

CHAPTER V

ANALYSIS

V.1. The Symbolism in the Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock

In most of Eliot's works, the function of symbol is quite dominant because Eliot's concept in writing depends on the meaning itself. He suspect words can flow a certain nuance which influenced the meaning in a poem. And Eliot is master in philosophy which his material in establishing his works are various and complex that is why symbols can represent his ideas. Specificly in *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*. as his earlist work, the symbols are strongly influence to express the character of Prufrock.

According to the researcher there are four dominant symbols which symbolize as Prufrock who is the main speaker which can be symbolized into different images and meanings, the prostitute who will always be explained on the context as the intimate girl which Prufrock admires, a sea is more like a setting where it can represent Prufrock's inside description or just an ordinary meaning of a sea, and time which Prufrock often delays to runaway from responsables. Prufrock as the

speaker is discussed all through the poem by explicit and implicit explanations. These explanations expand into other aspects mainly on the woman or women who is intimate with the speaker which cause a serious affection on him. Sea can be another source of many kind of living things which human is incapable to understand of the secrets. For this reason sea can be a symbol of many things such as in Prufrock's adventure. The most difficult of all is understanding the setting of time which Prufrock stands because of the interference of many illustrations which concern time.

V.1.1. Prufrock

On the main object who is Prufrock, as the main speaker, symbolize the quality of two speakers. It is to be said a human being has two sides of character which are his outside appearance and his inside appearance. Such as Prufrock, *you* and *I*, each of them symbolize these two qualities with two speakers as the quantity. In Prufrock's appearance there are the public personality and his ego which can be represented through how he wears his clothes, how he treats the environment, how he expresses his feelings, how he hides his ego, etc.

The complex combinations of ideas concerning the

speaker, *You and I*, causes an expand explanations of other symbols similar with the speaker, Prufrock, such as *Yellow Fog*. Actually, *Yellow Fog* equals to a cat which conotates to an animal and there are many of animal figures for instance lobster that symbolize prufrock not just his shape but also the animal characteristics. The similarity in their characteristics for instance a cat through it's movement and what effects the reader. This understanding goes the same way as a lobster. The relation of human being and animal is still a missing link according to scientific field but this does not occur in Prufrock identity. A closeness of the descriptions tend to imitate, concretely, into a unity of Prufrock and the animals. He is compared to other heroic personality to contrast his own attitude. As a comparison of the real quality of Prufrock, Eliot exaggerate the heroic symbols which interpret the impossible condition Prufrock cannot achieve.

Prufrock as an inferior, weak and cowardice personality is symbolized in a destruction towards himself. A symbol of realization of self destruction, gradually, is apply by the speaker awareness. Almost all explanations concerning this aspects are in a form of symbols which can carry many conotative meanings. Moreover, the researcher unconsciously discover many materials which can be an acknowledgement beyond

this study. Another instance of Prufrock inadequacy is symbolize in purpose of his unsuccess love affair.

V.1.2. The Relation with the Prostitute

The writer has open the second dominant symbol in this poem by introducing Prufrock love affair with a prostitute. Symbols are build within these two characters, eventhough a prostitute only characterize general behaviour of prostitute not a specific woman. Therefore, the discussion concerns about the love affair and more about the passion that Prufrock owns. As mention before, symbols which represent as love and passion are repeatedly recognize. These ought to be a common symbols because the term "love" are likely ilustrate most in literature works. But on this case it emphasize the role of the woman capability in influencing Prufrock. Prufrock admiration towards these women has its own reason. Reasons which are privately ruined him can be some kind of complaining certain things, expressing his love, fulfilling his needs, etc. Generaly, prostitutes, in a particular meaning, are to attract men so they can equally valued base on their service. This condition is a symbol of Prufrock impotence. A symbolization of a woman or women can be some kind of desire which contradicts Prufrock disabilities. In this poem, the beauty

indicates directly with love and the prostitute. Eliot describes beauty as it looks and feels so symbols conotates into beauty as itself not as a contradiction comparison because it seems Prufrock incapability in possessing the beauty uses symbols as its origin to show the reacts of the reader. The beauty and attraction can be symbolize in other forms such as peach, mermaids, etc.

It is indefinite which woman he admires. The symbolization of their existence are from their beauty and attraction. So it is possible he does not point out to a certain person but on the other hand it can be a natural happening when someone falls in love usually they only fall in love to a certain person. An important aspect about this term love is Prufrock's sexual insufficiency reflecting his own self destruction. The researcher notice that Prufrock has difficulty in realizing his passion. So this symbol can be the continuity of the line below :

I have seen the moment of my greatness flicker
(line 85)

The symbols are not directly symbolize his lacking, only getting the closest interpretation. This specific identity is mostly found in man nature but the symbols are

in opposite meaning of what Prufrock is described in the poem.

