

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. It consists of the background of the research, the statement of the problems, the purpose of the research, the significances of the research, conceptual framework, and the previous studies.

A. Background of the Research

Literature is the creative process of human language in order to fulfill the desire of human being to use their language creatively. An art covers the ideas, feelings, values and vision of humanity in the world around us. The works of art that may be comprised under the general heading literature are prose, drama and poem. Literature brings some values through our lives and helps us to understand our selves better. It conveys moral lesson like truth, wisdom and humanity. Literature makes those moral lessons easy to understand because they usually use beautiful language as implementation of our lives. But here sometimes literature does not use common language like in poem.

The language of poem is truly hard to understand. Between poetry and other form of imaginative language, there is no sharp distinction. Perrine (1977: 9) says, “The difference between poetry and other literature is only one degree”. It means that poetry have a little differentiation from the language of drama or prose in way to send the message. Poem expresses the idea in line by using diction, figure of speech, imagery, rhyme, and rhythm, sound and meaning pattern tone as the element of poem. We can see that sometimes the language used in poem is more complex in meaning and sometimes symbolic.

The meaning offered is not as clear as meaning of prose or even drama. The language of poetry is different from ordinary language that we use in our daily communication that gives straight meaning or simple meaning (denotation) of some information. Poetic speech has plastic character that enables the reader to interpret

a multi dimensional meaning from what it literally stated. Volve (in Siswantoro, 2002: 3) says that poetry is perhaps the most difficult kind of language. Poems sometimes are fully symbolic. Many poems use symbol to make it more interesting. Pierce (in Santosa, 1990: 11) stated that symbol is something that does it functions as signifier by the conventional law that is commonly used in society. Symbol is one of semiotic study that represents what are behind somewords, phrases, or pictures. In literature, it is one of interesting fields of study.

Many literary works are written by using symbol. It makes the reader think whatthat means and what the writer wants to say with those symbols. Symbol is something that is interesting to analyze because we will know the meaning behind the symbol and it make us interpret what the symbol wants to tell. In our surrounding, we might see so many symbols to find what their meanings are. In literature, there are sometime symbols, which create curiosity that will make them interesting. Symbol is one of sign modes that need creative translation. Pierce (in Santosa, 1990: 12) says that symbol shows the relation between sign and signifier inarbitrary characteristics.

The reader must find out the relation between the signifiercreatively and dynamically, because it is sometimes influenced by the cultural situation and condition. It becomes interesting because the poem is actually full of imagination and symbols sometimes are not clear enough. I n this research, the writer wants to focus on the symbols used in Gerard Manley Hopkins's poems.

Gerard Manley Hopkins is one of Victorian poetswhose poems are deeply religious. All of his poems have never published until hisdeath. Hopkins is therefor the poet who bridges the century and carries Victorian doubt to the other side of the First World War and into modernism. Hopkins washighly original poet bringing a new energy into his wrestling with doubt, sensuality,and the glories of nature. Although his anguish is very similar to George Hebert's,Hopkins is negotiating with a God who must exist, but can only truly be seen in nature.

Glory be God for dappled things (Pied Beauty)

His major single poem is The Wrecks of the Deutschland (1876), inspired by the deaths among five nuns.

*Five! The finding and sake
 And chipper of suffering Christ.
 Mark, the mark is of man make
 And the word of it sacrificed.
 But he scores it in scarlet himself, on his own bespoken.
 Before-time-taken, dearest prized and priced-
 Stigma, signal, cinquefoil token
 For lettering the lamb's fleece, ruddying of the rose-flake.*

Many of Hopkins sonnets take the bound of human suffering to level not attempted since Shakespeare words “Nothing will come of nothing” find an echo in Hopkins no worst there is none. But Hopkins reject rather that indulges in the negative emotion of despair. Hopkins rejects the ultimate despair because he continues to believe in the existence of God. But his doubts are radical doubts. He questions a world in which right and wrong appear to him to be reversed. In the poem “Thou art indeed just, Lord” he takes this question directly to God.

