness" (Irving, A History of New York, 1983, p. 469) as a hint that there were extortions in several small offices, and this had been generally understood. All that Schepen did, it was to keep the judiciary running smoothly, always to provide problems that would be brought to the court, to ensure that there were cases were sidelined, and to seek revenue for the corporation in an unfavourable way.

The next satire is that the schepen must be willing to be the target of jokes from the burgemeester and pretended to laugh happily, but this acting was sometimes unsuccessful, because there were those who suffocated because they failed to laugh. The satire shows that the joke from burgemeester was actually not funny, but the schepen try to curry favour with his boss.

It was moreover, tacitly understood, though not specifically enjoined, that they should consider themselves as butts for the blunt wits of the burgermeesters, and should laugh most heartily at all their jokes; but this last was a duty as rarely called in action in those days, as it is at present, and was shortly remitted, in consequence of the tragical death of a fat little Schepen -- who actually died of suffocation in an unsuccessful effort to force a laugh, at one of Burgermeester Van Zandt's best jokes (Irving, A History of New York, 1983, p. 469)

At the end of the description about burgomeester and schepen, it is stated that in the past the persuasion of the boss was rarely happened compared to present moment , "but

this last was a duty as rarely called in action in those days, as it is at present". This is an allusion to the situation of Irving's lifetime. The lower officers fawn on their boss in order to remain their position. Schepen's position was burgermeester's assistant, then if there was a replacement for burgermeester, this schepen would replace his superior. This mechanism also seems to be the mechanism of American government in the nineteenth century. Irving insinuated this behaviour of officers who had full of expectations replacing their superiors.

The schepen's devotion got a decent reward for their "humble services". Irving through Knickerbocker insinuated the work of the schepen who did unjustly with satire as 'humble services'. They had special privileges as council board. They could state agree and disagree in the council. Furthermore, the schepen were candidates for substituting the burgermeester if they might rise in their position. Not only that, they had other special privileges. Those privileges were described by Knickerbocker with the parable of 'free eating out and feasts'. Knickerbocker's parable was actually so sharp, but they are covered with funny stories so that the meaning cannot be grasped at once. Moreover, the historical background of the story as the root determines highly the direction of Knickerbocker's parables.

Schepen's other privileges were that they could eat and drink in any public area. A comfortable eating party was termed "snug junketing"; and this mass-fond of eating called "public gormandizings" in the past. According to Knickerbocker, they equalled to their modern-day proponents had done in the 19th century. The big appetite and binge of eating were also not a literal meaning. This is a parable. The hint is the words "public gormandizing". Gormandizing means very fond of eating, this word actually comes from French word gourmand. This word can also mean another,

which is "greedy". In this sense, the meaning is those law enforcers had the opportunity to vent their greed in the society which they were supposed to protect.

Mechanism of Officials Election:

The greed could occur in that time because the selection rules for burgemeesters and schepens were based on their weight and how big their appetite was. Accordingly, this position was coveted by those who have big appetite and ambition to become such important people. The description in this novel is very hilarious because people who were in such serious positions were chosen on such odd mechanism. This points out, therein lays the figurative. The big appetite and ambition are mentioned simultaneously so that we can conclude that those who are greedy generally also tend to have ambitions for position.

For this election, Knickerbocker compared again the election mechanism in his lifetime and in 17th century New Netherland. In his opinion, the leaders of ancient times were no different from the leaders of the 19th century. In terms of the shape, size and power, as well as intellectual, prerogative rights, as well as privileges, the burgemeesters as the aldermen (in the 19th century) were generally chosen based on their weight, and not only their weight, but also their head weight, as the following quote.

The burgomasters, like our aldermen, were generally chosen by weight - and not only the weight of the body, but likewise the weight of the head. (Irving, A History of New York, 1983, p. 469)

This, according to Knickerbocker, was caused by an expression that the shape of the body forms the way of thinking, or vice versa the way of thinking forms the body, so that a member of the board must be fat. This is a satirical joke about the election mechanism of New Netherland officials which was similar to

the election in the Knickerbocker's era in the 19th century. This sharp satire on the justice officials wants to show the greed occurred in New Netherland, and also what happened in America in the early 19th century. It was caused by electoral procedures that prioritized those who were ambitious towards position and greed to pursue wealth. Irving's parable reveals that fond of eating, weight of head, and also body weight relate to each other. The weight of the head shows intelligence and also ambition for position, meanwhile the pride of a high position related to their desire to eat, or rake in wealth so that these officials become fat as the figurative language of becoming rich.