The relationship between Prufrock and the woman is symbolize into several feelings such as love, passion, desire, ashamed, etc.

V.1.3. The Sea

In symbolizing an object like sea, it can mean a wide understanding. Sea is another world which has their own inhabitants and environment. Symbolizations can be in a variety of form such as the beach, the circulation of water or inside creatures. These are most influenced in this poem to support the nuance of Prufrock's heart. A man's heart is as deep as the ocean or a lost city which is drown into the sea because of the shifting of the earth.

The life in the sea is another alternative for Prufrock to runaway from his problems. As it has been said in *inferno*, a place for Prufrock to hide his deepest thoughts that according to him are very shameful. Symbols emphasizing these conditions emerge a bad nuance and mysterious events which from Prufrock progress the sea can drown him. The description of sea here is a fantasy he builds that makes him comfortable from outside intimidation. Logically, the monologue has the setting in the inner part of prufrock but Eliot symbolizes

into another setting such as the sea which contains with its emotion and self-protection among outside intruders.

On the writer interest, all of Prufrock imaginations about the sea and its habitants causes a new atmosphere of thinking and an abstract judgement. Because of the mysterious, silent, calm and the hidden condition. Symbols indicating these conditions are some how discussed not on its based of the speaker but the expanse allows the reseacher to other knowledge because of deep analyses.

V.1.4. The Time as The setting

Prufrock is symbolized as a middle-age person is situated on the middle of a transition from his youth and becoming an old man. From the writer point of view, this period becomes everybody fright so the symbols are recievable. Prufrock outside appearence identify his old personality. His body condition and how he is behind on the cloths fashions, etc. It is consider an isolation for Prufrock because the period before and after his period seems not suitable for him.

Unfortunately, this setting is rather difficult to intrepret because it only discuss about his emotions and feelings which are not common. Probably this is where symbols can express the feelings of Prufrock. The monologue of the

setting is more talkative through its symbols which is capable to force out the atmosphere and the tone of the poem. According to the writer symbols in its setting is more not in the real world but more in Prufrock fantasy.

This fantasy cannot be explained into ordinary words but the side effect of these words are more important to the writer. The combinations of words can cause an image on a literature work more often in the modern period because of their absurdity. These images are important for the work of Eliot, specifically in *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, someone's heart cannot be judged only by explaining it but it is more touching if it is built based on how we explain the frustration Prufrock is experiencing. Prufrock fantastically appears in a setting where he can be happy and powerful towards his society. And these fantasies are caused by the transition as a time of difficulties in expressing his own feelings and opinions.

These four main symbols can compensate into featuring other symbols which can be explained through the relation of the poem. Analysing these symbols which consider as the expansion of Eliot's ideas can enrich the writer's statement.

In picturing the atmosphere and setting Eliot gives a symbol of a bad impression about night activity behind crowded

society. It started in :

When the evening is spread out against the sky
(Line 2)

what the writer can signified the atmosphere is the condition of the day which the sky is turning to a dark situation. Because the word *spread out* is use in that line. So the movement of the day gives a strong atmosphere for Prufrock which is the time of his journey. The symbol evening is the part of the day which the activity is to lessen. People came home from their work to have a quite and peaceful dinner and on the part of the society which prefer to go out in the evening to find a relaxation. Of course the activities can be in many instances but on this case of Prufrock, this setting is a connection between ordinary life and his depression towards life. The researcher uses these terms to distinguish between his public personality and his ego.

Evening according to the writer has become a sign of mystery similar with the sea because of the "unknown" prostitution life. On this occasion, many people have contradictons among themselves because the means are opposite with morality, on the other side, people, especially Prufrock, are accustom with them as an entertainment.

Other lines which supports the previous idea are :

....through certain half-deserted streets,
 (line 4)
 Of restless nights in one-cheap hoteles
 And sawdust restaurants with oyster-shells:
 (Lines 7 and 8)

after the part of the day is interpreted then what kind of neighbourhood Eliot wants to described. Here the researcher can identify some dictions such as *deserted*, *one-cheap*, *sawdust* which indicates to minor attention in a society. It continues with words such as *streets*, *hotels*, and *restaurants* which mean how are the description of the object in this poem. Because of these certain dictions the writer concluded that this description of the lower level of society and in this society the environment are in a dirty condition. Why does Eliot chose this stage of society? In this stage of life it symbolized as complex problems among them and to survive in this community they have to work hard and the work can be anything.

Usually in night time almost half of the citizen are doing their activity in their homes which means streets are not seen noisy and crowded. Streets are quite and empty with the lights and shadows as their decoration or in other words, accurately *half-deserted*. For its function, deserted streets

are available to be used by anybody in any occasion.

Another part where we commonly see people eat outside their houses are restaurants. What are the descriptions of the restaurants? They have *sawdust* and *oyster-shell* in their descriptions as if Eliot wants to symbolized the dirty conditions which are surrounding Prufrock.

