

CHAPTER I

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

I.1. Background of The Study

Literature is a source of some history and imagery which gives space for an author to expand his ideas based on his knowledge and imagination. From this general statement that the writerr concludes from other essays and criticism, she sees literature is an effective way to see the past and modified by present thinking or in future possibilities to scientific but possibilities can coincidently occur in the written works. For instance T.S. Eliot's, a modern author, all of his poems are different from Romantic period, it's tendencies are more in sophisticated method from the present period. Whereas, literature does not limit its materials, evenmore the establishment of literature cannot define concretely the term of "literature". The only outline which can be stated is from Rene Wellek and Austin Warren made :

The term 'literature' seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature.
(1956:22)

So literature is not scientific but it is loaded with environmental expression as appeared from the background of the author.

The writer of this thesis specifically has selected poetry as her object of analysis because there is more than written materials in poetry compared to the other part of literature which is prose. A poem is built with condensed words which caused the function of symbols. The limitation of words divide into two types of meaning namely surface meaning and deep meaning. From this deep meaning it gives a chance for an author to expand his ideas widely. Symbols in a poem reflect life in general which the ideas, feelings, emotions, opinions, etc are inserted aesthetically. An element of poetry so called the speaker is mostly unidentified. This unidentification is felt strongly in the *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*. Criticism says that it is a monologue which uses two characters as their identification, "You and I" whereas they indicate as a public personality and his ego in one person. Of course other elements of poetry such as the image: literal and

figurative, sound, structure and poetic form, diction, style, and the nature and value of poetry cannot be devided as something unimportant but the writer considers in this discussion these elements, symbols and the speaker, are more in the influence of the readers. Poetry comes a long way because it began as a verse and people at olden time introduced by using their memory and preformance so the material was not written down only memorized each time they gave a show which was continued from generation to generation. It is true people have difficulty in finding the differences between verse and poetry but it will not be discussed further because the writer only tries to describe general knowledge about poetry and little of its enviroment. Poems in modern period give more air for authors to create new style in a poem. T.S. Eliot demonstrated his ability in confusing his readers by mixing different generations.

The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock is difficult to interpret from the writer's point of view because Eliot has a different way in describing human being or in other words he sees people in negative perception for instance in this poem, he sees Prufrock as a man with a weak, skinny, unselfconfident, etc character. This character is very vague in its existence because it consists of two charaters "You and

I" which means the speaker obviously has two visual characters but critic concluded that it is a monologue which these two characters are within himself. He is affraid to express his feelings such as love, fear, anger, etc because he does not have any courage in himself to "disturb the universe". The condition of Prufrock is "etherised" which the description is exactly pictured. The journey was not unfamiliar, it is located in his own neighbourhood where people realize his condition. He was in love with a woman he often described in his journey and failed to propose his feeling to her because of his timidity.

In building up her thesis, the researcher has chosen the poem entitled "*The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*". She has selected other poems of T.S. Eliot and from other authors but in this particular poem the essence of love and passion are symbolized in a powerful meaning and how Eliot describes Prufrock in a very precise looser identity of a character, because of this reason she tries to look in these symbols and the speaker as elements of a poem.

Pointing out T.S. Eliot as her analysis materials, she is hoping that she would be able to know him better and enrich her knowledge throughout his establishment in society. He is a man who has influenced many readers concerning his motivation

and principles and became famous because of his smart elaborating ideas. Eliot grew up in a religious family and his parents were considered an upper class society. His career was delayed because of war. This background of his life in some way is capable in influencing most of his works, moreover, in a situation where the time is changing from romantic period into modern period their ideas become more complex and vulgar. On this particular poem, it was an early creation of Eliot's before he completely succeeded in becoming sarcastic in judging human being. In making it he deals with symbols which was mostly influenced by a French Symbolist, Jules Laforgue. The tone is very pessimistic and in a negative point of view which was still the characteristics of Laforgue. From limited informations that the writer knows, she intends to find and analyse the biographical part of Eliot which will help to open up, generally, the reasons he creates these kind poems. One important matter is the period of time which Eliot started his lifehood. Modern period was a transition when Eliot made his poems and in this transition the changes are always transparent by the eyes of people mostly those people who are sensitive in receiving the movements. Probably by identifying these conditions may appear the characteristics of the modern period. The explanation above is supporting material for the

writer because if she did not do these presumption then it will give more difficulty in concluding this discussion. On the other hand, by using these material it will give simplicity for the writer to finish her thesis.

