

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of several divisions that present the introductory of this study. Those are background of the study, the statements of the research problem, the objectives of the study, the significances of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is described as beautiful written language by reading and interpreting words. It usually presents the writer's feelings, ideas, imagination, and his/her perception. Edmund Husserl (1859-1938) argues that cannot be sure of the nature of the outside world, but can have certainty about the nature of our own perception and about the ways in which our construct the world.

In connection with the statement above, there are so many literary works, one of them is poetry. Salvatore Quasimodo, in one of his speeches delivered in 1960 (Webster, 1995: 324), stated that poetry is the revelation of a feeling that the poet believed to be interior and personal which the reader recognize as his own.

However, in another case according to Wordsworth, poetry define as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Emily Dickinson, 1808: 01). It means that the meaning of the poem is described as written language that becomes the way of persons to overflow their powerful feelings spontaneously. In addition, (Hirschberg, Stuart and Terry, 2004:33) had said, "Poetry uses languages in way that communicate experience rather than certainty giving information." It means that the poems use languages not only to communicate experience, but also to

give clear information. Poetry is one of the interesting literary works, which is the most appropriate genre of literature to be analyzed by New Criticism. Poetry have a beautiful word or implied meaning to convey the true meaning of the poem itself.

This study needs an appropriate theory to be used as a means tool to analyze. By using New Criticism, this study produces a clear analysis, because this theory applies close reading to reveal the messages of a literary work. New Criticism is general approach to analyze the poem. In this study, New Criticism is used as a means way to analyze the irony of the poem. New Criticism is general approach to analyze the poem.

There are three kinds of irony; those are verbal irony, dramatic irony, and situational irony (Perrine, 2002: 113). Irony means to convey something outside of the thinks pass through an utterance which is used merely as a figure of speech. Irony has meanings that extend beyond its use merely as a figure of speech. In another cases, figures of speech are a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and of conveying attitudes along with information. Also, figures of speech are a way of bringing additional imagery into verse, of making the abstract concrete, of making poetry more sensuous (Perrine; 2002:18).

In regard to the previous explanation, this study is analyzing the poem entitled “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime” & “Bereft” uses irony as the main theory. In relation to the previous discussion, there are many poems explore a topic about irony, such as in this poem “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime” by

William Carlos Williams & “Bereft” by Robert Frost. The following explanation becomes the main reason of choosing the source of data.

First, “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime” by William Carlos Williams & “Bereft” by Robert Frost is one of the works of American poets, these two poem is ironic poem and they of the greatest American writers. Second, “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime” & “Bereft” describe a lonely person that loss his/her beloved persons. Which portrayed the word in this poem is beauty and the story is interesting and exciting. In this poem, the writers employ their meaning with an implied word that which have a beautiful meaning. The last, “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime” & “Bereft” tells about the main character to convey the true meaning of the poem using an implied word.

Many cases of irony are found in “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime”. This poem tells about a widow who is still in mourning of the loss of her husband. She is very sad because she lost her husband. The poem is written as she is speaking or thinking to herself. The poem is set during the spring and all the events of the poem take place in all around the widow’s yard.

In relation to sorrow and loneliness, in second poem “Bereft” also describes the sorrow feeling of person. The person is alone not only in his house but also in the world, everything even the nature seems to be hostile towards him. This is a deep poem that brings out the loneliness of man who is living inside the manifestation of nature. The poet feels loneliness in his life but he has a great faith in God.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, this study focuses on two questions related with the theme “irony”; the problems are formulated as follow:

1. What kinds of irony are there in “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime” by William Carlos Williams and “Bereft” by Robert Frost?
2. What are the meanings of the irony in these two poems?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To describe kinds of irony found in “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime” by William Carlos Williams and “Bereft” by Robert Frost.
2. To elaborate the true meanings of the irony in “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime” and “Bereft” by Robert Frost.

1.4 Significances of the Study

Dealing with the previous discussion, this study has some benefits and gives significance in both theory and practice. Theoretically, this present study becomes the foundation or reference for the next studies. This study gives expectation that the readers would get an understanding on the analysis of new criticism, irony particularly in a poem as in “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime” and “Bereft”, in order to convey the true meanings of the ironies in poems. Practically, the result of the study can be used by another student to analyze the poem from different point of view, and it is supposed to give some knowledge about kinds of irony, and the meanings of the irony of the poems.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study analyzes poems by William Carlos Williams which is entitled “The Widow’s Lament in Springtime” and “Bereft” by Robert Frost by using New Criticism approach. The scope of this study is irony, In addition this study limits on the words and phrases which show and reflect the true meanings of the irony in these two poems which relevant with this study.