

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

In the late of twentieth century, Reader-response theory emerged as the reaction to New Criticism (Tyson, 2006). Opposing to New Criticism which believes that the emphasis meaning resides solely in the text, Reader-response declares that not only the text which can determine all of the meaning, but also the reader. Both of them are two elements which are inseparable each other (p.170). Parker (2011) declared the idea of basing the writer's critical perspective on what Reader-response critics usually call "the reader" who held a special appeal to critics the literary work (p.21). Reader does not inactively absorb the meaning presented to them from literary text; yet, they enthusiastically make the meaning which they have found in literature. Therefore, the role of reader cannot be omitted from our understanding of literature.

Reader may also interpret the literary text differently based on their experience to fill the gaps which is created by the author as well as the others may interpret it based on their own interpretation. Rosenblatt (1999) stated that there are variable which can contribute in interpreting the meaning such as background knowledge, belief, value, and cultural expectation (p.144). Those variables can affect how reader produces the meaning differently even though they read the same text. Moreover,

reading in the different occasions can also produce the different meaning based on their mood and sensation at that time. Therefore, the writer is challenged to write this research using the application of Reader-response criticism.

There are various types of literary work which can be analyzed using Reader-response criticism. Rosenblatt (1986) stated that the poem, the lived-through 'work,' is what readers 'respond to' 'as it is being called forth during the transaction, and as it is replicated on, interpreted, assessed, examined, and the criticized afterward' (p.124). A novel or poem or play, as described in Rosenblatt (1995), is just consistently an written text until reader changes them into a set of meaningful symbols" (p.24). Rosenblatt attempts to emphasize that text will live only through being read by the reader; before they responded it, the poem is merely ink spots on white paper. Therefore, in this study, the writer attempts to analyze a phenomenal poem, *Shades of Anger*, which has acquired most welcome responses by the readers.

Shades of Anger is written as an explosion by the author, Rafeef Ziyadah. She is a Palestinian woman who has gotten physical violence and sexual abuse by Zionist while she joined a volunteering activity in one of University in United Stated. Then, she dedicated this poem as the expression of anger by the Palestinian to Israel (Zionist) from the bomb which has exploded and destroyed their country until nowadays. Furthermore, the poem has carried Rafeef Ziyadah gained recognition and admiration among Palestinians and solidarity activists from the netizen all over the world. This poem also inspired some readers to criticize its meaning. Consequently,

it could fulfill the gaps of unfolding meaning of couplet which implicitly presented in this poem. Therefore, the poem is really sufficient to be analyzed using Reader-response theory.

Indeed, Rafeef Ziyadah, who was born in Beirut, Lebanon in 1979, is a Palestinian-Canadian poet and human right activist who were chosen as representatives of Palestine at the South Bank Center Poets Olympiad. She also contributed an opinion piece in *the Guardian*, a piece to safeguard the right to Palestinians, regarding the attacks on Gaza and the Boycott, divestments and sanctions movement. She is a smart woman who has inspired many young writers such as Garshon Shafir, the author of *a Half Century of Occupations* book, to write the same topic related to Palestine movement. Her well known poem entitled *Shades of Anger* and *We Teach Life, Sir* has brought her to travel all over the world, especially to perform and conduct poetry workshop.

Based on the statements which has been proposed previously, the study is due to discuss the transaction of the reader and the poem which were classified into aesthetic mode and efferent mode. Besides, this study also discusses the author's messages implied in the poem and the interpretation of gap in the poem related to the issue of Israel-Palestine war.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Creswell (2009) stated "A research problem is the issue that needs to be studied in depth" (80). Therefore, based on the background of study, the writer finds some

issues from Rafeef Ziyadah's poem, *Shades of Anger* which need to be studied deeply using Reader-response theory. There are two research questions which can be noticed, those are:

1. What are the transaction types used by the readers to interpret the Rafeef Ziyadah's Poem, *Shades of Anger*?
2. What does the author's messages implied in the poem, *Shades of Anger* related to reader responses?
3. How do the readers interpret the gaps in Rafeef Ziyadah's Poem, *Shades of Anger*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the research problem, the study is intended:

1. To categorize the transaction types used by the readers to interpret Rafeef Ziyadah's Poem, *Shades of Anger*,
2. To discover the author's messages implied in the poem based on the readers' responses,
3. To discover the readers' interpretation related to the gaps in Rafeef Ziyadah's Poem, *Shades of Anger*.

1.4 Significance of the study

The significances of the study are: (1) Theoretically, this study is expected to give the better understanding about transactional Reader-response through the analysis of Rafeef Ziyadah's Poem, *Shades of Anger*. Then, this study is also

expected to enrich more references and knowledges related to indeterminacy which is applied in particular literary works. This study will give more inspirations to the reader who intends to analyze literary work using transactional Reader-response and indeterminacy as the stimulus to create meaning, especially for students of University of Trunojoyo Madura who take literature as their concentration. The last, this study can guide the readers do not inactively consume the meaning presented to them by an objective literary work; rather they make the meaning which they find in literature.

(2) Practically, this study is expected to give the other author some benchmarks to improve their knowledges in writing new literary work.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is Reader-response theory which focuses on transactional Reader-response. The theory used in this study is mostly proposed by Louis Rosenblatt about transactional theory which is classified into aesthetic mode and efferent mode. In addition, in this study, the theory of indeterminacy proposed by Wolfgang Iser is also elaborated and combined with Transactional theory. The writer limited this study only in the readers' responses which is considered sufficiently to answer research question. Moreover, the writer also limited some stanzas of Rafeef Ziyadah's poem, *Shades of Anger*, which is presenting the 'blank space/gaps' that needs to be uncovered the meaning.