

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter divided into some subchapters. They are background of study, statement of the research problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of study

Poetry is 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 (Ollila and Jantas, 2006; 1). It means that poetry is one way to express emotion, idea or condition in written form. In addition, it gives a clear picture of human creation based on live events or experiences which bring pleasure. According to Hulme, Poetry is the 'direct language' because it 'arrests your mind all the time with a picture' (Beasley, 2007; 31). The statement shows that poetry is more than a word to its reader. In addition, poems can picture and show its meaning clearly.

Poetry is one of literary works which has deep meaning and wide of sense. That is why every reader has different interpretation with the other readers. Many readers find the difficulties when reading a poem than read the other literary works. A good poem even read for hundred times it still continues to produce new thing such as new interpretation because the way of thinking of the readers develops from time to time. To read a poem, the readers have to read slowly, carefully and attentively.

However, many poetry is written on the basis of emotions and feelings. According to Ollila and Jantas (2006; 4), the goal of poetry is to tell the story, express the various kind of emotion, thought or idea. The author tells their message to reader through the beautiful language.

Furthermore, there are some forms of poetry. One of them is sonnet. Sonnet is a poem with fourteen lines of iambic pentameter with specific rhyme. Moreover, according to Michael (1992: 107), sonnet is divided into two types, English sonnet (Shakespearean sonnet) and Italian sonnet (Petrarchan sonnet). English sonnet is 14 lines iambic pentameter with ABAB, CDCD, EFEF, GG rhyme. Italian sonnet is 14 lines iambic pentameter with ABBA, ABBA, CDE, CDE rhyme.

Poem can be one of ways for human to express their feeling in written. People can create poem based on experiences or feeling. Furthermore, poem can be delivered based on what the author's belief or from the bible. It can be seen in Christina Georgina Rossetti's works. Death, love and God are themes found in Rossetti's works. The theme in Rossetti's works related to her religion and suffered from her illness (Simon Humphries, 2008; xxiv). That is why the writer chooses to analysis theme in Christina Rossetti's poems as the topic in this study. Since those theme is interesting to analyze because it happens in everyday life.

Related to the previous paragraph, Christina Rossetti is Anglicanism. Rossetti's mother was well known gives a great influence to the talent in writing of Rossetti.

Moreover, Rossetti's religion took the role in her life and even rejected two proposal engagements because of religion matters. In 1871, Rossetti suffered from several thyroid diseases which affected to her health and changed her appearance. Then two of her beloved family members passed away. Those conditions brought great influenced in Rossetti's life and even her works (Simon Humphries, 2008; xxiii).

The writer uses *Song (when I'm dead my dearest)* and *Remember* as the source of data in this study. The two poems tell about the will of the speaker after she died. In 1862, both poems are published in Christina Rossetti's first major volume entitled *Goblin Market and Other Poems* (Simon Humphries, 2008; 2). The writer is interested in choosing Christina Rossetti's poems because the poems are still well known as beautiful poem until nowadays. Those poems are interesting to be analyzing because they tell readers the similar story. Furthermore, the two poems show the hope to be remembered or forgotten to someone who is loved by the author. In other words, it is the same way to bid farewell because of death. Rossetti tells the readers her feeling through the imagery, symbol and the other poetic devices such as metaphor and irony.

In addition, to analyze the two poems *Song (when I'm dead my dearest)* and *Remember* by Christina Rossetti the writer uses new criticism. There are some writers who use new criticism to analyze their source of data. The first is Wibowo (2012) used new criticism to analyze poem from Coleridge entitled *The Pain of Sleep*. His study focused only in imagery to find the meaning of the poem. The second is Nur

Ardianti who also uses new criticism to analyzed poem from William Wordsworth entitled *A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal* and poem from Christina Rossetti entitled *Song (when I'm dead my dearest)*. Her study focuses on figurative language, imagery and symbol to find the theme from two poems of different authors. Otherwise, this present study analyzes the poetic devices such as symbol, imagery, metaphor and irony in poems *Song (when I'm dead my dearest)* and *Remember* by Christina Rossetti to find the theme from the same author.

In relation with the previous paragraph, this study uses new criticism to analyze the source. “The *text itself*” became the battle cry of the New Critical effort to focus our attention on the literary work as the sole source of evidence for interpreting it (Tyson, 2006:136). It means that the poem is the only one source of data and focus on the text itself without linking to the background of author or other elements.

Since this study uses New Criticism as a tool for analyzing the poem, it is focused on the poetic devices applied in the poem. New critic tries to examine the formal elements of the text to interpret the text and find the theme (Esfahani, 2008: 3). It means that analyzing poetry by using new criticism is only focused on the poetic devices to find the meaning of the poem. This study limits the analysis of the poem itself. The only way to give a better understanding is close reading which describe the meaning through devices of the poem.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

Related to the background of the study, this study discusses the poetic devices in Christina Rossetti's *Song (when I am dead, my dearest)* and *Remember*. The poetic devices that will be analyzed in this study are imagery, symbol, metaphor and irony.

The research question can be addressed as follows:

1. How are the poetic devices applied in the poems?
2. How does the poetic devices analysis represent the themes of the poems?
3. What are the messages that can be learnt from the poems?

1.3 Objective of the study

Based on the research questions, the objective of the study are:

1. To explain the poetic devices applied in the poems.
2. To explain the poetic devices analysis represents the themes of the poems.
3. To explain the messages that can be learnt from the poems.

1.4 The Significances of the Study

Theoretically, this study is expected to support analysis poem to discover the theme, especially in *Song (when I am dead, my dearest)* and *Remember*. Then, the result of the study is capable to enrich the readers' knowledge and understanding especially about analyzing the poem using new criticism and the poetic devices. Meanwhile, this study is practically give better understanding about the poem.

Therefore, the readers will be easy to understand and analyze the poem especially for the student of English department.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

The scope of this study is new criticism to analyze poems entitled *Song (when I am dead, my dearest)* and *Remember* by Christina Rossetti in order to find the themes and the messages. Since the study identifies the poetic devices, so it uses new criticism and focuses on imagery, symbol, metaphor and irony. The analysis limited only on some words and phrases in the poem to obtain the theme.