The center point of this analysis is the theme which belongs to the intrinsic elements. In giving a specific theme which is suitable for the poem is difficult if we knew only parts of its intrinsic elements so other elements will be mentioned in the analysis only to clarify the idea but not in a complete explanation. Other elements which will support the theme are the image: literal and figurative, sound, structure and poetic form, diction, style and the nature and the value of poetry. Criticism often discuss this subject matter and add more informations about certain internal case which will help the student to understand his sophisticated method. This analysis of theme is commonly used as a subject matter in discussion and in literary books which makes it easier for the students to find these particular information. Messages that the author wants to convey are often on its theme as its nearest conclusions and for this reason the researcher chose the topic theme as her analyses subject. Through theme, the reseacher is capable to get near with the author's idea and indirectly study the poem in a detail analyses. The

informations that are available will help the writer in having the chance to do her thesis in an almost perfect way.

In the poem of *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, there is a contrast between the weakness of not being able to express his needs and what is inside of him which is full of love, passion, and plans. What interest most for the writer is how Eliot compares it through emotions and descriptions which give the results exactly just as natural as it can be. The setting of this poem is as a person etherised on the operation table or to a more clear understanding, here is an inferno from Dante :

Dante recounts his visit to the underworld. In the Eighth Chasm of Hell he meets Guido, punished here, with other false and deceitful counsellors in a single prison of flame for his treacherous advice on earth to Pope Boniface

The etherised condition is the duplication of above description which represents something inside a person where no one can enter it but on this situation he is not afraid because "dead man" cannot tell his secrets. In this poem there are so many symbols which indicate the identity of Prufrock as someone who is weak, cowardly, frightful and all other characteristics of negative thinking according to Eliot.

I.2. Statement of the problem

There are two major problems in this research which its center point is to find out what theme is mentioned in there. These statements are ways the writer from her analyses and giving answers that are suitable for the results. So her statements are :

1. The symbols are inserted in the poem which are highly valued so what kind of symbols are used in expressing the ideas of Eliot?
2. There are at least two characters Eliot adjust in his poem which are unclear to identify but she is only concerned about two characters, so who are these characters and are they symbolized as one person or more?
3. After finding these two problems, do they point out to a certain theme that the writer can conclude and do they support the theme as a unity?

The writer wrote three statements which will be explained and answered in details in the continuing chapter. Of course from these statements, she will not go beyond these three sub topic. And they represents three problems as an hierarchy on solving and understanding the solutions. So they

come into one systematic piece which cannot be separated from each other in their explanations.

I.3. Objective of the study

Eliot is an author who contributes many powerful symbols in the environment of literature but they are very deep in meaning and they are build with many materials concerning history, philosophy, and literature.

From his way of thinking, he does not limit himself on certain time and place. Complexity and vulgar attitude are shown in his works, specifically in his poem of Prufrock. For instance love is often mentioned in different descriptions, such as mermaid, peaches, the word 'bare', etc. In the previous time people are more brave to express their ideas and feelings. The condition at that time was in a great change from orthodox thinking into a more liberal behaviour. Of course this condition influenced the society and individuality.

It is interesting to understand the background of making the symbols and how Eliot underestimated people's behaviour into a negative judgement which confused many of his readers. So from a short essay above, the writer wants to achieve how the symbols are put together and creates the

speaker as somebody nonexistent in a society. And from that conclusion, the messages of the author are put into a theme which conveys its symbols and characters. The objective study is to observe the essence of the theme and how he reconstructs this essence into a work of literature.

I.4. Significance of the Study

This observation will be contributed in the study of knowledge and for the field of literature study. It is the writer's obligation in supplementary information which has been discussed in the former analyses and moreover, brings attention to know much more about this subject matter. She intends to gain her ability in observing and analysing T.S. Eliot so the result can be a help for other students. Stressing on the complexity of Eliot's work, namely *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, the writer can begin to introduce and give alternative to readers specifically to students in the Department of Literature.

