

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Criticism can be said as a judgment posed by someone to another. For people, criticism will be useful since they want to make the works better, because criticism can make them realize when they make a mistake and they will think for the next. Besides, someone who has different opinion in giving a response or support to a certain opinion in the discussion can also be said as criticism because they can give their argument for the consideration. Criticism is derived from the word 'critic' comes from Latin, 'criticus' which means judge, to judge, or decision taker. Earlier, etymologically 'critic' was coming from Greek which means someone who gives reasonable arguments or analysis, judgment values, or even interpretation (Williams: 85). Moreover, critic can expose oneself to a debate, trying to persuade other people, and summon the contradiction (Eagleton: 70). It can be said that critic is not only regard in 'good feeling', but it has to involve the ways of analysis and the forms of particular experience that does not belong to other people.

In social life, criticism might be posed or implied. It is because of the alteration of social. The alteration of social here is a common process since it happened continuously. However, not all of this alteration brings a positive impact to the society. Instead, there might be a negative impact that makes critics occur in social life, and it is called as social criticism.

Social criticism is a phrase that consists of two words, 'social' and 'criticism'. Social criticism can be known as a social activity which is done by a group of people in analyzing, appreciating, and examining a situation of society in a certain time and it is objectively done with certain aim and reason. Moreover, social criticism can be said as reaction or idea toward social condition in the society. Social criticism bounds itself in evaluating the norms of society, whether the justice principle is already filled or not (Keat: 291).

Since social criticism is one of communication methods in the area of social life, it can be used as a control toward the system of social process. There are many ways people do in criticizing the social condition; one of them is writing a work of literature. Since the European's bright time, social criticism was posed in the form of literature. It is because literature helps middle class people, as the tool in getting their self esteem and reveals the human claims to against the country and the hierarchic people (Eagleton: 2).

In Romantic period social criticism had moved to poem. Poem was considered as 'critic of life,' an absolute art, and the deeply idea that can be understood for certain social facts (37). This study attempts to discuss about criticism toward the social condition through literature, particularly poem which is one of literary works. Literature is different for other aspects since it becomes an individual matter for the reader; meaning that literature can be interpreted by each person. Based on dictionary, poem is a piece of writing in which the expression of feelings and ideas is given intensity by particular attention to diction (sometimes involving rhymes), rhythm, and imagery (Oxford Dictionary, 339). It can be said,

poem could be written by a poet since the poet might have an expression that he or she wants to express. In interpreting a poem, the reader has to understand the implied meaning of the poem. Therefore, the reader has to find the meaning of the words which are structured in the form of poetry. According Hawkes poetry is a structure in which it is composed by systematic elements or substances and there is an interrelationship among them (17). Thus, poem is not only a group of words that can stand individually, but those words are mutually bound and interdependent as well.

Poetry has different characteristic from other forms of literature. It is written in an intended language; it has structure, sound and sense as the devices which aren't obviously seen in the novel, drama or short story. Furthermore, a poem has figurative languages, that will produce the meaning implicitly, then the reader should find the meaning behind what was written within.

In writing poetry, poets might express something happened in their life. Their poems might reflect the conditions around them and they might also respond to those conditions. In other words, poets might also have criticism about something, since criticizing something can be done as the implication of their feeling. In this study, the writer raises the social criticism that is portrayed in the poem. It means that the writer wants to discuss how the poet responds to the social condition through writing a poem.

William Blake is one of poets who lived in Romantic period, precisely between 1757 and 1827. He's an English poet who is very religious and most of his poems are filled with religious words. Based on Blake's historical background,

he had ever met God in his dream that made him write the religious poems. Besides, Blake's poems mostly protested against war and tyranny (Johnson and Grant: xxviii). It can be assumed that William Blake was also inspired by the condition of British government and the condition where the Industrial Revolution occurred. Industrial Revolution certainly had been giving great influences for the civilization in the world. It can be seen from the advance of technology in each industrialized country including England as the first country where Industrial Revolution occurred. By the time when Industrial Revolution firstly occurred in England, Blake might realize that there was a negotiation among the societies. The social criticism was implicitly depicted in Blake's poems, particularly in "The Tyger" and "The Lamb". Moreover, most of Blake's poems were satirizing the British government, the tyranny.

William Blake was considered as a "man of Genius" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. About Blake's poetry, his poetry was not well known by general public, but William Blake's achievement was mentioned in *A Biographical Dictionary of the Living Authors of Great Britain and Ireland* which was published in 1816. Similarly to Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Wordsworth also made his own copies for several songs (Historical Background of William Blake, webpage). The statement above is what makes the writer decide to choose William Blake and his poems to be the source of the study in the writer's thesis. Moreover, the writer regards to analyze "The Tyger" and "The Lamb" since those poems are very famous in Blake's illuminated books, "Songs of Innocence" and "Song of Experience". The writer also considers that there is a relation between

the Industrial Revolution and the social condition in the year William Blake wrote those poems. Therefore, they contain social criticism in attitudinizing the social changes during the Industrial Revolution period in England. In this point, William Blake has his own way to express his social criticism, using figurative language such as symbol and metaphor that needs to be semiotically interpreted, especially in his two important poems, "The Lamb" and "The Tyger", to understand their meaning.

