

CHAPTER 3

ANALYSIS

The Lady of Shalott is one of the interesting poems of the Victorian Era. In its narrative form, the writer finds it attractive and illustrative, especially in describing the landscape where the poem takes place. Its flowery language also gives some points to the writer since it can depict the character to the deepest emotion. As in the title, this poem tells a story about a woman named the Lady of Shalott. Here, things happen to the Lady become the major focus of the writer's analysis.

Not only the Lady, this poem is also characterized by Sir Lancelot whom Philip W. Goetz describes as one of the greatest knights of Arthurian Romance (132). To explain about it, An Introduction to the Study of Literature defines Arthurian Romance as "stories based upon the legends of King Arthur and the Round Table" (Boas 21). Only the greatest knights of the world had been chosen to be the member of the Round Table, and Lancelot is one of them. To convey the theme in The Lady of Shalott and apply thematic approach and intertextual theory the writer had explained in the previous pages, here are the pages of analysis, which will explain about the theme analysis and the intertextual analysis.

3.1. Theme Analysis

In this poem, the Lady is pictured as a woman who lives alone in her room. Her room is in a tower of a castle which is located on an island of the river that flows down to Camelot. Everyman's Encyclopedia identifies Camelot as "a name given in medieval romance to the seat of King Arthur" (2: 779). Not only a city that is important to King Arthur, it also is to the Lady. The importance of Camelot is shown in the poem that almost all of the fifth lines of all stanzas end with the word "Camelot." Only one stanza besides eighteen others that ends with the word "Sir Lancelot." This exception lies in the tenth stanza, where it happens to be in the middle of the poem. This may not be accidental at all since later the presence of Lancelot will bring so much influence to the Lady's life.

The topic that becomes the ground of the Lady's life-cycle in The Lady of Shalott is about love. Other matters still related to it in this poem are desire, yearning and struggle. In order to reach better understanding and find the theme of the poem, the writer will begin her analysis with the discussion of each important stage of the poem.

3.1.1. Analysis on The Lady of Shalott

3.1.1.a. Analysis on Part 1

The poem begins with a brief description about where the story takes place. In a place near Camelot where there a river is flowing, an island in the middle of it has a castle. In its tower, lives a woman named the Lady of Shalott. Shalott is taken from the name of the island, where it is all planted with lilies. In

this poem, lilies can be interpreted to something else, not of just flower. Lilies, which color is white, symbolizes an unmarried women that in this poem is represented by the character of the Lady.

And up and down the people go,
 Gazing where the lilies blow,
 Round an island there below,
 The island of Shalott. (6-9)

The island of Shalott is a small one that is set in the middle of a river that runs to a city called Camelot. On the left and right side of the river are the fields of barley and rye. The fields are so fertile that as far as the eyes can see, the land is covered with plants.

On either side of the river lie
 Long fields of barley and of rye,
 That clothe the wold and meet the sky;
 And thro' the field that road runs by
 To many tower'd Camelot (1-5)

Camelot is a busy city. Besides living from the harvested land, the locals consider the river as one major thing to their lives. Tennyson sets the setting of this poem near a river, where it represents life. Many of the locals do their activities in the riverside. The river is also functioned as means of transportation, as it is shown in the third stanza:

By the margin, willow veil'd
 Slide the heavy barges trail'd

By slow horses; and unhail'd
 The shallop flitteth silken sail'd
 Skimming down to Camelot (19-23)

Although there are activities done near the island, the Lady has never been seen by the locals. The locals have never been aware of her being in her tower. Beside they are too busy to notice whether there is or there is not someone living in the tower, there is no such sign that there is someone lives there.

But who hath seen her wave her hand?
 Or at the casement seen her stand?
 Or is she known in all the land,
 The Lady of Shalott. (24-7)

Most locals are not familiar with her presence due to the Lady's avoiding appearing in the window, but still there are few people who realize about her being. They are the locals who harvest their crops early in the morning. Only at that time they can hear the Lady sings a song in the tower.

Only reapers, reaping early,
 In among the bearded barley
 Hear a song that echoes cheerly
 ...
 Listening, whisper "'Tis the fairy
 Lady of Shalott." (28-30, 35-6)

Only those people know that there is a woman living in the tower without knowing what the Lady is like. They are aware of her presence only through her

voice but they are wondering why the Lady has never came out of the tower and what she is doing in her room, never appear and interact with others. They call her “The fairy Lady of Shalott” because they always hear her singing beautifully like a magical being though they have never seen her (35-6).

3.1.1.b. Analysis on Part 2

In her tower, the Lady is weaving a colorful web of Camelot’s sights. The Lady has not anything to do except weaving. In fact, it is not that she is too busy with her doing that makes her does not have any time to interact with the locals, but she is bound to a curse that she should remain in her room and not to look at Camelot, as it is suggested in the first stanza of part 2:

There she weaves by night and day
A magic web with colours gay.
She has heard a whisper say,
A curse is on her if she stay
To look down to Camelot.
She knows not what the curse may be,
And so she weaveth steadily,
And little other care hath she,
The Lady of Shalott. (36-45)

The stanza gives the reason why people have never seen her. The Lady has to stay in her room and not to look at Camelot directly. The only thing the Lady can do to kill her time is weaving. To avoid the curse that is put upon her, the Lady must

obey the prohibition. Although she does not really understand the reason she should not look at Camelot, she chooses to stay in her tower and continue weaving. Here, the curse is more like a warning for the Lady to stay in her tower and weave. But it also seems like a premonition about a bad thing that is not explicitly stated in the poem. If the Lady breaks the warning, something may occur to her, it may be as the consequence, punishment or compensation of what she has done. The Lady has no idea what the curse is, but she prefers to pass her days by weaving a web.

The Lady is not allowed to look directly to Camelot and the outside view of her tower, but she is still able to see them through the reflection of the mirror in her room. With the mirror hangs in her room, the Lady sees the view of Camelot without any fear of her being cursed. The presence of the mirror to the Lady's daily life is important since it inspires her to weave her web. In Semiotic of Poetry, it is mentioned that "the images of mirror is a metaphor for sadness, or, more generally, an image with melancholy connotations" (32). Riffaterre's statement, thus, will force the writer to find the facts of the presence of a mirror in a work of literature, to examine whether the Lady will suffer sad feeling in this poem.

And moving thro' a mirror clear

That hangs before her all the year,

Shadows of the world appear.

There she sees the highway near

Winding down to Camelot

(46-50)

To the Lady, Camelot is her only view, the center of her attention and the source of her inspiration in weaving, whose doing becomes the only activity in her room. The Lady seems like enjoying the view in the mirror, seeing the locals' activities and seeing them walking across her tower. Through the mirror, she is able to see the social life of Camelot people.

And there the surly village-churls,
 And the red cloaks of market girls,
 Pass onward from Shalott. (52-4)

Sometimes a troop of damsels glad,
 An abbot on an ambling pad,
 Sometimes a curly shepperd-lad,
 Or long-hair'd page in crimson clad,
 Goes by to tower'd Camelot (55-9)

Through her observation of seeing the sight of Camelot, the Lady sees a variety of the locals. Sometimes she sees a group of girls, another time a young boy or a group of men passing by. Alternatively, sometimes, she sees a group of knights riding horses as it is written in the seventh stanza:

And sometimes thro' the mirror blue
 The knights come riding two and two:
 She hath no loyal knight and true,
 The Lady of Shalott. (60-3)

From those lines, the writer catches the Lady's condition as Tennyson describes her: she has no one in this world that she wishes to have someone beside her so that she will not be alone again. Having looked at the paired knights pass over her tower inspires her that someday she wants to have a knight for her own. She wants someone whose presence is concrete, not of just the reflection through a mirror. In the poem, Tennyson mention the mirror with the color of blue, which can be describes as a gloomy situation happening to the Lady. It illustrates the Lady's feeling upon looking at those knights passing by because they remind the Lady of her being alone without having a mate. Though her mind starts to be filled with the thought of having someone, she is still enjoying her activity to weave the sights of Camelot in her room. Until one night, she sees a love couple passing by her tower, and this is her reaction:

"I am half sick of shadows,' said

The Lady of Shalott.

(71-2)

This sentence becomes the turning point of the Lady's life. She now realizes that there is something missing in her life and that there is some connection that she is not making. The presence of the couple in the mirror really touches her consciousness that she demands an interaction with other people, especially a relation between a man and a woman. Before seeing the couple, she thinks that her life is complete, but after it, she realizes that she cannot bear to live alone forever. Therefore, this couple has open up her mind about her longing of having someone, to love and to be loved. She has never complained of her isolated life before, but then she sees many things from her mirror. From her observation, she

learns about their getting interact to other people and their sharing feeling towards other. Knowing that, the Lady is boring of just sitting in her tower without having any possibility to join with the social life. It is when the Lady sees the “two young lovers lately wed” she realizes that she envies looking at them and wants to have such life (70).

3.1.1.c. Analysis on Part 3

Suddenly, on one sunny day, the Lady’s mirror catches sight of the reflection of a gallant knight. The arrival of the knight is positioned on the tenth stanza, where its fifth line ends with other word than “Camelot”. As mentioned before, this stanza has different ending since this stanza is special and placed right in the middle of the poem. The fifth line of this stanza is ended with “Lancelot”, as it is the indication about the coming of a character named Sir Lancelot.

A bow shot from her bower-eaves,
 He rode between the barley-sheaves,
 The sun came dazzling thro’ the leaves,
 And flamed upon the brazen greaves
 Of bold Sir Lancelot. (73-7)

Sir Lancelot, a knight in armor who passes over the Lady’s tower, seems like the character that brightens up the poem. His impulsive appearance lifts up the poem from a monotonous statement to a sharp one, showed by the using of the word “sun” that represent a new beginning or a new day. Indeed, it carries a good sign

for the Lady that she will have new different days after the appearance of Lancelot. In the following lines, Tennyson gives note about him:

A red-cross knight for ever kneel'd
To a lady in his shield (78-9)

The lines illustrate Lancelot's state who devotes his life to a lady. As Lancelot is one of King Arthur's knights, he certainly wears a shield which shows the symbol of the Kingdom. King Arthur is the ruler of the Kingdom, but the lines Tennyson writes about Lancelot are pointed to a lady. Although the lines are not too clear, Tennyson is trying to inform the reader that Lancelot has one way or another, already related to someone in Arthur's Kingdom. Since there is no continuation about it, Tennyson is just giving it as a note without any intention of burdening the reader with Lancelot's clarity. The article "Enjoying 'The Lady of Shalott' by Alfred Tennyson," writes "At the time, Lancelot is the Queen's illicit lover, and thus false to the King he loves" (pathguy.com 2002). In other way, it tries to say that the lines in the poem refer to the King's wife. Tennyson does not magnify the matter of Lancelot's relation to the Queen since the poem tells the story of the Lady of Shalott. The article also explains of Lancelot's not only devotion to the King's knight, but as well as the Queen's hidden lover. Lancelot and the Queen have once big time in love with each other. Thus, he becomes one of the King's greatest knights yet unfaithful to the King and his kingdom.

In describing the figure of Lancelot's character in this poem, Tennyson often illustrates Lancelot in comparison with light. Tennyson creates the sense of

light in various ways of writing to glorify the appearance of Lancelot. Not only of Lancelot's nature, but also of the things Lancelot wears.

He rode between the barley-sheaves,
 The sun came dazzling thro' the leaves,
 And flamed upon the brazen greaves
 Of bold Sir Lancelot. (74-7)

A red-cross knight for ever kneel'd
 To a lady in his shield,
 That sparkled on the yellow field (78-80)

The gemmy bridle glitter'd free,
 Like to some branch of stars we see
 Hung in the Golden Galaxy. (82-4)

All in the blue unclouded weather
 Thick-jewell'd shone on the saddle-leather,
 The helmet and the helmet-feather
 Burn'd like one burning flame together. (91-4)

His broad clear brow in the sunlight glow'd (100)

Those lines, with various application of the term light, are the Tennyson's effort to assure the reader that the character of Lancelot is a "shinning" man, in

symbolical way. They are Tennyson's expression to describe Lancelot as an interesting and glowing subject, and he is as shining as light. He also has a great spirit as a knight, shown from "the burning flame" of his helmet. All of the characteristics Tennyson describes through those lines match with the qualification of Lancelot's becoming one of the greatest knights of the world. Lancelot's admirable performance that Tennyson pictures in this poem is the description of Lancelot's greatness in becoming such a knight. Beyond those lines, the writer finds Lancelot's nature as a martial, gorgeous and gallant knight.

Along with the appearance of Lancelot, sounds are produced. Before Lancelot appears, every thing seems quiet and calm in this poem. There is nothing or no one who ever makes noise except Lancelot.

The bridle-bells rang merrily

As he rode down to Camelot.

...

And as he rode his armour rung,

Beside remote Shalott.

(85-6, 89-90)

By symbolizing Lancelot's greatness with lights and noises, Tennyson makes the poem more alive than before. With the coming of Lancelot, the reader is taken to a more attractive situation, not of just knowing the Lady's lonely life. To attract the reader's attention, Tennyson introduces Lancelot's character in such a fantastic way. Beyond those noisy matters, there is one thing that catches the most of the Lady's attention, it is when she hears Lancelot singing:

From the bank and from the river

He flash'd into the crystal mirror,

"Tirra lirra," by the river

Sang Sir Lancelot.

(105-08)

It is only "Tirra lirra", but the Lady is fascinated by the voice (107). For her, this lyric brings profound statement. The Lady seems like hypnotized by Lancelot's singing. Having not seen him yet, the Lady is already attracted with Lancelot. Thus, the next thing, the Lady rises and makes some steps to the window. She is no longer see things through the mirror, but looks directly to the outside view of her window, where Lancelot is her focus of sight.

She left the web, she left the loom,

She made three paces thro' the room,

She saw the water-lily bloom,

She saw the helmet and the plume,

She look'd down to Camelot

(109-13)

Making such movement to the window, the Lady is forgetting the prohibition of not seeing the world unless from the mirror hanging in her room. Lancelot's singing has caused such a great influence to the Lady and that she cannot resist her desire to see him. She no longer remembers the prohibition and the curse put upon her by letting herself carried away by her emotion. When she hears him singing "Tirra lirra", the Lady falls in love for the first time ever in her life (107). After such a long time of waiting, she finally finds someone to love. It is the feeling that motivates her to go to the window to see Lancelot directly. Along her

way to the window, there is something happen as it is found in this following lines:

Out flew the web and floated wide;
 The mirror crack'd from side to side;
 "The curse is come upon me," cried
 The Lady of Shalott. (114-17)

The Lady now realizes that the curse really exists and she has just made it happen by making such movement. She cannot hold back from being cursed for she has disobeyed the warning of not seeing things unless from the mirror. Tennyson's using of the curse in this poem is as a boundary for the Lady from doing the thing she must not do. At the moment the Lady looks out the window to see Lancelot, a dramatic moment occurs, the mirror in her room cracks. The Lady is both shocked and frightened knowing that the mirror cracks. The cracking of the mirror, then, signifies a thing that will befall on her, which will happen at the end of the poem. Indeed, there is nothing the Lady can do to avoid herself from the curse because everything is too late now and she must take the consequence of her doing.

3.1.1.d. Analysis on Part 4

On one cold autumn night, overwhelming by the thoughts of love, the Lady intends to leave the tower. All the time her mind is filled with Lancelot's imagination, and that she feels she cannot be away from him. Lancelot is the Lady's love at first sight that she cannot stop thinking about since she first sees him. She has never fell in love before, once she does, she does not have the

courage to lose it. The Lady only sees Lancelot once, and that is all she needs to surrender her for love and gives her heart to Lancelot. She even does not know anything about him, she only knows that Lancelot is passing by her tower and heading for Camelot. To be in love, the Lady could not think rationally. Her mind is conquered by the desire, which makes the Lady does not care about the weather on an autumn night. She insists to leave the tower, chasing for the love of Lancelot.

In the stormy east-wind straining,
 The pale-yellow woods were waning,
 The broad stream in his bank complaining,
 Heavily the low sky raining
 Over tower'd Camelot (118-22)

Rather than staying at her room in such a cold night, she chooses leaving it all for the sake of getting in to Camelot and finding her knight.

On the riverbank, the Lady finds a moored boat which she then writes "The Lady of Shalott" on its prow. The boat is her only way to reach Camelot after crossing the river.

Down she came and found a boat
 Beneath a willow left afloat,
 And round about the prow she wrote
 The Lady of Shalott. (123-26)

Before loosing the chain that binds the boat to the island, which symbolically freeing herself from the imprisoned condition, the Lady gives herself a time to look at Camelot, to convince herself about the destination she is about to make.

And down the river's dim expanse--

Like some bold seër in a trance,

Seeing all his own mischance--

With a glassy countenance

Did she look to Camelot (127-31)

The lines tell of the Lady's bizarre nature, down-river gaze, caused by thoughts of the object of her desire. She has never gone out of her tower before nor seen her surrounding directly. While gazing at Camelot, the Lady sets out in a half conscious condition with a "glassy countenance", wondering what is it like at Camelot (130). Although she is not in her best condition at that time which might be caused by her first encounter with the outdoor air, the Lady still insists herself to go.

Lying in that boat, she allows the river to carry it to Camelot. It seems like she chooses a special dress to this journey, with the color of white that has the connotation of an unmarried woman or a virgin, as Tennyson writes:

Lying, robed in snowy white

That loosely flew to left and right--

The leaves upon her falling light--

Thro' the noises of the night

She floated down to Camelot. (136-40)

She wears a cloth that resembles a bridal dress. It may be her wish to look like a bride, as her wish to be Lancelot's spouse, it may also her wish to let somebody know that she is a chaste woman. To the Lady, the journey to meet her dream lover at Camelot is a struggle since it is the first time she ever makes contact with nature. As the boat travels, "the leaves upon her falling light" (138). Tennyson illustrates the Lady as the "leaves", the single leaf that has fallen expressively tells her life. As the leaves fall, her life is about to end. A "fallen leaf", as it is mention in "Pictorial Interpretation about 'The Lady of Shalott': the Lady in Her Boat" on tink.com "symbolizes a fallen or dying condition." Still, the Lady wants to chase her dream and attempts to make it happen. Therefore, she goes to Camelot with the greatest courage she ever have.

Sadly, the Lady never makes it to Camelot. The boat does arrive at Camelot, but she dies.

For ere she reach'd upon the tide
 The first house by the water-side,
 Singing in her song she died (150-02)

The Lady is too weak to have such a journey. She gives up herself against the weather. It is her first encounter with nature, but she is easily beaten. While the boat is gliding, the Lady does not make a movement to prevent the coldness nor withdraw from such situation. She keeps on going and singing through her way, hoping that she can expel the cold feeling inside her body.

