

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

All of the people in the world need something interest, funny and beautiful to entertain their life. In fact, most of people often feel bored with their activities. To get the pleasure, they can do the positive things that can make them feel happy and refresh their mind. One thing that they can do to take pleasure is reading works of literature.

Literature is close to human's life as it is the imitation of life. People read literature because it refreshes their thought, feeling and mind. William H. Hudson in *Introduction to Study Literature* says that:

“Literature is a vital record of what of 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 and enduring interest for all of us” (1965:10).

The statement above means that literature is created by human. The authors create the literary works based on their feeling, thought, and experience. They experience the real life and then they express it through the medium of language.

Reading literary works is not only to entertain and get pleasure, but also give an inspiration, trigger the ambition and enlarge the reader's knowledge. Besides, reading literary works gives people information from the author's intention, idea, experience and imagination because the author expresses what they have seen, heard, felt, and experienced in their life.

Furthermore, Welleck and Warren in *Theory of Literature* say that “Literature is simply mirror of life, reproduction, and thus, obviously a social document” (1956: 92). The statement means that literature is the creative writing which reflects the human’s life. The reader can know about the culture in such a society that they do not know before. So that they get the new experience and knowledge in their life.

As people know, there are three kinds of literature. They are poetry, drama and novel. This study focuses to analyze one of literary works, that is, poem. Poem is the expression the idea, thought, imagination and feeling. Alexander states that, “Every poem conveys an experience or attempts to arouse certain feeling in the reader” (1963: 6).

Furthermore, Kennedy says that “Poetry is a rhythmical composition of words expressing an attitude designed to surprise and delight, and to arouse an emotional response” (1979: 407). The theory above means that poetry is a composition forming rhythmical words which arouse the imagination of the reader’s. Readers have their own way to make the interpretation about the poem. They explore their idea to understand the whole meaning of the poem.

In this research, the researcher discusses Emily Dickinson’s poems. Emily Dickinson is an American poet. She writes the poems based on the feeling and experiences in her life. Many of her poems deal with themes of death and immortality. She also touches on the subject of religion. Furthermore, the great poems from Emily Dickinson’s are “*I Heard a Fly Buzz when I Died*” and “*There’s Been Death in the Opposite House*”. These poems are dealing with

death, and then they use some symbols which are dealing with death too. Moreover, she expresses her feeling by symbolizing these poems. It makes the poems easy to understand and interesting to discuss.

In addition, the purpose of this research is to find the symbols of death and also to understand the denotative and connotative meanings dealing with death. The researcher is interested to analyze these poems because she wants to understand about these poems which have specific theme related to the death.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

There are two problems of the study found in the poems “I Heard a Fly Buzz when I Died” and “There’s Been a Death in the Opposite House” by Emily Dickinson. These problems are as follows:

1. What are the denotative meanings of the symbols of death in Emily Dickinson’s poems “*I Heard a Fly Buzz when I Died*” and “*There’s Been a Dead in the Opposite House*”?
2. What are the connotative meanings of symbols of death in the two poems?

1.3 Objective of the Study

To answer the two problems dealing with symbols of death, the writer uses these objectives of the study. They are:

1. To find out the denotative meanings of symbols of death in Emily Dickinson's "*I Heard a Fly Buzz when I Died*" and "*There's Been a Death in the Opposite House*".
2. To describe the connotative meanings of symbols of death found in the two poems based on the theme, death.

1.4 Scope of the Problem

Giving limitation of the problem is necessary to avoid the complicated discussion. The research is only focusing on description to analyze the denotative and connotative meanings of the symbols dealing with death. The poems are "*I Heard a Fly Buzz when I Died*" and "*There's Been a Death in the Opposite House*" written by Emily Dickinson.

To limit the problem of discussion, the symbols of death are only described denotatively and connotatively in order to understand the Dickinson's poems related to the theme of death.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this research can give the readers some comprehension based on the theme, death. This research also can be used as the significant reference for the students to analyze these poems from other aspect.

Furthermore, the writer hopes this research can give valuable information in discussing the denotative and connotative meanings describing symbols dealing

with death. Generally, the writer hopes this topic is not only understood by other readers, but they can enlarge the knowledge and get the moral teaching as well.