

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study and the definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Literature is the art of the works that can be in the forms of poetry, plays, short story, and novel. Those are interesting to read and to imagine the real situation that happens, even though in fiction. It also offers the readers amount of knowledge, experience, and feeling in the form of story and exciting narrative that can be read uncritically simply because they escape the problems and responsibility of everyday that differs radically from our own life.¹

Literature refers to the imaginative works make and read by people. Literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination.² Literature created by writers to be enjoyed, understood, and utilized by the community. According to Wellek and Warren literature is the art of written works.³

Poems are one of literature genres, which use connotative words and have hidden meaning. Poem could describe nature, culture, love, life and social reality.

Many poems like to play with the sound of language or offer an emotional insight

¹Wiyatmi, *PengantarKajianSastra* (Yogyakarta: PustakaPelajar, 2006),Page 12.

²John H. Edward, *Outline of Literature* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1968), Page 1.

³Rene Wellekand Austin Werren. *Theory Of Literature* (New York : Harcourt Brace Javonovich, 1971),Page 15.

by describing what they see in highly descriptive language. In the literature, the media is the language. In the poem, the language uses figurative or metaphorical language.⁴ There are many aspects in the poem, such as stanza, rhyme, and figures of speech. In this research, the researcher intends to analyze the kinds of symbol and the meaning of poems written by William Wordsworth.

There are some aspects that we can analyze in the poetry like stanzas, rhyme, rhythm, figure of speech, and moral message. There are some kinds of figure of speech, for example, simile, a metaphor, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, personification, and irony. Figure of speech is used to describe the feeling intensity of the poet, it can be explain concentrated meaning which describe something that is used long language to be short language.⁵

According to etymology, explain that symbol literally means something that has been put together. The source of the word is the Greek word *symbolom*, that refers to the idea of putting things together. To contrast them and ultimately became a word that was used for compare. From the word symbol came the concept of symbolism where one object is used to refer to something else. So, when an author or a poem uses one object to refer to a completely different idea, then he or she is employing symbolism in literature.⁶

The researcher chooses a symbol to analyze. Symbol has hidden meaning in a poem that makes the poem look more beautiful. Symbol is not only used in novel but also in poem. The researcher will analyze the poem which is written by William Wordsworth. In this research the researcher chooses William Wordsworth,

⁴Mary Oliver, *A Poetry Handbook* (USA, Beacon Press Harcourt Inc, 1994), Page 2.

⁵Ibid., Page 5.

⁶TulikaNair.*Literature*,<http://www.Symbolism-In-Literature.html>, 2010, accessed June 10, 2015.

because he was the central figure and also the greatest poets in Romantic period. The center of this idealism is the belief of human value and human right. Other poets in this period are Taylor Coleridge, Robebrrt Shouthey, Lord Byron, Percy Byshe Shelly, John Keats, and Walter Scott. However, William Wordsworth is one poet who cares the lower class. His contribution to it was threefold:

1. First, he formulated in his poems and his essays a new attitude toward nature.
2. Second, Wordsworth worked his way toward a modern psychological understanding of his own nature, and thus more broadly of human nature.
3. Third, Wordsworth placed poetry at the centre of human experience; in impassioned rhetoric he pronounced poetry to be nothing less than “the first and last of all knowledge - it is as immortal as the heart of man,” and he then went on to create some of the greatest English poetry of his century.⁷

The researcher chooses poems by William Wordsworth entitled “*Daffodils*”, “*The Solitary Reaper*”, “*Strange Fits of Passion Have I Known*”, “*London 1802*” , and “*We Are Seven*”. The researcher chooses the fifth poems because those poems are the most famous poems published over a period of more than 50 years.

This research also has relation with the previous study which is conducted by other researchers. The other researcher which has relation with this research had been done by Z. Mtumane from University of Johannesburg with the title Symbolism in the poetry of S.M. Burns-Ncamashe.⁸ The aim of this research is

⁷Stephen Maxfield Parrish, *William Wordsworth*, <http://www.britannica.com/biography/William-Wordsworth>, accessed September 09, 2015.

