

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

There are two views for understanding literature. Some say that since literature is addressed to and emerges from a particular community, it can be only be appreciated by members of that community. Others say that since literature has a universal appeal, anyone in any part of the world can without difficulty appreciate a book written in any language with the assumption that he or she understands that language.

Between poetry and others forms of imaginative literature is no sharp distinction. Perrine (1977:9) says, "The difference between poetry and other literature is one only of degree." It means that the language used in poem is more condensed than the language of prose and drama in the way it sends the message. Poem expresses the idea in line by using diction, figure of speech, imagery, rhyme, rhythm, sound and meaning, pattern, tone as elements of poem. We can see that the language used in poem is more complex in meaning. The meaning offered is not as clear as the meaning of prose.

The language of poetry is different from the language of our daily community that gives straight meaning or simple meaning of some information. Poetic speech has plastic character that enables the readers to interpret a multidimensional meaning from what it is literally stated. Volve (in Siswanto,

2002:3) says that poetry is perhaps the most difficult kind of language. Poem is the most complicated language of speech because of its compact in condensed diction in expressing ideas. Its compactness is reflected in its multi meaning words that also a second meaning builder of figure of speech. Poetic diction is different from daily expressions that have straight cleared one-meaning and literal purposes. Perrine (1977:590) says that the meaning is one to one correspondence between word and meaning. In literary work, especially poetry form, a poet will find difficulty to bring the message if he merely uses denotative meaning. Therefore, he uses connotative meaning behind its denotation. By doing so, he can concentrate on and empower the purposed meaning with limited dictions. Figure of speech is another kind of connotation. According to Wien and Martin (in Siswanto, 2002:24) figure of speech is departure from the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect. Poetry, as one of the literature subjects has many differences from the others. Learning poetry is not easy as learning fiction, drama or the others because the material of this subject is poem-words that consist of figurative language and sometimes connotation and it is difficult to interpret. Kennedy (1983:397), states that many readers who have no trouble understanding and enjoying prose find poetry difficult. The difficulty of poetry is, sometimes it can't be understood and enjoyed on first reading, because a poem has to be read slowly, carefully, attentively and more than one reading.

Figurative language is the language that has more than one meaning. As Perrine (1977:77) says, poems at least have two levels of meanings: the literal language causes poetry become interesting, fresh and particularly clear description of imagination. The information of language sometimes is not enough to say about certain object of poems. The poet's ways of explaining his attention is through Metaphor, Simile, Personification, Metonymy, Apostrophe, Synecdoche, Understatement, Symbol, Allegory, Overstatement, irony and Paradox to make his language forceful.

In this research, the writer works to focus on the dominant figurative language used in Thomas Hardy's poems. His poetry is spare, unadorned, and unromantic, and its pervasive theme is man's futile struggle against cosmic forces. And also his poems are largely traditional in theme, form and structure, and show continuity with the Wordsworthian art of recording the impact of ordinary daily events on an individual and sensitive mind. Thomas Hardy was a prolific poet, author of some 900 poems with an extensive range and attitudes. Some of the poems are gently ironic; some are strongly felt love poems, especially those he wrote following the death of his wife in 1912; some are written in a mordantly comic light verse. Others lament the brevity and fragility of human life; some are bleak and darkly pessimistic. The perspective constantly shifts from ordinary simple events and feelings to a more cosmic awareness, contrasts between 'life's little ironies' and the global randomness of things.

The writer takes Thomas Hardy's poems in figurative language because it makes interested in knowing the knowledge about poetry and its elements in order to be more clearly understood by the writer and the readers generally. That is why the writer intends to conduct a research poem with the title of research ***"AN ANALYSIS ON FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN THOMAS HARDY'S POEMS."***

B. Literature Review

To provide the originality of the research, the researcher wants to present the previous research that deals especially with figurative language in general. The previous research is done by Endah Dewangkara (2003) in *"An Analysis on Figurative Language Used in John Donne's Poems."* Her study comes to the conclusion that the dominant figurative languages that Donne uses on his poem are Hyperbole and symbol.

Another study is from Widiatmo (1997) in *"An Analysis of the Figurative Language Referential Expression in Le Guinn's The Left Hand of Darkness."* He also finds all of figure of speech used in that novel and the most dominant figurative referential expression used in this novel is hyperbole.

Another study is from Laely Hasanah (2000) in *"The Dominant Figurative Language of EE Cummings Tulips and Chimney."* The literature review about is really important to the writer because they help the writer finds the right books for literature. From this study, the writer analyzes the poem

specializing Thomas Hardy's poems using the dominant figurative language. The similarity of this analysis is the poem while the difference is the object being analyzed with laely Hasanah. However, this is reason of my intention to study this research in order to understand more clearly.

C. Problem Statement

In conducting the research, the writer is going to focus her observation on figurative language used in Thomas Hardy's poems with the problem of this research as follows:

1. What are the figurative languages used in Thomas Hardy's poems?
2. What are the meanings of figurative languages used in Thomas Hardy's poems?
3. What is the dominant figurative language in Thomas Hardy's poems?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problems that have been stated above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To characterize the figurative language used in Thomas Hardy's poems.
2. To find out the meaning of figurative language in Thomas Hardy's poems.
3. To point out the figurative language mainly used in Thomas Hardy's poems.

E. Limitation of the Study

In this study, the writer limits on figurative language of seven Thomas Hardy's poems. The writer takes seven Thomas Hardy's poems at all of his poems because it is enough for the writer to analyze the figurative language specifically in order not to confuse the researcher in analyzing it. Therefore, the writer concentrates on *Ah Are You Digging On My Grave*, *the Man He Killed*, *Neutral Tones*, *I Look Into My Glass*, *I Need Not Go*, *The Convergence of The Twain*, *Without Ceremony* to analyze more clearly and easily.

F. Benefit of the Study

The study of figurative language on Thomas Hardy's poems has several benefits, they are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research will enrich the study of literature especially on Thomas Hardy's poetry and its contribution for English Department students particularly in learning about poetry.

2. Practical Benefit

It is expected that the study can improve the students or the reader's knowledge particularly in figurative language in Thomas Hardy's poems.

G. Research Paper Organization

The research paper consists of five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which contains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory. The third chapter deals with research method, which contains of research object, method of data collecting and technique of data analysis. Analysis and discussion of Thomas Hardy's poems are presented in the fourth chapter. Finally, the fifth chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion.