

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Actually all of human beings have the way to see themselves. When they say someone is short or tall, they have tendency to compare with him or her, so they will say, "someone is taller than me". It is called by self-impression or self-concept.

Self impression (also called self-concept or self-construction or self-perspective) is a multi-dimensional construct that refers to an individual's perception of "self" in relation to any number of characteristics, such as academics (and nonacademics), gender roles and sexuality, racial identity, and many others. While closely related with self-concept clarity (which "refers to the extent to which self-knowledge is clearly and confidently defined, internally consistent, and temporally stable"), it presupposes but is distinguishable from self-awareness, which is simply an individual's awareness of their self. It is also more general than self-esteem, which is the purely evaluative element of the self-concept.

The self-impression is composed of self-assessments regarding attributes such as personality, skills and abilities, occupation(s) and hobbies, and physical characteristics. For example, the statement "I am lazy" is a self-assessment that contributes to the self-concept. In contrast, the statement "I am tired" would not normally be considered part of

someone's self-concept, since being tired is a temporary state (and moreover one not reflecting the element of subjective judgement involved in the assessment of perceived laziness). A person's self-concept may change with time, possibly going through turbulent periods of identity crisis and reassessment.

The self-impression is not restricted to the present. It includes past selves and future selves. Future selves or "possible selves" represent individuals' ideas of what they might become, what they would like to become, and what they are afraid of becoming. They correspond to hopes, fears, standards, goals, and threats. Possible selves may function as incentives for future behavior and they also provide an evaluative and interpretive context for the current view of self.

Self-impression or self-concept is the way people can understand about themselves including their physical appearance, behavior and ability. Other definition is Self-concept, a central theme for humanists, refers to individuals' overall perceptions of their abilities, behavior and personality (Halonen and Santrock, 1999: 391).

According to Rogers (in Hjelle and Ziegler, 1992: 498) self-concept is defined "the organized, consistent conceptual gestalt composed of perceptions of the characteristics of the 'I' or 'me' and the perceptions and relationship of the 'I' or 'me' to others and to various of life, together with values attached to these perceptions. It is a gestalt which is available to awareness though not necessarily in awareness". So if people have poor

self-concept they will feel, think and act negatively. And if they feel, think and act negatively they never get a good life.

Self-impression also serves as the basis for evaluating our own experience. Whatever is consistent with the sense of self is readily accepted, even though it may be painful, while that which is inconsistent is resisted. For example a student with low self-esteem, he or she will easier to accept when he or she get C in his or her test than A. And when he or she gets A in his or her test he or she will say “I was lucky”.

The self-impression donates the person’s impression or conception of the kind of person, himself or herself. The self-impression can reflect to the person perceived or view about him or herself. It can create the self-perception or the perception of oneself. For example, I’m beautiful, honest, cheerful, etc. From Rogers’ perspective, self-concept often reflect how view ourselves in the society.

According to Wellek and Warren (1956: 94), “literature represents ‘life’ and ‘life’ is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and inner subjective world of individual have also been objects of literary imitation.” As imitation of life, a literature can be seen as a mirror of life. One cognitive value in a literary work especially poems is psychological factors. Since a literature is an imitation of life, the speaker in it is identical with the real person or human who has psychological aspects (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 33).

The researcher is interested to discuss about psychology because psychology relates to human personality, and literature is the imitation of human life including the researcher himself. It is like study about him, so the researcher likes to relate literature with psychology.

One of some writers who gives a response to the statements above is namely Robert Frost. Robert Frost (1874 – 1963) was born in San Francisco March 26, 1874, the first child of Issabelle Moodie and William Prescott Frost Jr. He married with Elinor White in Lawrence on December 19, 1895. He has four children, two sons and two daughters. His first child is Son Elliot born on September 25, 1896. The second child is Son Carol; he was born on May 27, 1902. The third child is Daughter Marjorie. She was born on March 28, 1905. And the last child is Daughter Elinor Bettina; she was born on June 18 1907 and died on June 21, 1907. His wife died on March 20, 1938 and he himself died on January 29, 1963 (<http://www.ketzle.com/frost/frostbio.htm>).

Robert Frost has many kinds of poems such as *A Boys Will* (1913), *North of Boston* (1914), *Mountain Interval* (1916), *New Hampshire* (1923), *West-Running Brook* (1928), *A Further Range* (1936), *A Witness Tree* (1942), *A Masque of Reason* (1945), *Steeple Bush* (1947), *A Masque of Mercy* (1947), *In The Clearing* (1962). It is all about 347 poems (<http://www.robertfrost.org/bib1.html>).

There are some meanings of poetry, firstly poetry (a making: a forming, creating, or the art of poetry, or a poem) is a form of literary art

in which language is used for its aesthetic and evocative qualities in addition to, or in lieu of, its apparent meaning. Poetry may be written independently, as discrete poems, or may occur in conjunction with other arts, as in poetic drama, hymns, lyrics, or prose poetry. It is published in dedicated magazines (the longest established being *Poetry* and *Oxford Poetry*), individual collections and wider anthologies.

