

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Language is a tool to communicate and express the ideas, desires, and emotion with others, so that language, in this case, plays an important role as a means of communication in society. By using language, people can communicate to one another in their lives. Besides for communication, language is also used by the people to create the literary work.

Literature is a process of understanding the life itself as literature is the imitation of life. Furthermore, William Henry Hudson strengthens the opinion above 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 experience of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspect of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us.  
(1965:10)

The quotation above implies that literature is the imagination of our feeling that arisen our lives through our experience to fill our desire. Literature can be the reflection of people's behavior in the past and also as a direction to lead them in the future.

Literature can be divided into three types; they are poetry, drama, and prose. In this thesis, the writer analyzes poem. Poem is an expression of beautiful or elevated thought, imagination, or feeling in appropriate language and usually uses metrical forms. According to Kennedy, "Poetry is a rhythmical composition

of words expression and attitude designed to surprise and delight and to arise an emotional response". (1979:407) poetry is on arts and language expression. Poetry is the things said and away of saying it in another way. Richard (1924:215) states, "It is evident that the bulk of poetry consists of statements which only the very foolish would think of at tempting to verify." Here, the writer is interested to analyze Emily Dickinson's three poems entitled *A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*, *Because I Could Not Stop for Death*, and *I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died* because the contents of the poems are the descriptions of human being's life and descriptions about death.

Emily Dickinson's is considered as one of the most original 19<sup>th</sup> century American poets. She is noted for her unconventional broken rhyming meter and use of dashes and random capitalization as well as her creative use of metaphor and overall innovative style. She is deeply sensitive woman who questions the puritanical background of the Calvinist family and soulfully explores her own spirituality, often in poignant, deeply personal poetry. At times characterized as a semi-invalid, a heart-broken introvert, or a neurotic agoraphobic, her poetry is sometimes joyous and celebratory. (<http://www.online-literature.com/dickinson/> accessed on February 27<sup>th</sup> 2008)

Moreover, Dickinson constructs the great majority of her poems around short stanza forms and poetic rhyme schemes of familiar nursery rhymes and Protestant hymns. "*A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*" for instance, is written in six quatrains, or stanzas of four lines each, rhyming only in the second and fourth lines. Most, but not all, of the rhythms are iambic, meaning the poem has

regularly recurring two syllable segments, or feet, in which the first syllable is unstressed and the second syllable is stressed.

Furthermore, the writer likes to analyze the three poems because the writer wants to know that Emily Dickinson's three poems *A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*, *Because I Could Not Stop for Death*, and *I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died* have specific theme related to the death.

Finally the reason why the writer is interested and chose the title is because Dickinson always expresses her ideas and imagination of the death.

## 1.2 Statements of the Problem

In the discussion of this thesis, there are several problems to analyze because writing a scientific work needs a clear formulation. In analyzing poems "*A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*", "*Because I Could Not Stop for Death*", and "*I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died*" by Emily Dickinson, the problems are as follows:

1. What are the imageries in the three poems "*A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*", "*Because I Could Not Stop for Death*", and "*I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died*" by Emily Dickinson which have relation to the theme of "death"?
2. What are the symbols in the three poems "*A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*", "*Because I Could Not Stop for Death*", and "*I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died*" by Emily Dickinson which have relation to the theme of "death"?

### 1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Writing this thesis has several purposes. The writer discusses three of Emily Dickinson's poems by analyzing imageries and symbols so the objectives are:

1. To analyze the imageries in Emily Dickinson's three poems "*A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*", "*Because I Could Not Stop for Death*", and "*I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died*" which have relation to the theme of "death".
2. To analyze the symbols in Emily Dickinson's three poems "*A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*", "*Because I Could Not Stop for Death*", and "*I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died*" which have relation to the theme of "death".

### 1.4 Limitation of the Problem

In this thesis, the writer limits the problems of discussion into two parts. First, the writer will analyze the imageries in Emily Dickinson's poems entitled "*A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*", "*Because I Could Not Stop for Death*", and "*I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died*". Second, the writer will analyze the symbols. Both imageries and symbols are analyzed in order to understand Emily Dickinson's intention writing about the death.

### 1.5 The Significance of the Study

There are some significant elements related to the topic of discussion that is The Analysis of Death on imageries and symbols in Emily Dickinson's three poems "*A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*", "*Because I Could Not Stop for Death*", and "*I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died*".

Generally the writer hopes that the analysis may give valuable information about Emily Dickinson's poems entitled "*A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*", "*Because I Could Not Stop for Death*", and "*I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died*", to the readers, especially for the students of English Department, the University of Widya Mandala Madiun.

Theoretically, the writer realizes that the poems are written not only to communicate some information that exist in it, but also bring a sense and perception of life as well. Consequently, the readers acknowledge the beauty of Emily Dickinson's poems entitled "*A Narrow Fellow in the Grass*", "*Because I Could Not Stop for Death*", and "*I Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died*".

Furthermore, the writer and readers are able to enrich their imagination with some experiences of life. It means that each event which is described in the poems influences the writer's and the readers' emotion and feeling.