CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work is one of product of human's thought. It is a combination of human' intelligence and It is a way to express what the writers feel and though. The work may be based on writers' true story or just their imagination. Through literary work, they also can deliver their idea. Moreover, it can be a form of their criticism about the condition of society. Hudson in *An Introduction to study of Literature* states:

> Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspect of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us (1965 : 10).

The quotation shows us that literary work can be based on the writers' experience. It is also possible that it is inspired by the other people experience that they know. Furthermore, the writer can write about some issues that are talked by most of people or other interesting things which happen in their surroundings.

There are many kinds of literary work in the world. One of them is poetry. Wordsworth in Cowling's *Wordsworth and Coleridge* describes poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of natural feeling arising from emotion recollected in tranquility" (1947 : 2). Additionally, In *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama,* Kennedy quotes Coleridge's statement about poetry. It says "Poetry is the best word in best order" (1966 : 708). Those statements clarify that poetry is kind of literary work which is written as the representation of poet's

feeling. Moreover, it is influenced by poet's emotion. Furthermore, the poet also pays attention to the diction and word construction to deliver her/his intention.

Alexander also states that every poem conveys an experience or attempts to arouse certain feeling in reader (1963 : 6). It means that poem has a purpose to deliver the poet's idea. Furthermore, the writer has to make the reader sink into the feeling of the poem itself. For example, the poet must be able to evoke sad feeling of the readers when they read the poem about broken heart. The readers must feel the sadness which the same as the poet feel although they had never experience it before. In conclusion, poem not only about tells something to the readers but also pull them to experience the same feeling.

This research focuses on Algernon Charles Swinburne's poems. He is a British poet, playwright, novelist, and critic in Victorian era. He wrote several novel collection of poetry such as *Poem and Ballads.* As a controversial figure at the time Swinburne was sado-masochist and alcoholic, and was obsessed with Middle Ages and lesbianism. He wrote about many taboo topics, such as lesbianism, cannibalism, sado-masochism and anti-theism. {"Algernon Charles Swinburne". P.1 of 2. (http://www.britanica.com/biography/ Algernon-Charles-Swinburne/) accessed on Wednesday, March 30th, 2016}

The poems which are discussed entitled "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine". Both of the poems talk about the death. Death is something which is little bit difficult for human to understand because it cannot be experienced by people who are alive. It can be defined as a state when people's life is over. Literally, death itself can be described as a situation when the

soul is separated from the body. Haloka and Kivisto quote Bauman statement in *Death in Literature* which says that death is the most trustworthy experience in human life, death still remains inexplicable and unknown (2004 : 7). It means that all of human being will be dead. Death is a sure thing that cannot be avoided. Moreover, no one knows when or how the death comes.

The poet tries to draw his opinion and idea about death to the reader. In order to evoke the readers' feelings, Swinburne often uses imagery to explain his mind. Therefore, this research tries to discuss imageries which are used by Swinburne in both poems which are mentioned. Back to the theme, death is often pictured as scary thing. However, there is another meaning of death itself. Everyone has their own opinion about it. Hence, this topic is interesting.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The topic is discussed in this research is imagery dealing with death which found in Algernon Swinburne's selected poems. Based on the topic, there are two major problems that are analyzed. They are:

1.   What are kinds of imagery dealing with death in Algernon Swinburne's "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine"?
2.   How is the death's image described in the poems entitled "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine"?

1.3 Objective of the Study

A research purpose is to find the answer of a problem. Based on the statement of problems which are stated, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find out, classify and describe the imageries dealing with death in Swinburne's "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine".

2. To understand how the death is described in poems entitled "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine".

1.4 Scope of the Study

To avoid complicated discussion, a research has to be given a limitation. Two of Swinburne poems, "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine" are the source of data. Furthermore, the imageries dealing with death which are found in these poems become the major topic which is discussed. The research only focuses on the kinds and meaning of the imageries in "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine"

1.5 Significance of the Study

Death is one of condition that cannot be avoided by human. It is absolutely happens. Human just do not know when it happens. By discussing this topic the researcher wants to enrich knowledge about the death itself. Hopefully, this research can help the readers understand the imagery dealing with death and description about death. In addition, it can be used as reference for other researchers who want to discuss the different topic.