

CHAPTER I

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

I. 1. Background of The Problem

Most of Robinson's poems depict figure of human being that apparently are presented individually. It is moreover signified by using persons names as the title. Every character in his poems has different characteristics that essentially has born the uniqueness of those characters.

The names such as Richard Cory, Miniver Cheevy, Flammonde, and still many other else are figures that he created in his poems and also as the title of those poems. Those figures are well known as folks of Tilbury Town, they are unique figures described in Robinson's poems very vividly. Most of Robinson's figure are described from their inner side rather than from their physical appearance, but he was able to describe the physical appearance as well as the inner side. Because of his skill in creating the character, most of his poems are called psychology poetry and Robinson himself is known as psychological portrait painter. 'Purely as psychological portrait painter, Robinson has given American literature an entire gallery of memorable figures.....' (Louis Untermeyer 1960 : 113).

Moreover, behind those names actually Robinson expressed events in life that usually are human problems.

And often those problems' description is not far from the real life. All characters present with their own problem and solution but not all characters are successful in solving their problem. If we reading his poems we find that people is his favorite subject matter to be analyzed in his poems. 'With inquiring spirit, he analyzed people and the forces that move them to success or failure.' (Walter Blair 1949 : 887). We know that in actual world a man is not always get the success only. And it is like James Dickey's comment to Macmillan Selected Poems (1965), 'Robinson's "new approach", which Dickey sees as one of modern poetry's most remarkable accomplishments, consists of "making of a refusal to pronounce definitively on his subjects a virtue..... that allows an unparalleled fullness to his presentations, as well as endowing them with some of the mysteriousness, futility, and proneness to multiple interpretation that incidents and lives posses in the actual world." (Pritchard 1981 : 105-106).

In this study I choose ten poems of Robinson's to analyze. Those poems have characteristics as Robinson's poetry, they are psychology poetry. Each poem presents one character and also the name of the character becomes the poem's title. All poems express the themes of human problems in real life. Besides, however, his characteristic of his way in writing is also interesting. 'Twen-

ty years before the flowering of "The New Poetry", E.A. Robinson was producing a strikingly new kind of verse. Robinson's poetry is intellectual, realistic, and close to the rhythm of actual speech.' (A. Bakker 1975 : 123).

I. 2. Objective of The Study

The purpose of this study is to analyze the characteristics of ten poems of Robinson which are meant to find out the theme of those poems, which are: Richard Cory, Cliff Klingenhagen, Miniver Cheevy, John Everel - down, Luke Havergal, Flammonde, Reuben Bright, Bewick Finzer, Aaron Stark, and Mr. Flood's Party.

I. 3. Significance of The Study

Generally I wish this study will enlarge our knowledge and appreciation of literature, especially about Edwin Arlington Robinson's works.

Further by reading and understanding this study, I wish it will increase our understanding and consciousness to the reality of life. Life is not as easy as we think. There are the success and the failure. By understanding it, at least we avoid to be proud when we reach the success.

I. 4. Theoretical Framework

A poem or another kind of literary work can be like a house that is built by an architect. He should plan

how many rooms there are, how they are related to one another, how this house can give comfort for them to live in. So a poet is like an architect, in creating a poem he should think carefully; where will the work begin, will the poem be rhymed, will the poem use many metaphores or contrasts?. The pattern of the work is called the structure and every work has its structure.

So the first theory to be applied in analyzing Robinson's poems is structuralism. In Theory of Literature 'Structure is a concept including both content and form so far as they are organized for aesthetic purpose. The work of art is, then, considered as a whole system of signs, serving a specific aesthetic purpose.' (Rene Wellek and Austin Warren 1978 : 174). Though a literary work consists of two parts separately, however, it must be considered as one, a whole system of signs. Moreover the elements that build up a whole system of signs are such as words, syntax, imagery, figurative language, tone, prosody, theme, and the total meaning as the essence of a poem.

