

CHAPTER I

I N T R O D U C T I O N

I.1. Background Of The Study

Literature has been found over the centuries to have certain kinds of value for human being, because it illuminates some aspect of human life and behaviour. Literature is also written to broaden and sharpen our awareness of life. It takes us, through the imagination, deeper into the real world : it enables us to understand our troubles. So, it presents us with an insight - large or small - into the nature and conditions of our existence .

John Keats the second generation of the romantic period defined poetry,

poetry is true in that poems exist, are very valuable, and are the product and cause of actual emotional and imaginative experiences.

(M.H. Abrams : 314)

Harry Shaw's Dictionary of literary terms, Edwin Arlington Robinson defines poetry as language that tell us, through a more or less emotional reaction, something that cannot be said. Poetry is one form of literature that can be used as the medium to express what we feel , think and do, see, taste, etc. Poetry is a work of art that is printed in a beautiful form.

The culmination and conclusion of Yeats's career coincided with advent of the "New Criticism." Added to the problems created by such a critical reception are those deriving from Yeats's qualities as an imaginative writer. Probably the obvious of difficulty is the highly allusive and subtly symbolic mode in which Yeats' so often expressed himself.

His last poems consist of a powerful mingling of rage, self-pity, nostalgia and triumph. The setting from Greek medieval times upon which the poem is based well known and directly stated in it's title of the work. The poem's apparent simplicity, especially by Yeatsian standards.

William Butler Yeats was a playwright as well as a poet. He is generally regarded as the major English-speaking poet of the modern (approximately 1890 to 1950). Though never a masterful thinker in terms of logic or rationalist, Yeats possessed unequivocal genius of the kind recognized by today's as imaginative or creative, if not visionary. (Frank N Magill : 1982).

Sailing To Byzantium, more purely imaginative and almost mythical in its style, consisting of four rather simply put together stanzas (abababcc, all in iambic pentameter.) In the first, the poet describes the natural world, where the young of all species - birds, fish, people - are busy loving, reproducing and "commending "

" the flesh." Though these " generation are dying " from the moment, of their birth , they do not notice it.

In the second stanza, Yeats describes the perseverance in patience of old man more closely. An aged man is compare to " a paltry thing " and " a tattered coat upon a stick," unless he rejects the flesh - which has in any case become inadequate - and concentrates on improving his feelings, and thought. For if in the first stanza, he studied about the " sensual music " of the nature, he will discover that there is a corresponding spiritual music, which the people, the poet can study - the music of art, of poetry to achieve his wishes and therefore he tells us, he has " sailed the seas " (figuratively) and come to the holy city of Byzantium, as a kind of capital of art.

In the third stanza, is the main part of the analysis, " Supreme Monument To The Artist's Mind and Spirit " reveals about the achievement (s) during King Byzas' imperial power. That " Supreme Monument " refers specifically to the mosaic art locate at Ravenna, Italy, as D.J Gordon and Ian Fletcher's in Edward Mallins' Preface to Yeats about the city of Byzantium :

During this visit in 1907 Yeats also visited Ravenna, where he saw the superb sixth-century Byzantine mosaics (images of a poet), the visited did not appear to have left a decisive impression on his work : his interest was concentrated on Italian painting, particularly of the Renaissance. However, John Stallworthy, thinks that Yeats' visit to Raven-

na in 1907, was the main source of his interest which culminated in the Byzantium poems. Both 1907 and 1925, when he saw more Byzantium mosaics, are more important.

Since in analysing this poem, the writer used formalist - ic approach, then she focused merely on the work itself . Apart from those classified in external elements, such as psychological, religious, philosophical aspects, etc. As the writer's choice of the topic analysis, Literary study on lyric, then, what is meant by " To The Artist's Mind and Spirit " here, it should not be misconceived with either psychological or philosophical aspects, but most of all, this is refers specifically and generally to the lyric of it own poem, as well as images of a poet. (William Butler Yeats is known as imaginative poet rather than realistic poet.) Specifically it (To The Artist' s Mind and Spirit) refers to the poet's - Irish spirit and generally it refers to the empirically oriented twentieth century period. These all, will be discuss further in the analysis, the main part of this thesis.

The last stanza, which is the concluding stanza will answer those three stanza above, the poet become the ob - ject and subject interconnected, rejected nature's sensual music, and finally the old-age found his wishes , that is knowledge. He is not " merely paltry thing," he is not merely " a tattered coat upon a stick " but now , he has been found himself after his great " Sailing. "

Most of all, the writer considers her reasons why she chooses William Butler Yeats' work, Sailing To Byzantium, and as the main topic analysis in this thesis that is, the lyrical poetry which reveals as " Supreme Monument To The Artist's Mind and Spirit " (William Durant : 1969). First, technically Sailing To Byzantium might be analyzed in the pattern of lyrical poetry . Second, the style of the poem, can be easily understood and analyzed structurally. In this case the writer focused her study merely on the elements of the poem such as lyric, and other elements support and reflected in this analysis and those other elements are tone, image - ry and symbol are used to support and complete one another. Third, Sailing To Byzantium reflects one aspect of human life, illustrates old-age and death, the poet's own experience in particular and human's life in general. Those three reasons above allows the writer gets the admissable prove, as the objects analysis develops in this thesis.