Heard a carol, mournful, holy,
 Chanted loudly, chanted lowly,

Till her blood was frozen slowly,
 And her eyes were darken'd wholly,
 Turn'd to tower'd Camelot. (145-49)

The Lady hopes she can surpass this and make it to Camelot, but fate decides the rest. She has a strong will and passion to find Lancelot, but she has a weak body. She is not used to interacting with the weather directly, for before this, she is always well protected within her tower. That night is her first time to ever feel the outdoor breeze. Encouraged by the will to find Lancelot, she does not take the cold feeling as the obstacle to reach her destination. Though she tries to reach Camelot, she dies even before she gets there.

At Camelot, the arrival of a boat with a dead body in it shocks the locals. They are confused of finding a beautiful corpse lying in a floating boat. Lynne Pearce in Woman/Image/Text: Readings in Pre-Raphaelite Art and Literature calls the Lady of Shalott as “a dead woman of unique beauty” (83).

Under tower and balcony,
 By garden-wall and gallery,
 A gleaming shape she floated by,
 A corpse between the houses high,
 Silent into Camelot. (154-58)

The people of Camelot is wondering about who she is, where she comes from, and why she is here, but the only thing they know is that the boat has a written on its prow, which is read “The Lady of Shalott.” They assume that the Lady’s name is as it is written on the prow. Among the crowds, there is also Lancelot.

But Lancelot mused a little space,

He said, "She has a lovely face;

God in His mercy lend her grace,

The Lady of Shalott."

(168-71)

Lancelot's comment on the Lady's death is shallow; he does not say special words about her. His comment is just an ordinary one whom everyone in the crowds will say. Although Lancelot is moved by the Lady's beauty, it seems like he does not have any feeling to the Lady. Lancelot already has someone in his heart, as Tennyson has informed before. Lancelot will not be easily moved by any woman because his love to "a lady in his shield" is too deep (79). Poor woman the Lady is, she has done a useless effort to chase Lancelot to Camelot. She has given up everything, even her life, for love, and when she finally meets her love, her life is over. Since the Lady dies before seeing Lancelot, he will never know that he is the reason the Lady goes to Camelot. Her wish is only a wish now; it is fulfilled though, but in another way. Her body finally reaches Camelot and meets Lancelot but she would not have the chance of telling Lancelot that she loves him as death has taken over her life.

3.1.2. Theme Analysis on The Lady of Shalott

The important character who becomes the reader's center attention in this poem is the Lady. The poet calls her the Lady of Shalott without giving her a specific name. Shalott is taken from the name of the land on a river flowing down to the city of Camelot. The land itself is an island, a small one where there is a

castle with a tower in it. It is in the tower the Lady of Shalott passes her days weaving a tapestry.

Living alone in the tower and bound by a curse, she is imprisoned because she cannot do anything except doing the weaving. For her, leaving the tower is not allowed, neither is looking directly to the city of Camelot. To avoid the curse, a mirror is hanged in her room. Through it, she sees the reflection of the view of Camelot and the locals. With the presence of the mirror, at least she does not feel alone in her room and still can see people around her passing by the castle or doing their activities. In the tower, she is very alone, having no one and nobody knows her. Though she lives on a rather crowded area, she does not belong to the society, she seems like living in other world. She has never got out from the castle nor shows up on the window of the tower. Most locals do not know that there is someone living in the castle except the reapers who know that there is a woman living in the tower by hearing her singing a song in early morning, without having the idea what she is like. They call her "the fairy Lady of Shalott" (35-6).

The second important character in this poem is Sir Lancelot. As mentioned before, he is one of King Arthur's best knights. He is the one who will draw the Lady's most attention and cause her to meet her mortality. As it is shown in the ninth stanza, she does not know that the man she falls in love with has already had a woman in his heart.

A redcross knight for ever kneel'd
To a Lady in his shield
That sparkled on the yellow field,

Beside remote Shalott.**(78-81)**

To the Lady, the appearance of Lancelot is on the right time. He comes up right when she needs someone. The need comes when she sees the couple through the mirror. It arises her consciousness about the need of a mate. On her longing of someone, Lancelot comes charmingly. For a moment, the world seems still to the Lady when she sees a knight riding a horse flashes into her mirror. He is fascinating, wearing an armor that is sparkling and dazzling among the harvested fields. Not of just his armor that shines, his shield, helmet, but even the horse's bridle reflects the sunlight. Along his way, he also makes some noises by the movement of his wardrobe. The Lady who is weaving is curious to find some noises she does not usually hear, especially when Lancelot sings. It completes her curiosity to discover the owner of the voice. She cannot find what she is looking for through her mirror because Lancelot passes too fast. To answer all questions run in her head, she tries to see the shadow flashes in her mirror. She knows that a knight has just passing her castle. Through the quick reflection and his singing, the Lady who has been filled with the idea of love is instantly falling in love with Lancelot. To ensure her curiosity that she has found the man she is waiting for, she turns herself from her weaving and her mirror to the window. She has some criteria about a mate she wants to have and Lancelot has it all. Without deeply thinking, the Lady chooses Lancelot to be loved without knowing any of his backgrounds.

It might be accidental at all Lancelot is riding alone and passing the island of Shalott right when the Lady demand someone special to be in her life. Lancelot

is unaware that his presence has developed the Lady's idea of love and bothered the Lady's mind since. Lancelot's destination is Camelot, where "the lady in his shield" stays. There is nothing there that attracts Lancelot more than coming to Camelot. Even more, the Lady is invisible, cannot be seen by anyone, neither by the locals nor by Lancelot. Lancelot will ignore everything since the thought of coming back to the Kingdom and seeing the lovely Queen is more pleasing to him.

This moment is the Lady's first love and it is love at first sight. It seems that she will do anything for love, since it is the love she is longing for. The first thing she does is when she decides to leave the loom and makes some step to the window so that she is able to see Lancelot more clearly. She knows that looking out the window is forbidden for her but she keeps doing it anyway. As she is enjoying her first looking outside the window, the web is flying away from her tower and the mirror is cracking. Ignoring such senses that something may happen to her as the cracking of the mirror, the Lady assures herself that Lancelot is the man she is waiting for. The Lady feels that Lancelot is made for her. She is used to seeing people interact with each other without her having any capability to join them. At the time the Lady sees Lancelot she knows that she now has a chance to change her boring life.

The Lady's intention to make a change is not long before Lancelot's appearance. It begins when she sees knights passing by the tower, the thought then comes to the edge at the time she sees happy couples through the reflecting image. When Lancelot appears, the Lady realizes she has a hope of breaking

herself free from her so long secluded life if she joins him. Having such believe, she decides to catch up Lancelot to Camelot. She thinks she makes a right decision by following Lancelot to Camelot, but she never knows that the chance will never come to her. With the greatest courage, she leaves the island to get Camelot by a boat tied up on a tree near her tower. The place where she lives causes her to go across the river to reach Camelot since the Lady's tower and Camelot are not in the same island. Sailing, then, is the only way to reach the Lady's destination.

Choosing night as she thinks it is the perfect time so that the morning after she will meet Lancelot, the Lady leaves the tower. The Lady is luckyly finding a boat on the island though there is no oar in it. Supposed there is, she might not be able to use it. The Lady just gets on the boat and lets the river stream take her away. Filled with the expectation that she will meet Lancelot and fall in love each other, she does not take into her consideration about the trip she has to make from the island to Camelot. She never guesses that the trip is hard for her. She is not used to making direct contact with nature. Therefore, she does not predict that the weather is her enemy to prevent the goal of reaching Camelot. It is not that she ignores the weather because she is wearing a robe, she is just not used to being in such condition. It is the first time she ever makes contact with nature but she chooses an autumn night, which is very cold, to start her trip to Camelot. The Lady tries to expel the cold feeling by singing and thinking about the joyful feeling of uniting with Lancelot, but the coldness is dominating her body. She has a great courage but it is not supported with the condition of her body. She is too

weak to make a trip she has never done before and death is all she has to pay for the love of Lancelot. The Lady dies with her mind full of thoughts about Lancelot. She is in the middle of a struggle against nature that she must pass before getting to Camelot. The trip is never a trip to Camelot but one to the Lady's death. She dies on a journey to find her love.

The poem is heightened in the end of the story. The writer is not only shocked upon the Lady's death along her way to Camelot. Though the body reaches Camelot, Lancelot's comment upon the Lady is shocking. He does not know anything about the Lady; he flatters the Lady's beauty and prays for her soul. That is all he does. The attitude is no surprising at all since Lancelot is not familiar with the Lady. There is no connection between the two of them and there is no way Lancelot will ever know that the Lady is dead during her trip to let him know about her love to him. Now the Lady has no chance of telling her feeling to Lancelot, in fact her struggle is over. The Lady dies without having any chance of changing her life. She fails to fulfill her desire to love Lancelot and join life at Camelot. Most of all, the Lady fails to win Lancelot's love and experience how it feels to be loved by the man she is in love with.

From the poem The Lady of Shalott the writer has analyzed above, it can be drawn that the Lady is longing to have someone by her side. All she sees are shadows. She is sick of living in shadow and of knowing human contact only through the shadow of reality. One could say that she wants these shadows to enter her life and become reality. She wants to participate in life and socialize with other people. But most of all, she wants to feel how it is like having a mate.

By observing the citizens of Camelot, she realizes that she “hath no loyal knight and true”, and that she should (62). She sees the young lovers, realizes that she has no one and loses confidence because she is supposed to have a mate that she does not have. The Lady feels a loss of self because she is not coupled and has no man with which to relate herself. As the poem goes on, Tennyson manages to concentrate the poem onto the themes of love at the moment she sees Sir Lancelot. She begins to fall in love with this knight. In fact, she is willing to sacrifice everything to meet him. If it is not of love, it will be impossible that she has the courage to leave the castle and risks her life in reaching for Camelot. She even would not have the courage to break the curse. The Lady has to pay the consequence of leaving the duty of weaving at the sight of Lancelot. She forsakes her passive role for the active one, looking directly at him through the window and her punishment is death. Death is not the only punishment for the Lady, she fails to feel human contact and share love with Lancelot. Even Lancelot only muses a little upon her death.

