

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some subchapter such as the background of the study, research question, research objective, research significant, limit and scope of the study. In this chapter, the researcher will describe the study generally.

1.1 Background of Study

One of the most famous poems written by Emily Dickinson entitled “I’m Nobody! Who are you?” portrayed the privilege of being nobody. The poem is so famous that the first line of the poem became a popular quote. A lot of critiques believe that the reason why Dickinson’s poem became famous is not far from the message the poem attempt to deliver. Besides, the way Emily’s play with punctuation and word emphasize the value of the poem even more. The poem success embraces the selflessness and mock people desire of masses admiration. It resonates very well with modern society, where people trying so hard to be somebody and be famous (Spacey, 2017).

Poetry can be thought of like a verbal, written art form that uses a heightened sense of language to convey experience, feeling, or modes of consciousness (Bennet and Christopher, 2011). From the example above we know that the great poem is not necessary the poem with the most beautiful word. A poem which reflects the real condition of society tends to leave a more remarkable impression to the reader. Previously, people only focus on the literary work itself and neglect the existence of the author. In another hand, when the sociology aspect is considered, people tend to forget the structure of literature itself. The connection between the structure of the literary work and the society where the poem is written

cannot be ignored. By considering both the structure and social aspect of the literary work we will get a better understanding of what is the message author intended to deliver to the reader.

Especially in the modern era, people are more expressive in delivering their idea, believe and etcetera. Literary work now is not only for aesthetic and art purposed but also as the media where the voice of society is represented. In fact, since the old age literary works has been well-known as the product of social creation. It is obvious how certain literary work becomes a self-explanatory device which describes the condition of society where that literary work was written.

The concept of intercorrelation between the structure of the literary work and society is not only applicable to a classic and famous poem such as “I'm Nobody! Who are you?”. A modern poem such as poems written by Michael Ryan also can be looked up from this perspective. Michael Ryan is an American poet and memoirist. He has written four books and a lot of essay about the poem (Poetry Foundation, 2011). His work achieves several awards such as Yale Series of Younger Poets Award and National Poetry Series. Michael Ryan poem includes *Girls' Middle School Orchestra* (2010), *Hard Time* (2012), *In Winter* 2004, *Again Which* (2007), *The Others* (2004) and more.

Each poem has its own characteristic which makes them special. Even, the poem is written by the same author, the structure and social aspect of the poem will be distinct. The combination of structure and social aspect of the poem can be analyzed from genetic structuralism theory. Genetic structuralism is a theory which connects traditional structuralism and sociology of literature. The theory is proposed by French socialist in 1960s, Lucien Goldmann. He attempts to bridge

the contradiction between structuralism which focuses on literary works anatomy and the sociology of literature which focuses on literary work and it relates to the social aspect (Goldmann 1980). The historical and social background of literary work is one of the keys to looking at literary work from genetic structuralism perspective.

Michael Ryan has been praised as a poet with formal control. For example, *The Other* written in 2004 which tell about minor society and how people with power oppressed them. The helplessness of the oppressed society reflected through the word and line within the line. In addition, by understanding the social issues behind the poem it will help us understand the structure of the poem deeper. It is the reason why Michael Ryan's poems can be analyzed with genetic structuralism.

This study will analyze Michael Ryan's poem entitled 'The Others' in order to understand the issue of social minority, the author wants to deliver to the reader and how it represented in the structure of the poem. The poem which has been mention is chosen because it provides suitable data for this study and never been analyzed in this topic before. In this study, the researcher will analyze the structure of the poem, minority issues in a society where the poem is written also will be considered. Finally, the connection between the poem's structure and social issue portrayed in the poem will be the main concerned of this study.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background study which has been discussing above, this is the research question proposed in this study:

1. How is the social minority's condition reflected and related to Michael Ryan's Poem *The Other* structure?

2. How is the influence of society affect the way social minority's condition reflected and related to Michael Ryan's Poem The Other structure?

1.3 Research Objective

The following objective is proposed based on the research question.

1. To reveal how is the social minority's condition reflected and related to Michael Ryan's Poem The Other structure.
2. To portray how is the influence of society affect the way social minority's condition reflected and related to Michael Ryan's Poem The Other structure.

1.4 Research Significant

Theoretically, this study will be beneficial for student and researcher in order to get a better understanding of the theory of Genetic Structuralism proposed by Lucien Goldmann. Hence, help the student to connect the relationship between the structure of literary work and society. Practically, this study will be very crucial for society to gain awareness about the social issue in the modern era. Especially the modern issues reflected in the literary work, because literary work is the real reflection of society.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The study focuses on to reveal how is the social minority's condition reflected and related to Michael Ryan's Poem The Other structure. Michael Ryan's poem which the researcher analyses is the poem under the title 'The Other' published in 2004. Finally, This study limits the analysis only in poem structure and social issues poem try to portrait. The researcher will not analyze the microstructure of poem and another aspect of the poem outside the intrinsic structure of the poem and its relation with social minority issues in society.