It is completed with one component which are women or another symbol for a taboo interpretation. It is symbolize with many signs and these signs can be found in different stanzas. One of the stanza which says :

In the room the women come and go
Talking of Michelangelo
(Lines 13 and 14, 35 and 36)

There are more explanation why *women* is a strong indication concerning their activities which indicate into a certain particular condition such as they *come and go*. And they are not staying in a quite big place only a *room*. Room indicates to one of the room in hotels.

Michelangelo as a symbol of a man who has great vitality. He is handsome, women get attracted to him easily, and have many potentials. But in this case women talk about him because it was a style at that time to show that they are

intellegent. If Michelangelo and women are put together then the writer can have a clear description about the situation in the room and in this night. These two symbolize intimate relationship as in Prufrock always with women but described in an opposite way. Why does it has to be one man and many woman here and it is repeated in other stanzas as if assuring the reader about his condition. Again the writer concluded that it is emphasizing about Prufrock ego in becoming a man like Michelangelo and of course women as the people who adores him mostly. Parts of their feminity symbols are expose. *Eyes, arms and hair* are parts of the body which attracts most and Eliot expresses it into his words such as :

And I have known the eyes already, known them all-
The eyes that fix you in a formulated phrase,
(lines 55 and 56)

And I have known the arms already, known them all-
Arms that are braceleted and white and bare
(lines 62 and 63)

[But in the lamplight, downed with light brown hair!]
(Line64)

These identifications which symbolized attractions are common in their condition because they have the ability eventhough that is Michealangelo. And according to Eliot, Prufrock falls

everytime he sees these parts of a women body or :

If one, settling a pillow by her head
(lines 97)

and he forgets his duty to *disturb the universe*. The writer concluded that these women again symbolized as an obsession for Prufrock. Prufrock obsession to show the world about his power can be symbolized into two main ideas the universe and the unknown prostitute. These two symbols are very different apart and it seems impossible to related them with the different society Prufrock and the prostitute belongs. The prostitution activity is symbolize as the modern age and Prufrock unconsciously has been influenced by modern effect.

Eliot expresses a religious ceremony or intentionally emphasize Prufrock guilty among himself by imitating a hero who would sacrifice himself because of his sin but Prufrock was a cowardice. The symbol above was a contradiction with his ego. His public personality demands to hide his feelings and emotions but on the other hand his ego tries to push out his emotions so he was nothing as a man. It's description is put into one stanza below :

But though I have wept and fasted, wept and prayed,
 Though I have seen my head [grown slightly bald]
 brought in upon a platter,
 I am no prophet-and here's no great matter:
 (Lines 81, 82 and 83)

These lines represents mostly on his cowardice in facing his own problems especially passion. Night, women, restaurant, etc indicates Prufrock journey which his tour was impossible to achieve and this made him sentimental towards his natural needs. It can symbolize his world is having a decrease in morality eventhough he has done his punishment by weeping and fasting and giving his life for religion but he can not avoid the attraction of night life.

The traditional life, as in the period before now, is a symbol of restricted actions because morality is being highly valued and on the other hand modern life, as his next period, is a symbol of liberal environment. Therefore, confusions seem surrounding him because he does not know where he belongs. So if these two symbols are put together it can construct a crisis of identity and emotions. So the symbolism which are interpreted above talks about mainly the construction and destruction of Prufrock in his society life. Prostitutions and religions as a reflection of the contradiction of life.

There is a specific subject which is about a certain attention and the descriptions are symbolize into several

understandings. To be more specific, as one of the dominant symbols which is the term sea. The symbol provides the speaker of Prufrock a place or setting involving his hidden feelings and emotions towards the society he is facing because he consider himself as an inferior human being. This condition is described in many varieties indicating the term sea. For instance sea girls, mermaids, waves, chambers, seaward. These symbols all symbolize another society which is similiarity with the inferno on the beggining of the poem. Sea is been mention to support the atmosphere of Prufrock as a character which a mystery atmosphere is express. So for some other reason sea can hide Prufrock ego which is unordinary with his outside personality. Chambers in the sea can be a symbol of the rooms in the hotel where he lived, seagirls are imaginary women where he is incapable to have, youth which he is avoiding because he himself is becoming old and agian he only can fantasize his dispression. Sea can represent what kind of feelings the speaker is fighting. The symbol can have a nuance where people have many experiences in understanding the nature which can be the beach, the water, the movements, etc. Then the writer realise these interpretation can be spread out in many stanzas such as :

I should have been a pair of ragged claws
 Scuttling across the floors of silent seas
 (Lines 73 and 74)

.....I shall wear white flannel trousers, and
 walk upon the beach
 I have heard the mermaids singing, each to each
 (Lines 125, 126 and 127)

I have seen them riding seaward on the waves
 Combing the white hair of the waves blown back
 When the wind blows the water white and black
 (Lines 129, 130 and 131)

We have lingered in the chambers of the sea
 By sea-girls wreathed with seaweed red and brown
 Till human voices wake us, and we drown
 (Lines 132, 133 and 134)

On the first stanza above, Prufrock imagines himself as a lobster in the sea. This creature can only be found on the floor of the ocean which symbolize a creature who prefer to be alone with no one disturbing and if one get close to him he would rush into the sea. Prufrock or a lobster is identical and they like to be alone.