Poetry often uses particular forms and conventions to suggest alternative meanings in the words, or to evoke emotional or sensual responses. Devices such as assonance, alliteration, onomatopoeia, and rhythm are sometimes used to achieve musical or incantatory effects. The use of ambiguity, symbolism, irony, and other stylistic elements of poetic diction often leaves a poem open to multiple interpretations. Similarly, metaphor, simile, and metonymy create a resonance between otherwise disparate images—a layering of meanings, forming connections previously not perceived. Kindred forms of resonance may exist, between individual verses, in their patterns of rhyme or rhythm.

Some forms of poetry are specific to particular cultures and genres, responding to the characteristics of the language in which the poet writes. Much of modern British and American poetry are to some extent a critique of poetic tradition, playing with and testing (among other things) the principle of euphony itself, to the extent that sometimes it deliberately does not rhyme or keep to set rhythms at all. In today's globalized world

poets often borrow styles, techniques and forms from diverse cultures and languages.

Robert Frost's poems that will be discussed by the writer are random from all of Robert Frost's poems and the writer takes some of them, there are: *Nothing Gold Can Stay*, *The Road not Taken*, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, *Neither out Far nor in Deep*, *To Earthward*, *The Wood-pile*, *Directive*, *Mowing*, *The Middleness of the Road*, and *Fire and Ice*. The themes of those poems are about the struggle for the better life.

In this study the researcher will focus on the characteristic of the fully functioning person in Robert Frost's poems more detailed by using a phenomenological psychology study of literature or phenomenological psychology perspective. So the writer constructs the title **SELF IMPRESSION IN POEMS WRITTEN BY ROBERT FROST: A PHENOMENOLOGICAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**.

B. Literature Review

In analyzing psychological side of the Robert Frost's poems, the researcher conducts the result of the other researchers who have different analysis of Robert Frost's poems.

In Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta, there is a researcher presenting Robert Frost's work. She is Eko Cahyaning Utami (2003), with

the title of research paper *Banal Realities in Robert Frost's Poems: An Existentialist Perspective*.

Secondly, in Sebelas Maret University of Surakarta, this research also presents about Robert Frost's poems that has been conducted by Yuli Windriati (1999), with the title of research paper "*A Study on Robert Frost's Works as anti-Romantics Poems (A Literary History Study)*".

Although the researcher also discusses Robert Frost's poems, but the researcher uses a different approach with the previous researcher. The present researcher uses a phenomenological psychology perspective to analyze these poems.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research, the writer purposes a single problem statement. The problem of the research is "How is the self-impression is developed by Robert Frost in his poems?"

D. Limitation of the Study

To achieve the objective of the research, the researcher will analyze only ten poems of Robert Frost, they are *Nothing Gold Can Stay*, *The Road not Taken*, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, *Neither out Far nor in Deep*, *To Earthward*, *The Wood-pile*, *Directive*, *Mowing*, *The Middleness of the Road*, and *Fire and Ice* and the researcher will analyze those poems by the characteristics of fully functioning person in

phenomenological psychology. The problem is limited to the characteristics of fully functioning person in phenomenological psychology that deals with Robert Frost's poems or how each characteristic of fully functioning person understood by Frost.

E. Objective of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of Robert Frost's poems
2. To analyze the poems based on the phenomenological psychology perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to contribute to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary study on Robert Frost.

2. Practical Benefit

The practical benefit is to improve the researcher's understanding about literature, especially in analyzing Robert Frost's poems relating to psychology.

G. Research Method

Research method is a way of analyzing the problem, which has been formulated by using a certain approach, so it can obtain an objective goal. The following are the description of the research method used in this study.

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is Robert Frost's poems, they are *Nothing Gold Can Stay*, *The Road not Taken*, *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, *Neither out Far nor in Deep*, *To Earthward*, *The Wood-pile*, *Directive*, *Mowing*, *The Middleness of the Road*, and *Fire and Ice*.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The data sources are divided into two:

- a. Primary data sources, which involve words and sentences from the object of the study, poems of Robert Frost.
- b. Secondary data sources, taken from books, essays, articles, the author's biography and so forth that still have relation to the subject matters.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

In collecting the data, the researcher here first chooses Robert Frost's poems, which are similar and have relation on the issue, then collects or notes the essays or articles, which can be used as the references. Secondly, the researcher explores the main data by reading

and learning Robert Frost's poems deeply and accurately. The last, he researches the supporting data, separating it appropriate with the need in order to use it in analyzing.

4. Technique of Data Analysis

It is descriptive analysis. In analyzing the subject matters, the writer firstly interprets those poems, and then analyzes the object of the study by using a phenomenological psychology perspective and the last draws conclusion from that analysis.

5. Type of the Study

The type of this study is qualitative research. The researcher here uses qualitative. This is a library research, which takes the source of the data from words and other writing.

H. Paper Organization

The paper organization is divided into five chapters. Chapter one is introduction that covers the background of the study, the literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, the research method and the paper organization. Chapter two is the underlying theory that deals with the theory of phenomenological psychology. Chapter three deals with the structural analysis of the object of the study. Chapter four is phenomenological psychology analysis and chapter five is the conclusion and suggestion.