By understanding the above theory, it is clear that a poem consists of its form and its content that relate and support each other, because without the form is impossible, and the form without the content is meaningless. The tightness between form and content is stated in Wellek's Theory of Literature, 'If we understand by

the ideas and emotions conveyed in a work of literature, the form would include all linguistic elements by which contents are expressed. But if we examine this distinction more closely, we see that content implies some elements of form: e.g. the events told in a novel are parts of the content, while the way in which they are arranged into a 'plot' is part of the form.' (Wellek and Warren 1978 : 140).

I. 5. Literary Approach

As it is stated in the theoretical framework that a literary work consists of both content and form which are serving the aesthetic purpose. To analyze these ten poems, the structural approach is suitable. This approach will analyze the poems element by element that build up the structure of poem. The structure of poem will include poetic diction, poetic syntax, imagery, figurative language, tone, prosody and theme. The first six elements are the structure of form while the last is the structure of content.

I. 5. 1. Poetic Diction

'Diction refers to the specific words and type of words selected by a writer to produce a desired effect.' (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 582). Moreover the selection of words is important in poetry because 'Poetry is characterized by the greatest possible condensation .

It leaves much unsaid. Because poets must give readers enough clues to guide their responses, they select every word with the utmost care. This principle of selectivity operates, of course, in other forms of writing; but in poetry each word must carry specific denotative and rich connotative meanings, and make a harmonious contribution to the sound pattern as well.' (Lee and Gura 1982 : 324)

I. 5. 2. Poetic Syntax

'Syntax is general term that refers to word order and sentence structure.' (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 586).

'In poetry the syntax of the sentences is sometimes more complicated than it is in prose. This is due in part to the weight of suggestion within the condensation that is characteristic of poetry. Often parts of speech are omitted, and references are implied rather than stated. Normal word order is frequently changed for emotional effect, for heightening of sound qualities, or both.' (Lee and Gura 1982 : 341).

I. 5. 3. Imagery

'In literature, imagery refers to words that trigger your imagination to recall and recombine images - to fuse together old and new memories or mental pictures of sights, sounds, taste, smells, and sensations of touch.' (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 603).

Generally the imagery is divided into :

- images of sight or visual images or references to sight
- images of sound or auditory of images or references to sound
- images of smell or olfactory image refers to smell
- images of taste or gustatory images refer to taste
- images of touch or tactile images refer to touch
- images of action and activity, if the imagery refers to general motion called kinetic image and if the imagery refers to human or animal activity called kinesthetic.

I. 5. 4. Figurative Language

'Figurative language refers to expression that conform to particular and arrangements of thought. These patterns, or rhetorical figures, are the tools that help make literary works effective, persuasive, and force - ful.' (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 623). The two most important rhetorical figures are metaphor and simile. Others include paradox, apostrophe, personification, synecdoche and metonymy, synesthesia, the pun, and overstatement and understatement.

I. 5. 5. Tone

'Tone is the means by which the poets reveal attitudes and feelings. In the study of tone in poetry the object is to consider the ways in which poets: express and control his attitude. Literally everything in

the poem helps convey the poem.' (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 656).

I. 5. 6. Prosody

'Prosody refers to the study of sounds and rhythms in poetry.' (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 680). This study will include rhythm, alliteration, assonance and rhyme.

-Rhythm in speech is a combination of vocal speeds, rises and falls, starts and stops, vigor and slackness, and relaxation and tension (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 681).

-Assonance is the repetition of identical vowel sounds in different words— (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 688).

-Alliteration is a means of highlighting ideas by the selection of words containing the same consonant sound. (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 689)

-Rhyme is the repetition of identical or similar concluding syllables in different words, most often at the ends of lines. (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 690)

-Rhyme scheme refers to the pattern of rhyming sounds in a given poem. To describe rhyme schemes, alphabetical letters are used to indicate the rhyming sound. Each repeated letter indicates a rhyme. (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 693)

I. 5. 7. Theme

'Usually, the words theme and meaning convey a general sense of ideas, or the specific sense of a major or central idea,' (Roberts and Jacobs 1989 : 827). 'The theme of a work is the key at once to its total meaning or message and to its plan or structure.' (Little 1966 : 27) As often as not, the poem's theme is implied as well as stated, and many elements shape the message and meaning. These include speaker, character, setting and situation, action, diction, sound, imagery, metaphor and simile, tone, meter, rhyme, form, symbol, allusion and others. These elements are the structure of form in a poem.