"The Lamb" was published in 1789, when Blake was 32 years old. It is coinciding with the occurring of the Industrial Revolution in England, while "The Tyger" was published in 1794, when Blake's was 37. Those poems are written in Blake's illuminated book, named "Songs of Innocence" and "Songs of Experience."

Those poems have oppositional meaning that can be seen from the symbols. In "The Lamb" there is a 'lamb', which symbolizes goodness, while a 'tiger' in "The Tyger" is a symbol of evil. That opposition is clearly called as binary opposition which means two ideas, directly opposed, each of which we understand by means of its opposition to the other (Tyson: 213). That is why the writer is very interested in analyzing those poems by finding the meaning behind those written and trying to dig up the structure of those poems and interpret it deeply. In analyzing them the writer is going to search from the use of language that consists of figures of speech and imagery, and finally relate it to the theme.

Since the social criticism sticks in the meaning of the poems the writer will elaborate the background of the poet to relate with the expressions used in the

poems. Moreover, the writer will find Blake's criticism toward social life at that time as the involvement of social criticism that implied in the poem and the writer also finds how Blake depicted the event during the Industrial Revolution which became the main influence of the poet in writing "The Tyger" and "The Lamb". In identifying the meaning behind the written text of "The Tyger" and "The Lamb" in different aspect, the writer decides to use the structural dynamic as the relevant theory to analyze those poems.

Structuralism theory as the basic theory, limits the analysis on the structure of the poem. It means that structuralism will limit into inner structure or that poem will alienate the relevance of the history of poem that was made, either with social culture. Therefore, the use of structural dynamic here is important because the reader will get the complete meaning behind those poems by looking the historical background and the social condition when that poem was made, that is an analysis using structural elements in semiotic framework. Hence, the poem cannot be apart from the historical background of social environment that made it (Humaniora Journal article GadjahMadaUniversity). From the statement posed before, the writer agrees that the structural dynamic is a theory about to analyze the structure of the object by looking up the history of the object based on the structure of the works. Therefore, the writer will find the meaning of those poems by interpreting the intrinsic elements of each poem as the reflection of the poet's thought. The writer considers that there might be Blake's purpose behind writing those poems.

Moreover, the writer uses structural dynamic theory because the objects, William Blake's "The Tyger" and "The Lamb", contain signs which should be

interpreted by opening the structure of those poems in order to strengthen the analysis and absolutely find the meaning as a whole. Social criticism as the main issue in those poems is certainly as the reflection of the time and social condition of the poet's life. This study prefersto use structural dynamic as the theory applied since the use of this theory will make the writer get the more complete meaning of the poem. Therefore, the use of structural dynamic as the theory applied will be relevant to the context.

The writer certainly has reasons why the topic of this discussion is chosen. WilliamBlake's "The Tyger"and "The Lamb"are interesting poems. Although those poems are filled with religious expression, yet the writer decides to identify the meaning behind those poems. Viewing those poems from different aspect is one of the reasons for the writer in conducting this study. By reviewing the previous studies, there is an essay done by Jawanza James Williams, entitled "An Explication of William Blake's "The Tyger" and "The Lamb": A Structuralist Approach". This essay discussed about those "The Tyger" and "The Lamb" in explicating them separately and synchronizing the themes and techniques used serve as clarifications as to why Blake's work has profound effects and success. Williams used structuralist approach since he would like to found the meaning of those poems. He agreed that Blake's "The Lamb" is an interesting that can serve as a survey of popular perspective on God and humanity. While "The Tyger" can be used to challenge the theme of "The Lamb", challenge here is man or human will not always be a good person but they may sometimes become a bad person by facing their experiences. From this point forward, that what makes the writer

choose social criticism reflected in William Blake's "The Lamb" and "The Tyger" as the topic of this study.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, the poems "The Tyger" and "The Lamb" are worth to analyze, focusing on the social criticism contained in those poems. Thus, the statements of the problem proposed in this study is

- How is social criticism reflected by William Blake in "The Tyger" and "The Lamb"?
- What are the meanings of the criticism in socio-historical context?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Concerning the statement of the problem posed above, thus the objective of the study that is intended by the writer is

- To dig up the way how the social criticism is expressed in "The Tyger" and "The Lamb", written by William Blake by using figures of speech and imagery.
- To understand the meaning of the criticism in social-historical context.

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give significance to the reader in two ways, theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is worth since it can help in adding more knowledge about structural dynamic for those readers who either want to use structural dynamic as the theory of their writing. Moreover, this study is good for other students since there is still no poem analysis using structural dynamic in the Faculty of Humanities and it is also expected to help in giving

more view and idea for them, because if they want to finish their analysis using the same theory they can use this study as one of the references.

While practically, the writer aims that the readers will get more insights about social criticism that remains happened in the country. Furthermore, this study is expectable to give the good influences for students of AirlanggaUniversity particularly this Faculty of Humanities in daily life. Eventually, the readers are expected become wisely in acts toward the social criticism that has been existing in their society.

Another reason, it also supported with data that has no study about the writer's topic in this Faculty of Humanities. Besides, phenomenon of social condition of the society as the involvement of social criticism remains happens today in the country. For the last, the writer also wants to show the readers that this study will be able to give more insights about the social criticism, then they could improve their awareness toward social criticism and they could act more wisely in their society. That is why those poems are worth to study in this thesis

1.5. Scope and Limitation

Discussion about the social criticism may become far-ranging and too long. That is why the writer intends to scope and limit the discussion. This discussion will focus on how social criticism is presented in William Blake's "The Tyger" and "The Lamb" through use of figurative language. the text that implies social criticism. Therefore, analyzing the structure of the poems and identifying the signs using semiotic approach in those poems are necessary in order to get the meaning behind them. Moreover, the writer also learns the historical background

by looking up the condition, situation to relate the philosophical background and the aims of William Blake as the poet in the time of writing those poems. Thus, structural dynamic is decided by the writer as the relevant theory covering the study.

1.6. Theoretical Background

Structural dynamic theory is believed to be applied here since “The Lamb” and “The Tyger” is the reflection of William Blake’s mind as the poet of those poems. Besides, it also because the writer identifies the meaning of those poems through the figurative language and the symbol stated in those poems. As mentioned before about those poems are Blake’s reflection, so that the writer will learn about the historical background of William Blake as the poet, in order to get the complete meaning and finally build the theme.

Structural dynamic here is certainly based on the structuralism theory, in which according to Levi-Strauss, structuralism is the essence of an object that is not be placed in the object itself, yet it is placed into the relationships toward the object. There is no substance that has its meaning autonomously, unless it is related to the meaning of all substances in the pertinent structural system (Foley: 92). A poem is a structure, in which its meaning is obtainable; by analyzing the meaning in every substance that related to other substance meaning in that poem itself as the structural system (Siswantoro: 13). It is because a poem is not just a kind of a group of words without cohesion, but the structure is the wholeness.

Structural dynamic on the basis of semiotics concept, is used in order to get the utterly meaning of poem as a structure, and we should open eye to the

characteristic of sign. Instead, the sign itself will get the utterly meaning through the perception of reader (Teeuw: 62).

The approach puts the strong basic for the research of literary history that disregard, but it is entangling that history to the structure of literary work; that work should be resided into one aspect, in the system of all literary dynamic development.... Thus, there will be defensible of literary research with history of literary as the autonomous scientific method based on the characteristic of semiotics, without alienate it from the all of histories and the society systems (62-63).

1.7. Method of The Study

Analyzing Blake's poem, "The Tyger" and "The Lamb" using structural dynamic as the theory is categorized by using qualitative method. Since data are very important for the writer in writing the study, that is why in order to get a good writing, the writer has enough data. Those data are used in finding the issue and supporting the analysis as well. Based on the qualitative method, there are two kinds of data source that is used in the study. Those are primary source and secondary source. Since primary source is the original document written by its author, so that the primary source that is used in this study is poems written by William Blake entitled "The Tyger" and "The Lamb". Then, since the secondary sources are used in order to sharpen the analysis, so that secondary sources that are used by the writer are the references and there also some essays and journals as the related studies, in which it either discussed about the same object with

different theory and vice versa. Those related studies also become secondary sources.

In conducting this study, since, the writer identified the meaning of those poems through continuously reading and find the behind meaning, that is why the writer use close reading in order to get the data from those poems. Then, the steps of close reading itself are; heuristic and hermeneutic. Furthermore, in the analysis, beside illustration of the poems, the writer will also make tables in order to guide the writer to find the meaning related to the issue of social criticism based on the poems.

Since the further reading is necessary in order to get the complete data, the writer also uses the online source to find the entries to sharpen the analysis. Structuralism here becomes the basic theory of structural dynamic that will used as one of tools and as the first step in order to find the implied meaning of those poems. Thus, the writer finds the signs in those poems in order to get the meaning by using table in order to classify the sign that is depicts social criticism in the poem easily. Moreover, the writer relates the analysis of the structure and the theme to get the whole meaning of those poems as the reflection of social criticism and it is also become the aim of William Blake as the poet in writing the poem.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

- Social Criticism : critics from the social aspect remains happened in the area where something with a big influence might occur.

- Industrial Revolution : the rapid development of industry that occurred in Britain in the late 18th and 19th centuries, brought about by the introduction of machinery. It was characterized by the use of steam power, the growth of factories, and the mass production of manufactured goods.
- Reflection : an idea about something especially one that is written down or expressed.
- Innocence : lack of guile or corruption; purity.
- Experience : the knowledge or skill acquired by a period of practical experience of something, especially that gained in a particular profession.