

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature is the work of human being. It is closely related to human life. In widest sense, literature is anything that is written to express feeling, thought, and attitude toward life. Kennedy (1979: v) in *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama* states, "literature is a kind of art, usually written, that offers pleasure and illumination." Based on this theory the writer thinks that literature is the way of how human beings make their life enjoy with creativity or doing an art activities in order to make pleasure and illumination.

Griffith, Jr. (1990: 3) in *Writing Essays About Literature* states, "literature is a subject matter that creates certain expectations in your audience." From this statement it is clear that literature is a kind of literary work that brings some expectation for reader.

This study analyzes imageries in the poem *The Eve of St. Agnes*. According to Hopkin (1979: 411) in *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama*, "poetry is to be heard for its own sake and interest even over and above its interest of meaning." Meanwhile Southwell (1954: 32) in *Poet's Quest* states, "poetry enlarges the circumference of the imagination."

The writer analyzes the poems because the poem can give human being the knowledge of life by the story of life, which is constructed in the poem. It also

gives an information of how to get the best way in overcoming the problems of life.

In this thesis the writer will analyzes the poem of *The Eve of St. Agnes* written by John Keats. All poems are beautiful and natural. They talk about happy and unhappy love. One of them is the poem that is analyzed by the writer on this thesis. This poem tells about young girl at the age of 13, who performs the proper ritual, and she dreams of her future husband on the evening before St. Agnes' Day, which also falls on January 21. John Keats in the first stanza of *The Eve of St. Agnes* wants the reader to understand that it was cold night. See how he built up this feeling by images in the following:

“St. Agnes Eve—Ah bitter child it cold”
The owl, for all his *feathers* was a cold
The hare *limped trembling* through the frozen grass,
And *silent* was the flock in woolly fold;
Numb were Beadsman's fingers, while he told.
His rosary, and while his *frosted breath*

Abrams (1974: 674) states, “John Keats combined this superstition with the Romeo and Juliet theme of young love thwarted by feuding families and told the story in a sequence of sensuously evolving Spenserian stanzas.”

In this poem John Keats applies some words that have imagery on it. The writer thinks that this poem has some imageries related with the topic of this analysis. Wellek and Warren (1956: 176) states, “imagery is a topic which belongs both to psychology and to literary study. In psychology, the word “image” means a mental reproduction, a memory of a past sensational or perceptual experience, not necessarily visual.” It is clear that imagery means the experiences in the past time which has sensation. Accordingly, the writer thinks it

is better to analyze about imageries on the poem of *The Eve of St. Agnes* written by John Keats.

1.2 The Statement of the Study

This study has two problems, namely to answer the following two questions:

1. What kinds of imageries are there in *The Eve of St. Agnes* ?
2. What are the functions of metaphor and simile in *The Eve of St. Agnes* ?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Related to the two problems, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Find out the kinds of imageries in the poem and analyze them.
2. Find out the functions of metaphor and simile in the poem.

1.4 The Limitation of the Study

This study limits the analysis on the kinds of imageries and the functions of metaphor and simile in the poem of *The Eve of St. Agnes* written by John Keats, published by J.M Dent and Sons Ltd, in London, in 1964.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this study will be significant influence for the other researchers doing their work on John Keats' poems especially the study of *The Eve of St. Agnes*.