Thus, it can be concluded that the theme entitled The Lady of Shalott is the Lady's unrequited love towards Lancelot. The Lady tries hard to pursue her love; she even has to risk her life. Once she sees Lancelot, she is no longer living. Upon the Lady, Pearce comments, “The Lady believes that not only should a living thing find its partner, but once found, remain faithful to it. The desirability of such a union, brings the Lady of Shalott, like many an unmarriageable woman before and after her, to the point of despair” (77). She is obsessed to be with Lancelot. It is the reason she decides to leave it all and depart to achieve her

expectation. Indeed, the truth is not as good as her expectation. In this poem, the Lady pursues a love that is not certain. She risks, but luck does not belong to her. No matter how hard she tries to attain her desire, she has never succeeded it. Worse, she dies before letting Lancelot know that she has a great affection towards him.

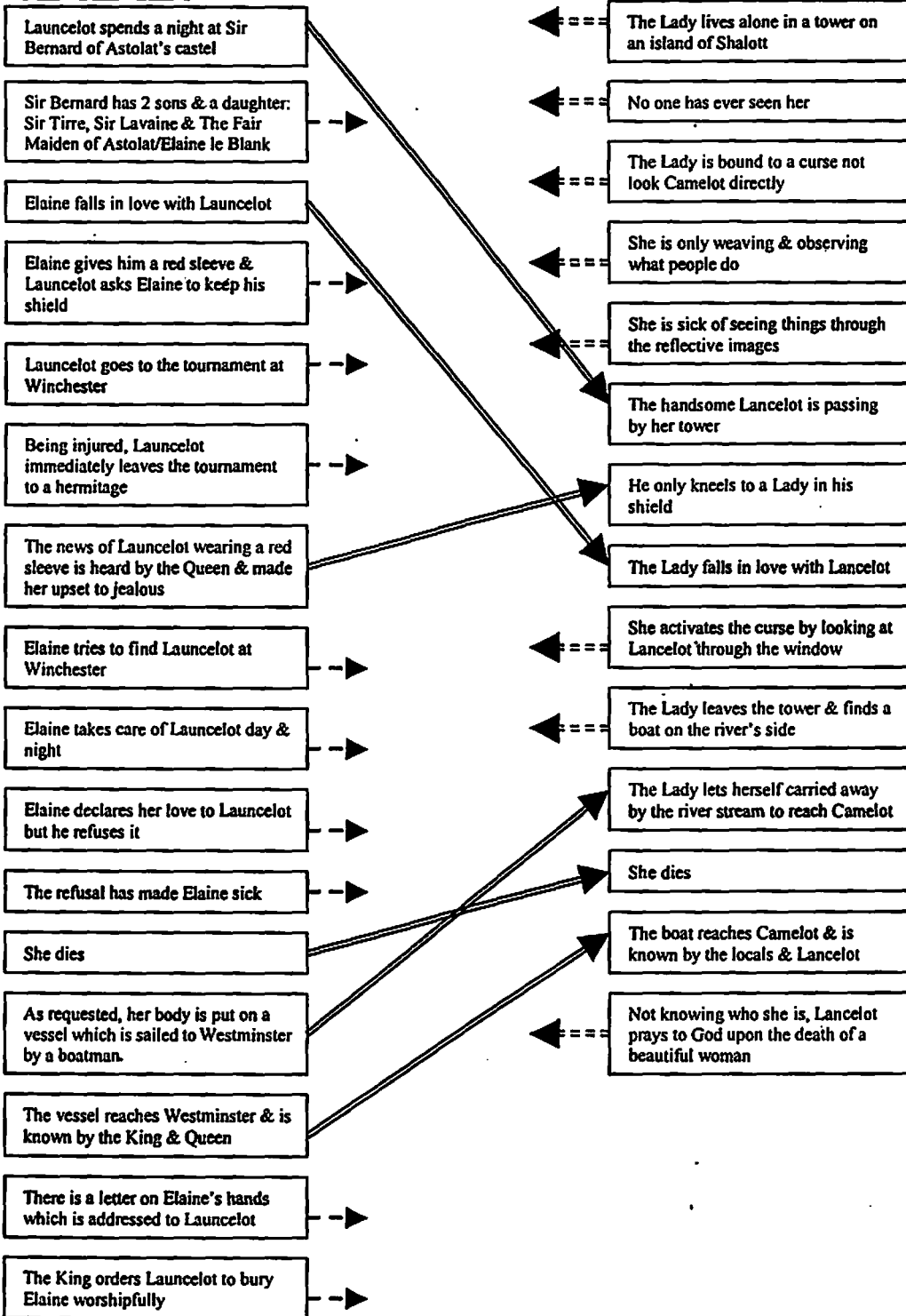
3.2. Intertextual Analysis

The next discussion of this chapter will be about the analysis of an intertextual application, which is Morte d'Arthur as the hypogram and The Lady of Shalott as the transformation text. The character Tennyson calls the Lady of Shalott is based on Elaine of Astolat, one of the figures from the legend of King Arthur. Traditionally, she was identified only as "demoiselle d'escalot", the fair maid of Astolat. It was Sir Thomas Malory who gave her the name "Elaine" in his 1485 book Morte d'Arthur. Tennyson wrote about her as Elaine, the Lily Maid of Astolat, in The Iddyls of the King published in 1885, but in his poem The Lady of Shalott he has taken liberties, leaving her without a name and changing "Astolat" to the archaic "Shalott" as summarized from "The Lady of Shalott: Historical Context" (enotes.com 2004). Specifically, the writer only takes Morte d'Arthur from book 18 chapters IX, XIII, XIV, XV, XIX, and XX since only those chapters related to the analyzed work. To give illustration of how the writer will analyze both works through intertextual theory, the writer provides an intertextual scheme which describes the relation of Morte d'Arthur to The Lady of Shalott.

Intertextual Scheme

Morte d'Arthur

The Lady of Shalott



- ====> Shows relation between texts (intertextual) / transformation from Mda to TLS
- - -> Shows part of Morte d'Arthur which is altered in The Lady of Shalott
- <==== Shows part of The Lady of Shalott which does not exist in Morte d'Arthur

Through Morte d'Arthur as the hypogram and The Lady of Shalott as the transformation text, this sub-chapter will give the intertextual analysis which is the application of the writer's knowledge of intertextual theory. In order to apply the theory in this analysis, the writer will put together both works as in the scheme. This way, the writer will find some differences and similarities and then explain them based on their relation. Finally, the writer will be able to give meaning to The Lady of Shalott as transformation text.

3.2.1. Morte d'Arthur, the Hypogram

Morte d'Arthur (Death of Arthur) is written by Sir Thomas Malory while he was in prison. It consists of 21 books which are separated into two volumes. Each book is divided into chapters which the number of them is varied, depending on the story of each book. The first nine books belong to volume one, while the rests belong to volume two, as it is summarized from "Le Morte Darthur: Sir Thomas Malory's Book of King Arthur and of his Noble Knight of the Round Table" (etext.com 2000). Everyman Encyclopaedia regards Morte d'Arthur as "a very fine prose rendering in 21 books of the Arthurian Legends, made up from French versions with additions of the author" (5: 8). The New Book of Knowledge also notes that "Malory's book is the most complete single collection of the stories of Arthur and the Round Table" (5: 248). Since it is impossible for the writer to use the whole story of Morte d'Arthur due to its vast coverage, the writer will narrow her selection only to book 18. In Morte d'Arthur book 18, the

writer particularly chooses chapters IX, XIII, XIV, XV, XIX and XX as the hypogram of Tennyson's The Lady of Shalott.

To get a comprehension about Morte d'Arthur IX, XIII, XIV, XV, XIX and XX, here are the important stages of events in those chapters:

A. Chapter IX: How Sir Launcelot rode to Astolat, and received a sleeve to wear upon his helm at the request of a maid.

A.1. Sir Launcelot asks permission to the Queen that he will leave for Winchester.

A.2. Early morning the day after, Launcelot takes his leave.

A.3. By night, Launcelot comes to Astolat and spends the night there at the castle of Sir Bernard of Astolat.

A.4. Lancelot asks the old baron to borrow him a shield.

A.5. The old baron offers one of his two sons to be with Sir Launcelot.

A.6. The old baron has a daughter named Fair Maiden of Astolat or Elaine le Blank.

A.7. She falls deeply in love with Launcelot for the first time she sees him.

A.8. She has a request for him to wear a red sleeve at the tournament.

A.9. He grants her request and leaves his shield to be kept by Elaine.

B. Chapter XIII: How Launcelot was brought to an hermit for to be healed of his wound, and of other matters.

B.1. Launcelot leaves the tournament to a hermitage because he is wounded.

B.2. Launcelot wins the tournament and everyone is wondering about who he is.

B.3. King Arthur urges Sir Gawaine to find the identity of the winner knight.

B.4. During the searching, Sir Gawaine takes rest at Sir Bernard's castle.

B.5. There, Elaine asks Sir Gawaine who did best at the tournament. Sir Gawaine tells her that the winner wears a red sleeve upon his head.

B.6. Elaine claims that the knight is the man she loves.

B.7. Sir Gawaine asks for the knight's name and where he comes from but Elaine knows nothing about it.

C. Chapter XIV: How Sir Gawaine was lodged with the lord of Astolat, and there had knowledge that it was Sir Launcelot that bare the red sleeve.

C.1. Elaine tells about the visiting of a knight to the castle the other day.

