

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a part of the culture. Thus it is dealing with art which is usually made and enjoyed by human beings. Literature is a record of life that reflects stories, expresses emotions, experience, and so on. It contains of people's values, their thought and their problems of life. Learning literature is a process of understanding the life itself, as literature is the imitation of life.

Literature is closely related to life because it is the work of human being and enjoyed human being too. It is also an important point of their life, because it makes people who read it happy, satisfied, and it may trigger their desire, emotion, ambition, and imagination. William Henry Hudson strengthens the opinion in his book, *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*, that is:

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 aspects of it which have the most immediate enduring interest for all of us (1965: 10).

As matter of fact, literature gives some information of various experience to the basic view of leading on the course of human life. It describes the condition and the problem of the writer or society.

R.J. Rees (1973: 8) asserts that literature writing which express and communicates thought, feeling, and attitude toward life. It means that literature made by people's feeling, behavior, and attitude according their private life. Literature also reflects the daily life.

As a part of written art, literature covers some works of art. One of them is poetry. Poetry is a part of literature that evokes a concentrated imaginative awareness of experience or a specific emotional response through language chosen and arranged for its meaning, sound, and rhythm. Kennedy in his book entitled *Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* asserted "Poetry is a rhythmical composition of words expressing an attitude, designed to surprise and delight, and to arouse an emotional response" (1979: 407). Accordingly, poetry is a part of literature that discusses a poem in order to figure out the poetic forms, meter and rhythm, symbolism, connotation, and etc. In short, poetry is an art. Poetry deals with a poem. A poem is a poet's piece of literary work.

Therefore, poem is a verbal composition designed to convey experiences, ideas, or emotions in a vivid and imaginative way, characterized by the use of language chosen for its sound and suggestive power and by the use of literary techniques such as meter, metaphor, and rhyme. Besides, poem is a piece of writing in which the words are arranged in separate lines, often ending in rhyme, and are chosen for their sound and for the images and ideas they suggest.

Additionally, poem is dealing with a poet. A poet is someone who creates a poem. One of the prominent English poets in Victorian era is Elizabeth Barrett Browning who is well-known for her 'Sonnets From the Portuguese'. It is crowd-pleasing as the love story between her and fellow poet Robert Browning.

Elizabeth's poems were widely popular in both Britain and the United States during her lifetime. Elizabeth is more expressing about her ambition

toward a man, who would be her future husband, in her poems entitled “How Do I Love Thee?” and “The Lady’s Yes”. Every word written by Elizabeth completely about romance such the best love is the kind that awakens the soul and makes reach for more, that plants a fire in hearts and brings peace in minds those what the poet has poured in *Sonnets from the Portuguese*. The poems were written and published by Elizabeth in 1850. Due to the fact that, she replies for what her husband (Robert Browning) has written in his poems. In this thesis, the topic that the reseacher wants to analyze more deeply about the symbols describing woman’s loveable ambitions in Elizabeth’s “How Do I Love Thee?” and “The Lady’s Yes”.

In writing this thesis, the researcher chooses the topic entitled *The Symbols Describing Woman’s Lovable Ambition in Elizabeth Barrett Browning “How Do I Love Thee?” and “The Lady’s Yes”* as the object of study. Each poem is written to serve some particular purpose which can entertain, enforce a moral, and teach spiritual truth. Since a person does not understand about love, his or her life will be boring.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The discussion includes several problems of the study. These are two problems that are stated bellow.

1. What are the symbols of love used in Elizabeth’s *How Do I Love Thee?* and *The Lady’s Yes?*
2. What do they symbolize the theme of love?

### **1.3 Scope of the Study**

The researcher focuses on the main materials that are used in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poems "How Do I Love Thee?" and "The Lady's Yes". Although, there are various sources as the supporting theories. The researcher limits the scope of the problem in order to get a detailed understanding about the topic of the discussion. The limitation is used to avoid the complicated discussion. Concerning with the topic chosen above, the topic is limited on love as the reflection of human feelings. The poet can communicate her experience to express life, emotion, feeling, and imagination. The researcher also limits in discussing the symbols which deal with love only.

### **1.4 Objective of the Study**

The research is aimed to answer the two questions, namely :

1. To find out the symbols describing woman's loveable ambitions used in Browning's poems "How Do I Love Thee?" and "The Lady's Yes".
2. To figure out what the symbols symbolize the theme of love.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The result of this research is expected to give great contribution to the readers, that analyze love conditions in poems. Moreover, this research is hoped to encourage the students of Faculty of Letters, English Department of Widya

Mandala University Madiun to analyze these poems from other aspect. The research has interesting topic which is about woman's loveable ambitions used in Browning's poems "How Do I Love Thee?" and "The Lady's Yes". Furthermore, the researcher hopes by analyzing this topic, the readers can receive a good influence and new knowledge from those poems such as woman's lovable ambition which is reflected.