CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

Literature is a term used to describe written and sometimes spoken material. Also, literature is a kind of the language of criticism and a clear suggestion of delimitation (William, 1965 : 9). William also states that:

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

Literature can be divided into some kinds, and one of them is poetry. Poetry is a word composition using some language style to emphasize someone's emotional, feeling, and experience through the life. It is strengthened by Kennedy in his book *Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama* "Poetry is a rhythmical composition of words expressing an attitude, designed to surprise and delight, and to arouse an emotional response" (1979 : 407). According to this statement, Poetry is a part of literary work that is expressed through the words with some poetic devices, symbolism, connotations, and etc. Therefore, poetry deals with a poem.

Poem is a a piece of words arranged to express someone's intention, feeling, emotion, or ideas through imaginative way. It also uses some special expression, technique and diction to make it more powerful, such as meter, metaphor and rhyme.

Emily Bronte is one of the famous poet in Victorian Era for themes of revenge, religion, class and prejudice. Emily Bronte was born on 30 July 1818. In

Victorian Era, it is common to use the writer's fake name to publish their works. Many novels of the Charlotte, Emily, and Anne are based on women in Victorian England and the difficulties that they faced like few employment opportunities, dependence on men in the families for support, and social expectations. The Bronte's novels can be seen as "expressions of early feminism where the protagonist struggles to gain independence and self-reliance" (https://sites.google.com/a/cheshire.k12.ct.us/victorian-era/influential-authors/the-bronte-sisters). Living during her "dark" past makes her writing some novel which emphasize to her feeling and experience about her life. She writes so many poems, but never received good acceptant, except for her only famous novel, *Wuthering Heights* which is still famous, even there are some other works like movies and features adapting this poem.

In this research, the writer analyzes a poem written by Emily Bronte entitled "Mild the Mist upon the Hills" This poem portrays Emily Bronte heartsick's as she gazes out on the familiar sight of her childhood. It portrays that she can be hardly said to be childish, but what she is pining for was the security and the simplicity of life in her childhood. It also presents the idea that an aspect of the natural world, here a misty damp evening, can transport one back to an earlier time when such a misty day occurred in the happier days of childhood.

How Emily Bronte explained about childhood and adulthood was written in this poem. During her life, she had experienced so many nasty things in her life. Then, the writer chooses this poem because nowadays, so many people experience ironical things in their life. Irony is about the good expectation appeared in the

past, but it does not really happen in the future. Like a child who always dreams a good thing about future, but in fact, when he is grown up, he faces so many obstacle until he cannot reach what he dreamed in the past, is also called as irony. In this poem, Emily Bronte wrote the ironical occurence very well. How she could relate her past, which was full of happiness, then she faced so many problem in her adulthood, is an interesting topic that can be reseached .There were so many things which insipired her to write some poems, especially for the poem which is analyzed by the writer, Mild the Mist Upon the Hills. The writer discusses a topic about irony that describes childhood and adulthood in one of Emily Bronte's poem, Mild the Mist Upon the Hills. Here, Emily Bronte tried to reveal her childhood era, which was full of struggle and dream, and also her adulthood which suffered such a bad condition, as stated above. What she dreamed in her childhood did not really happen in her life when she was mature.

In this research, the writer focuses on a poetic device namely irony. It is kind of poetic device that reveals concealed or contradictory meanings (http://www.bestlibrary.org/murrayslit/2009/09/poetic-devices.html). Furthermore, the things that we expect does not really happen is also called as an irony.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The poem described has the theme namely childhood and adulthood. The statement of the problems are:

1. What is the situational irony that describes childhood and adulthood in the poem "Mild the Mist Upon the Hills"?

2. How does the situational irony constitute the symbol of adulthood and childhood in Emily Bronte's "Mild the Mist Upon the Hills"?

1.3 Scope of the Study

The writer focuses on the main materials that is used in Emily Bronte's poem "Mild the Mist Upon the Hills". The writer limits the scope of the problem in order to avoid broader discussion and to get a detailed understanding about the topic discussed. Relating to the topic chosen, the topic is limited on irony that reflects childhood and adulthood. Also, the writer limits the discussion about the symbol of childhood and adulthood in the poem that is reseached.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To explain the situational irony related to childhood and adulthood in the poem researched, "Mild the Mist Upon the Hills".

2. To explain the symbol of childhood and adulthood in Emily Bronte's "Mild the Mist Upon the Hills".

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of this research is to give a good contribution to the readers that analyze irony in a poem. Furthermore, this research is hoped to enrich the knowledge of the students of Faculty of Letters, English Department of Widya Mandala University Madiun to make an analysis from other aspect. Also, this research is hoped to give a valuable reading to the readers.