C.2. By the shield left to Elaine, Sir Gawaine knows that it is Launcelot's.

C.3. Sir Gawaine informs Elaine that Launcelot is now wounded.

C.4. Under her father's permission, Elaine seeks Launcelot to Winchester.

C.5. Sir Gawaine tells King Arthur of Launcelot's shield in keeping of a maiden.

D. Chapter XV: Of the sorrow that Sir Bors had for the hurt of Launcelot; and of the anger that the Queen had because Launcelot bare the sleeve.

D.1. Hearing the news of Launcelot wearing a maiden's sleeve, Queen Guinever is upset.

- D.2. The Queen sends Sir Bors to Winchester to find the truth about Launcelot.
- D.3. Elaine arrives at Winchester and meets her brother, Sir Lavaine.
- D.4. Elaine is powerless seeing Launcelot lying so sick.
- D.5. Launcelot kisses Elaine when she is relieved.
- D.6. Elaine explains about Sir Gawaine's visiting and how she knows Launcelot's name.
- D.7. Elaine looks after him day and night.
- E. Chapter XIX: Of the great lamentation of the Fair Maid of Astolat when Launcelot should depart, and how she died for his love.
- E.1. Elaine asks Launcelot to be her husband or her lover but he rejects.
- E.2. Sir Bernard of Astolat begs Launcelot to accept Elaine's love, but Launcelot still refuses.
- E.3. Launcelot leaves the castle to Winchester with Sir Lavaine.
- E.4. The rejection causes Elaine's days of sorrow begin.
- E.5. The suffering days last for ten days.
- E.6. She asks her father and her brother, Sir Tirre, to write a letter she dictates.
- E.7. She asks some requests to her father and brother before she dies.
- E.8. She wants to be worn her finest clothes when she dies and her body is sent to Westminster.
- E.9. Elaine dies.

E.10. As requested, her body is put in a small boat steered by a boat man along Thames to Westminster.

F. Chapter XX: How the corpse of the Maid of Astolat arrived to fore King Arthur, and of the burying, and how Sir Launcelot offered the mass-penny.

F.1. The boat is seen by King Arthur and the Queen.

F.2. The Queen finds a letter on the fair corpse's right hand.

F.3. The letter is read in front of the King, the Queen, and the knights.

F.4. The letter is addressed to Launcelot.

F.5. Elaine writes the reason she dies in the letter.

F.6. Launcelot defends himself against the accusation put to him.

F.7. The King has Launcelot to bury the Fair Maid worshipfully.

Malory's tales about this Arthurian legend were written in English but the title of the book, Morte d'Arthur (Death of Arthur), is French and most of the tales were adapted from French. The tales tell of the life of King Arthur, the Round Table including Sir Launcelot who has an affair with King Arthur's wife, Guinevere (The New Book of Knowledge 1: 442-45). In this thesis, the part of the book, which contents are about Sir Lancelot with his relation to the Fair Maiden and some information about his affair with Queen Guinevere, will become the major issue to the writer's concerns. Thus, the story will become the hypogram to the writer had analyzed before, The Lady of Shalott.

Morte d'Arthur is a historical literature. Though some of the contents are Malory's creativity in spicing them, others still preserve the origins of the story. As affirmed in Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia and Fact-Index, "the Arthurian stories are a combination of history, myth, romance, fairy tale and religious parable' (316). It gives the explanation that Morte d'Arthur is a rich story since it has so many aspects within it regarding its various ways in representing a history of a land. The story becomes attractive with the appearance of courtly loves which has often be told and retold. It is said in The Encyclopedia Americana that "for charm of narrative, a cadence and melody of language, it has no rival among English romance" (2: 356). It may because the story unities from various sources into one harmonious whole and presents not only of Arthur's death, but his whole life, with detailed description of the adventures of the knight of his court.

In accordance with The Lady of Shalott, in which the story is similar as it is in some parts of Morte d'Arthur, the writer finds Morte d'Arthur gives more complete story and more characters than it is in The Lady of Shalott. The complete story about the love of the Fair Maiden of Astolat are presented in Morte d'Arthur chapters IX-XX, but the exact story between the two of them lies in chapters IX, XIII, XIV, XV, XIX, and XX. Within those chapters, many named characters support this story, in comparison with The Lady of Shalott. Nevertheless, the number of the characters is not a thing that matters in this thesis. To provide this thesis with complete information, the writer will attach the name of the characters of Morte d'Arthur IX, XIII, XIV, XV, XIX, and XX. They are:

1. King Arthur
2. Queen Guinever
3. Sir Launcelot
4. Sir Bernard of Astolat
5. Sir Tirre
6. Sir-Lavaine
7. The Fair Maiden of Astolat/ Elaine le Blank
8. Sir Gawaine
9. Sir Agravaine
10. Sir Kay
11. Sir Brandiles
12. Sir Bors de Ganis
13. Sir Galahad
14. King of Northgalis
15. The hermit
16. A boatman

Among those characters only some of them who develop the important roles to the rise and fall of the story, especially of their relation to the transformation text.

This hypogram begins with Sir Launcelot's asking permission to Queen Guinever to leave for Winchester in attending a knight tournament held by King Arthur. He plans to join and attend it in disguise, hiding his identity as one of Round Table knights. This plan is only known by the Queen and no one else. The morning after, Launcelot takes his leave by riding a horse. Near Winchester,

Launcelot decides to spend the night at a castle. The castle is owned by Sir Bernard of Astolat, a father of two sons and a beautiful daughter. To the old baron Lancelot begs to lend him a shield that is not widely known. This shield will be useful for his incognito at the tournament. The old baron not only lend Launcelot a shield, he also offers one of his son to accompany Launcelot to go to the tournament.

That same night, Launcelot meets the old baron's daughter called the Fair Maiden of Astolat, later Elaine le Blank. The encounter has made Elaine falls in love with Launcelot. Knowing that Launcelot is going to attend a tournament in disguise, Elaine begs Launcelot to accept her gift, a red sleeve embroidered with pearls, and to wear upon his helmet. Launcelot refuses at first, being afraid that it will hurt the Queen's feeling supposed she knows he accepts a maiden's gift. Then Launcelot puts aside the thought remembering he is in incognito, wearing Elaine's gift will add up to his disguise. Launcelot also asks Elaine to keep his shield while he is away. That night, both of them are happy, one is happy because of love, the other is happy because the aim of disguising is complete.

Launcelot wins the tournament at Winchester, but since he is in disguise, no one knows him. Launcelot leaves the tournament as soon as he finishes the fight. He does so because he is wounded on his head and he needs to go to a hermitage immediately. The King who demands the name of the knight who wins the tournament sends Sir Gawaine to find him. In Sir Bernard's castle where Gawaine spends the night, he informs that he is in searching for a knight who wins the tournament at Winchester. From the conversation, it is known that the

knight wears a red sleeve upon his helmet and now is injured. To Gawaine, Elaine tells him that the knight is the man she loves, who comes to the castle the other day to borrow her brother's shield to disguise at the tournament. She also tells him that she gives Launcelot a red sleeve to wear upon his helmet and Launcelot's request to keep his shield in her guarding. Elaine, having no information about the identity of the knight, shows Gawaine the shield. From the shield, Gawaine is able to identify that the shield belongs to "The most honourable knight of the world, and the man of most worship" (XIV: 16-7). He then informs Elaine and her father that the knight is now wounded because of the fight and the knight's name is Sir Launcelot. Hearing it, Elaine becomes worry and asks her father's permission if she can go to find him. The next morning, both Elaine and Gawaine take their leaves. Elaine leaves for finding Launcelot and Gawaine for King Arthur. To King Arthur Gawaine says about Launcelot's visiting to Astolat and the love between Launcelot and The Fair Maiden of Astolat. The King is amazed hearing Launcelot wearing a gift from a woman since Launcelot used to refuse it.

The news of Launcelot wearing a red sleeve of The Fair maiden of Astolat is also heard by Queen Guinever and makes her upset. She is jealous and angry though she has been told the reason of Launcelot wearing it is to hide his identity at the tournament. Guinever then sends Sir Bors de Ganis to check the truth of the news and Launcelot's faithfulness to her. Meanwhile, Elaine accidentally meets her brother Sir Lavaine on Winchester. He then brings Elaine to the hermitage where Launcelot is healed. Once seeing Launcelot lying so sick and pale, Elaine fainted. When she is relieved, Launcelot kisses her and asks how she knows his

name. Elaine tells him it is Sir Gawaine who tells her about Launcelot's name and who he is. Launcelot becomes worry of this, thinking that Gawaine will tell Queen Guinever and makes her upset. Not knowing of Launcelot's thinking, Elaine devotes herself to Launcelot and cures him day and night.

When returning healthy, Launcelot decides to leave the castle of Astolat to Winchester. Knowing that he will be gone, Elaine takes her father and brothers to speak with Launcelot. With her greatest courage, Elaine tells Launcelot that she loves him and asks him to be her husband or lover. Of all these two requests, Launcelot refuses. Hearing it, Elaine says that she would rather die if he refuses. Launcelot will not change his mind because he does not want to be a wedded man. He tells Elaine that someday there will be a good knight who will wed her. Being rejected, Elaine fainted. Knowing this, Elaine's father begs Launcelot if he will stay and love her daughter, but Launcelot has a strong will to leave the castle and not to take the maiden's love.