I. 6. Methodology

This study is a library research, so the prime source to solve the discussion problem is reference books.

I am going to analyze those ten poems by using the structural method. By using this method the poems will be analyzed through element by element which are the structure of those poems both the form and the content. These include all elements such as diction, syntax imagery, figurative language, tone, prosody and finally these analyses are to contribute the analysis of theme.

Because this is a study of literary work, specifically poetry, that usually there are many meanings which are implied so this study is also using interpretative - descriptive method. According to Rakhmat's Metode Penelitian Ilmiah "Metode deskriptif hanyalah memaparkan situasi atau peristiwa. Penelitian ini tidak mencari atau menjelaskan hubungan, tidak menguji hipotesis atau membuat prediksi" (1985 :34). Moreover this book informs, "Metode deskriptif bertujuan melukiskan secara sistematis fakta atau karakteristik bidang tertentu secara factual dan cermat.". So as it is stated in Objective of the study, by this method I try to describe the characteristics of Robinson's poetry systematically. And then interpretative method is used to "explain what is not immediately plain or explicit" (Webster's Dictionary 1986 : 1182). It is known that poetry, almost all, expresses its idea implicitly.

people hoped to have this kind of social standing like him.

To get it, they had to work very hard but they failed, eventhough, for just a piece of meat. But surprisingly, on one calm summer night Richard Cory committed suicide at his home.

II. 1. 2. Miniver Cheevy

Miniver Cheevy regretted that he was born at that time. He preferred to be born in the old day when the brave soldiers rode the strong horses and used the sword as their weapon.

Because he could never see all about that, he just pictured them through his dreams, all his days he spent dreaming rather than working. He dreamed about Thebes, Camelot, Priam's neighbour, Medici, and other famous names of the old day's and he regretted why he could not be one of the Medici or the Priam's neighbour.

He hated the usual event and clothes that were worn by present day's people. and he missed the iron clothes. Really he scorned what he dreamed he was annoyed and sore without it. So he thought it over but he still could not find the answer and solved it by drinking and finally he gave up to his fate.

II. 1. 3. Cliff Klingenhagen

This is a monologue of one of Cliff Klingenhagen's friend.

One day Cliff invited his friend in to dine. After they had eaten meals prepared on the table, Cliff Klingenhagen took two glasses and filled them with different drinks. One glass was filled with wine and the other with wormwood.

Without offering to choose, he took a glass of wormwood and drank off that bitter drink. Surprised by what he did, his friend asked about it. But Cliff just answered and smiled broadly that he did this because he had chosen it.

II. 1. 4. Mr. Flood's Party

One night old Eben Flood climbed alone over the hill between the town below and the forsaken upland hermitage. He paused warily. Then so pleasantly, he said aloud but no one else in Tilbury Town could hear it.

Talking to himself, he said that he still could see the harvest moon, and may be it was the last time for him to see it again and then he paraphrased line 25 to 28 of The Rubaiyat. As if he celebrated his age, he raised up the jug to the light and he said again arguing what he had said, he was sure that he would see the moon again.

He stood in the middle of the road alone, in his age he was like a strong armour that had been outworn. Below him, in the town where his friends respected him a long time ago, and now he was alone waiting for the

death.

Slowly and tenderly, he set his jug at his feet and he was sure that the jug set firmly on earth. He paced away and talked to himself again, "Well Mr. Flood, we have not meet like this for a long time ago, and I fear this is our last drinking together. Welcome home!" Again he treated himself convivially, he raised the jug to the light and trembling he said, "Well, Mr. Flood if you insist, there was very little we got in the days long ago and we will not get any more."