A combination of beauty impression between the latest fashion in clothing and the sea relation environment. Clothes can be somekind of a mask which through them it is possible to hide certain things on a personality. On this context Prufock is growing old and *white flannel trousers* conotates to youth wear so the clothes symbolise as youth looking. Certain color as White is a sign of a young age because dark color is most found on old people. As it goes along with the word *beach* then

it is obvious that this youth appearance is what the author wants to show. A symbol of self-resistance towards old age and imagination by using symbols of youth can change a personality of Prufrock.

The third stanza is a continuation of the previous stanza which describes about the waves and the mermaids. Eliot has create an effect between the wind and the waves which can cause white and black. Basically, it has a conotation of some kind of a whirlpool that usually happens in the ocean if these two elements meet together. Mermaids rushed into the sea to be saved by the danger. It can be a symbol of common happening in a society where bad events are in progress and to avoid these condition they save themselves. But on the other hand this rage can be inside of Prufrocks mind to control and hide the feeling of afraid if something made him to expose his disabilities.

On the last stanza Eliot expresses a dominan feeling of safety. As in the sentence *we have lingered in the chambers of the sea*, it indicates a room where it gives Prufrock comfortable feeling. Especially when he is being accompany by sea-girls. But if its disturb sea environments they will scattered around to find a hiding place such as in the chambers.

The writer compares two identical character which is the fog and the lobster eventhough they have a wide difference in their shapeand nature. The word *fog* explisitly pictures a cat character. The other similiar character is the lobster who lived under the world and the details have been described before. So there are some explanations which can support the idea of frustration and dipression which conquers Prufrock life. The mysterious atmosphere has appear because of this kind of conditions where the symbols are applied and informations about an afraid character. A cat is an animal in this poem is symbolize as a fog because Eliot wants to take out an unclear atmosphere. Whereas the cat is an imitation of passion movements. But it is a secret or a mystery he takes along with him(Prufrock).

Prufrock is in love with a prostitute and because the environmet is obvious Eliot unconsciously uses symbols which indicates to this. The researcher recognise dictions such as *evening, hotels, streets, restaurants, women, parts of the body, clothes, men, pillow, etc.* Signs which indicates to sexual activity becomes clear. Frequently, Eliot decorates his ideas with symbols such as above to emphasize the speaker of Prufrock. On the beggining Eliot pictured evening as a symbol of forbidden matter because evening conotates to a dark

condition where people cannot see and understand clearly. Places which supports the idea uses symbols of night activities. For example *The muttering retreats* indicates to people who stays at hotels and eat at restaurants. Sounds they produce are not noisy and loud voice because the dicussion are not classify as an openly discussion. Secrecy is always the significance of these symbols and even for the speaker of Prufrock. To be more specific about a symbol of night life, *women* is one word that clarify the attention of the discussion Eliot is describing.

There are three comparisans which have similarities in meaning. A stanza substitute the two :

No! I am not Prince Hamlet, nor was meant to be;
 Am an attendant lord, one that will do
 To swell a progress, start a scene or two,
 Advise the prince; no doubt, easy tool,
 Deferential, glad to be of use,
 Politic, cautious, and meticulous;
 Full of high sentence, but a bit obtuse;
 At times, indeed, almost ridiculuos—
 Almost, at times, the fool.
 (Lines 114, 115, 116 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, and 123)

The writer concluded *the fool* is a symbol of Prufrock as a whole. A fool here is someone who entertain himself towards the audience and through his words he spills out many advices. Inspite of that, Eliot does not exactly definite his

description of Prufrock but only symbolize Prufrock almost as a fool. Another duplication of Prufrock is *malingers* who have characterization of running away from reality. A fool and malingers are the same as the cat and the lobster. One runs away and the other prefer to hide from crowded situation.