I.2. Statement Of The Problems

Statement of the problems are established to fulfil and develop the main ideas which is organized in this thesis. Specifically, in establishing this statement of the problems, enable the writer organize the frame of thought to achieve the appropriate analysis. The state-

ment of the problems established in this thesis may be arranged as follows :

1. Is the lyrical poetry implied in this thesis relevant-
with the topic analysis ?
2. How does the poet expressed his feeling ?
3. Where is the setting of the poem ?
4. Why does the poet come to visit to Byzantium ?

I.3. Objective Of The Study

The primary objective of the study is to analyze literary study on W.B. Yeats' lyric, Sailing To Byzantium. To know about the tone, imagery and symbol as one integrated aspects that reflects in its work. The content of the poem, presents human value, that might really exist in man, in any-place, any-time, that old age and death cannot be avoid. Above all, to prove the above essence on W.B. Yeats' lyrical poetry, in one of his work, Sailing To Byzantium.

I.4. Significance Of The Study

- To get certain experience in lit. research
- To contribute the understanding of literature, especially on W.B. Yeats' Sailing To Byzantium, in which the essence of its poem, though not the wholeness, as one aspects that may happen to man in any place and any time, familiar to mankind, that the old age and death cannot be avoid.
- To enrich our knowledge about literary appreciation that can be valued for other, particularly, concerning William Butler Yeats' works.

I.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this thesis is virtually limited to the treatment of terms (tone, imagery and symbol) relating to the lyrical poetry structurally. In this scope and limitation, the writer would like to limit the analysis and arranged based on the sequence of the technical terms, to analyze the topic analysis on William Butler Yeats' work.

I.6. Theoretical Background

The writer would like to applied the objective theory in analysing William Butler Yeats' work, Sailing To Byzantium. According to E.D. Hirsch, JR in his Objective Interpretation stated : The object of interpretation is textual meaning in and for itself and may be called the meaning of the text. (H. Adams : 1178).

The formalistic approach will also be applied in this thesis to maintain the analysis. This approach is used as a tool to describe the work and the analysis of the work will be evaluate interpretatively, based on the work itself.

In conclusion, as M.H. Abrams stated that the objective theory refers to the implicit parts of factors of the story such as theme, metre, language, rhythm , etc. (M.H. Abrams : 1978). The writer therefore limits her analysis on three elements of poem, those are, tone imagery and symbol.

I.7. Method Of The Study

The writer used structural method in analysing W.B. Yeats' work, since this method is appropriate to be used in correlation with the theory applied and the approach- ed accepted. Marlies K Danziger defined it as follows :

... it seems better to use the other metaphor- provided we think of a structure not just as the mechanical putting together of assorted ingredients but

as a vital and dynamic interrelationship of plot, character, tone, style, and all the other components parts. (Danziger : 1961 : 14)

The writer would like to describe the poem based on the text - itself and it's analysis will be interpreted through the elements of poem. The writer used library research as facility in searching the work, and some references concerning with William Butler Yeats' poem, such as Encyclopedia Britanica, The New Book of Knowledge, some theory of Literary Criticism, and Glossary on literary terms.

I.8. Definition Of Key Terms

The definition of key terms is established in the expectation that those definitions applied will serve as a means, strategy and particularly useful for guidance and contribution in finding out the main idea which have been organized already, on the basis of literary perception. Those technical terms applied in this thesis are arranged as followed :

Artist : learned man or master of liberal arts.
One who is expert especially at something reprehensible. (as a poet, theatrical performer, painter, etc.) (Webster's New International Dictionary : 1985)

Artifice Of Eternity :

the artist's eternal creation or the poet's eternal works. To Yeats's art is timeless, and with the Byzantine art finally stimulated Yeats' imagination. This impression rendezvous inspired towards his literary achievements, his literary works.
(The New Century Handbook Of English Literature : 1956)

Byzantium : is the capital (Constantinople) of the Byzantine empire. Later Constantinople was the capital of Eastern Christendom (now Istanbul) (The New Century Handbook Of English Literature : 1956)

To Yeats's Byzantium give his inspirations towards his literary works. Byzantium is the rendezvous and assembly that inspired and arouse his thoughts, idea and most of all, this place has wake his spirit up and give him an advice.

God's holy fire :

In the process of making the gold and enamel - ing cubes, fired is used to purify the color .
(Edward Mallins : 1974)

This statement is applied in Yeats' poem, which is standing for God's fire is used to purify man's soul.

Gyre : To make the spinning notion of such spool.
(see also : perne in a gyre's part)
(Edward Mallins : 1974)

The writer applies literary study as the acquirement to the state of the lyrical poetry, particularly used as (1) technical terms to observe and examine the specificity of the lyrical poetry. (2) The specificity of the style, organized systematically in structural form, to achieve the reciprocal lines between the analysis develop, the approach applied and the theory formulated. (3) To observe the analysis in detail closely related to the object specified on the basis of literary context. (4) To inquire the formulation of the analysis by appealing the topic analysis based on the general notions to the particular conclusion.