Governor Van Twiller's government was hilarious because it is very strange if the meaning is viewed only on the surface of the text. Several critics saw it as a satire towards New York condition in the past, although as Bowden (1975, p. 164) stated, not all figures in the history of New York could be compared with important officials in the Irving's period. Such review is acceptable because Irving technique of telling stories often binds the events and characters with funny parables so that what reveals on the surface is humour about those events.

Sometimes on certain events, we catch an allusion to a situation in Irving's life, but we cannot conclude that the whole story refers to a certain figure in the history of independent America. For example, such as the events of character of Wandle Schoonhoven and Barent Bleecker who quarrelled over debt problems in front of Van Twiller. The quarrel between these two figures in front of the governor reminds us of the events of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson who had a big fight before President George Washington in early 1791, eventually that event brought up two parties with differing views on the constitution in American history, namely the Federalist and Anti-Federalist (Republic).

In the writings of Marcus Cunliffe (1958, pp. 139-142), it is stated that Alexander Hamilton as Secretary of Treasury, and Thomas Jefferson as Secretary of State debated the issue of forming a national bank before the president. President George Washington asked his ministers to submit their written opinions to see which was more constitutional. Each party had the same strong reason, even though both parties had opposing opinions. In fact, the congress relinquished its decision to the president.

The similarity of this situation can be seen in the description of A History of New York. "the two parties, being confronted before him, each produced a book of accounts, written in a language and character that would have puzzled any but a High Dutch commentator". (Irving, A History of New York, 1983, pp. 466-467)

In this situation, George Washington's position resembled to that of Wouter van Twiller, because this condition was confusing. However, that does not mean that George Washington was someone who was weak or stupid. Cunliffe (1958, p. 141) stated that George Washington was a valiant commander who fought for American independence. However, he was actually someone who was reluctant to be in government, so he was not a figure who actively promoted matters relating to legislation.

Thus, actually Irving's statement in "Apology" is doubtful that he wanted to shoot another but hit his own brother. He directed firstly his arrow of criticism through the New Netherland, and then stabbed into New America. Readers only grasp what described on the surface of the text. This can happen because if the figurative is unrecognised, then the attacked people in the New American government are also difficult to be detected. One side, it can be seen that Irving might want to show that human qualities can be repeated, whatever the nation or the ethnicity is. New America was dominated by British

descendents, not the Dutch, but the traits that once existed on the Dutch people in North America were repeated by the English in America. Irving wanted to show that bad characters can be to anyone. Nevertheless the other side, on the surface of text it was found that Irving stereotyped the Dutch through their abilities. It was seen how Irving positioned the Dutch when they were dealing with other European ethnicities (Baga, 2019).

Here, it does not mean that Irving did not dislike the ethnicity or the people, but what was attached to the Dutch and the English. Specifically in this sense of the political satire, Irving did not like the procedures of the Dutch colonial administration in New Netherland. Colonial government that was concentrated on a person or a tyrannical government, a system of colonial government that left its officials unattended, greedy, cunning, often made confrontation or war with others, took possession of other territory; this was what Irving disliked. Ironically, the New American government in 19th century repeated this style, even though they had just freed themselves from the colonial government but they imitated the procedure again.

CONCLUSION:

From this research, we can see that literary works always have double meaning, on the surface and the deep meaning. The deep meaning cannot be immediately understood, if the context of the era associated with the work is not examined. Theory of Representation and New Historicism approach in observing literature help revealing the historical events that Irving wanted to convey which are literally difficult to relate to the surface of the text, so that the word "history" in the title of Irving's work is difficult to be accepted, because the work does not provide any form of historical writing. However, after examining the appropriate theory and approach, it turns out

that historical events are related to the work of Irving, *A History of New York*.

Some important cases that once occurred in the history were implied through allegory and satire criticism. Large-scale corruption in the government, pernicious officials' attitudes, and the unfair mechanisms for electing officials are matters Irving wants to criticize, because these practices were once applied during the Dutch colonial period in America, and they were repeated during the early American administration. Thus, history here, in Irving's sense, is a way of thinking and attitudes that repeat the past. Thus, literary works, in this case *A History of New York*, present history in its own way, through literature.

LIMITATION AND STUDY FORWARD:

Since this writing is a part of my research on dissertation, there are parts that are not in this discussion. However, in the broad scope of my original research, indeed it does not cover all aspect. There are some aspects which were not covered, and can be searched for. My study did not cover the revised works of Irving on *A History of New York*, whereas Washington Irving had revised his work three times. Since Washington Irving wrote *A History of New York* due to his concern to America, his nation, he threw some ideas of nation in this work. The ideas which he expressed in his revision work might be researched.

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