Unfortunately, Prufrock grew up in a society which sexual impression becomes a common view. Symbols which indicate this subject can be in many forms. One clear example which has been talked in the previous analyses is women. For sexual activity usually women are the objects of the matter and in this poem other symbols can be recognized in similiar sense. On this stanza :

The yellow fog that rubs its back upon the window-panes
 The yellow smoke that rubs its muzzle on the window-panes
 Liked its tongue into the corners of the evening,
 Lingered upon the pools that stand in drains,
 Let falls upon its back the soot that falls from chimneys,
 Slipped by the terrace, made a sudden leap,
 And seeing that it was a soft October night,
 Curled once about the house, and fell asleep.
 (Lines 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22)

Seeing the movement of the cat (fog), the writer can signify some characteristics indicating an attitude of Prufrock who desires to have a passionate life. Or unconsciously atributes his movement so the writer understands his intention. Why does

his back, muzzle, tongue, and *lingered* conotates to one symbols which can make an impression of somekind sex appeal. Such as cat can bring a description of spoiled and intimated feeling. Eliot often gives a concrete description but sometimes his readers have in interpretating it.

The yellow fog does not give a clear understanding because it symbolize a symbol. If it is breaken down, fog represents a cat from the way it moves and cat itself represent Prufrock as the main character in the poem. So Eliot described a speaker with symbols in one place. Another symbol is used such as yellow which means not a clean condition, desease,etc. Then it can consider as another symbol. Fog is a condition where the climate is not good, everywhere is wet and cold. People in this condition would rather avoid the climate because it makes people feel lazy and weak . From these parts the writer concludes that the symbols are put into other symbols and the meaning expands so the readers can expand the intterpretation by themselves.

Imitating a cat somehow gives an atmosphere of intimated feeling which supports the idea of this poem. Moreover, intimated here is described many times. But in this stanza it symbolized Prufrock definite in words.

V.2. The Speaker in The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock

Before the researcher analyses the persona or character of the poem, the other two parts which are situation and tone will be discussed first in this part. Her reason is by examining these two aspects more generally the details will be seen in the persona.

V.2.1. Situation

In *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* is a debate between the public personality and his ego. This debate gives a difficult or a failing impression for Prufrock as the speaker. He situated himself, in a way, people will not able to understand and judge him easily. Negative feelings which is his ego construct him into a man of cowardice. This attitude comes together with similar feelings. Prufrock can only express his opinions and feelings in a place where Eliot wrote in the opening of this poem which describes the frustration of Prufrock. The inferno has a meaning of horrifying and a specific place which can replace this symbol also called hell. Because of being incapable to be useful in the world he creates his own environment such as the sea, and resulted in a condition where Prufrock is being trapped condition. Another description of Prufrock like a man of no

power but cannot refuse the influence which are happening around him. Love was Prufrock obsession which is incapable to achieve, the only condition which is obvious to recognize is his passion, when he sees the prostitute . He has a close relationship complains about his problems silently to her and forgets his pain.

Prufrock is often confused with the sounds in his heart whereas these confusion made him disguise himself into a hypocritical personality.

V.2.2. Tone

To anticipate his unfortunate condition, Prufrock treats the society as his enemy to him because of his unselfconfidence. Sentimental, despair, discourage, etc are tones which are attach to Prufrock. Everything he wants to achieve seem unreachable such as his existence, love, needing, etc.

These incapability are hung in the atmosphere of the poem and pictures an indecent tone. The strongest hard beat is when Prufrock tries to develop his love story. Fear takes control of his life especially when he is desperate in his love affair. This request of Prufrock is considered dominant because it is often symbolized and discussed in the poem.

It is tragic about the failure Prufrock discover in his life. Mortally, he prefer to daydream and carry away with his fantasy untill he realize everything is to late. The inferiority Prufrock feels towards others imply in the poem that his suffering goes on severely. A description of lonesomeness, inferiority, emptiness, longing, etc are the tone that appears often in this poem.

As the second question of the writer observation, the quality of Prufrock's characters are a part of the symbols because the symbols consist many meanings which this element is combined in them. So Symbol and speaker have a close relationship. Indirectly, informations concerning about the speakers, are analysed and answered in the previous question.

Prufrock has varied characteristics as an ordinary human being but in this poem the speaker recognized as two speakers *you and I*. And these two speakers are predicted as the speaker. This separation is the physical and mental parts. These two parts can bring many characteristics such as :

V.2.2.1 The Physical Appearance

a. A growing old man

Prufrock is establishing a condition where his position is shifting because of age. This condition is quite annoying for his appearance, for instance in these lines :

With a bald spot in the middle of my hair—
 [They will say: "How his hair is growing thin!"]
 (Lines 40 and 41)

From people's comments it expressed that Eliot intention is to stress the age of Prufrock. According to Prufrock the spot will not show great difference but it did not hide his oldness. There is another expression about Prufrock "thinness" such as :

My necktie rich and modest, but asserted by a simple pin—
 [They will say: "but how his arms and legs are thin!"]
 (Lines 43 and 44)

Again stressing the growth of Prufrock signifies this speaker is growing old and it is more as in this stanza :

I grow old.....I grow old.....
 I shall wear the bottoms of my trousers rolled
 (Lines 23 and 24)

So obviously Prufrock's physical appearance is growing old and not yet old but the shift here is important.

b. Neat and Clean Man

Prufrock is an old fashioned man because of the age. He prefers his clothing in a more complex combination as it was modest at his period but on the other hand the latest fashion is more simple and informal as in this comparison :

My morning coat, my collar mounting firmly to the chin,

My necktie rich and modest, but asserted by a simple pin—
(Lines 42 and 43)

"I shall wear the bottoms of my trousers rolled."
(Line 124)

Because of the differences the researcher can see that Prufrock is neat in his clothing as the fashion at that time and clean to go along with his neatness.

c. Wispy

He appears as someone unimportant or someone very small in credibility among other people. He only recognize the trivial events which mean it would not worth to participate in changing the environment.