It was true and Eben Flood realized it when he was in the lonely night alone, and then he entertained himself by singing and as if the landscape was singing too. "For the days of long ago" he said once more and still sang, he raised up the jug regretfully, and shook his head feeling alone. He had no more hope for his future, even in the town where his many friends opened their doors for him a long time ago. But now, the people of the town became strangers that opened no doors for him.

II. 1. 5. Reuben Bright

Reuben Bright was a butcher, but we could not think that he was more brute than any one else. Because there was something surprising happening to him. When he was told that his wife died, he became very sad and frightened. He cried like a great baby that made every woman cry too.

And after the funeral finished, most mournfully , he packed everything that his wife had made in her chest and put some chopped-up cedar boughs and then tore down his slaughter house.

II. 1. 6. John Evereldown

This is a dialogue happening in John Evereldown's innerself.

"Where are you going tonight John Evereldown? The night is dark , no stars in the sky, the only lighted lamp is in Tilbury Town. But why are you pointing away from the light?"

"I go to the right through the forest where none can see. I go to Tilbury Town where men are asleep or awake but women always call me, so I always can not avoid them."

"But why do you go so late ? Although the road the road is smooth and straight, but it is a long way to Tilbury Town. Come in and warm your body by the fire, old man. But why you won't come and prefer to chatter out there by the gate."

"I go to Tilbury Town following the women that call me. I know God hates what I have done, so he drops the rain. But I don't care, I follow the women wherever they call me."

II. 1. 7. Aaron Stark

Aaron Stark was a thin man with his untidy hair, and his shriveled face showed that he was astute and sullen, but he was also a disliked man. What he saw and talked were just money. And when he spoke, just a few words but there was harshness in his voice as a bad-tempered dog barked carefully.

He was glad to hear the murmur of his infame. He was a loveless exile that walked unsteadily with a stick through the town for years. It was a contrary, often times people took a pity on him, but Aaron just laughed.

II. 1. 8. Flammonde

Only God knows who Flammonde is. Because he was created by none but God. He was a man with firm manner, strange appearance, broad knowledge. His walk was like a king, with his sharp and bright eyes. It was no doubt or surprise that his solid appearance was like an ambassador of kings.

His different manner from his surrounding people's pictured what people heard from the tale, he pictured the traditional manner that did not exist any more. The others never knew who he really, and they could not behave as he did. Because according to their opinion, what he did was unordinary.

He was extremely generous, he showed the people from dissatisfactions. His polite behavior threw away

the suspicion, and his good reputation made every people like him.

There was a woman that so many people disliked her very much because of her scandal in the past, but Flammonde, on the other hand, never cared about it. And his attitude made people realize about their narrow mindedness.

There was a boy proposing his opinion, and none could agree but Flammonde. He appreciated the youth, and according to his opinion what the boy told was a truth and, however, the good youth was important for the future. Moreover, there were two citizens that always fought for years, and then Flammonde reconciled them and invited them in to dine.

These were just some of many examples that Flammonde had done. But there were still many questions arising from those people, because they still did not know who Flammonde really was. Although they could not understand him it did not lessen, they praised him.

Indeed, the man like Flammonde was rare to meet, but in certain conditions, however bad it was, this kind of man always aroused as if intentionally he was created to save this situation.

Oftentimes, we forgot something useful that had been left by the former's people, and every people might have a dark side of their life, but we did not realized

it. Flammonde's experience was a valuable lesson.

II. 1. 9. Bewick Finzer

A half million dollars were very important for Bewick's life, because his only wealth was amounted to that sum. And when his money vanished, he became mentally ill.

People almost forgot his appearance as time passed through. He spoke unclearly because of his dry throat, his coat had been threadbare. He had nothing but the poverty, despair, and dreams of wealth that never could be regained.

