

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

People have an imagination in their mind which is needed in order to create a spirit in getting a goal for a better future. Moreover, imagination is needed in writing a work of literature. By reading a literary work, many people will be entertained with all the things inside. Not only imagination, but also real life could be an inspiration in writing literature such as sadness, happiness, fury, and etc. A quotation of Kelley Griffith Jr in *Writing Essays about Literature* states that literature can be faithful to the facts of reality, as in descriptive prose and poetry (1990: 37). It clarifies the explanation that real life could be an interesting topic that is attractive to be written in a literary work.

There are three branches of literature. They are prose (short story and novel), drama and poetry. For this research, the researcher feels interested in discussing poetry. W.H Auden in *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* as quoted by X.J Kennedy suggests that poetry is the clear expression of mixed feeling (1979: 708). In other words, poetry is a poet's expression and feeling which is poured into the form of writing in a short form. There are some people who get difficult to comprehend poetry because of several reasons. Kelley Griffith Jr reveals, "Because of the relative shortness of poetry and because of its greater concentration, it demands a more complete unity

than prose fiction; nearly every word, sound, and image contributes to a single effect “(1990: 99). It can be said that by reading a poem, people tend to learn about the deepest sense within the language which is used in order to understand the meaning. Taking much time is an appropriate way on behalf of figuring out it well because of the imagery, symbol, and figurative language in it.

Sometimes, people feel confused about poetry and poem. Actually, Poetry is an art form, whereas a poem is a composed work {“Difference between Poem and Poetry”. page 1. (<http://www.differencebetween.com/difference-between-poem-and-poetry/>). Accessed on November 5th, 2013}. A poem that will be discussed on this research is “As I Grew Older” by Langstone Hughes.

Langstone Hughes was African American poet who was born on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1902 in Joplin, Missouri. He was an American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright, and columnist {“Biography of Langstone Hughes”. Page 1. (<http://www.poemhunter.com/langston-hughes/biography/>). Accessed on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014}.

“As I Grew Older” is one of the poems written by Langstone Hughes. The poem is chosen as the data because the poem talks about a hardship in order to make a dream come true, and it reflects the condition of the poet himself who experiences discrimination, racial discrimination, surrounding him as the representation of the black’s life in general. He represents his difficulty in writing this poem to tell the society about condition which is suffered by most of the black in the white’s environment.

In Langstone Hughes's works, there are several features which are interested to be analyzed. One of them is figure of speech. Figure of speech is one of the features which are found on a poem. It is divided into simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, allusion, irony, apostrophe, synecdoche, litotes, antithesis, and paradox. After reading the poem, the researcher finds an irony which deals with hopelessness and enthusiasm, also an implicit motivation on it.

Kennedy states that irony is a manner of speaking that implies a discrepancy (1979: 428). In other words, what a speaker says is different from the reality. Likewise, the speaker says the opposite. There are three kinds of irony; verbal irony, dramatically irony, and situational irony. The researcher finds one of the kinds of irony on the poem, situational irony, which deals with hopelessness and enthusiasm. Situational irony involves a discrepancy between what is expected to happen and what actually happens. Situation irony occurs when the exact opposite of what is meant to happen, happens {"The Three Types of Irony". Page 2. (<http://typesofirony.com/the-3-types-of-irony/>). Accessed on April, 4<sup>th</sup> 2014}

The irony dealing with hopelessness and enthusiasm in the poem is the portrait of the poet as black man and it has close relationship with dreams and goals. Hopelessness represents the inability or the feeling of the black as men who get a great challenge to achieve goals and dreams; it could be in economy, social, even politics. The black want to get the similarities in every field as the white. Otherwise, the enthusiasm is the spirit in changing the hard

condition. The poet hopes that he and all the black have to fight with all the efforts to reach the bright dream. However, motivation, achievement motivation, is found which is implied on the irony; that leads to be a better future. Achievement motivation is a motivation which occurs because of a desire to change dark life into bright.

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

There are three problems in the research. They are as follows:

1. What is the situational irony dealing with hopelessness and enthusiasm in Langstone Hughes's "As I Grew Older"?
2. How does the situational irony reflect the implicit motivation through the symbols of hopelessness and enthusiasm in Langstone Hughes's "As I Grew Older"?
3. What is the implicit motivation on the situational irony dealing with hopelessness and enthusiasm in Langstone Hughes's "As I Grew Older"?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

According to the problems above, here are the purposes of the research as follows:

1. To figure out the situational irony dealing with hopelessness and enthusiasm in Langstone Hughes's "As I Grew Older".

2. To reveal the symbols of hopelessness and enthusiasm in order to understand the implicit motivation in Langstone Hughes's "As I Grew Older".
3. To figure out the implicit motivation on the situational irony dealing with hopelessness and enthusiasm in Langstone Hughes's "As I Grew Older".

#### **1.4 Limitation of the Study**

This research just focuses on analyzing the situational irony as one of kinds of irony which deals with hopelessness and enthusiasm. Next, the research is focused to reveal the symbols of hopelessness and enthusiasm. Figuring out the implicit motivation on reaching goals and dream is the last limitation of the study. The research uses one of the poems by Langstone Hughes entitled "As I Grew Older".

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

By analyzing a poem entitled "As I Grew Older", the researcher finds the answer of the problems which deals with situational irony and motivation. Therefore, the researcher understands about the struggle of the black at past and the motivation to change the bad condition. Afterwards, this research can enrich the reader's knowledge because it tells about one of the masterpieces of African-American poet and poem and its figure of speech. This research could give different point of view in analyzing the poem for other researcher as the

researcher analyzes based on the ironical condition. So, it will add the research references of Langstone Hughes's poems.