Launcelot's rejection towards Elaine causes Elaine to suffer heartache. She never eats, sleeps or drinks. These made her body weaker and weaker. On the tenth day, Elaine calls her father and brother, Sir Tirre, to her chamber. Elaine feels that her death is near and it is important for her father and brother to hear her last request. To them she dictates a letter to put in her hand when she is dying. The other request is wearing her the richest clothes and put her dead body on a vessel covered with black samite. The vessel has to be rowed by a boatman to Westminster, a place where the royal family stays, including Launcelot. Soon

after saying these, Elaine dies. Sir Bernard of Astolat along with his son immediately does all of the things Elaine has wished.

As requested, Elaine's dead body is put on a vessel sailed down to Westminster through Thames River. At Westminster, the King and the Queen accidentally know the arrival of a vessel covered with black samite. The King, Queen and some knights approach the vessel. In the fairest corpse's hands, Queen Guinever finds a letter that later tells who she is and why she dies. This is all the substance of the letter:

"Most noble knight, Sir Launcelot, now hath death made us two at debate for your love. I was your lover, that man called the Fair maiden of Astolat; therefore unto all ladies I make my moan, yet pray for my soul and bury me at least, and offer ye my mass-penny: this is my last request. And a clean maiden I died, I take God to witness: pray for my soul, Sir Launcelot, as thou art peerless." (XX: 24-9)

Though Elaine says about Launcelot's greatness, she blames him for the sorrow she suffers. Not only that, Launcelot's rejection upon Elaine's love has made her meet her death. This is what Launcelot says to his King in order to defend Elaine's accusation: "My Lord Arthur, wit ye well I am right heavy of the death of this fair damosel: God knoweth I was never causer of her death by my willing. . .but she loved me out of measure" (XX: 34-9). Launcelot's also states, "I love not to be constrained to love; for love must arise of the heart, and not by no constraint" (XX: 46-7). Both the King and Queen agree with Launcelot, the King then orders Launcelot to bury the Fair Maiden worshipfully.

The death of Elaine is more or less caused by Launcelot. As it is known, Elaine is sick after Launcelot's refusal towards her request to be his wife or lover. The request is too heavy for Launcelot since his heart belongs only to his Queen and duty. His kindness to accept Elaine's gift, a red sleeve embroidered with pearls, is only his aim to add his disguise in the tournament. He might have known that the gift is the gift of love and that Elaine has a feeling to him. He lets Elaine's feeling grow without any ways of stopping it. Receiving the gift is the most selfish thing that Launcelot has done, he knows that it means so much to her. Though he remembers that his action may upset the Queen supposed she knows, his doing it is regarded to his disguising. He makes Elaine pleased by receiving the gift and saying, "Never did I erst so much for no damosel" (IX: 62). He also asks Elaine to keep his shield in guarding while he is away.

Elaine is so in love with Launcelot that all she thinks is he. She becomes worry at the time she knows Launcelot is wounded. She takes care of him day and night, hoping that he will get well soon. When she has a chance of speaking with Launcelot before he leaves, she boldly declares her love. She never imagines that Launcelot will refuse her since Launcelot is always kind to her. Launcelot thinks that it is just a young maiden's love, a love which will be easily replaced by the appearance of other guy. Besides, all is conquered by Launcelot's love to Guinever and his duty. Launcelot has never suspected that his rejection will lead the maiden to her death. However, he claims that the Fair Maiden's death is not his fault, for he tells her to find other happiness by loving other knight.

3.2.2. The Lady of Shalott, the Transformation Text

As explained before, The Lady of Shalott is the work of an English poet, Alfred Lord Tennyson (1809-92). Born at Somersby, Lincolnshire, Tennyson was the third son of eleven children whose boyhood was passed at his father's country rectory, in an atmosphere that was full of poetry and music. Tennyson received the best part of his preliminary education from his father, a gifted linguist and classicist (The American Peoples Encyclopedia 377).

Published first in 1833 in the volume Poems and later revised in 1842, The Lady of Shalott was both commercial and critically success. And as affirmed in The Encyclopedia Americana, "Poems was but a tiny book, but there was a quality in it which more than made good a lack of quantity". Further, it is also mentioned that besides The Lady of Shalott there were some other poems in his book which "revealed the presence of a true dreamer of dreams, gifted with the magic which translates vision into music" (26: 443). "The dreamy atmosphere surrounding most of the poems in the volume," as The Encyclopedia Americana International Edition claims, "reflects the poet's own distance at this time from the world of reality, from social responsibility" (497).

The Lady of Shalott is Tennyson's poem based on an Italian story. The story, which was made to the end of 13th century, was anonymous. It tells the tale of Donna di Scalotta and how she died for love of Launcelot the Lake. Of this poem Tennyson said, "I met the story first in some Italian *nouvelle*; but the web, mirror, island, etc, were my own". Further, he also explained, "The Lady of Shalott is evidently the Elaine of Morte d'Arthur, but I do not think that I had ever

heard of the latter when I wrote the former. Shalott was a softer sound than 'Scalott'" (pathguy.com 2002). Although there have been similarities in the characters and story, Tennyson takes the minimal framework of the Italian novella and creates his own story different from Malory's. This way, Tennyson has made the poem created with his own version and style, adding it with the curse, web, mirror, tower and island. To get to know into the story of the Lady, here are the outline of the poem which are arranged according to the points of events:

A. Part One

- A.1. There in the island of Shalott near Camelot lives the Lady of Shalott.
- A.2. No one has ever seen the Lady.
- A.3. Only reapers know the Lady through her voice.

B. Part Two

- B.1. There in the tower, the Lady weaves by night and day.
- B.2. The Lady is bound by a curse if she looks down to Camelot.
- B.3. The Lady sees the world through the reflected images of a mirror hangs in her room.
- B.4. Through the mirror the Lady sees groups of people passing by.
- B.5. The Lady is weary of seeing things only through the reflection of a mirror.

C. Part Three

- C.1. Suddenly a gallant knight passes over the tower.

C.2. He is Sir Lancelot, “a red-cross knight forever kneel’d to a lady in his shield.”

C.3. The Lady is amazed of seeing the appearance of a knight through the flashes in her mirror.

C.4. Lancelot sings “Tirra lira” and the Lady falls in love with him.

C.5. The Lady looks down to Camelot and the curse comes to her.

D. Part Four

D.1. On an autumn night the Lady plans to leave the tower.

D.2. The Lady finds a boat where she writes her name on its prow.

D.3. She sets it adrift and let herself carried away by the river streams.

D.4. On her way to reach Camelot, the Lady sings a sad song.

D.5. The Lady dies before she gets to Camelot.

D.6. Her dead body is found by the citizens of Camelot.

D.7. People gather around the boat and Lancelot is one of them.

D.8. Knowing this incident, Lancelot only gives a little comment upon the Lady’s death.

The Lady of Shalott is a poem consisting of four parts, like chapters in a novel. Each part tells about different matter. The first part of the poem describes the scenery where the poem takes place. Tennyson describes it in a very fine language as if the reader is taken to see a painting. The Lady is also introduced to the reader in this part, while the complete information about the Lady is told in the

second part of the poem. The next part is telling about the coming of Sir Lancelot and the changing attitude of the Lady. The fourth part, which is the last part of the poem, describes the Lady's struggle in reaching Camelot. This poem sets out in narrative form as Tennyson arranges the lines of the poem as if the reader is reading a novel. This way, the poem has its unique and attractiveness, taking the reader into a dramatic moment.

Placed between the desire to write a story of the Lady and make her his own creation, Tennyson writes this poem as an independent story without any backgrounds. The Lady stands alone without any information about her family or social status. Tennyson's The Lady of Shalott is indeed characterized by the Lady of Shalott and Sir Lancelot, but he adds other characters to support the story of poem. Here is the list of the characters in The Lady of Shalott:

1. The Lady of Shalott
2. Sir Lancelot
3. Reapers
4. Damsels
5. An abbot
6. A shepherd
7. A page
8. Knights
9. Burghers
10. Lords
11. Dames

Besides the Lady and Sir Lancelot, The Lady of Shalott is characterized by nameless characters. In general, those characters are citizens of Camelot. This way, Tennyson is able to draw the reader's attention to the Lady and things happening to her.

The story of The Lady of Shalott is about the love of a woman to a man. Though it has not a happy ending, The Lady of Shalott presents the poem attractively. Tennyson has succeeded in bringing the reader to the imaginative landscape where the Lady lives on an island in the middle of a river that flows down to Camelot. Camelot is a city where the Lady used to look through a mirror hanging in her room. Through the reflecting images of Camelot, she sees the villagers doing activity or passing by. The view also inspires the Lady to weave a tapestry of Camelot, the only activity she does in her spare time.

In this poem, Tennyson portrays the Lady as an isolated figure and a woman who cannot live without the love of a man. She is been so long living alone in her tower, only observing what other people do without having any chance to participate in it. She knows nothing of human contact or love. It is when she sees a couple through the mirror her desire to feel those things arise. In this heightened situation of breaking free from her static existence, the glorious vision of Lancelot comes to her and pushes her over the edge to make her first big decision in life. Not only the decision activates the curse, but she also takes the second one by leaving the island to Camelot. In the end, all efforts are useless as death takes over her life before she succeeds experiencing human experience, which is to be loved by Lancelot.

To understand the poem well, The Lady of Shalott needs to be read carefully since the words within it say so much in so little. For that reason, a reader had better read it several times in order to reach its highest comprehension. Reading it more than once will increase the reader's perceptive in interpreting this poem. During the first reading, the writer finds it attractive to reread the poem. The next reading(s), then, will give the writer important information which she does not acquire from the previous one(s).

