

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature in its broadest sense is everything that has been written. Generally, it is writing based on the fact or the experience of the author. It is a writing formed by someone to express their imagination to make other emotion move. People can get new experience if they read literary works. Literature also exists as a part of human life from the past till today. Because of that part of human being are interesting to create their imagination of everything into some works and at last we know as literature. The writer uses the term "Literature" which is concerned with the written materials that deals with thought, feeling, and attitude toward life. Hudson (1965: 10) in *An Introduction of the Study of Literature* states, "Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life what they thought and felt about those aspects of it, which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is fundamentally an expression of through the medium of language".

While Jones, Jr. (1968: 1) in *An Outline of Literature* also states, "Literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imaginations, feeling, and thought. Literature, in its broadest sense includes all written materials. It means that literary falls into history book, philosophical works, short stories, novels, poems, and plays".

Literature consists of poetry, drama and prose. In this thesis, the writer chooses poetry that will be analyzed. Usually, Rhythmical Language is a composition to express poem. Kennedy (1966:401) in *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* states that, "Poetry is rhythmical composition of word expressing an attitude, designed to surprise and delight and to arouse an emotional response". Also in Norton's book entitled *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* states, "Poetry is delineation of the deeper and more secret workings of human emotion is interesting only to those to whom it recalls what they have felt."

Discussing about poetry, most of people sometimes start to say that poetry is nothing. It means that poetry is difficult and confusing to understand, for there is no fact to be talked deeply. In William Henry Hudson's book (1965: 64) entitled *An Introduction to Study Literature* states, "Poetry is metrical composition or the art of writing pleasure by truth by calling imagination to the help of reason"..

Ralph Waldo Emerson is truly the center of the American transcendental movement. He was setting out most of his ideas and values in little book, *Nature* that published in 1836. It represented the study in philosophy, religion, and literature. The movement known as transcendentalism, though deriving from German and England, with an infusion of Oriental philosophy, found its most significant development in America. The transcendental was influenced by the German philosopher, Immanuel Kant (1781: 85), because he made use of the word, in *Critique of Pure Reason* states that "The name transcendental marks the

indebtedness of the movement as respects stimulus and central thought to the German philosopher, Immanuel Kant, who's made use of the word".

Transcendental is the ability of human knowledge to reach the sense of their experiences which has connection between spiritual and God. According to J.A Saxton (Dial II: 90), "Transcendentalism is recognition in man of the capacity of knowing truth intuitively, or of attaining a scientific knowledge of an order of existence transcending the reach of the senses, and of which we can have no sensible experience", accessed on Wednesday, March 12, 2006.

And also according to Charles J. Woodbury (Talks with Ralph Waldo Emerson), "Literally a passing beyond all media in the approach to the Deity, transcendentalism contained an effort to establish, mainly by the discipline of the intuitive faculty, direct intercourse between the soul and God", accessed on Wednesday, March 12, 2006.

In this thesis, the writer chooses the topic because poem is a unique expression of deep feeling through rhythmical language. In addition, to analyze the content of the poems is depends on the individual's mind. In order to get the content of the poem, it depends of how far, how deep, and sensitive the individual's use their imagination. Furthermore, these three Emerson's poems entitled *Brahma*, *The Park*, and *Loss and Gain* are kinds of transcendental poems. It means that the poems content of something surpasses the boundaries of human knowledge and has the whole connection of spiritual in early juncture. That is why the writer is interested to analyze the poems.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Due to the transcendental expression toward Ralph Waldo Emerson's poems entitled *Brahma*, *The Park*, and *Loss and Gain*, the writer would like to discuss the problem as follows:

1. How does Emerson apply the transcendental expressions in his selected poems entitled *Brahma*, *The Park* and *Loss and Gain*?
2. What are transcendental expressions presented through general meaning and detail meaning used in Emerson's selected poems entitled *Brahma*, *The Park* and *Loss and Gain*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This thesis, has two objectives of the problems, they are as follow:

1. To show Emerson applies the transcendental expressions in his selected poems entitled *Brahma*, *The Park* and *Loss and Gain*.
2. To find Transcendental expressions presented through general meaning and detail meaning used in Emerson's selected poems entitled *Brahma*, *The Park* and *Loss and Gain*.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

To make discussion more systematic, the writer limits the problem that exists. For the first, the writer will analyze Emerson's applies the transcendental expressions in his selected poems entitled *Brahma*, *The Park* and *Loss and Gain*. In this part, the writer wants to show the readers about how Emerson makes those

poems transcendent. Moreover, the second is to analyze the transcendental expression presented through general meaning and detail meaning used in Emerson's selected poems entitled *Brahma*, *The Park* and *Loss and Gain*. Here, the writer would like to find the transcendental expression and give the meaning of that expression.

1.5 The Significance of the Problem

There are some significant elements in this thesis entitled *Brahma*, *The Park*, and *Loss and Gain*.

The first significant problem is the writer knows more about the transcendentalism after reading the Emerson's literary work, with his selected poems entitled *Brahma*, *The Park* and *Loss and Gain*. This poem describes the condition of knowledge and experience occurs. However, we cannot explain it. The second significant problem is the writer can imagine the experienced of life that happens in Puritan Period, the period influenced by doctrine, great literary work, and tragedy.

Generally, the writer hopes that this study may give valuable information about transcendental expression which applies in Ralph Waldo Emerson's poems entitled *Brahma*, *The Park*, and *Loss and Gain* to the readers, especially for the student of the English Department, University of Widya Mandala Madiun. The writer hopes the next researcher will find another interesting discussion about these poems.