

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five sub chapters of the introduction. Those are background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Everyone has definitely experienced the bitterness and sweetness of life that makes them have to struggle. If we have goals, dreams, ideas, visions, and missions in life, we will struggle to get them. The struggle is an effort made by someone to achieve something they want through a process and obstacles. According to McKechnie (1989, p.367) struggle is a task or goal requiring much effort to accomplish or achieve. If people or all living things want to achieve their desire or ideals, they should struggle to achieve it. It means that in this life there must be an effort to keep moving forward and the spirit not to give up on circumstances. Therefore, people never blame someone, circumstances or something happens that is not in accordance with our wishes. The life struggle is often used by writers as a theme in their literary works, either in the majority or in the minority.

There are so many problems that exist in this world. People or all living things in this world need to struggle to overcome their problems. They face problems in their lives because people or all living thing cannot avoid the problem that comes to their life. However, they should continue their path because they could not stay in the same place. People or all living things need to struggle and survive their own lives. Sometimes they could survive in their life because they have dreams. They want to make it come true. In addition, dreams or desires could help people or all living things in this world to keep struggling for survival and it could be used as the main idea for all literary works, one of them is a poem.

Poem is one of literary work that uses beautiful language because the language that used in a poem is different from everyday language. Poem is one of the literary works that have special characteristics. It is a way to tell stories,

expressing feelings or ideas. According to Ollila and Jantas, poem is any kind of verbal or written language that is structured rhythmically and is meant to tell a story, or express any kind of emotion, idea, or state of being. Poem is used to achieve this artistic expression in several ways (2006, p.1). It means that the delivery of messages in poem is arranged in such a way by using selected diction and written patterns so that the poem looks more aesthetic. Through poem someone can express their emotion, idea or feeling.

What we might learn from a poem, the message or meaning it might impart, is likely to be bound up with its pleasures (Gillis et al, 2010, p.37). We could find out the hidden meaning or message delivered by someone through poem. Someone can tell about their life experiences through poem. Poem can also give a picture of someone's memory that they want to share with others using beautiful language because in writing a poem it cannot be separated from several formal elements such as; *metaphor, simile, symbolism, imagery and allusion*. Some elements contained in a poem make readers easier to interpret the meaning of the poem. They can interpret the poem not based on the author's background or the reader's response but only on the text and the formal elements contained in the poem. A poem can have different meanings according to how the reader interprets the poem. The reader can interpret the theme through the formal element and the reader can understand the meaning through the lyric of the poem

The theme is the main idea in a literary work because without a theme the reader cannot understand the intention, purpose, and what actually the author wants to share, especially in this study of a poem by Hannah Flagg Gould. According to Ollila and Jantas, the main theme of the poem must always be kept in mind. Poets often get too caught up in minute details that take away from the central theme of the story. The theme must always be the center of the action (2006, p.7). It could be said that in a poem, the theme is an important point because through the theme the reader can understand the content of the poem. The writer can express the theme in a poem by using several ways such as the writer

shows the theme in the poem through the choice of words in poems such as the use of *metaphors, similes, symbolism, imagery and allusion*.

One of the themes taken by the researcher in this study is about life struggle. Life struggle is applied not only to humans, but also to animals and all living things. There are three types of life struggles such as struggle against natural conditions, struggle against other species and struggle against one's own species. The struggle against natural conditions is struggle against nature such as earthquakes, floods, looking for food, chasing dream etc. The struggle against other species is struggle against animals. The struggle against one's own species is the struggle of people versus people or animal versus animal. In this study, the researcher tries to reveal the life struggle contained in several poems by Hannah Flagg Gould through the formal elements uses. This could show how the struggle of life is described in Hannah Flagg Gould's poem.

In this study, the writer uses several poems by Hannah Flagg Gould such as "The Crocus's Soliloquy, The Frozen Dove, The Blind Man, and The Wounded Bird". These poems describe the struggle of a person's life and other living things to have a better life, such as the poem of the blind man which tells about a blind man who always lives in darkness and the wounded bird which tells about a bird that has been injured and keeps trying to provide food for its children even though the bird is dying. The life struggle in these poems is explained through the lyrics used by the author. The use of *metaphor, simile, symbolism, imagery and allusion* are able to describe the theme of the poem. It is able to emphasize the themes in the poems.