3.2.3. Relation between Texts

Reading The Lady of Shalott for several times is not the only way to reach the highest significance of the poem, another way is by using intertextual method. In this method, the writer will put together the hypogram and the transformation text, then tries to find the similarities and the differences between the two of them. From the relation between the two texts, the writer will be able to reveal the contrast or connection of The Lady of Shalott to Morte d'Arthur as the hypogram. Based on the point of events in The Lady of Shalott the writer had enclosed in the previous pages, the transformation of the two works of literature will easily be found. Besides, the writer will be able to spot the differences and the similarities from the main story of the two works. Further on, based on those, the writer will develop the significance of The Lady of Shalott through its relation to Morte d'Arthur. With the explanation of the previous discussion, the writer hopes that she will know what part of the work which is transformed in the poem The Lady of Shalott. It will also give clear explanation about what part of Morte d'Arthur

which is altered and still exists in The Lady of Shalott. Through this, the writer will be able to show the relation between The Lady of Shalott as the transformation text and Morte d'Arthur as the hypogram. Nevertheless, this subchapter will be the application of the writer's knowledge of intertextual theory she had discussed in previous chapter.

Knowing Morte d'Arthur as the hypogram of The Lady of Shalott is not only interesting but also necessary because this changes the way the poem is interpreted. With the presence of the hypogram, The Lady of Shalott becomes more understandable than to read it without the hypogram. In intertextual method, a hypogram acts as the reference of a literary work. The hypogram, then, helps the reader to fill in the gaps in the work he is reading. The Lady of Shalott, which takes poetry as its particular form, is so much guided by the using of this method. Not only to facilitate the interpretation process of the poem, it is also a way to find the poem's significance. Intertextual method makes this poem analysis more meaningful because every detail can be explained completely. After the poem is read and interpreted, it is the writer's duty to find the transformation within the poem and explain it according to its differences and similarities with the hypogram.

Based on the transformation happening to The Lady of Shalott, this thesis is only taking the essential elements of the analyzed works and those which have great contribution to the intensity of the poem. Below, the writer will explain about the elements of The Lady of Shalott which experience transformation:

1. The Characters

Both Morte d'Arthur and The Lady of Shalott have many characters participating in the story. As the writer had mentioned in the lists of the characters before, there is a significant difference between the characters of Morte d'Arthur and those of The Lady of Shalott. Malory performs the characters of Morte d'Arthur with specific names, telling the reader that they belong to a royal society. The names of the characters match with the story which takes place in a royal kingdom. Besides, Morte d'Arthur is a historical literature where some or almost all of the characters were actual people in the past. Giving them names is important since they are legendary and often appear in referential books or in other literature. In The Lady of Shalott, Tennyson does not give the characters any names. The only character that has a name is Sir Lancelot, others are those who are divided into their gender or position in the society. In fact, the main character also does not have a name. She is named the Lady of Shalott as Shalott is the island she occupies. The appearance of characters without names in The Lady of Shalott is Tennyson's way to focus the reader's concentration only to the main character and not to other things. The other appearing characters beside the Lady and Sir Lancelot are Tennyson's way to beautify the poem and make it lively.

Tennyson enriches his poem with various characterizations. Still he only deals with the Lady's inner conflict. Other characters are 'ornaments' so that the reader would not be bored with the story and keep his mind only to the Lady. With the characterization he has made, Tennyson is able to bring the reader to a livelier mood and to introduce the Lady's neighborhood. In this poem, the

neighborhood will help the reader to understand more about the Lady. They are also functioned in giving description of the Lady's position among the society.

The characters of The Lady of Shalott which are categorized as people occupying a village, can be used by the writer to determine that the story of the poem happens among a society of ordinary people. The people in Tennyson's poem are farmers, merchants and shepherds. There is no statement of royal family living among them, but the passing of knights in the village is a sign that there is a kingdom nearby Camelot. However, it is important to know the role of every character in the poem since in further discussion this information can be used to expose the poem and to know what the poem is really about.

The characterization of The Lady of Shalott is somehow different from those in Morte d'Arthur, but from the differences, the writer finds that there is one common thing between them, which is the appearance of Sir Lancelot. Both works claim Lancelot as a knight who unintentionally causes a woman falls in love with him and dies. The female character in The Lady of Shalott and Morte d'Arthur has different names, but both of their deaths have associations with Lancelot's involvement. Though there had been slight difference in its writing, the writer believes that Sir Lancelot of The Lady of Shalott and Sir Launcelot of Morte d'Arthur are definitely the same character. He is the one who relates those two works as a transformation text and a hypogram, making them intertextually involved one another.

Lancelot, who appears as the only character with a name in The Lady of Shalott, draws the writer's curiosity of the exception Tennyson has made upon

him. There is no one in the poem who is given with a name except Lancelot. From the observation the writer had completed, Lancelot is one of the best knights of Arthurian legend. Both Lancelot and Launcelot experience an almost the same situation. In The Lady of Shalott, Lancelot causes the Lady falls in love with him and dies along her way to meet him. While in Morte d'Arthur, it is the Fair Maiden of Astolat or Elaine le Blank who falls in love with Launcelot and dies because of his rejection. By reading and analyzing both works, the writer assumes that both women are the same character of different names, circumstances and surroundings. Appearing in different versions, Elaine le Blank and the Lady live on different situation and condition.

2. The Lady of Shalott as an Independent Episode

As it appears in a different version, The Lady of Shalott only has one issue to tell. The limitation of the issue is Tennyson's way to create the poem compact, completed with its aesthetic value in the diction of the words and in rhyme. In Morte d'Arthur, the reader has to deal with a complicated story since it consists of several matters. Book 18 of Morte d'Arthur with Elaine le Blank as the center attention resembles to that of the Lady in The Lady of Shalott, carries out the story in a more complete, more complicated, and longer in its shape. The reason of that is to fit in with the whole story of Morte d'Arthur which covers several issues.

Having the same mainframe, Tennyson repackages the story of the Fair Maiden of Astolat into a simple one. By adding and altering things, Tennyson has.

made his poem different from Malory's Morte d'Arthur. In The Lady of Shalott Tennyson does not have to think about the causes and effects of the red sleeve, the guarding of Launcelot's shield, the nursing of Launcelot's wound, and Launcelot's refusal upon Elaine's love. On the contrary, to make it more interesting, The Lady of Shalott is inserted with the curse, the mirror, the web, and the island. Given with new ideas, Tennyson presents The Lady of Shalott in a new brand shape.

In the first part of the poem, Tennyson introduces the character of the Lady without giving her any backgrounds. Being isolated in a tower and having no family or friend, the Lady is mysterious, not only to the reader but also to other characters of the poem. Unlike Elaine in Morte d'Arthur who has a family, the Lady has no one. People of Camelot is unaware of the Lady's presence, even in the boat's prow where she writes her name on it, people are still not knowing who she is and where she comes from. She is so long living isolated in her tower, only sitting and weaving. The curse prevents her of showing up on the window, making it impossible for the Lady to show her existence to the locals. By never appearing but singing, the reapers consider the Lady as a magical being. Besides them, none of the locals who knows about her. It is not surprising then, knowing that people of Camelot are wondering about a beautiful corpse reaches its shore in a winding autumn night. The writing of her name on the boat's prow does not give enough help to inform them about her identity, it still makes her unknown to the people of Camelot.

Presenting the Lady without an accurate background gives Tennyson a chance to introduce her as a new character and combine it with his interest of Arthurian legend. Taking Lancelot as one of the greatest knights of Arthurian legend, Tennyson is able to create an Arthurian poem with his own idea. The Lady of Shalott is Tennyson's first subject on Arthurian legend. The content is not at all about an Arthurian society, it is because the selection of the character that has made this poem categorized to it. The story is simple though, telling about a woman's unrequited love. Unlike Lancelot who is taken from the past, the Lady is Tennyson's own creation.

Setting the Lady to live on an island is a noteworthy difference to Elaine in Morte d'Arthur. By the describing condition, the Lady sets out in a different 'world', separated from other people of Camelot. Tennyson takes the reader to feel the emptiness of the Lady by describing how lonely she is in her tower and separated from the world outside. The poor Lady is also not given a name, she is only told as a woman who lives on Shalott Island and so Tennyson calls her the Lady of Shalott as in the title of the poem. By the given name, Tennyson tries to inform the reader that the name makes it identical with the island where she lives. It also informs the reader that the Lady is only identified as a woman living on Shalott island.

In the tower, Tennyson provides her with a mirror. The mirror functions as her means to make her able to see things outside her tower. By the mirror, she sees the situation of her environment, the view of Camelot and the people around her. Although she is apart from the civilization and cannot join them, the mirror is

helpful in showing her the sight of the outer world. As Riffaterre claims, "a mirror has an association with the metaphor for sadness" (32). The coming out of a mirror in this poem is Tennyson's approach to foretell the reader that the main character of this poem will suffer sorrow. The mirror can also define as the search for the self. As it is known, the Lady lives alone and has no one. Though she seems to be tough and busy with the business of weaving, deep down inside she realizes that she misses something in her life. Her life will not be complete without the appearance of someone. Not having a mate, the Lady thinks that her existence will not be admitted by the society. The thought has made her lose her self-confidence.

The sight of the knights through the reflecting images makes her realize that she also needs to have a knight to be her mate. It is through the mirror she finally comes to consider of having a special relationship with someone. The mirror does not only give her pleasure of showing her the view of Camelot, but it also brings her entering her calamity by the appearance of Lancelot. Not having satisfied of seeing Lancelot just from the reflection in the mirror, she turns away from it and goes to the window. The Lady feels that the appearance of Lancelot in the mirror is not clear; to get a better sight of him she finally makes some step to the window and looks at him. Her decision to get to the window is exaggerated by the Lady's longing of having a mate. In this poem, the mirror has the function of avoiding her from the curse put upon her.