V.2.2.2. Mental Condition

a. The Yellow Condition

This stanza is a reflection of Prufrock characters in the mental attitude. The clean appearance on the outside is a disguise to hide his other characters which can be considered as negative or ashaming charaters. Another resemblance of Prufrock, as a cat who moves cleverly not to be seen by anyone and a cat usually is spoiled by people who give a pet or other caring actions. As the description below :

The yellow fogs that rubs its back upon the window-panes,
The yellow smoke that rubs its muzzle on the window-panes
Licked upon the pools that stand in drains,
Let fall upon its back the soot that falls from chimneys,
Slipped by the terrace, made a sudden leap,
And seeing that it was a soft October night,

Curled once about the house, and fell asleep.
(Lines 15, 16 17 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22)

A lonely atmosphere has been implicitly situated in this stanza by interpreting the words such as drain pools, a soft October night etc. So Prufrock can be a dirty unknown speaker who has an intimate attitude to show his needing of passion. But on the other hand he is unwilling to convey his emotions because of his cowardice.

b. A Hypocritical Man

He has a strong purpose to change the present condition but after a little pleasure he forgets his duty to the universe. As in the stanza below :

If one, settling a pillow by her head,
Should say: "That is not what I meant at all."
(Lines 97 and 98)

That is not it, at all."
(Line 112)

Many wonderings have been in his mind to participate in disturbing the universe, cowardly he made excuses to delay his duty and he prefers more to accompany the woman.

The writer observed Prufrock dominant character and the other small interpretations can be combined with the previous explanations. Lazy, afraid, girlish, soft, childish, spoiled and maybe more. He likes to wonder around with no one paying

any attention to him because their involvement made him nervous and unselfconfident. A bad habit which Prufrock shows just in case threatens his identity is delaying an action. For example in this line :

And indeed there will be time
(Lines 23 and 37)

Obviously Prufrock enjoys delaying time which by this diction *indeed* indicates a stress of this action. He wasted his time because he knew another time will come and other routines will still go on. There is no point changing it. This way of Prufrock thinking carries a dominant reaction. On this line :

I have measured out my life with coffee spoons
(Line 51)

Prufrock is just not wasting his time but also does not appreciate his time. Eliot characterize his character with a bad image as the particular sign of Eliot towards his readers or it can consider something true?

As a man, Prufrock, significantly appears a special character of man behaviour. Night life is for male gender because they do not have limitation like women. This liberty made them capable walking around at night and enjoy

their journey. Prufrock character carries this condition but hides his real identity. He invites us to come with him but he will not give any comments about what we saw. From here the researcher understands that he is drag in this situation and condition which made isolate himself

Some of his characters can be found in this stanza :

The yellow fog that rubs its back upon the window-panes,
 The yellow smoke that rubs its muzzle on the window-panes
 Licked its tongue into the corners of the evening,
 Lingered upon the pools that stand in drains,
 Let fall upon its back the soot that falls from chimneys,
 Slipped by the terrace, made a sudden leap,
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The description of a cat is closely related to a woman's attitude which can be the base for the girlish character. Prufrock is a neat and very clean man, the fact that he gives a lot of time for himself. He like to dress up from the latest fashion so he is a modest man in his youth. It shows that Prufrock is not self confident if he did not wear anything modest or new. Two lines can substitute the explanation above :

My morning coat, my collar mounting firmly to the chin,
 My necktie rich and modest, but asserted by a simple pin—
 (Lines 42 and 43)

So he has an evening coat or maybe an afternoon coat which means Prufrock is a selective person especially to his clothing. Eventhough he wears rich fashion such as his tie, still can express a simple tie which consider a modest man.

The yellow fog is a name Eliot calls Prufrock. Mysterious and dirty are identical with the character of Prufrock which by moving all around his neighbourhood he did not make any noise just like a cat. The strong atmosphere of strangeness and mysteriusness is caused by Prufrock's character. A man always has something he wants to hide which made him protect himself from other people. He knows he has burden himself with a bad image in him. These images are characters such as sly, afraid, passion, childish, etc.

From the way he wears his clothes, the writer gets an impression that actually Prufrock is perfectly perform himself outside but confused inside. Directly it pointed out the two speaker in the poem which are *you and I*. One of them carries the good part of human being whereas the other bring the bad impression of human being. These contradiction happens in Prufrock which appears significant characters and hides unexpected habits.

A bad impression is becoming the important part of Prufrock's character. Further more, this idea expands to other

aspects of the poem such as the environment, the people and the atmosphere. The character visited a location where it impresses a dirty condition. And because of that Prufrock consider himself as someone *yellow*. Contradiction has been in him everytime such as in this case he is a very clean and neat man but he feels that he is very dirty. So between *you and I* there is a division which can be classified as false and true behaviour.

Prufrock seems to be a famous character. He is well dressed and knows the quality of the society which means he has been to a higher society as a comparison. Probably because of Prufrock interacts in this kind of society, he claims himself as a dirty person mentally. The complexity Prufrock sees in himself makes an indefinable character. Eliot expresses his character somehow in an indirect way and makes his readers think deeply.

His unpopularity can be ruined if his real diguise is exposed. The writer concludes that his physical appearence is always a perfect personality. Everyone did not admired him only women who he meets. But mentally he is opposite of what people see in him. This special speaker is always forcing him to hide it because if the society realize the other character then they will not honour him. He is afraid of old age just as

in these lines :

[They will say: "How his hair is growing thin!]
(Line 41)

It is a problem for Prufrock when people starting to give comments about his appearance. The thinness of a man's hair is a sign of old age or his youth is passing by and changing it into an old period. Again the other line describing his physical appearance:

[They will say: "But how his arms and legs are thin!]
(Line 44)

His thinness in this stanza indicates his strength has been decreasing. He is not as masculin as before. Eventhough he tries to hide it behind his outside appearance but they still can recognize the difference.

He is not ready to leave his youth (age) because of his enjoyment being acquainted with his period. Often he imagines wearing latest cloths so it can cover his real age such as in this stanza :

Shall I part my hair behind? Do I dare to eat a peach?
I shall wear white flannel trousers, and walk upon the beach.
I have heard the mermaids singing, each to each.
(Lines 125, 126 and 127)

A certain description of a young character in this period

represents by their hair and clothing whereas the character is strongly seen. His resistance toward oldness can be categorized as mocking to himself. Sometimes he forces himself to be young and results in the opposite as in :

I grow old...I grow old...
I Shall wear the bottoms of my trousers rolled.
(Lines 23 and 24)

The writer has mentioned above that Prufrock has a bad habit such as often delaying things. This kind of character has a consequence of wasting its own time. But on the other hand Prufrock realize what he has been doing. For example on one of the lines in this stanza :

I have measured out my life with coffee spoons;
(Line 51)

Coffee spoons are the smallest spoons in a dinner set which means he does it on purpose his delaying. He enjoys the condition he is now in and by changing it the result will be extraordinary for Prufrock. This discouragement is always his obstacle to face the world. As in this stanza :

Disturb the universe?
In a minute there is time
For decisions and revisions which a minute will reverse.
(Lines 45, 46, 47 and 48)

But it is quite impossible to synchronize the idea of the discouragement and the universe. From here the complexity of this character appears or the contradiction between *you and I* evolve. It could be understood that many things are to rage inside of Prufrock mind and heart but he has not the courage to bring about his opinions.

As a man, he has his need of passion which is usual in a man's character. All through out this poem most of its aspects is related to the term love. According to Prufrock love is unreachable because of the discouragement he owns. This kind of relationship is unordinary for common people as we know an honourable man does not love a prostitute. These women are not aintellectual society and they come from another level of society. Their only talent is exposing their physical appearence but these parts are most attractive to Prufrock. Somehow he has a low taste of things.

He is a very weak character just not physically but also how he reacts toward problems. A stanza represents this character :

And would it have been worth it, after all,
Would it have been worth while,
After the sunsets and the dooryards and sprinkled streets,
After the novels, after the teacups, after the skirts
that trail along the floor—
And this, and so much more?—

It is impossible to say just what I mean!
 But as if a magic lantern threw the nerves in patterns on a
 screen:
 Would it have been worth while
 (Lines 100, 101, 102, 103 104, 105. and 106)

If one, settling a pillow or throwing off a shawl,
 And turning toward the window, should say:
 "That is not it at all,
 That is not what I meant, at all."
 (Lines 110, 111, 112, and 113)

The conflict between two different characters in this stanza is obvious to recognize because the desire is great inside but after he had been offered a pleasant moment, he delays his first appointment. He has a character that does not have self confidence in himself which is why *worth while* had been repeated for several times.

V.3. The Theme in The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock

In finding the theme from this poem, *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*, the writer divides her observation into two parts which are elements in a poem. This particular work of Prufrock is categorized as an identity theme. But on the last question of this thesis the writer prefers to find what kind of identity Prufrock carries.

