

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

The Rhyne of the Ancient Mariner is the popular poem from Samuel Taylor Coleridge. This poem consists of 18 pages with 7 parts. This literary work was made in 1798. On some essays or journals about this poem and analyzing of the literary work of Coleridge, *The Rhyne of the Ancient Mariner* is the longest poem in literary work and also Coleridge expresses a fascination with the luminal state between the spiritual and natural, or the mundane and the divine.

Coleridge was born on 21 October 1772 in the country town of Ottery St Mary, Devon, England. His father is John Coleridge (1718–1781), he is reverend of the parish and headmaster of Henry VIII's Free Grammar School at Ottery. After John Coleridge died in 1781, then 8-year-old Samuel was sent to Christ's Hospital, it is a charity school, where he remained throughout his childhood, studying and writing poetry.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge is one of popular poets of English romantic period, he is also a founder of the *Romantic Movement* in England and a member of the *Lake Poets*. The best known for his literary works are *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and *Kubla Khan*, as well as for his major prose work *Biographia Literaria*. His critical work, especially on Shakespeare, was

highly influential, and he helped to introduce German idealist philosophy to English-speaking culture.

In 1792, he won the *Browne Gold Medal* for an ode that he wrote on the slave trade. In December 1793, he left the college and enlisted in the Royal Dragoons using the false name "Silas Tomkyn Comberbache", perhaps because of debt or because the girl that he loved, Mary Evans, had rejected him. Afterwards, he was rumored to have had about with severe depression. His brothers arranged for his discharge a few months later under the reason of "insanity" and he was readmitted to Jesus College, though he would never receive a degree from Cambridge.

He also composed the symbolic poem *Kubla Khan*. In 1798, Coleridge and Wordsworth published a joint volume of poetry, *Lyrical Ballads*, which proved to be the starting point for the English Romantic Movement. Wordsworth may have contributed more poems, but the real star of the collection was Coleridge's first version of *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*. It was the longest work and drew more praise and attention than anything else in the volume. The other poems, like *Kubla Khan* and *Christabel* had an additional "romantic" aura because they were never finished.

The beginning stanza shows that the speaker in this poem is a wedding guest. In the wedding party he meets an old man (the ancient mariner) and they are making conversation with each other. Actually, the speaker does not want to listen him, but the ancient mariner forces him to

listen his story. The speaker sits on the stone to listen his story carefully. The ancient mariner begins to tell a story. The story occurs in the big ship, in there he finds many oddities, the beginning of his journey, his ship attracted by storm-blast, he and the other merchant marine tries to save their ship from the storm. After saving it, they find an albatross that always takes along his journey and suddenly the weather changes into bright and warm, every day the albatross comes to his ship like a dog that protects his boss.

The ancient mariner suddenly shoots the Albatross and the bright weather totally changes into the fog and mist, the ancient mariner regrets for his mistake because he has killed the albatross. A few moment, the weather changes again into very hot and the ship passengers feel sweltry, there is no water and the water of sea changes to slimy, so for the result no water for they drink, they feel thirsty. The ancient mariner feels hopeless to this condition and finally he drinks his own blood to make out his thirsty and he also sees another passenger that her skin burned of the sun. After that, he looks the other oddly for example he looks the man died and his body putrescence, he looks water-snake that plays in the bottom of the sea.

Like a dream, suddenly he wakes up from his sleeping, now he feels better than before, his lips is wet, his throat is cold, and his garments all are dank. The wet weather suddenly he hears the skylark sing and sometimes he sees the birds that fly around the ship. Then, he hears the conversation in the sky, the voices talk about him that kills albatross. Their conversation shows that the ancient mariner has done the mistake, but he has atoned for his

mistake. The ancient mariner wakes up from his dream and he finds the entire passengers of the ship are dead. And suddenly the ship drifts ashore to the island.

In the island, he meets many people having bright skin and he sees the light of heaven that is beautiful light he has ever seen. After that, he meets hermit and saving him to joint with his ship. In the ship the ancient mariner tells to hermit that he sees and all of his experiences before he drifts ashore in the island. That is the story of the ancient mariner to wedding-guest, he tells that it is very beautiful adventure and advises for wedding-guest to aware the ecology of this world.

There are responses from the readers to this poem. Firstly, Ann's books and *The Mad Monk*, among others. She comments in her reviews that Situations of torment, and images of naked horror, are easily conceives; and a writer in whose works they abound, deserves gratitude almost equally with him who should drag the readers by way of sport through a military hospital, or force his fans to sit at the dissecting-table of a natural philosopher. Mary Shelley, who knew Coleridge well, mentions *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner* twice directly in *Frankenstein*, and some of the descriptions in the novel echo it indirectly, and also she states that *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner* used these elements in poems such as certainly influenced other poets and writers of the time. So, from two statements above, it is clear that this poem is the one of good poem to express the nature condition.

From Samuel Taylor Coleridge's literary work, the writer wants to analyze *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*, because there are three aspects that make this poem be interested to study. This poem has long work and the content of poem is very detail. The detail poem itself ranges from imagery, rhyme, and content.

Firstly, in this poem there are imageries that have been showed by Coleridge, and all of parts of imagery from visual until tactile imagery show in this poem. For example: *The ship was cheered, the harbour cleared*, the imagery in this stanza is *cheered* and *cleared*, the two words are that shows cheered as auditory imagery and cleared as a visual imagery. In the sentence of *The ship was cheered* the imagery shows the ship rings his horn to show that it will anchor. The word of *cleared* shows visual imagery because in sentence of *the harbour cleared* imagine that the harbor quiets from the ships.

Secondly, it tells that the rhyme of this poem is interesting. Because in *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner* poem has many stanzas, so rhyme in this poem there are exact and slant rhyme. For example in the first stanza it has feminine rhyme because it uses same-sounding ending a/a/a/a. Even though, in second stanza it uses masculine rhyme because the ending of sound is different a/b/a/b.

Thirdly, focusing on the content, this poem has something different with other poems, such as to attract the reader, Coleridge invites the reader with the form of this poem. The beginning stanza in this poem tells about the narration before climax and organization of the poem was arranged

beautifully, there are steps to make the reader easy to understand Coleridge's poem. Besides, there are many experiences for the readers life especially to keep the creation of God or the ecology around the people environment, in order to make the balance of life, so that is why this research uses sociological and structural perspective.

In this study, dealing with the quotation above, the researcher wants to analyze poem *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner* by using the structural approach in order to find the elements (diction, imagery, rhyme, rhythm, pattern, sound and sense and tone) that are unified and coherent. And the research also uses a sociological perspective of this poem.

B. Literature Review

As far as the writer knows there is no student conducting a study of Samuel Taylor Coleridge at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and Sebelas Maret University. However, there are articles taken from internet that study about *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*.

The article was conducted by Pink Peppie (2009) in her article "*The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*". For this study, the researcher concludes that some significance elements to understand this poem, are (1) it is significant that the mariner tells his story to a wedding guest so that they could learn from what he did. The moral would have probably changed just a little bit. (2) the significance of the albatross being hung around the mariner's neck so that the shipmates won't throw guilt on him (3) this indicates that there is a

great importance of editing in the writing process because it urges to always have inspiration even though it's hard to.

Another study is conducted by A. Neuman (2003) in "*The Mariner's Ancient Eye: Multiple Perspectives in Coleridge's The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*". For his study, the writer analyzes multiple perspectives the Coleridge's poem. And the conclusion of this research enduring poem *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*, Samuel Coleridge added a pointed Latin epigraph, perhaps to clarify what he hoped the poem would convey upon his readers. The added lines ask us to reevaluate our perceptions of man and nature, as what is easily perceived by man is far from the full truth.

Those articles as references the writer chooses to analyze *Samuel Taylor Coleridge's* poem based on a structural approach. It is difference with the articles study above. First article was taken from Pink Peppie (2009) in her article "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner". This is different with this research because in her research paper only describes the content of the poem. While, in this research paper not only describes this poem but it also analyzes poem using structural and sociological perspectives.

The second research paper was taken from A. Neuman (2003) in "The Mariner's Ancient Eye: Multiple Perspectives in Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*". His article is also different from this research because Neuman's article uses multiple perspectives to analyze *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*, while this research paper only analyzes two perspectives, there are structural and sociological perspective.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is how the ecological awareness is reflected in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*.

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem that has been stated above, the objective of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the poem based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze the poem based on the sociological perspective.

E. Research Limitation

In this study, the writer limits the study on a sociological perspective in Samuel Taylor Coleridge. The writer takes one Samuel Taylor Coleridge poem that is *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*, because this poem is long work that consists of seven parts with 18 pages, so the writer only takes one poem of Coleridge's poems.

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 Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

2. Practical benefit

The practical benefit is to improve the researcher to understand about literature, especially in analyzing the sociological perspective in Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

G. Research Method

1. Type of Research

The type of the research that is conducted by the researcher is descriptive qualitative research. In this research the writer uses the descriptive qualitative research to find out the information concerning the meaning of society eternity and the major character in his poem.

2. Object of the Study

The objects of the research are all structural elements and sociological perspective in *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner* from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem.

3. Data and Data Source

a. Data

The data of this research is word, phrases and sentences from Samuel Taylor Coleridge poem *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner*.

b. Data Source

1) Primary data source

The primary data source is the poem of *The Rhyme of The Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

2) Secondary data source

The secondary data source is the other source relating to the primary source. Data sources are information about the author biography, website about the poem, and other resources supporting the analysis.

4. Method of Collecting Data

The method of collecting the data is note-taking *The Rhyme of The Ancient Mariner* poem. In this research, the document is the lyrics of *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner* Samuel Taylor Coleridge poem. So the writer has some steps in collecting the data, as follows:

- a. Finding the lyrics of poem in website.
- b. Reading the poem to get deeply understanding towards the source of data.
- c. Analyzing the structural elements of this poem.
- d. Finally, analyzing the sociological perspective of this poem.

5. Method of Analyzing Data

The method used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the poem and the sociological perspectives.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper organization of “Raising the Ecological Awareness in Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s *The Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner* A Sociological Perspective” is as follows: Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of Background of the Study, Previous Study, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Benefits of the Study. Chapter II is Underlying Theory. It presents Sociology of Literature, Sociological Aspect, Structural Elements of Poetry. Chapter III is the social background of England in eighteenth century. Chapter IV concerns with structural analysis of the poem and discussion. Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion. The last part will be Bibliography and Appendix.