

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a kind of art which is usually enjoyed and appreciated by human beings. Literature is a composition that tells stories, dramatizes situations, expresses emotions, and analyses advocate ideas. Rosenheim adds that literature is an elusive term; we hear it applied to advertising and historical tracts and novels and poems and plays (1960: 2). Literature can be recognized by humans whose dreams and struggles are in different places and times that they would never know.

Baldick explains that the broader sense of literature as a totality of written or printed works has given a way to more exclusive definitions based on criteria of imaginative, creative, or artistic value (1990: 124). Thus, literature is a creation which contains artistic and exclusive values. Literature itself has some branches. One of them is poetry. Poetry is a part of literature that discusses a poem and its parts like imagery, figure of speech and symbol.

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.

Poem is always dealing with a poet. A poet is someone who creates a poem. One of the famous poets is Robert Frost. He is an American poet who is

highly regarded for his realistic depictions of rural life. Frost was honoured frequently during his life time. He becomes one of America's rare public literary figures.

Frost's literary works stand at the crossroads of the 19th century American poetry and modernism. He is a realist and his works abound in metaphors of life using nature.

His works make use of colloquial American language, and many of his poems can be interpreted on many levels. Much of his poetry holds undertones of sadness and tragedy.

One of Frost's poems is "The Road not Taken". It tells about the consideration of a fork in the road both ways of which are equally worn and equally overlaid with un-trodden leaves. The speaker chooses one road, and tells himself that he will take the other road on another day. Yet he knows it is unlikely that he will have the opportunity to do so. He admits that someday in the future he will recreate the scene with a slight twist: he will claim that he takes the less-travelled road. Indirectly, it shows about the choice of life.

The topic will be discussed using one of intrinsic poetic devices, that is, imagery. Rosenheim says that an image seeks to convey to the mind the *sensory* aspects of an object or experience – to create within us, by appealing to our memories and imaginations, an impression of how things look or feel or sound or smell or taste (1960: 44). Thus, imagery dealing with the choice of life in Robert Frost's "The Road not Taken" becomes the object of this research.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

There are some problems which are found by the researcher in figuring out the imagery in the poem entitled “The Road not Taken”. Among them, only two problems are discussed as formulated in the following:

1. What are the kinds of imagery as found in Robert Frost’s “The Road not Taken”?
2. What are the choices of life in Robert Frost’s “The Road not Taken”?
3. How does the imagery deal with the choice of life in Robert Frost’s “The Road not Taken”?

1.3 Objective of the Study

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

1. To describe the kinds of imagery in Robert Frost’s “The Road not Taken”
2. To describe the choices of life in Robert Frost’s “The Road not Taken”
3. To figure out how the imagery deals with the choice of life in Robert Frost’s “The Road not Taken”.

1.4 Scope of the Study

To avoid confusion in the discussion of this research, the topic is limited to Robert Frost’s “The Road not Taken”. The poem is seen only from the use of imagery describing the choice of life and the symbol of choice of life. It is about

consideration of choices. There are two given choices which are equally sad and sorrow but the choices must be overcome.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Obviously, the research is expected to deepen the knowledge on poem especially “The Road not Taken” written by Robert Frost. It can enrich the knowledge about the poem especially intrinsic poetic devices in the poem. It may stimulate the readers to enjoy Robert Frost’s literary works especially in “The Road not Taken”. It is hoped to add the references on study of the poem.