*Thou art indeed just, Lord, if contend
 With thee; but, sir so what I plead I just.
 Why do sinners' ways prosper? and why must
 Disappointment all I endeavour end?*

This is poetry in the tradition of metaphysical poetry of John Donne and George Herbert. It is sensuous and intensely spiritual in some poem, involves the description of the violent emotion. In a sequence of sonnet written between 1885-1886 and referred to as the ‘terrible’ or ‘dark’ sonnet Hopkins writes from the deepest agonies of despair at world which is for him a spiritual wilderness. Indeed his exploration at times reveals wilderness emptiness within his own soul.

The honest statement of doubt and despair prefigured those of 20th century such as TS. Eliot and explain why his work become so influence on the literature of the modern period when it was published. But Hopkins also experimented and innovated in his poetry and influence many other poets' forms and technique. He

believes that many object experiences or happening had his own unique pattern and much of his poetic technique aims to reveal that uniqueness or inscape. His sprung rhythm means that he exploits every aspect of language-sound, syntax, choice less of words (often dialect word) to render the precise nature of what he describe.

B. Statement of Problems

In conducting this research, the writer is going to focus the observation on religious symbols used in Gerard Manley Hopkins poems with the problem of this research as follow:

1. What are the religious symbols used in Gerard Manley Hopkins poems?
2. What are the meanings of religious symbols used in Gerard Manley Hopkins poems?

C. Purpose of the Research

Based on the problem that have been stated above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the religious symbols used in Gerard Manley Hopkins poems.
2. To find out the meaning of the religious symbols used in Gerard Manley Hopkins poems.

D. Significance of the Research

The study of religious symbols of Gerard Manley Hopkins poems has several benefits they are:

1. Theoretically, to enrich the study of literature especially on Gerard Manley Hopkins poetry and it contribution for English department student particularly in learning poetry.
2. Practically, to conduct framework analysis for another student to study sign especially symbol in comprehensive as well as to improve student or the reader knowledge, particularly about Semiotics used to analyze poem in literature.

E. Conceptual Framework

Poetry is literary work that uses the language as a medium. According to Pradopo, Rahmat Djoko (1987:121), “Arti bahasa sebagai system tanda tingkat pertama disebut meaning, sedangkan arti sastra sebagai system tanda tingkat kedua disebut significance (makna).” It means sense of language as a first level of sign system is meaning, while the sense of literature as a second of sign system is significance (meaning).

Literature is based on the conventions of literary society, even the language conventions in the literature can be adapted to the conventions of literature. In analyzing literature works, writer should to analyze the system and determine the sign conventions of what makes it possible signs or structures of signs in the range of literature that has meaning included a poem containing the signs. Then to examine the poem could not be separated from the semiotic analysis.

The term semiotics comes from the Greek word meaning semion means sign. The shortness definition of semiotics according to Chandler, Daniel (2005:1), “Semiotics is the study of sign.” According Eco, Umberto as quoted by Chandler, Daniel (2002:2), “Semiotics is concerned with everything that can be taken as a sign.” Meanwhile, according to Nurgiantoro, Burhan (2009:40), “Tanda adalah sesuatu yang mewakili sesuatu yang lain yang dapat berupa pengalaman, pikiran, perasaan, gagasan, dan lain-lain.” It means the sign is something that represents something else that can be the experience, thoughts, feelings, ideas, and others. Semiotics is the study of signs, the sign can be the experience, thoughts, feelings, ideas, and so on.

Semiotics comes from the science of linguistics by Ferdinand de Saussure. For the Saussure, language consists of a number of signs present in a network system and can be arranged in a structure. The sign consists of the sounds and images; sounds are called signifier, and the concept of noises, sounds and images are called signified. Signifier and the signified is considered as the most important concepts and this concept is known as dyadic models.

Another concept of semiotics is Charles Sanders Peirce is an American philosopher. According Nurgiantoro, Burhan (2009:41), “Proses semiosis yang

menuntut kehadiran bersama antara tanda, objek, dan interpretant itu oleh Pierce disebut sebagai triadik.” It means Pierce argued that semiotic theory consists of three main elements, namely the representamen (sign), object, and interpretant, which can be called semiotic triangle.

