

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Literature is an important thing for people's life. It is not surprising that people read literature work, for it is one of the sources that can be used as a standard of personalities. Sometimes people read literary work in order to get pleasure after reading it and to increase their knowledge about human being's life. The statement is supported by Little (1966: 2) in *Approach to Literature*, he states, "Good literature adds understanding of life in the world around us. It embodies thought and feeling on matter of human importance."

There are also many kinds of literary works than can be mentioned, such as poetry, drama and prose fiction. In this study, the poetry will be the object of analysis. Poetry and prose use words but both have a great difference in their expression. In a poem, a poet inclines to use word according to his characteristic's connotation which has another meaning is difficult to be guessed because it forms a part of the personal experience. Approaching a poem needs a special knowledge and pleasure, because there are some devices which are not available in prose such as, rhyme, alliteration meter and rhythms. Apart from that, the writer of the thesis is also interested in analyzing poetry since she knows that poetry can add her awareness and understanding to beautiful things, history and feeling or the thought of the other.

The writer of thesis chooses Robert Frost's poem entitled "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" and that of "In Winter in the Woods Alone." The poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" illustrates on old person who is looking for something in his life and he is unable to fulfill his duties and responsibilities in he rest of his life and he wishes to die. The poem "In Writer in the Woods Alone" illustrates a man who enjoys the nature and he close to nature. According to the illustration, the writer of the thesis is interested in analyzing the theme of two poems. Those poems emphasize the reality of the difficulty of life and finally, the burden must be born by himself. Those poems are also concerned with deep feeling or association of the foundation of his life such as loyalty, the awareness of nature and of God. Those poems also describe the human problem and mystery of the nature. The human problem shows in eight line of "Stopping by Woods in the Snowy Evening" and in first line of "In Writer in the Woods Alone." Mystery of the nature is represented in line 12 of "Stopping by Woods in the Snowy Evening" and in line 9 of "In Writer in the Woods Alone." The theme comparison in divided into 2 parts, those are: denotative and connotative (imagery and symbol). Both of the poem themes give a message to the next generation so the writer of the thesis formulates the title as *The Comparative Study on the Theme of Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" and that of "In Winter in the Woods Alone."*

1.2 Statement of the problem

In line the title this thesis, the writer of the thesis would like to present four problems which are going to be analyzed. Those problems are as follows:

1. What is the denotative / literal meaning of “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” and that of “In Winter in the Woods Alone?”
2. What is the connotative meaning of “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” and that of “In Winter in the Woods Alone?”
3. What are the theme of “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” and that of “In Winter in the Woods Alone?”
4. What is the similarity between the theme of Robert Frost’s “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” and that of “In Winter in the Woods Alone?”

1.3 Limitation of the study

In the study, the writer of the thesis limits herself to the discussion of the theme in two of Robert Frost’s poems. Those two poems are “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” and “In Winter in the Woods Alone.”

1.4 Objective of the study

Based on the statement of the problem, the writer of the thesis presents the objective of study as follows :

1. To interpret the denotative / literal meaning is in the Robert Frost’s “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening” and that of “In Winter in the Woods Alone.”

2. To interpret the connotative meaning is in the Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" and that of "In Winter in the Woods Alone."
3. To find out that theme of "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" and that of "In Winter in the Woods Alone."
4. To find out the similarity of theme between "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" and that of "In Winter in the Woods Alone."

1.5 Significance of study

The result of this study is expected to give a great contribution to readers to analyze the theme of the poems through their intrinsic elements. Moreover, this study is hoped to encourage the student of Faculty of letters, English Department of Widya Mandala University Madiun to analyze this poem from other aspects. The writer of the thesis hopes that the result of this analysis will give contribution to the student who is willing to study about Robert Frost's poem in general. Further more, the writer of the thesis hopes that the result of the analysis will be used as one the reference which can be used by the student of faculty of letters, English Department Widya Mandala University Madiun.