The reason why the writer chooses these poems of Hannah Flagg Gould is because no one had ever researched these poems before, and also these poems have the theme about life struggle which is very relevant to real life where someone has to try very hard to get something that they want. In this study, the writer focuses on analyzing the text without including the author's background, the author's history in creating the poem, and the reader's feeling in reading the poem.

Hannah Flagg Gould written a lot of poems and those poems have different themes. Hannah Flagg Gould was born in Lancaster, Massachusetts, and moved with her family to Newburyport in 1808. She started writing poetry in her 30s. Her first book of poetry was published in 1832. Her second and third volumes appeared in 1836 and 1841. Some of her poems commemorate her father Benjamin Gould, who led the Massachusetts militia at the battle of Lexington. Hannah Flagg Gould's poems were short, but they were frequently nearly perfect in their kind. Nearly all of them appeared originally in annuals, magazines, and other miscellanies, and their popularity was shown by the subsequent sale of several collective editions. Her work exercised a helpful influence in its day, but lacked staying qualities. The high-water mark of her verse was reached in the poem entitled "A Name in the Sand".

There are some previous studies that have the same theory with this study. The first previous study is from Syekhfani Alif Akbar (2014) entitled *The Struggle in the Beginning of Life Will Lead the Way to Find The Real Family in the End In Malot's Nobody's Boy: A New Criticism Study*. This study is about how the characterization of Remi develops that in the end changes his character through various struggles and conflict to find his biological mother.

The second previous study is from Fauziah Febriyanti (2017) entitled *The Portrayal of Optimism As Seen in Maher Zain's Song "Palestina will be Free"*. In this study Febriyanti explain about the sense of optimism described by children. In her research optimism arises because of hope for a better life and courage to protect the country.

The last previous study is from Arifah Fauziah (2017) entitled *The Portrayal of Regret As Seen in Adele's "Hello": A New Critic Reading*. This study is about regret. The description of regret in the lyrics of the song "Hello" in which there are characteristics of peoples when they feel sorry or regret such as self-blame, disappointed, feeling guilty, and some unpleasant feeling that are described through psychological conditions of regret that affect social situation.

In this research, the writer uses new criticism theory to analyze the meaning of poem through formal element. The writer wants to explain the

meaning of the poem just by the text itself or based on the textual evidence. According to Bressler, like these concrete objects, a poem can be analyzed to discover its true or correct meaning independent of its author's intention or emotional state, or the values and beliefs of either its author or its reader (1994,p.31). The use of this theory lets the reader or the researcher get a different interpretation. Reader or researcher could interpret the poem to find out the representation of life struggle or another element based on the text itself through formal elements such as *metaphor, simile, symbolism, imagery, and allusion*.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on background of the study that has been formulated above, there is one research question as follow:

1. How is the struggle of life portrayed in Hannah Flagg Gould's selected poems?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of this study:

1. To point out the portrayal of life struggle in Hannah Flagg Gould's selected poems through formal elements.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is expected to support poem analysis to find out the themes based on formal elements, especially in the poem of "The Crocus's Soliloquy, The Frozen Dove, The Blind Man, and The Wounded Bird" and also to provide experience and extensive knowledge in analyzing poem that use New Criticism theory. Practically, this study expected to give a new inspiration and become a reference for the readers and also to the next researcher especially for student of English Department in University of Trunojoyo Madura and also other Universities in Madura Island who are interested to analyzing the poem using New Criticism theory especially in formal elements. Hopefully this study could help the reader or the other writers to analyze a poem easily and happily.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research focuses on selected poems by Hannah Flagg Gould about life struggles. The writer uses New Criticism theory especially in formal element. The New Criticism theory helps the writer to find out the life struggles that exist in selected poems by Hannah Flagg Gould. In this study the writer focuses on formal elements that contained in selected poems by Hannah Flag Gould such as: *metaphor, simile, symbolism, imagery and allusion*. The researcher chooses five poems which has the same theme by Hannah Flagg Gould as a source of data analysis such as "The Crocus's Soliloquy, The Frozen Dove, The Blind Man, and The Wounded Bird".