The basic principle of literary symbols, as previously explained, is a word, or phrase that represents an object or signifies something beyond, because literary work is a structure of signs. Frye argues that literature itself formed such a system. In addition, Frye insists that literature is ‘an autonomous verbal structure’ quite cut off from any reference beyond itself... (Eagleton, 1983: 91-92) and the symbol is one of the elements that construct the system of literature’s body wholly.

Symbol used in literature are objects used to represent other things or ideas. Etymologically, the word symbol derives from the Greek verb *symbollein*, to throw together (things or behaviors) related to such ideas (Sobur, 2004: 155). Symbol is basically kind of image, otherwise an image may be invoked once a metaphor, but if it persistently recurs, both as presentation and representation, it becomes a symbol may even part of symbolic words (Wellek and Warren, 1978: 189). Therefore, symbol can be in the form of metaphor, image, and even metonymy.

Semiotics is one of the most interested literary approaches used by literalists nowadays. Endaraswara, Suwardi (2008:64), “*Semiotik adalah model penelitian sastra dengan memperhatikan tanda-tanda bahasa dalam karya sastra... melalui ilmu ini karya sastra akan dipahami arti di dalamnya.*” It means semiotics is a literary works...through this study, the inside meaning of literary works will be understood.

Semiotics theory is development of structuralism theory that had been developed by Ferdinand de Saussure and Charles Sanders Pierce. Semiotics, which defines itself as the science of signs, posits a zoological pursuit: the semiotician wants to discover what are the species of signs, how they differ from another, how they function in their native habitat, how they interact with other species. Confronted with a plethora of text that communicate various meanings to their readers, the analyst does not pursue a meaning; he seeks to identify signs and describe their functioning. (Culler, 1981: vii-viii).

Though literature, including poetry, is in anyway a work that is mainly based on the writers' subjectivity on their own view, structuralist (including semiotician) believes that the subjectivity is still bound with a general convention. It is because the point of structuralism is mainly based on the philosophy that the nature consists of several elements that support each other in creating a whole structure. Thus, in semiotics, any discourse that may not be understood in the first stage of comprehension is represented by signs. Sign, then, refers to general consensus of human natural decoding capacity that may, or even always refer to the same concept.

Poetry is a literary work that expresses thoughts and feelings imaginatively through language as the medium by concentrating all the elements of the power of language. language position is an important factor as a medium for the poet to express thoughts, ideas, feelings and others in poetry. Language of poetry is arranged in figurative language. A word has a double meaning possible. Words that seems meaningless given meaning by the poet. Meaning of the word may be given a new meaning. The value of sense gives a new sense.

Analyzing the poem aims to understand the meaning of poetry. Analysing the poem means expressing and giving meaning to a poem text. It is described previously that the poem is a meaningful structure. Finding meaning in the poem is not so easy to obtain because the meaning is more difficult to find. According to Waluyo (1991:103), "*Dalam puisi, kata-kata, frasa, dan kalimat mengandung makna tambahan atau makna konotatif. Bahasa figuratif yang digunakan menyebabkan makna dalam baris-baris puisi itu tersembunyi dan harus ditafsirkan.*" It means that to find meaning in the poem required interpretation of meaning can be found in figurative language, imagery, word use by the concrete poet.

According to Frye, "Symbol...means any unit of any literary structure that can be isolated for critical attention. A word, a phrase, or an image used with some kind of special reference...is all symbols when they are distinguishable elements in critical analysis" (Frye, 1975: 71). Whatever is written in the form of a text could be as symbol and it may signify different meaning in every different work. When a

word, a phrase, or an image in a work that is possible to be symbols, it encounters a process of constructing meaning and the theme

A French symbolist Stéphane Mallarmé had thought of symbolism many years ago in 1891 and defined it as, “the art of evoking an object little by little so as to reveal a mood or, conversely, the art of choosing an object and extracting from it an *état d’âme*” (Chadwick, 1971: 1). The definition conveys symbolism is born from the mood in the form of the words. The technique of expressing the mood itself is not once evoked in a single decipherment but spreading it partially in many strategic places to raise the force of suggestion to the reader. In addition, it implies that the expressing ideas and emotions are deliberately described indirectly to get the suggestive sense to the reader. Thus, Chadwick has his definition of symbolism that,

Symbolism can therefore be defined as the art of expressing ideas and emotions not by describing them directly, not by defining them through over comparisons with concrete images, but by suggesting what these ideas and emotions are, by re-creating them in the mind of the reader through the use of unexplained symbols (Chadwick, 1971: 2-3).

Thus, symbolism means system of symbols used to represent a particular group of ideas (Hornby, 1987: 876). Literary symbolism is a kind of literary elements using a concrete imagery for expressing feeling or an abstract idea. This term is also related to the art and literature movement in France in 19th century which contradicts realism (Sudjiman, 1990: 73). In literature, additionally, some symbols are conventional or public, some poets, like all of us, use such conventional symbols, many poets; however, also use private or personal symbols (Abrams, 1985: 206). Symbolism is consciously put into a work of fiction or not is debatable and, in any case, probably depends on the individual writer (Smith, 1989: 157).

For that reasons, the researcher assumes that religious symbols in Hopkins’ poems can be analyzed and criticized by Riffaterre’s semiotics of poetry on all phase because those symbols are related to something inward or outward of the works. To analyze symbols in these poems, the researcher elaborates the symbols

by recognizing few symbols with looking for the repeated words, and making categories. Then, the researcher identifies and analyzes it by using the theory of symbol to make process of symbolization to find the meaning and finally, making conclusion for all of analysis.

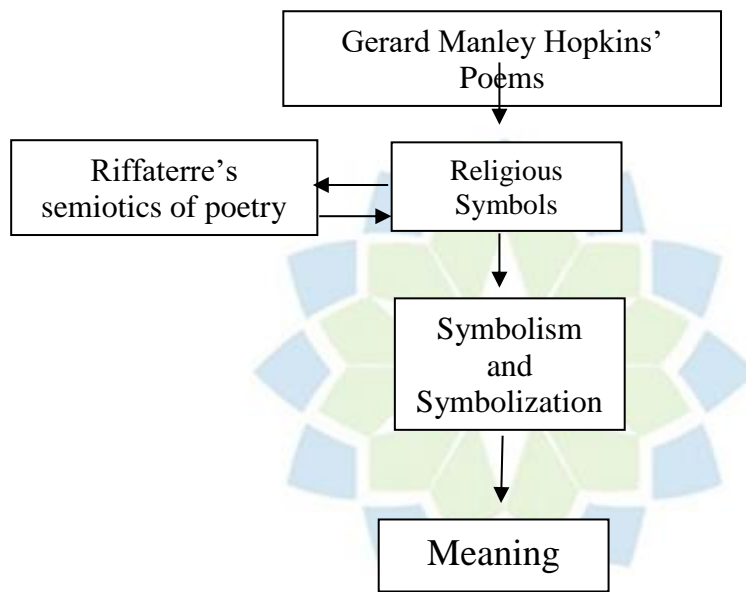


Figure 1
Conceptual Framework

F. The Previous Study

Literary work especially in symbols discussion, also can collaborated with another aspect for example as a research by Lazuardi Ahmad in 2009 titled *The Symbol of Love in Edgar Allan Poe's poems*. . The result of this research is divided into two discussions. First the analysis the symbols of love and its symbolization in Edgar Allan Poe's poems, Lenore, Annie, mother as a main character has been lost in Poe's life because she was die, Poe losses everything; his life, his spirit, and his loved. Lenore, Annie, Mother, Tamerlane are replication of His love. Sea is experience of Poe's love. And become the symbol that Poe's love. Lenore, Annie, Mother, Tamerlane, sea symbolize brotherly love, motherly love, erotic love, power of love, and experience of love. Second interpretation meaning of symbolization love according frye's theory. Symbolization according to Frye can pass four phase

of symbolization. In every phase, the symbols show the important thing to relieved Poe's love.

Another previous study is about Romanticism by William Wordsworth a study by Annisa in 2018, titled *Nature Element and Romantic Reflection in Maleficent Movie and Novel*. Her study is about, natural element and romantic reflection in maleficent movie and novel. To analyze her research, she use the theory romanticism of William Wordsworth (2014) and comparative literature (1993).

Her research put the screenshot of movie first followed by the citation from novel, and she explained how the natural element portrays about maleficent character and reflected of romantic idea. My study have the same theory with her that is romanticism by William Wordsworth.