This contribution hopefully can be useful for those who have difficulties in interpreting the theme and enrich its knowledge about symbols and characters in a poem.

I.5. Scope and Limitation

Symbols and the speaker will be her orientation in limiting the discussion because beyond these two elements there are many other aspects of discussion that have relations in finding the theme. Another reason why she limited her discussion is that she is not capable to advisedly comprehend explanations on other elements.

The rage of actions or observations are in the theme as the center point of the study which its internal aspects supports the idea of the observations. And she consider if the discussion are limited then the quality of explanations are highly valued because it is served in details.

I.6. Theoretical Background

Mimetic theory will be the main approach to standardize the essence of the interpretation because in this theory the truth is important. Above all, poetry's specific tool is symbol and for that reason the limitation of words function. But again Mimetic theory cannot stand alone, it has to be supported by other theories and approaches.

In the theoretical framework the writer will give analysis about literature and the background of the author secondly after explaining about Mimetic theory. My reason to this because it is important to relate these into a definite

understanding. So biographical approach, psychoanalytic theory and literature will be explained briefly by giving short quotations.

On the theories, there are two important theories the writer apply, first the literary theory and second the Stanley A. Clayes' and John Gerrietts theory. They will fulfil each other during the explanation in the theoretical framework. Of course, the writer cannot put forward the main theory because the theories are valued the same. But after combining these two theories the results are appropriate as the tool for analyses both in general and in specific.

There are other supporting elements in this observation such as the image: literal and figurative, sound, sturcture and poetic form, diction, style, the nature and the value of poetry.

I.7. Method of the Study

M.H. Abrams made a division in how the writer could critisize a literary work only by observing it without any intention in communicating it. This method is called Judicial criticism, so most of the observation will use this method.

There are two other methods in this thesis which are analytic descriptive and hermeneutic theory.

Descriptive analyses is to give vivid explanation about the poem. Explanation are pictured in details with an exact representation in what the writer wants to express.

Hermeneutic theory which is Positive Hermeneutic talks about interpretation which is needed in analysing a poem. The language are in conotative meaning which gives difficulty for the writer. In Hermeneutics :

All writing claims that it can be evaluated into spoken language , and this claim to atonomy meaning goes so far that even an authentic reading, eg. the reading of a poem by a poet, becomes question-able if the direction of our listening takes us a-way from what out understanding should really be concerned with....What is factors and grasped in its fully ideality, in which alone it has vadility. (Newton, 1988:107)

In this method, the writer will always mention and apply interpretation which can help her to overcome the unclear statements and give the closest assumption.

I.8. Definition of Key Terms

There are several terms which appear often in *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, and they are :

Song : is a melody of some sardonic self-depreciatory

gesture, which he can call up a vision of lyric beauty, alien but poignantly felt.

(T.S. Eliot, Bradbrook, 1965:10)

Symbols : defined as the representation of a reality on one level of reference by a corresponding reality on another.

(Dictionary of World Literature, Shipley, 1962:405)

eg. Dante, "no object of sense in the whole world is more worthy to be made a type of God than the sun."

Persona : the voice of character, hides the voice of the poet. It is difficult to distinguish between a persona or merely an attitude of the poet.

(Ways to Poetry, Claves and Gerriettes, 1975:12)

Theme : is more frequently employed to designate its central idea.

(Literary Terms, Beckson and Ganz, 1989:281)

Love : an emotion that Prufrock has in the poem but impossible to achieve.

(T.S. Eliot poetry and plays, Smith, 1967:15)

I.9. Organisation of the Paper

The paper is organised into several chapters, from these chapters there will be subdivision. Chapter one consists of introduction and its subdivision which are background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, theoretical background, method of the study, definition of the key terms, and organization of the paper.

On the second chapter, theoretical framework, there are only two subdivision which are related, it consists of theories used in the analyses and related studies of other thesis about this work.

Chapter three consists of method and work(s) of the author (general discussion).

Chapter four is analysis.

The last chapter will convey a result in a form of conclusion.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK