

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Every individual always needs love in this life. Love is one of the most intense and powerful human experiences. As it best, it is what makes life most worth living. As its worst, it has started wars and ruined families. For example, people says love to describe how they feel about a person, a friend, an object, and their feelings.

Love encompasses a variety of different emotional and mental states, typically strongly and positively experienced, ranging from the deepest interpersonal affection to the simplest pleasure. Most commonly, love refers to a feeling or strong attraction and emotional attachment. Love can also be a virtue representing human kindness, compassion, and affection—the unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another. It may also describe compassionate and affectionate actions towards other humans, one’s self or animals. {”What is love?In the Book of Real Answers to Everything!” page 2 of 5. (<http://worldtransformation.com/what-is-love>) accesed on March 16, 2018}

Kessler states that:

Grief is a multifaceted response to loss, particularly to the loss of someone or something that has died, to which a bond or affection was formed. Although conventionally focused on the emotional response to loss, it also has physical, cognitive, behavioral, social, cultural, spiritual and philosophical dimensions. While the terms are often used interchangeably, bereavement refers to the state of loss, and grief is the reaction to that loss. *On Grieving and Grief* (2005:21)

Thus, grief is the response or reaction of the loss, particularly to the loss of someone or something that has died. Conventionally, it has focused on the emotional response to loss.

In poetry, the use of paradox is not confined to mere wit and pleasure; rather, it becomes an integral part of poetic diction. Poets usually make use of paradox to create a remarkable or image out of words. Some types of paradox in poetry are meant to communicate a tone of irony to its readers as well as lead their thoughts to the subject. Paradox in most poems normally strives to create feelings of intrigue and interest in reader's minds, to make them think deeper and harder to enjoy the real message of the poem.

Dealing with the matter, the researcher has found that Thomas Hardy's poems contain of love and loss. These are two contradictive things that turns into paradox. Thomas Hardy wrote short stories, poems, and plays for the rest of his life. Two further volumes of poetry and short stories appeared, *The Dynasts: A Drama of the Napoleonic Wars* (1903-08) and *Winter Words* (1928), a volume of verse. Hardy was quite prolific during this period, writing some 900 poems on a variety of subjects. In 1912, Thomas Hardy's wife, Emma, died ending 20 years of "domestic estrangement." In 1914, Hardy married Florence Emily Dugdale, with whom he lived until his death on January 11, 1928.

Normally, love ends happily ever after, but it does not end happily in Hardy's poems because he lost his happiness, his truly love and beloved of his first wife. In this case, Thomas Hardy felt so lost after he lost his first beloved wife, Emma. Therefore, he devotes his sadness to his literary works.

This is a love poem by Thomas Hardy that looked at loss and a sense of regret for what he has lost (referring to his passed wife, Emma). He came across as having a bad experience with love that has punished him with feelings of remorse and pain that come across in this poem. With this pain, Hardy personified Love so that he can take out the pain on the personification of Love. Thomas Hardy had a bad experience with love. By looking at his historical context, it is clear that he had a strong love for Emma. Due to this, when she died, he was heart-broken and struggled to comprehend with the loss. The only way that he did to deal with the pain, he created poem like this one. However, he is now too old to feel the pain of love anymore as he lacks any interest in love. Therefore, it could potentially be seen that to take control of love, one must show apathy towards it and give up on loving.

According to that explanation above, the researcher would like to analyze how love and loss described in Thomas Hardy's poems. The poems contain of his feeling of lonesome and sadness since he lost Emma, he starts to write a poem that contain his sadness and loneliness. In order to add more information dealing with related study, the poem entitled "At Castle Boterel" will also be revealed.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The discussion includes several problems of study. There are two problems which are discussed in this research, they are as follows:

1. How does Thomas Hardy describe love and loss in his poems?
2. How is 'love and loss' revealed through paradox in Thomas Hardy's poem entitled "I said to Love"?

1.3 Scope of the Study

The researcher limits on the love and loss, the two contradictive that turns into paradox in poems entitled “I said to Love” and “A Castle Boterel”.

1.4 Objective of the Study

There are two objectives of the study in the research, as follows:

1. To find out the description about love and loss in Thomas Hardy’s poems.
2. To explain paradox deals with love and loss in Thomas Hardy’s poems entitled “I said to Love”.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes that the result of this research will give some benefits to the readers and give them contribution to understand paradox deals with love and loss in Thomas Hardy’s poems entitled “I said to Love”. The researcher also expects this research will give additional information which can be used by the other researchers who are interested in analyzing Thomas Hardy’s poem.