

CHAPTER IV
ANALYSIS ON THE CONTENT
(THEME)

Intentionally the analysis of every element of the poems' structure is to imply the theme of those poems. And it has been mentioned in the background of the problem that the ten poems are chosen because they are suggested implying a theme of concerns about the existing human individual, a theme that usually is conveyed by the existentialism. Wholly, in this thesis the analysis is done through some steps that all merely is related to theme. Introducing, leading up to, implying, summing-up, exemplifying in whole or in part-these are the chief relationships of parts of work to the theme. We can say that the analysis of form is implying, while this analysis is step of summing-up and exemplifying in whole.

Actually all poems let us experience their themes through all elements that build up those poems, although they are implied. The interpretation of figurative language, syntax, imagery, tone and prosody, all actually have implied the total impact on the theme. If we consider element by element that have been analyzed in the preceding chapter, what has been suggested as the theme actually can be touched. The interpretation of some names of those poems has given clear description on the empha-

sis of the existence of an individual, because behind those names there are specific events that have made them unique in their personality. Moreover those events, in this case in all poems, most are expressed through figurative language, syntax, diction, tone, imagery, and then the prosody functioned to emphasize the significant effect to the meaning.

Actually some of those characters of the ten poems have the same problems but they take different ways in solving them, or vice versa, they have the same solutions to face different problems. Simply in table II.3. there is a description of characters with their specific characteristics that at least can support in grouping the characters according to each problem. Obviously from both descriptions; in the table and then its improvement in the form analysis, we can see that every character had acted based on their own decision that sometimes what they chose is surprising, and even we never guess and expect it. Richard Cory, Keuben Bright, and Cliff Klingenhagen are such men. Or the persons with unique personality such as John Evereldown, Miniver Cheevy, and Flammonde are interesting to attend too. While Bewick Finzer and Eben Flood are men whose existence were forgotten. And Luke Havergal, this man was trying to find his existence. However all of them are unique persons, and all of them were facing the problem of life.

IV. 1. Theme of Richard Cory

"Wealth and status are not always a guarantee of somebody's life happiness"

This theme is expressed by Richard Cory, the title and also the subject matter of this poem. Richard Cory is described as a wealthy man, a rich one. Because of his wealth he had a higher status than other people who lived in his town. Richard Cory was richer than a king. He became the center of others' attention. These poor people wished they would had what Cory had. They thought Cory was a happy man with everything that he had. But the fact said differently, in a calm summer night Cory committed suicide at his luxurious home.

IV. 2. Theme of Reuben Bright

"Love can change everything"

This poem is an example of such familiar proverb. Love had been able to change Bright's life tragically, from being a bright man into a gloomy man. Reuben Bright was a successful butcher. Because he was a butcher, apparently he was a brute. It was when his wife was still alive. But suddenly there was an accident, his beloved wife died. As soon as he was not a brute anymore, he cried like a baby that made every woman cry too. It was worse than this moreover, because after the funeral he packed all his wife's goods and then tore down his slaughter house.

IV. 3. Theme of Flammonde

"Mystery of human being"

Mystery refers to something of which the cause or origin is hidden or impossible to understand. This poem expresses the mystery of a man, called Flammonde. His origin was hidden to understand for the town people.

He was described as a strange man with appearance and manner, and also the way of thinking are very different from the others. But actually behind his strangeness there is something that made them praise him. He could solve those people's problems by his broad mindedness. But more and more they could accept what Flammonde advised, more and more his origin is hidden, as it is described in the metaphor of ninth stanza :

Why was it that his charm revealed
Somehow the surface of a shield?

IV. 4. Theme of Aaron Stark

"Money can enslave human being"

Money is very important for every one, but on the other hand if a man can not control himself from 'the charm of money' he can be controlled by the money. It occurs on Aaron Stark. He was a miser, it is not a pleasant attribute at all. His life was spent to worship money. His mean talking was only money, until he disliked by others. Apparently his money was not used to make his life

comfortable. His appearance did not show that he had enough money, and even his appearance was unpleasant. As a slave of money, he was compared to a worthless dog. Really, money had placed him in the very low place.

IV. 5. Theme of Cliff Klingenhagen

"If in life we can accept bad things, much more good things"

Sometimes in life we never hope the trouble. But the fact we can not avoid it. Actually, if we can accept it sincerely, we will feel more pleasant when we accept the ease.

Cliff Klingenhagen is one of the example. What a happy man he was. It is expressed by the metaphor of this poem. He preferred to choose the wormwood, a bitter drink, rather than the wine. When his friend asked him about it surprisingly, he just smiled and answered that he drank it because of the sincere, and it was his way of life.

IV. 6. Theme of Mr. Flood's Party

"Being old is a fact that can not be avoided by every one"

Being young forever is a wish for many people. Because they think in the youth they can do as they please, they still have the attractiveness. But in fact every man must be getting old, and they are not able to avoid it. For some people who does not realize it, being old

is a condition that causes them suffering.

Eben Flood, the main character of this poem, was an old man who was suffering because of it. Physically he was weak and materially he had nothing. But terribly, he made his own condition worse, he solved his problem by drinking. In his old age he had nothing, even his old friends of long time ago who used to respect him, now only became a sweet memory. People of town never cared him anymore. He lived desperately on the lonely hill, waiting for the death.

IV. 7. Theme of John Evereldown

"Slave of desire"

The desire in positive sense is needed by everybody for a successful life. For example is a desire of happiness and health. But in negative sense, for example is strong sexual attraction, this desire can control man under its power.

John Evereldown was such man. He had desire for women. His life was predestinated by this power. And even he never cared about all obstructions; his old age, the cold night, the darkness, the forest and the long road. And even he did not care about God's punishment.

IV. 8. Theme of Miniver Cheevy

"Face the reality, although it is not like what you hope. It is better than living in dreams"

Often in this life we hope something that in fact it is difficult to gain. If we realize it, it is not a serious problem of our life. But for them whom can not realize it, it can ruin them physically and mentally.

Miniver Cheevy is an example of a dreamer. He hoped something that was impossible to realize. It was strange wish, he was longing for the past life when according to his opinion there were many names of heroes who were heroic than the present people. Worse, he hated the present condition; the present clothes, and the commonplace. Moreover, because he could not solve his problem, he gave up on drink.

IV. 9. Theme of Bewick Finzer

"Wealth is not eternal"

Wealth is very valuable for our life, but sometimes we do not realize that it can be lost easily. So if we are rich, don't 'love' your wealth too much.

Bewick Finzer had a half of million, for himm this sum was his breath of life. Suddenly there was an accident, his money was lost all. Maybe loosing the money was never expected at all, it made him ruined mentally and physically. He thought he would get his money back easily without a hard effort. What he did along the time was only dreaming his money back. For his survival he was not embarrassed to beg to others.

IV.10. Theme of Luke Havergal

"Too much love will kill you"

Loving and being loved are something wonderful in this life. Love can make our life passionately, but on the other hand love can also end somebody's life.

Luke Havergal, apparently this man experienced this kind of love. He loved his woman very much. Until, finally the death took away his lover. It was not ended yet. He could not accept his lover's death. He was called by the death too to follow his lover. This voice kept persuading him, until he became hesitating between following the persuasion or defending his life.

