

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

People always need something to entertain and to cheer up themselves. One of the entertainments is literature. Literature is a kind of art. It is closely related to human life because literature is a work of human being and enjoyed by them. Day after day, literature grows fast as many people love it. Literary works are created not only to entertain the readers but also to express people's feeling. It expresses what people have experienced in their life such as their thoughts, feelings and attitudes. Besides, literature functions as pleasure giving for those who enjoy it. Sometimes, people get bored with their activities. Consequently, reading literary work can be a good way to refresh their mind.

According to Welleck and Austin in *Theory of Literature*, "Literature is simply a mirror of life, reproduction, and thus, obviously, a social document" (1956: 92). It describes that people create literary works to share their experiences. There are many ways to express what the people have felt, thought and experienced in their life. One of them is by reading some literary works. It can give them much information and knowledge because they are written based on the writers' intention, feeling, idea, imagination, and experience.

Further, literary works have some branches. One branch of literary works discussed in this research is poetry. Many interesting things can be found in poetry such as the figures of speech used in poems, the ideas of the poems, the

symbols used in the poems, and so on. Generally, a poem is written in order to express the poet's feeling so that the readers can understand the content of the poem and the intention of the poet in writing the poems. A poem is written in order to delight the readers. By reading the poems, the readers' emotion, feeling, and imagination can be directly aroused.

In Robert Frost's opinion, "Poetry is the kind of thing poets write". Then, he added that Poetry is a rhythmical composition of words expressing an attitude, designed to surprise and delight, and to arouse an emotional response" (1966: 407). In other words, the poet writes the poems by exploring his or her ideas and arranges them into beautiful rhyming words that are full of imagination. The poet also uses some symbols to represent the idea of the poem. Those things make poetry more interesting, beautiful and catchy. It has deeper meaning and can be interpreted differently based on the readers' own interpretation and feeling.

The research discusses one of William Blake's poems. He is an English poet in romantic era.

The sparks of romanticism are vividly marked on his poetry, while romanticism is a phenomenon characterized by reliance on the imagination, freedom of thought and expression, and an idealization of nature. Poets like William Blake makes cracks to classic towards the end of the 18th century. In romanticism, a piece of work could become as Blake describes, "an embodiment of the poet's imagination and vision". [*William Blake*] (<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poet/william-blake>) accessed on september, 5<sup>th</sup> 2015].

Moreover, many of the writers of the romantic period are highly influenced by the war between England and France and the French revolution. In the midst of all these changes, Blake too is inspired to write against these ideas. "All Religions Are One", and "There is No Natural Religion" are composed in

hopes of bringing change to the public's spiritual life. Blake feels that, unlike most people, his spiritual life is varied, free and dramatic. Blake's poetry features many characteristics of the romantic spirit. The romanticism of Blake consists in the importance he has attached to imagination, in his mysticism and symbolism, in his love of liberty, in his humanitarian sympathies, in his idealization of childhood, in the pastoral setting of many of his poems, in his lyricism. [*The Romantics*”(http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/romantics/blake.shtml) accessed on september, 5<sup>th</sup> 2015]

In the poem chosen, “A Poison Tree”, the poet uses some symbols that reveal metaphor dealing with human nature. He expresses his feeling and symbolizes it by using metaphor. It makes the poem more interesting to discuss.

In addition, the main purpose of conducting this research is to find out the metaphor that reveals the symbols dealing with human nature. It appears many times in the poem. It is analyzed based on the researcher's interpretation. Every person has their own interpretation to express the meaning of the poem, explore the meaning of the symbols and find the metaphor dealing with human nature of the poem to understand the whole parts of it. Every symbol also has several meanings based on someone's mind. They can not be judged easily by the readers. Hence, the researcher decides to choose “Metaphor dealing with human nature in William Blake's “A Poison Tree” as the topic of the discussion.

## **1.2 The Statement of the Problem**

In relation to the topic of the discussion in this research, two main problems are formulated as the following:

1. What are the metaphors dealing with human nature found in William Blake's "A Poison Tree"?
2. What are the symbols that reveal the metaphors dealing with human nature in William Blake's "A Poison Tree"?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

To get deeper and clearer understanding on the topic discussed, this research aims to:

1. Find out the metaphors that describe human nature found in William Blake's "A Poison Tree"
2. Figure out the symbols dealing with the metaphors dealing with human nature in William Blake's "A Poison Tree"

## **1.4 Limitation of the Problem**

It is very necessary to limit the scope of the problem in order to get detail understanding about the topic of the discussion. The source of data in this research is taken from a poem written by William Blake entitled "A Poison Tree". The discussion in this research focuses only on the description of the metaphors and symbols describing human nature. There are some kinds of metaphor and

symbols, but this research only discusses the metaphor and symbols dealing with human nature.

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

It is hoped that the result of this research may contribute something valuable not only for the researcher but also for the readers. By reading this study, the readers may have good comprehension about the topic of the discussion, namely metaphor and symbol dealing with human nature. Theoretically, this research is expected to improve the readers' understanding and competence on the study of metaphor and symbol, especially the ones dealing with nature. Practically, the result of this research may encourage other researchers to conduct some other researches on the same topic seen from different points of view.