

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into five parts. They are background of the study, the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study, the significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The role of women in context literary works have enlivened the world before common era. Many women express their ability in writing based on their self experience and most of them have been listed in various books concern early female writers. United States of America is one of countries which presents numerous great women writers. Most of them are famous in their era because they have their own style in writing literary works.

One of American book's author ,Paula Bennet, claims some American women writers such as Anne Bradstreet (1612) and Jane Turell (1708) as great women poet in their era. Their works are published by two anthologies of women's poetry between 1848 and 1849 entitled *The American Female Poets*, edited by Caroline May, and *The Female Poets of America*, edited by Rufus Griswold. Meanwhile, Melissa J. Homestead argues that in the late of 18th century another american woman author like Susanna Rowson appears with her famous novels in her period, such as *Charlotte: A Tale of Truth* who is noted as one of the first novel writer in United States of America (2008:529). Another author who has been honoured until now is Emily Elizabeth Dickinson. Almost unknown author in her lifetime, Emily Dickinson is now recognized as one of

greatest woman poet, and in the view of some, as one of the greatest lyric of all time (Melany, 2013).

In 19th century, not many of women in the United States of America can be an author especially at that time when the condition of this country is quite horrible. As Lori Karen Lebow (1999:2) claims that 19th century is known with a significance evident such as civil war and gender problem. Emily Dickinson who lives in this century certainly to be one of witnesses of the cruel world at that time. Nevertheless, her spirit in writing is not die even inspires her to produce more poetry. Her struggle to be regarded as a great author in America is not easy, because not all her works can be published in her lifetime but most of them are published after her death (Malcolm, 1963:15). At least, her experience during this century has given her a great influence upon her poetry. Dickinson has written more or less 1800 numbers of poetry with any kind of topics which are unique. One of her popular topics which often getting more attention is "Death".

Death, in Dickinson's poetry not only explain ,what it is, but also puts many assumptions upon death which are concepted based on her lifetime experience. During her writing period, between 1860 until 1886 she has written numerous of her death poetry, and argues that she has written about 141 word "death" in her whole poetry (Coghil, 1986:4). All the components of her life have inspired her in writing year after year, even though the condition of life changes time after time which is caused by the evidents of the millieu around as the form of respond to the world. So that is why, Emily Dickinson's death poetry

are unique because they convey a progress meaning of death itself in the first, the middle until the last period of her writing. It seems that the image of death in her poetry are being developed from the first until the last period of her writing between 1858 until 1886 that will be an interesting topic to be analysed. Meanwhile, her biography and her letters will be supported elements in developing the analysis.

The topic of death in Emily Dickinson's poetry has long been depicted in some studies. People use many kind of theories to analyze Emily Dickinson's poems on death in different way. One best example comes from a study written by Sherlij (2000) from Petra Christian University in Surabaya under title "*The Study of Lexical Stylistic in Its Relation to the Author's Attitude Toward Death As Seen Through Emily Dickinson's Poem*" which uses Lexical Semantics theory.

From the statement above, it can be seen that Dickinson's poetry are unique and interest to be analyzed. The development of image of death in Dickinson's death poetry is very unique, it is also not analyzed yet by other writers. In this study, the writers has selected 24 death poetry that will be divided into first, middle and last period of Dickinson's writing.

1.2 Statements of The Research Problems

Dealing with the previous discussion, the following questions are formulated to get clear description about the Development of Image of Death in Emily Dickinson's Poetry Related to Author's Biography.

1. How does the image of death in 24 Dickinson's death poetry develop from 1858 until 1886 of her writing periods?
2. What life background's factors influence the development of image of death in 24 Dickinson's death poetry during 1858 until 1886 of her writing periods?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To analyse the development of image of death in 24 Dickinson's death poetry from 1858 until 1886 of her writing periods.
2. To explain the life background factors that influence the development of image of death in 24 Dickinson's death poetry during 1858 until 1886 of her writing periods.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study provides useful information about the theory itself. By this analysis, it certainly can support the use of Biographical Criticism toward literary works which indirectly will claim the validity of the theory. On the other hand, it will help the writer to understand the relation between author's works and author's life because this theory will elaborate the life of the author deeply to get the point and the purpose of author's works. From this study, the readers will get one great lesson that our life experience can become a precious creation which can be selling point. Besides, it will help the readers to expand their knowledge concerning biographical studies as a guidance for the next studies.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is biographical criticism theory. Then, this study limits on the utterances of the author in her 24 death poetry which will focus on the development of the image of death from the first period until the last period of her writing during the year 1860 until 1886 and biography of Emily Dickinson because they both have a close relationship.