Besides spending time by seeing the view of Camelot, the Lady is made busy with the matter of weaving the sight of Camelot. Doing the weaving, the

Lady comes as a character that is busy with a woman's duty. Weaving is a typical work of a woman. Considering the poem, weaving is suited for the Lady who lives at that particular time. At the time Lancelot flashes in the mirror, the Lady dares to leave the web to see Camelot directly. It is also stated that the Lady lets her web flying through the window without any effort to grab it. She is very astonished by the appearance of Lancelot. Lancelot is an exception; he has drawn her attention even before he passes. The Lady has been so long isolated within the tower, once seeing a gallant and handsome knight passes the tower, she does not want to lose the opportunity of looking at him, even if it risks her life.

The Lady's activity in The Lady of Shalott is limited because of the curse. Tennyson does not explain what the curse is, but the Lady is warned not to look at Camelot directly. To make her able to see Camelot, the mirror is her only way to avoid the curse without losing the chance of seeing the outer world. The Lady seems to avoid herself from being cursed, but Lancelot appears to change everything. The Lady is no longer weaving after seeing Lancelot passes by. Without thinking deeply, she does the thing she is not allowed to. Having such desire of fulfilling her curiosity, the Lady forgets the warning of looking out through the window. Leaving the web and making some steps to the window, she realizes that she has just activated the curse by the cracking of the mirror. Hearing the crack, she now believes that the curse really exists and comes to her. She cannot do anything now, for she has activated it. She makes a mistake, breaks the curse, and has to pay the consequence, which is her death.

The last point in this discussion that marks the independence of the poem is the relation between the Lady and Lancelot. The Lady and Lancelot have never been face to face except after the Lady dies. It contrasts with Elaine in Morte d'Arthur who meets Launcelot at her castle and declares her love to him. Elaine's death happens after several times of meetings with Launcelot's rejection. The Lady in The Lady of Shalott only sees Lancelot once and she dies in the middle of her struggle to meet him. The Lady finally meets Lancelot, but she is no longer living. Tennyson makes it obvious that the Lady dies because of her weak body. She is not used to feeling the cold breeze outside her tower, her first encounter with nature has ended her life. In fact, she cannot endure the cold feeling around her body, but she insists to go on to Camelot to find Lancelot. Different from The Lady of Shalott, Malory arranges Elaine's death after she suffers heartache. Malory also includes a letter explaining the causes of Elaine's death. Tennyson preserves the mystery of the poem by giving the Lady no opportunity to feel love and finishing it with Lancelot's impersonal comment.

3. The Lady of Shalott

The death of the Lady in Tennyson's poem builds the reader's sense of mystery. The reader would not expect the Lady dies because of nature. It seems like impossible knowing that she is beaten by the wind. Nevertheless, if the reader reads the poem closely, Tennyson already gives clear description about the night the Lady leaves the island. The falling of the leaves and the waning of the yellow woods are Tennyson's other words to say winter is close at hand. Additionally,

the wind is straining, especially in the late night. The Lady has never gone out from her tower before, therefore, the night is her first time ever to get interacts with nature.

The Lady does not know what she has to do to prepare the trip. She is fortunate to find a boat on the river's side so that she can go across the river. Instead of rowing it, the Lady gets on the boat and lets it drifting by the river stream. The Lady surrenders herself believing that the boat will arrive at Camelot. To prevent herself from cold, the Lady wears a robe. It seems that the robe is not thick enough to wrap her body in such a cold night. Besides, she has never known how it feels to be outside her tower. Focusing her thought on Camelot and Lancelot, the Lady does not feel her freezing body until her blood is slowly frozen and she dies. The Lady does not have a good resistance of facing nature, consequently, she fails to reach her wish.

The Lady is fragile in her nature. She is not only easily carried away by her feeling, but she is also physically weak. She falls in love with Lancelot and desires to run after him, but she does not know how Lancelot's feeling to her yet. She takes the risk by breaking the curse and leaving the tower for an unsure thing. The curse for not looking at Camelot directly is a warning for her to stay weaving in her tower. Once she turns her head looking out the window, she will be tempted to leave her business of doing a womanly duty. The curse, then, prevents her of forgetting and leaving her duty. As a woman, she is responsible to be able and good to do the household matter which one of them is weaving. She is supposed to keep on weaving at the time Lancelot passing by, but she prefers to look at him

and neglects the web. As she has been warned before, there must be a punishment she has to take for the thing she must not do.

The thing is getting worse with the Lady's decision of leaving the tower. She is supposed to stay in her tower, but she chooses to follow her heart. In the end of the poem, the reader will know that the Lady's heart is ruled by her desire. Without deep consideration, it is her desire that will lead her to her end. Her death appears as a useless thing, she dies and gets nothing from it. She risks her life but still loses the chance of making her dream comes true. In fact, she dies and remains unknown to Lancelot.

In The Lady of Shalott Tennyson implicitly blames the Lady upon her own death. Although it is raised by the appearance of Lancelot but he does nothing to the Lady. It is the Lady who situates herself into the state and finally surrenders to the weather. On the contrary, Malory evidently blames Launcelot upon the death of Elaine. With Elaine's death letter, Malory gives the reason of her death which is of Launcelot. Upon this difference, the writer assumes that in The Lady of Shalott Tennyson does not like the matter of blaming Lancelot upon the Lady's death as he regards Lancelot as the noblest knight.

4. Sir Lancelot

Lancelot in The Lady of Shalott appears as the only character who has a name. The exception Tennyson has made upon Lancelot makes him special, remembering he is not the main character. Unless searching for Lancelot in reference books, the writer will not able to reveal his identity. Besides, the

presence of the hypogram gives the writer great contribution to explore Lancelot's characterization. From the hypogram it is known that Lancelot is not an ordinary character who happens to appear in Tennyson's poem, but he is a remarkable knight from Arthurian legend.

The capturing of an Arthurian knight in Tennyson's poem makes it worth to read. The combination between the legend and the poet's own creation has made this poem unique. The reader is made curious with the character, but without his awareness, Lancelot will only appear as a character called Sir Lancelot. Tennyson gives some explanation about Lancelot, but it is limited to Lancelot's physical appearance. From the description, Lancelot is depicted as a gallant and handsome knight, being devoted to his duty. Attractive in performance, Lancelot not only draws the Lady's attention as she makes some steps to the window, but he also does to the reader. His coming in the middle of the poem gives the reader excitement to continue reading, as the reader expects that there will be something happen to the Lady. In fact, there is something happening to the Lady, Lancelot does not come to be the Lady's savior upon her monotonous days, but he does to make the Lady meets her death.

Upon the Lady's dead body on a boat which reaches Camelot, Lancelot cannot comment anything except gives her a little prayer. Lancelot, as well as the locals who gather around the boat, do not know the reason why the Lady dies in the boat, they also do not know the intention of the Lady's sailing in such a cold night. From the writing on the boat's prow, Lancelot and the locals are wondering whether it is the Lady's name. Lancelot finally mentions her name while he prays

for her death. Though it is heard shallow and impersonal, Lancelot does a good thing to the Lady. Tennyson sets the meeting of the Lady and Lancelot after she dies, ends it with Lancelot's saying something and preserves the poem mysterious to the reader. On his comment, Lancelot flatters the Lady's beauty, and it seems like he prays because he sees her beauty. Tennyson makes the reader wondering about the meaning of Lancelot's saying in the end of the poem.

To reveal the ending of the poem, it is needed to find other sources that will complete the poem, especially in fulfilling the curiosity. The presence of the hypogram, then, will be the essential matter of revealing its ending. In the hypogram, Launcelot is told to have a special relationship with King Arthur's wife, Queen Guinever. Launcelot loves the King as well as the Queen. It explains the anger the Queen has after hearing Launcelot is wearing a red sleeve at the tournament. The news arises the Queen's jealousy, for Launcelot is known as a knight who has never accepted love from any girls except Guinever. It also explains how Launcelot becomes worry of Elaine telling about Sir Gawaine's visit to her castle. Launcelot is anxious that Gawaine will tell Guinever about his accepting a maid's gift and asking of keeping his shield. Launcelot does not want the Queen to misinterpret his actions for all of these are only Launcelot's strategy to succeed his disguising.

Tennyson does not include the matter of Lancelot's affair with Guinever since it will make the poem complicated and broad. In this poem, the center of the attention lies on the Lady of Shalott, not to Lancelot. By not giving much information about Lancelot, Tennyson is focusing the reader's concentration on

the Lady. Actually, Tennyson gives a clue about Lancelot's relationship with a woman, but he does not want to exaggerate it to avoid the reader's distraction to Lancelot's matter. With his own way, Tennyson is trying to inform the truth about Lancelot. But he seems to protect Lancelot's pride in front of the reader and impress the reader that Lancelot is a noble knight.

The way Tennyson informs the truth of Lancelot will not be understood without the presence of the hypogram. The hypogram gives explanation about what Tennyson is trying to say. In The Lady of Shalott Tennyson only writes Lancelot as "a red-cross knight for ever kneel'd to a lady in his shield" (78-9). Later, through the hypogram, the writer is able to interpret Tennyson's lines and reveal the meaning of it. A lady in the lines refers to Queen Guinever, King Arthur's wife. As in Morte d'Arthur Lancelot proclaims himself not to be a wedded man, Tennyson depicts Lancelot as a knight who will devote himself to his country and his Queen. Those lines then explain Lancelot's impersonal comment upon the Lady's death. The praise Lancelot's gives to the Lady's beauty means nothing as he only falls in love with the Queen. Lancelot's comment appears as Tennyson's way of stressing Lancelot's greatness which matches with Lancelot's nature as one of the noblest knights of Arthurian legend.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION