

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The experience in fiction can be inspired from the reality, the real experience that human being is dealing with. Literary work is one of the interesting things in people life. People can interpret something based on their imagination and feeling, and they will get some lessons and better understanding about life from literature.

According to Hudson in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*:

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they thought and felt about those aspects of it, which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language (1965:10)

It means that literature comes from human's creation by expressing their feelings, and thought, whether it is real experience of the author or just their imagination. Literature can be the reflection of people's behavior in the past and also as a direction to lead them in the future.

There are some kinds of literary works; literature can be divided into three kinds. They are prose, poetry and drama. The researcher is interested in analyzing poem because by analyzing poem people can understand the deeply meaning of the poem. In *Handbook to Literature*, Holman states "Poem is a cultural artifact of some sort; beyond that vapid claim, however, there is no agreement. A poem

may not be in words at all, and a poem can exist without being written down”. It means that poem is not always in the form of a written text. But it can also be created or expressed by everybody in every situation.

Shelley in Hudson’s *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* states poetry, “In a general sense may be defined as the expression of the imagination” (1956:64). It indicates that poetry is full of imagination, creation and has more variation that contain in it. People can find many experiences of their life in poetry. People are difficult to distinguish between poetry and poem. Poem is a piece of writing that has features of both speech and song, whereas the poetry is the art of creating these poems. Poetry is also used to refer to poems collectively or as a genre of literature.

The writer chooses poem as the source of data taken from English literary work from the Harlem Renaissances of the 1920s period. The poem is easy to understand and the poem contains some problems that are interesting to discuss. The writer chooses Langston Huger’s poem as her research. He published his first poem in 1929. One of the literary works that the writer chooses is “Freedom Plow”.

“Freedom Plow” tells how black people try to realize their dreams for happiness and to get the same right with other people. It is not a dream of the expensive things or the highest wages, but also a dream of social order in which each person get their right to be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position. It means that people in

America has the same right to get their dream, whatever it is. America is a dream. Black people want American dreams for who people believe is a concept of prosperity. Prosperity for people who believe is not only about the society has a big land, or some properties but also they get what they have to get. As a human being, black people need recognition and their right for better life and also the want to have a happiness feeling to continue and survive with their life.

Many people are struggling to face the injustice condition in society and also for their dream. The injustice moment of black or white people when both of the sight did not get their right. They always fight for what they should get. Whatever they do to get it all. Struggle is one of the main issues in holding this life. All people in this world consciously struggle to get what they want and get a better life, and they need to struggle the best they can. Furthermore, the topic is expected to be able to identify the symbols the idea of American dream related to black people struggle for equality, so they can be inspired of how people create the dream and also struggle to face the problem in life.

Finally the reason why the writer is interested and choose the poem entitled Freedom Plow because the poem shows how people have to struggle to realize the dream for better life.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problems of the research that are analyzed are as follows:

1. What are the general symbols describing the idea of American Dream: Black' Struggle for Equality in "As I Grew Older" and "I Dream A World"?
2. What are the spesific symbols describing the idea of American Dream: Black' Struggle for Equality in Langston Huge "Freedom Plow"?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The purposes of this research are to find out the answer of the problems.

Those purposes are as follows:

1. To describe the general symbols describing the idea of American Dream: Black' Struggle for Equality in "As I Grew Older" and "I Dream A World"
2. To describe the spesific symbols describing the idea of American Dream: Black' Struggle for Equality in Langston Huge "*Freedom Plow*"

1.4 Scope of the Study

The researcher focuses on the symbols. Consequently, the researcher limits the discussion that only describes the symbols dealing with black's struggles for equality in Langston Huge "Freedom Plow", and the symbols of the others Langston Huge literary. In analyzing the data, the researcher limits the topic to avoid a complicated discussion. It is also only based on the researcher's interpretation and opinion. Through the analysis of the symbols, the natural sense used in the poem can be understood well and also the themes formed by the symbols can be revealed.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this research will be useful for others to understand who will have research that discusses the symbols. Theoretically, the results of this research can influence or stimulate other researchers to do further research with same data but different topic. Specifically, it is beneficial for the readers who want to know more how the black people struggle for equality, and they can read this research to get information about the symbol and the effort of black people.