

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents sub chapters, namely background of study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and also scope and limitation.

1.1. Background of Study

Literature spreads and exists through times and also become an important part of many aspects in life, not just in the world of languages but also religion, like Christian. Both literature and Christian develop and evolve closely, which in results it can be seen through many literary works, such as poems, dramas, plays, etc. According to Wellek and Warren (1997: 303), literature is the mirror of human life that potrays human feeling, thought, imagination, and perception which can be viewed based on personal judgement. The previous statement means that literary works can be produced by human's desire and their spiritual experience in their life. The authors use and develop their imagination by their desire and spiritual experience to create and interpret their best literature works with their own hands. As the situation grew well-developed in the literary world, many authors begin to find out their courage to declare their literary works to public, including authors of many Christian's literature. They find the need for the world to know more about scriptures and passages from Holy Bible more than before, which can be expressed from their literary works.

The authors create the literary works based on their spiritual experiences, especially Christian in their life. Spiritual action influences the author's way of

writing. The authors depict many kinds of moral values inside the work about Christian religion based on Holy Bible. It is in relation to spiritual message which the authors want to convey to the reader. For example, it can be seen in the drama entitled *The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe.

Besides drama, many poems also contain religious theme, like “The Last of The Flock” is written by William Wordsworth. He is influenced by Holy Bible. He makes beautiful words to create and combine his poem with quotation from the Holy Bible. According to Deanne Westbrook (2001: 1), William Wordsworth discovered in biblical texts both a basis for his revolutionary poetics and models for his extraordinary poems, whose excellence and innovations owe much to his idiosyncratic and ingenious biblical readings. The previous statement explains about Wordsworth who borrows some citation from Holy Bible’s chapter to create and develop his best poetry with his own language. He wants the reader to be able to catch his interpretation and gets Christian values from his works.

Beside that, the reader must know about the definition about poetry. Poetry is often full of ideas and provides a language of feeling (Bain-Beatty-Hunter, 1981: 537), it means poetry is made by a lot of idea of the poet. He or she writes down their poetry with his or her spiritual experience, then they flare up their beautiful words to arrange their poetries. Sometimes, the beautiful words from poetry can make people motivate to do something. If the reader can get an idea or purpose from poetry, they can get a good message from it.

Jeffrey Skinner is the popular poet for religious poetry. He is an American poet, writer, playwright, and professor of Creative Writing at the University of Louisville. He is co-founder and editorial consultant for Sarabande Books. Jeffrey Skinner lives in Louisville with his wife, Sarah Gorham and their two daughters. The reader must know that his most recent poetry collection is *Salt Water Amnesia* (cstone.net/-poems/saltwsky.html). Also, Skinner is an editor of two anthologies of poems, *Last Call: Poems of Alcoholism, Addiction, and Deliverance*; and *Passing the Word: Poets and Their Mentors*. Skinner's poems have appeared in many literary journals and magazines, including *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *The Nation*, *The American Poetry Review*, *Poetry*, *Bomb*, *DoubleTake*, *Georgia Review*, *Iowa Review*, and *Paris Review*. He gets award from Graywolf press in 1987 when he writes down *A Guide to Forgetting*. He also gets gathered grants, fellowship, and awards from National Endowment (jeffreyskinner.net.html).

Jeffrey Skinner has written the most famous poem collection entitled *The Missouri Review* (2004). The Missouri review has several poems include "My Father's Brain", "The Adirondacks", "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day" and "Black Olives" (missouri.com/archives/poetry-jeffrey-skinner.html). Inside that collection, there are three poems which attract the writer to make a study from the Missouri Review. They are "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day" and "Black Olives". Those three poems are chosen as the source data of the study for several reasons instead of the other poems ("The Adirondacks" and "My Father's Brain"). First, "The Three Temptations of My

Father” tells about the father gets temptations from the devil which is same in the Holy Bible in Matthew chapter four when Jesus gets temptations from the devil. Second, “Lucky Day” tells about the love of the father to his son which is same in the Holy Bible in Luke chapter fifteen which told about the love of the father in parable form. Third, “Black Olives” tell about the result of justification through Jesus which is same in the Holy Bible in Romans chapter five which tell the result of justification through Jesus. Fourth, the three poems have relationship with Holy Bible which is a guide book to elaborate this study. Fifth, the three poems tell Christian’s perspective about Christian values. Sixth, those poems are drawn the condition of society who believe about religion, especially Christian, and the last, the three poems are focused on Jesus’ lesson about life in the world.

It is interesting to acknowledge Christian values in Jeffrey Skinner’s “The Three Temptations of My Father”, “Lucky Day”, and “Black Olives”. First, “The Three Temptations of My Father” draws human must respect to the God, human can get eternal salvation, and human must obey the tenth of God’s command. Second, “Lucky Day” draws the protection of Jesus to his people who believe in his lesson. The last, “Black Olives” draws the depiction between black color which called sin and olive which a fruit can make pure from a sin. Those values inside from the three poems are contained in the Holy Bible.

Previously, there have been a study by using intertextuality theory (Haberer, 2007; Moyise, 2002) all of which only present analyses to find the intertextual relationship of literary works. Nevertheless, none of those studies

provide study by using Skinner's poem: "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day", and "Black Olives" as source of data.

Therefore, this study is suitable to use intertextuality theory, because the source of data from Jeffrey Skinner's "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day" and "Black Olives" are influenced by Christian perspective based on Holy Bible. This study discusses the relationship between Holy Bible and Jeffrey Skinner's "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day" and "Black Olives" in Christians' perspective. Then, this study finds out how are the influence of the Holy Bible toward Jeffrey Skinner's "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day", and "Black Olives".

1.2. Statements of Problem

Based on the previous discussion, this study is intended to answer these following questions:

1. What is the influence of the Holy Bible toward Jeffrey Skinner's poems?
2. What kinds of Christian values are found in Jeffrey Skinner's "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day", and "Black Olives"?

1.3. Objectives of Study

From the statements of problem above the objectives are:

1. To elaborate the influence of the Holy Bible toward Jeffrey Skinner's poems
2. To reveal the kinds of Christian Values are found in Jeffrey Skinner's "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day", and "Black Olives"

1.4. Significances of Study

This study are hoped to give contribution theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study can give a better understanding about Christians' values in a poem especially in "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day", and "Black Olives", then this study can help the next students of English Department as reference how to analyze religious poem based on Holy Bible, and also this study shows the reader about the way to analyze Jeffrey Skinner's "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day", and "Black Olives" by using intertextuality theory. This study is expected to give benefit as the first source of information data about Skinner's "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day", and "Black Olives" to the next studies, because there is no study research on this poem before.

Practically, for Christians, this study is hoped as an orientation of life about the moral values based on Holy Bible to the society.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is the use of intertextuality theory. While, the limitation based on each lines which reflect the value of life in Christian religion in Jeffrey Skinner's "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day" and "Black Olives". This study is limited by focusing only the form of phrases in Skinner's "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day" and "Black Olives".

This study also needs the supporting data to analyze Skinner's "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day" and "Black Olives" in the form of

sentences and quotations from the Chapter of Holy Bible. The value of Holy Bible about Skinner's "The Three Temptations of My Father", "Lucky Day" and "Black Olives" is examined in *The New Testament of Matthew, Romans, and Luke*.