Literary: The production of literary work, relating to or having the characteristic of humane learning, especially having a firsthand knowledge of literature. (Webster's New International Dictionary : 1985)

Literary: A literary work is (a structure of) verbal art; that is, literature belongs traditionally to the arts as opposed to the sciences or to practical knowledge, and its medium is the word, as opposed to the visual signs of painting and sculpture or the tones of music. (Marlies K Danzieger and W Stacy Johnson : 1961)

Lyric : Greek writers identified the lyric as a song rendered to the accompaniment of a lyre. The term is now used for any short poem presenting a single speaker (not necessarily the poet himself) who expresses a state of mind involving thought and feeling. Sometimes the term is narrowly applied only to a brief expression of a state of feeling for its inherent interest. (A Glossary Of Literary Terms : 1974)

Mind : The state of remembering or being remembered ; memory, recollection.
The state of one's thoughts regarding something : opinion, view intellectual quality (the works of men) (Webster's New International Dictionary : 1987)

People there identified to the holy city as the " Supreme Monument To The Artist's Mind And Spirit " due to the convention between people and the government at that time. To Yeats' this " what the people took honor " has influenced in his attitude, thoughts, and idea towards his literary work, specifically in " Sailing To Byzantium, "

Monument : A structure (as a pillar, stone or building) erected or maintained in memory of the dead or to preserve the remembrance of a person , event, or action. (Webster's New International Dictionary : 1987)

The monument which has been mentioned above refers specifically to the mosaic art located at Ravenna, Sicily Italy. The building portrayed the magnificent art, and reflects the triumph of King Byzas, who is regarded as the founder of Byzantine Kingdom. The design of the magnificent architecture reflects the visions of men specifically about the wise^{old} men. In the middle of a

circular part of the building is portrayed the father's baptistry ceremony. This dome itself located at the church Prassede, Sicily Italy. Colored in gold and standing so strong those visions of old wise men and the triumph of King Byzas's is still remembered by people up to now. But most of all, the writer does not describe those ceremonial and the magnificent design of building, she is stressing structurally on more the essentials of lyrical poetry. To Yeats, this mosaic function as a rendezvous that inspired him through the rest of his literary achievements.

Mosaic : Between mosaic and painting, the art with which it has most in common, there has been a reciprocal influence of varying intensity. So it was a kind of painting. In color and style, Greek figurative mosaics with representational motifs, which date from the end of the 5th century. (Encyclopedia Britanica : 1985)

Mosaic finally realized is a full of potentialities for striking and suggestive distance effects, which surpass those of painting. (Webster's New International Dictionary : 1987)

The central role played at that time by mosaic in church's decoration, for which it is particularly well suited, encourages the assumption, that the roles had shifted and painting had come under its influence. (Encyclopedia Britanica : 1987)

Perne in a gyre : is yeats' way of describing the imagined spiral descent of the sages, as though unwinding (gyre from a spool or pern) from their positions as mosaic figures on a church wall.

Perne in a gyre :

appear to whirl in their circular and rhythmic relation to the other mosaic in church. Byzantine mosaics, from the sixth to the eleventh century, were often placed in cross in square churches with a central cupola or dome, and the pictured kosmos at the highest point of the church, descending to the terrestrial world in hierarchical order. One sees huge images of God, the Father (Pantocrator) looking down on man, placed in descending order; first on Christ, the image of God, then on the Saints, and the vegetable world. This gives the same gyring effect, as it were including the beholder in the spatial unit between him and the mosaic. (the pavement of the raised-tribune.) (Edward Mallins : 1974)

Study : The application of the mind in a particular field or to a specific subject matter.

To apply to the mind to acquirement of knowledge through reading reflection, observation, or experience (T.S Elliot's : Literary study, in Webster's New International Dictionary : 1985)

Spirit : Is a term principally used to designate the breath of life or vital principle giving life to physical organism. (Webster's New International Dictionary : 1985)

A state of mental vigor or animation : cheerfulness, liveliness, vivacity.

The immaterial intelligent or sentient part of a person : the vital principle in man coming as a gift from God and proving one's personality with its inward structure dynamic drive, and creative response to the demands it encounters, in the process of becoming. (Webster's New International Dictionary:1987)

Having considered such the notion above , the writer limits her analysis based on the lyrical poetry , " Supreme Monument To The Artist's Mind And Spirit " is

regarded as the name of honor by society, people towards the ancient King Byzas, the founder of the holy city of Byzantium and the pioner in conducting the social concerns, conducting in political, arts, culture and religious and the prosperity of the people. And those all is remembered by people in the form of mosaic art, at Byzantine empire. So, in conclusion, " Supreme Monument To The Artist's Mind And Spirit " regarded as the name of honor towards the holy city, towards the king Byzas , towards the momentum of the triumph and succeeding in conducting the prosperity of social concerns, political, economic, artistic value more popular up to now and religious .

CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK