

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of Study

Language, as a means of communication, is an important factor in human's daily life. It is used to express one feeling or ideas and communicate with each other. People cannot interact with the other person in order to express their mind and feeling without communication.

In the writer's opinion, literature is a human being's work which is expressed through language. To make a clearer understanding about literature, it is better for the researcher to describe the meanings of literature which are stated by some experts.

William Henry Hudson in his book entitled *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* states,

“Literature is a vital record of what 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. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language (1965: 10).”

Furthermore, Edward H. Jones, Jr. (1968: 1) in *An Outline of Literature* states literature as follows:

“Literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imaginations, feeling and thought.”

Literature can be divided into three types. They are poem, 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

used in metrical forms. According to X. J. Kennedy in his book entitled *Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama* "Poetry is a rhythmical composition of words expression and attitude designed to surprise and delight and to arouse an emotion response" (1979: 407). Another explanation states, "Poetry is the thing said and away of saying it and nothing else" (Reeves, 1965: 38). The writer is interested to analyze the three poems entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *Afton Water*, and *Jean* because the content of the poems are descriptions of human life with their surrounding. Moreover, the aspect of naturalism influences those three poems.

Robert Burns is the first great poet in the Romantic Period. Burns is a well-read (although largely self educated) man, whose quick intelligence and sensibility enabled him to make the most of limited opportunities. He is often considered a "pre-Romantic" who anticipating Wordsworth, revived the English lyric, exploited the literary forms and legends of folk culture, and wrote in the language really spoken by the common man. All of Burns' great lyric subjects are love, work, friendship, and patriotism. His poetic character is hearty, generous, rollicking, and tender, with a sympathy that encompasses men of all types. Furthermore, Romantic poets were deeply interested in nature and common people. Robert Burns is not only the national poet of Scotland but also a songwriter for all English-speaking people.

The study focuses on naturalism's aspect especially on Robert Burns' works entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *Afton Water*, and *Jean*. The writer chooses these literary works because they have some characteristics that are

caused by the influences of naturalism, such as man and nature. In this thesis, the writer focuses his study in naturalism aspects especially on Robert Burns' works entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *Afton Water*, and *Jean*. Those three poems show the relationship between man and nature. Besides, poem is a unique expression of a deep feeling through rhythmical language. Analyzing the content of a poem is depended on each individual's mind. In other words, analyzing the content of a poem is depended on how far, deep and sensitive the individual's imagination. Furthermore, these three poems are descriptive in nature. This fact can be concluded by the writer because these poems describe about feelings, emotions, events, or even objects which are described by the poet. These poems are interesting to be analyzed because the contents of the poems sometimes are directly stated and sometimes implied. That is why, the writer is quite interested in analyzing the topic intended.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problems

Due to the great influence of naturalism aspects toward Robert Burns poems entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *Afton Water*, and *Jean*, the writer discusses two problems to discuss. They are as the following:

1. What are Naturalism in Robert Burns' poems entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *Afton Water* and *Jean*?
2. How does the naturalism influence Robert Burns' poems entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *Afton Water* and *Jean*?

### 1.3 The Objectives of Study

In line with the problems as stated above, the researcher determines the aims of this study, namely:

1. To find Naturalism in Robert Burns' poems entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands, Afton Water* and *Jean*.
2. To describe the influences of naturalism in Robert Burns' poems entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands, Afton Water* and *Jean*.

### 1.4 Problem Limitation

In this study, the researcher limits the problems of discussion into two parts. First, the writer analyzes Naturalism in Robert Burns' poems entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands, Afton Water*, and *Jean*. In this part, the writer searches Naturalism supported by the theme of each poems.

Second, the writer analyzes the influences of naturalism in Robert Burns' works. In this section, the writer describes the characteristics of naturalism which influence Robert Burns' poems entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands, Afton Water* and *Jean* presented through symbols, imageries, the figures of speech, and Romantic period, in which, those three poems shows a relationship between man and nature.

### 1.5 The Significance of the Study

There are some significant elements related to the topic of discussion, that is, The Influence of Naturalism in Robert Burns' poems entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *Afton Water*, and *Jean*.

Generally, the writer hopes that this study may give valuable information about Robert Burns's poems entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *Afton Water*, and *Jean* to the readers, especially for the students of the English Department, University of Widya Mandala Madiun.

Theoretically, the readers realize that the poems are written not only to communicate some information that exist in the poems, but also bring a sense and perception of life as well. Consequently, the readers can acknowledge the beauty of Robert Burns' poem entitled *My Heart's in the Highlands*, *Afton Water*, and *Jean*, and express it into their life through their imagination.

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