

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The background of the Study

All of the people in the world need something to make them happy. It can be something which is funny, interesting, beautiful, or something which can entertain them. To get the pleasure, people can see film or television. Besides, they can read magazines or newspaper, even works of literature.

Literature is closely related to human life because literature is the work of human being and enjoyed by human being. In its widest sense, literature is anything that is written to express thought, feeling, and attitude toward life.

William H. Hudson in *An Introduction to Study Literature* says that:

Literature is a vital record of what man have seen in life, what they have thought and felt about the aspect of which have to most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language. (1965 : 10)

People can express their thinking, their doing and also experience through certain medium that is language. Literature is meant to be enjoyed.

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 that, "Literature, we may now agree, is a writing which expresses and communicates thought, feeling and also attitude toward life. Literature also reflects the daily life.

Edward H. Jones 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 is a work of the art that uses language as its device to express the author's ideas. Language that used in poetry is different. Some poems use simple language. According to Sheller (1977: 171) says, "Language is one of the most important possessions of human race".

According to X. J Kennedy in *Introduction of fiction*, "Poetry and Drama surprise and delight and to arouse an emotional response" (1979: 407). Another explanation says that "Poetry is the thing said and way of saying it and nothing else" (Reeves James, 1965: 38).

Poetry is one of the oldest forms of literature. Poetry firstly appears in the old English period and still exists until now poetry in modern era more increases in content. In the other words, poetry is full of imagination and more variation. Then, poetry in the old period more refers to the pattern. Poetry in the ancient word and has, two things to stand out. First, poetry is to be read aloud. Second, poetry has to do with feeling.

In this writing the writer is interested in John Updike's poems. They are *My Children at the Dump* and *Subway Love*. John Updike is the American poet. The two of John Updike's poems entitle *My Children at the Dump* and *Subway Love* talk about love. Love is everything for human life. Without love people can not do everything. In this thesis, the writer wants to analyze more deeply about

theme and symbol dealing with love because love is beautiful and mysteries. Love can make somebody cry.

In writing this thesis, the writer chooses the topic entitled *Analysis Theme and Symbol in John Updike's "My Children at the Dump and Subway Love"* as the object of the study. Each poem is written to serve some particular purpose it can entertain, enforce a moral, and teach spiritual truth. Since a person does not understand about love, his or her life will be boring.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The discussion includes several problems of the study. These are two problems that are stated below.

1. How do the connotative and denotative meanings reveal the theme of love in John Updike's *My Children at the Dump and Subway Love*?
2. What are the symbol of love in John Updike's *My Children at the Dump and Subway Love*?

1.3 Limitation of the Study

In analyzing the poetry, the writer makes a limitation about the topic. This limitation is used to avoid the complicated discussion. Concerning with the topic chosen by the writer, the topic is limited on love as the theme in John Updike's poems *My Children at the Dump and Subway Love* reflects human feeling. The writer can communicate her experience to express the life, emotion,



feeling, and imagination. The writer also limits in discussing the symbols which deal with love.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The writer hopes that the readers get better understanding about love. Besides that, it is hoped that the readers get knowledge of the poetry. Finally, the readers will get pleasure and better consciousness of themselves and their environment by reading and studying the poetry. There are two objectives of the study in John Updike's poems, namely:

1. To find out the connotative and denotative meanings that reveal the theme of love in John Updike's *My Children at the Dump* and *Subway Love*.
2. To find out the symbol of love in John Updike's *My Children at the Dump* and *Subway Love*.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of this analysis is expected to give great contribution to readers that analyze love as the theme in poems. Moreover, this study is hoped to encourage the students of Faculty of Letters, English Department of Widya Mandala University Madiun to analyze these poems from other aspect. Furthermore, the writer hopes that the result of the analysis will be used as one the references that can be used by the students of Faculty of Letters, English Department of Widya Mandala University Madiun.