After observing the symbols and characters of Prufrock, many aspects are fulfilling each other, whereas, from these answers the specific of an identity is stressed. The idea of a

certain identity appears in some of Eliot's other works such as *Poet in a Lady*, *Cousin Nancy*, *Gerontion*, etc. Each of these poems talks and describes the quality of a certain character. As in *Prufrock*, Eliot describes his character with deep meaning which where symbols are used. Many aspects have been explained in details to identify *Prufrock* as a reachable, understanding character.

The division of a personality between the outside and inside of a character, logically, is impossible to observe but Eliot gave his outline for the writer to reevaluate these capabilities. *Prufrock's* character according to the writer is difficult to analyse because Eliot combines many factors such as the environment, description from the latest and the oldest mode, mental knowledge, etc. So to point a certain theme that refers to *Prufrock's* character is impossible but getting close the idea is possible.

The contradiction between the public personality and the ego can be a complex and wide explanation. For instance it covers about low class society, sea life, latest fashion, women beauties, expectation, honour, dignity, frustration, sentimental, etc which is why a theme is necessary to find. *Prufrock* is to reveal as Lazarus, a fool, a lord attendant, yellow fog, inhabitant of the sea but not Prince Hamlet, a

prophet, Michelangelo, lobster. As in general this poem has a theme of identity because of the title *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock*.

A debate about the contradiction in the inner part of Prufrock is a reduction from the previous explanation. From here Prufrock is conditioned as an inferior man with despair, frustration and wisp characters. Laforge influenced Prufrock's character in its self-irony, self contemptuous and similar condition which concerns only on Prufrock himself.

Every man has his own idealism including Prufrock evethough his existence is wispy but it is possible Prufrock carries a great dream. He realizes that he cannot conquer his idealism and before he could fight for his idealism he is already defeated by it. The delaying which is always mentioned can be a sign of his frigth to face the world and people. Fantasy about the under sea world with the sea girls and their attraction made him save.

Actually, failing has been his destiny but Eliot gives the process in becoming a failure. Prufrock routinities are drinking tea, seeing a prostitute, promising to disturb the world which will never be fulfilled, etc. Wasting his time with small unworthy activities or bit of pleasure was his outside appearence, but on the other hand, perfectism was in his ego.

To *disturb a world* is a hyperbole meaning because of the Prufrock's wispy character.

A sarcastic situation of Prufrock unmanned has been described in this context :

The difficulty lies in dread of personal inadequacy, maybe even of sexual insufficiency—"the strength to force the moment to its crisis."
(Smith, 1964:19)

Prufrock's impotencies are not only in his idealism but also in his love affair. His ego insists him to proclaim his feelings but his cowardice rejects his own needs. So the relationship with this prostitute only concerns with the physical not the mental actions. This natural condition made him more frustrated toward life and his appeal. His old-fashioned clothes were an obstacle for him to interact with society at that period because they are more simple and relax. From this difference the writer can see a distance between Prufrock and his lover's reactions. The lack which Prufrock admits creates a weak and selfishness through him.

An isolation always interferes in his life which made him trapped in between his public personality and his ego such as :

"The evening against the sky and the patient on the

table; the streets and the room; the fog and the house; the women's transfixing eyes and the victim wringling like a stuck bug; the white, bare arms of cold day and the sensuous arms of lamplight; the the proper coat and collar and the informal shirt-sleeves; the clothing and the feeble limbs; the prim manners and the amotous appetite; the prophet and the ignobly severed head; the resurrection and the grave; the prince and the emotional pauper; the bright world of singing mermaids skimming the waves and the buried world of death in the sea depths of fantasy.

(Smith, 1967:18)

All of these comparisons consist of hope and destruction, such as Prufrock as the speaker of this poem. His voice is not only out of tune but also defeated by his own idealism. This self-irony exaggerates and stresses on the negative side of a human being. Prufrock destination of being a failure can be a rage which causes confusion and timidity. He isolates himself towards the world but trapped by his own ego. An ego who forces Prufrock two show through his publik personality to express his opinion and feelings. Most of the time his ego does not come together with his public personality which build a disagreement within him. A monologue usually is difficult to digest because the soul has a metaphysical meaning as in no one knows what is in somebodys heart. In Prufrocks heart there are so many contradictions that he himself cannot understand and causes a defeat personality.

Finally, The writer observes the description that Eliot build in this character of Prufrock. Two ends of Prufrock life are introduced first which are alive and a failure destination. Actually, in this poem the progress of being "drown" is the main idea of Eliot. Because of Laforge self-irony, the theme is obvious to about the point of view of Eliot. And by using two elements of a poem which are symbol and the speaker simplifies the observation of the writer.

The theme of *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* is the speaker defeatism. The realization of unreachable desire and passion becomes a bumerang and an obsession of life.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION