

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

People like to imagine something as if it were real. By reading, people usually imagine the story to catch the message. Reading literary works, for instance, gives them some advantages. It can make their brain try to imagine the setting, character and situation that happen in the story. Besides, reading literary works not only can make them know about things that happen but also can make them know about life that they have never known before.

Literature is a process of understanding the life itself as literature is the imitation of life. Furthermore, William Henry Hudson strengthens the opinion in his book, *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*, that is, literature is the 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 and enduring interest for all of us (1965: 10).

Literature is closely related to life because it is the work of human being and enjoyed by human being too. It is also an important point in their life, because it makes the people who read it happy, satisfied, and it may trigger their desire, emotion, ambition, and imagination. R.J Rees (1973: 8) states in *English Literature: An Introduction for Foreign Readers* that literature, we may now agree, is a writing which expresses and communicates thought, feeling, and also

attitude toward life. While, Edward H. John in *An Outline of Literature* says that literature is simply another way in which we can express and communicate thought, feeling, and attitude toward life through a written language (1968: 1). Literature can be said as the imagination of feeling that arise lives through experience to fill desires.

Literature is divided into three branches; they are poetry, drama, and prose. In this thesis, the writer analyzes a poem. Southwell (1954: 32) in *Poet's Quest* states that poetry enlarges the circumference of the imagination. While, Edgar Allan Poe in William Henry Hudson's book, *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*, states that poetry is the rhythmic creation of beauty. Furthermore, Matthew Arnold in the same book, states that poetry is simply the most delightful and perfect form of utterance that human's words can reach (1965: 64). While, Johnson states that poetry is metrical composition or the art of writing pleasure with truth by calling imagination to the help of reason (1965: 64). It can be said that poetry is the interpretation in human life by using the emotional and imaginative to absorb the real meaning inside.

In this thesis, the writer is interested in Percy Bysshe Shelly's poem, "Ozymandias". This poem talks about the portrait of the king which is reflected to the shape of the statue. It visualizes the reign of King Ramses II who was very powerful, full of commands, cruel, even his people could not refuse his commands, and always thought that he was the greatest of all even he would not die forever. Finally, "he" and "his" kingdom was nothing.

In this poem Percy applies some words that show imageries on it. The poet paints a picture of a once powerful king whose kingdom no longer exists. Shelley applies imageries to show the power and powerlessness of the king which are shown on the shape of Ozymandias' statue. By analyzing the imageries, the readers are able to understand and also to imagine the "king" with his power and powerlessness which are created in form of the statue.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The writer finds some problems that occur and are interesting to be analyzed. The problems are as follows :

1. What are the kinds of imagery that show the King's power?
2. What are the kinds of imagery that show the King's powerlessness?
3. How do the imageries constitute the symbols?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This study is aimed to analyze the imageries and the symbols which are applied in the poem to imagine the power and the powerlessness of the king Ramsess II in the form of the statue named Ozymandias . The purposes are as follows:

1. To analyze the imagery that shows the King's power.
2. To analyze the imagery that shows the King's powerlessness.
3. To find out the imageries which constitute the symbols.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

In this thesis, the writer analyzes the poem entitled *Ozymandias* written by Percy Bysshe Shelly, which was published in 19th century. The writer limits the problem of discussion, that is, to analyze the imageries in Percy Bysshe Shelly's "Ozymandias". The imageries are analyzed in order to understand Percy Bysshe Shelly's intention in portraying king Ramses II's power and his powerlessness.

1.5 Significance of the Study

There are some significant elements related to the topic discussed. Generally, the writer hopes that the analysis will give valuable information about Percy Bysshe Shelly's "Ozymandias" to the readers. Theoretically, the writer analyzes that the poem is written not only to communicate some information that occur, but also bring a sense and perception of life. The writer hopes, by explaining these topics, the readers get not only entertainment, good understanding, but moral teaching as well.