⁸Z. Mtumane, *Symbolism in the poetry of S.M. Burns-Ncamashe*(Johannesburg: Department of African Language University of Johannesburg, 2005), Page 83-96.

examined the way in which Burns-Ncamashe uses symbolism in his poetry and how he applies symbols originating from different “worlds”: animals, plants, humans, and references to the world of the Bible.

Other research which has relation with this research is done by Devilaben Hirabhai Rohit in Institute of English Training & Research Sardar Patel University.⁹ The research paper is dealt with the use of symbolism in poetry. The paper covers origin of symbolism and its influence on poetry.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher would like to make thesis entitled **“The Analysis of Symbols in Poems Written By William Wordsworth”**.

B. Statement of the Research

Based on the background of the research, the researcher formulates the problems as follows:

1. What kinds of symbols that found in poems written by William Wordsworth?
2. What are the meanings of the symbol in William Wordsworth’s poems?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the research questions, it is necessary for the researcher to state the purpose of the research as follow;

1. To describe what kinds of symbols that found in poems written by William Wordsworth.
2. To describe the meaning of the symbol in William Wordsworth’s poems.

⁹DevilabenHirabhaiRohit, *Use of Symbolism in Poems of W. B. Yeats* (Gujarat: Sardar Patel University, 2013), Vol.1 Page 26-29.

D. Scope and Limitation

In order to make this research focused, the researcher made scope and limitation to this research. This point is important to make the researcher clear and will not make difficult to do this research. This research focused on symbols in poems written by William Wordsworth.

Halley's theories about symbols are chosen by the researcher to analyze the data. By doing this research, the writer hopes to be able to collect the information about the use of symbol especially symbols in poems by William Wordsworth.

E. Significance of the Research

The results of the research bring advantages for the reader of this thesis to obtain more experience in figure of speech especially in symbol. The researcher hopes that the results of this research will be useful in some ways, they are:

1. The researcher hopes that the research will be useful for the readers and could increase more knowledge about symbol which we find in every poem.
2. The researcher hopes that the research will be useful especially for university students who want to know more about symbols in poems.
3. This research is hoped to be able to be used as a reference and to give information for another researcher when they do the same research in other literature study.

F. Definition of Key Terms

Definition of key terms is very important in this thesis. It is aim to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation. The terms are necessary be defined as follow:

1. Literature

Literature according to Spadlex as quoted by Moleong, is the knowledge which is earned by human beings arise conduct and it is used to reflect and express experience.¹⁰ Another opinion said that literature is one of the great creative and universal means of communicating the emotional, spiritual, or intellectual concerns of mankind.¹¹

2. Poem

Poem is merely to give pleasure and those who belong to the latter consider that poem should teach besides giving pleasure. Other mean poem is an imaginative awareness of experience expressed through meaning, sound, and rhythmic language choices so as to evoke an emotional response. Poem has been known to employ meter and rhyme, but this is by no means necessary. Poem is an ancient form that has gone through numerous and drastic reinvention over time. The very nature of poem as an authentic and individual mode of expression makes it nearly impossible to define.¹²

3. Symbol

A Symbol is a sign which has further layer of meaning. Symbol also called sign. In other words, a symbols means, a symbol means more than it literally says. Symbols a person, object, image, word, or event that evokes a range of additional meaning beyond and usually more abstract than its literal

¹⁰Lexy J Moleong, *Metodology Penelitian Kualitatif* (Bandung: RemajaRosdakarya, 2000), Page 13.

¹¹The Encyclopedia of Americana, Vol. 22:559

¹²Mark Flanagan, *Contemporary Literature Expert*,
<http://contemporarylit.about.com/cs/literaryterms/g/poetry.htm>, accessed on August 20, 2015.

significance.¹³ A symbol is something that represents an idea, a physical entity or a process but distinct from it. The purpose of symbol is to communicate meaning. A Visible of an idea, anything which convention an idea or quality or another thing, as by resemblance or by the symbol of courage, the lamb is the symbol of meekness or patience.

¹³Michael Meyer. The Online Glossary, *Bedford Introduction to Literature*.2009 (Online), [http:// symbol poem](http://symbolpoem). Download on April 11, 2015.