**The idea of soldiers: a comparative analysis**

In the present text I’m going to analyze different poems studied at school: “The soldier” by Rupert Brooke, “Dulce et Decorum est” by Owen and “They” by Siegfried Sassoon and then I will compare the idea of soldiers in each of these poems.

**Dulce et Decorum est - Owen**

Bent double, like old beggars under sacks,

Knock-kneed, coughing like hags, we cursed through sludge,

Till on the haunting flares we turned our backs

And towards our distant rest began to trudge.

Men marched asleep. Many had lost their boots

But limped on, blood-shod. All went lame; all blind;

Drunk with fatigue; deaf even to the hoots

Of gas-shells dropping softly behind.

Gas! GAS! Quick, boys!—An ecstasy of fumbling

Fitting the clumsy helmets just in time,

But someone still was yelling out and stumbling

And flound'ring like a man in fire or lime.—

Dim, through the misty panes and thick green light,

As under a green sea, I saw him drowning.

In all my dreams before my helpless sight

He plunges at me, guttering, choking, drowning.

If in some smothering dreams you too could pace

Behind the wagon that we flung him in,

And watch the white eyes writhing in his face,

His hanging face, like a devil's sick of sin,

If you could hear, at every jolt, the blood

Come gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs,

Bitter as the cud

Of vile, incurable sores on innocent tongues,—

My friend, you would not tell with such high zest

To children ardent for some desperate glory,

The old Lie: Dulce et decorum est

Pro patria mori.

**The Soldier - Rupert Brooke**

If I should die, think only this of me:

That there’s some corner of a foreign field

That is for ever England. There shall be

In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;

A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,

Gave, once, her flowers to love, her ways to roam,

A body of England’s, breathing English air,

Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.

And think, this heart, all evil shed away,

A pulse in the eternal mind, no less

Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;

Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;

And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,

In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

**They - Sassoon**

The Bishop tells us: 'When the boys come back

'They will not be the same; for they'll have fought

'In a just cause: they lead the last attack

'On Anti-Christ; their comrades' blood has bought

'New right to breed an honourable race,

‘They have challenged Death and dared him face to face.'

'We're none of us the same!' the boys reply.

'For George lost both his legs; and Bill's stone blind;

'Poor Jim's shot through the lungs and like to die;

‘And Bert's gone syphilitic: you'll not find

'A chap who's served that hasn't found some change.

'And the Bishop said: 'The ways of God are strange!’

**Comparative analysis**

The soldier is a text by Rupert Brook, it belongs to a serious of poems. The date of the collection is 1915. The title starts with the definitiva article, so this is a poem about “the soldier” so the poet as a clear imagine in mind. Considering lay out the poem is a sonnet and it follows the Petrarchan mode because it consists of an octave and a sestet.

The poet moves from the description of the death of the soldier to the soldier’s life accomplishment. The poem encompasses the memories of a dead soldier who declares his patriotism to his own land. This poem speaks with the voice of a soldier who is not in war. The idea of the war conveyed by the poet is one of someone that didn’t take part to the battle. It is a consideration about a possible situation he might die in somewhere abroad.

At line 3 “Enlgand” is like a mother who “bore”, shaped his character and provides the soldier. England accrues a central position. He, with his death, returns to his mother. The earth is a natural element and becomes the image of England who is a mother. “Dust” refers to what we became once we die. The function of the octave expresses the speaking voice patriotism and that celebrates her patriotism to his own land.

It doesn’t look for a resolution of the problem in the sestet: the soldier offers his body to England.

So the idea of soldiers that come out from The Soldier”’s analysis is a soldier who fight for his own land and he sacrifices himself to try to defend England. The soldier in this poem is an ideal soldier because Brooke users the poem to invite young people to go to ear so the function was to promoted the war.

In “They” the reader can understands that the soldier, the enemy is compared to the figure of Anti - Christ. The enemy is personified in using a metaphorical expression of the language. Sassoon to express the bishop’s words uses the direct speech: “the boys came back” the boys implies that they are young, and when they came back form war they are not the same people. The bishop says during this homely that young boys are not the same and he tries to justify telling the soldiers that fighting in war is a right thing so this remind to Rupert Brooke’s poem too take part in battles during the war. The war has a negative effect on soldiers because when they returned home with different aspects because of the atrocity of the war.

The atrocity of the war you can find in the Owen’s poem “Dulce et decorum est”. This poem is based on the poet’s experience of the horrors of war in the trenches, and it is an attempt to communicate the pity of war to future generations. Reading the all poem the reader understands that the first stanza tells where the poem took place “men marched asleep” at line 5: the verb “marched” remind in the reader a battle field where soldiers fought to try to save theirselves. So “Dulce et decorum est” conveys the idea of a war very tiring from physical point of view as “drunk with fatigue” (line 7) emphasizes the effort of the soldiers in war.