His life was spent on dreams and plans that never became real. When he looked at other people, as if he remained them that their life could change easily like his life.

The only way to regain his money was by borrowing it but he never returned it back, and probably it was for years. And he was never sorry to do it, but all other people could understand it.

II. 1. 10. Luke Havergal

This is a monologue happening in Luke's innerself.

Go to the western gate Luke Havergal! She calls you from there. There were full of sweet vines and the falling leaves were her whisper. The twilight will welcome you.

Don't go to the eastern skies, there is not a dawn that can wipe out your anger. But go to the western gate where the glooms will end it because just the dark that can end the dark. And God will not care about you, however, the hell is more than a half of paradise.

I come out of the grave to tell you and put out your hope with another hope that blinds you to your way. I show the way to where she is. Though it is bitter but it is true if you have the faith.

Go to the western gate! Don't pay attention to what they say. But go there if you believe that she will wait for you.

II. 2. General Characteristic of The Ten Poems

From the paraphrases above, at least, we can get little descriptions about the content of the poems, although it is not detailed or meaning deep, because the deep meaning will be found in the analysis.

Nevertheless, from the ten poems above the most significant characteristics of them are all have person's names as titles, except Mr. Flood's Party. The other characteristic is each of the poems presents one character. Some of them present the inner self only, and some present both inner self and physical appearance. Bewick Finzer, Flammonde, Richard Cory are presented from both inner and physical, while the others from their inner rather than their physical.

Those ten characters are facing the problem in their life, and some of them have similar problems actually, and some even are contrasted: Richard Cory is different from his surrounding people because of his wealth and also an isolated man who has no friends, Miniver Cheevy always dreams of the old day's glory, Cliff Klingenhagen is self confident to face his life, Eben Flood is an old man that can not be accepted by the young generation, Reuben Bright is a weak man that has no confidence after his wife's death, John Evereldown is an old man that never realize his old age, Aaron Stark is a miser that has been thrown away from his social life, Flammonde is also different from his surrounding people but he has many friends, Bewick Finzer is also a dreamer that dreams about wealth, and the last character is Luke Havergal who is called by his late lover from the grave.

All poems are written in traditional form, three of them are written in sonnet: Aaron Stark, Cliff Klingenhagen, and Reuben Bright; Miniver Cheevy and Richard Cory in quatrain, Bewick Finzer in sestet and the others are in octave and all of them also are rhymed. The rhyme and the other structure concerning the form will be discussed in the analysis.

II. 3. Table of The Characters' Description

To get the characteristics of each character more clearly, although in the preceding discussion, it has been described, a table is one of suitable ways. Moreover this table will show the similarities or the contrasts of the characteristics of one from the others. The table is based on four criteria, there are: the characters, the physical appearance that explains such as the age, the way of dressing, etc; the third is the condition of economy that explains the rich one or the poor one; and the last is the specific characteristics of the characters, this explains the specification of the characters that may be similar or contrast from the others.

Table II. 3.

Character	Physical Appearance	Economic Condition	Specific Characteristic
1. Richard Cory	-luxurious -pleasant appearance	- rich	-isolated -no friends -educated well
2. Miniver Cheevy	-untidy -unpleasant appearance	-poor	-no friends -drinker -dreamer
3. Cliff Klingshagen	(no clear description)	(no clear description)	-self confident -happy
4. Mr. Flood		-poor	-no friend -loneliness

5. Reuben Bright	(no clear description)	-a successful but -cher	-weak hearted -no self confident
6. John Everel-down	-old	(no clear description)	-a playboy
7. Flammonde	-unusual dressing -strong -pleasant appearance	(no clear description)	-broad knowledge -broad mindedness -has many friends
8. Aaron Stark	-old -untidy -unpleasant appearance	-rich	-a miser -isolated -no friends
9. Bewick Finzer	-unpleasant appearance	-poor	-dreamer -beggar
10. Luke Havergal	(no clear description)	(no clear description)	-no self confident

