

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Research Context

Communication is one of the most fundamental aspects in our society. People actually cannot live their lives without communicating with others. To communicate with other people in any kinds of fields and activities in life, people need to master language. Language is used to convey anything in people's mind such as feeling, intention, message, idea, as well as to have a social interaction with others in different kinds of levels and circumstances in society. Therefore, there will be a good message understanding in communication among them. In sending the message, the sender does not only use an explicit utterance or direct expression but also uses an implicit utterance or indirect expression where the meaning of the message is not the same as the usual message such as by using figurative language or figure of speech. Figurative language is a language that actually has multiple meanings.

Figures of speech are diversely defined by some experts or linguists one of which is Perrine. According to Perrine (1977: 28), language using figures of speech is language that cannot be taken literally (or should not be taken literally only). He then broadly defines, a figure of speech is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way. For our purposes, however, a figure of speech is more narrowly defined as a way of saying one thing and meaning another. In short, figurative language or figure of speech is a way of adding extra dimensions to language. It is used by the poets as a means to convey words, expressions and meanings they want in a more interesting and sophisticatedly beautiful way rather than saying it directly.

Literature has a very broad meaning. Poetry (Poems) is a type of literary work which is analyzed by the researcher. According to Perrine (1997:6), literature itself is

a kind of art, usually written, that offers pleasure, contentment and illumination. A literary work is imaginative work that uses literary language and ambiguous words. Most of literary works use figurative and ambiguities to stimulate a certain image. It affects the language beauty of work in both oral and written. Therefore, figurative language is used to serve and convey thoughts, feelings, and perceptions that cannot be adequately expressed in literal language.

The figurative language can be found in many literary works. In analyzing literature, the researcher has to be clear of what kind of literary works to be the focus to analyze. Based on its classification, literature itself consists of prose (fiction), poetry (poem), and drama. The literary work analyzed by the researcher is poetry (poem). Poem is at the same time the simplest and the most complex form of literary expression.

In this research, the researcher analyzes figurative language used in the Brownings poems. The Brownings are Elizabeth Barrett Browning (EBB) and Robert Browning (RB). They both are well-known poets as well as a married couple who have dedicated their works into literature through their courtship. According to Garrett's book entitled *A Browning Chronology* (2000 :1-3) Robert Browning was born in Southampton Street, Camberwell a village near London, elderchild of Robert Browning (RB) (1782–1866), he worked as a clerk at the Bank of England. Sarah Anna Wiedemann, his EBB and RB during the courtship they made each other love letters and poems without EBB's father knowing it. RB was buried, near Chaucer and Spenser, in Westminster Abbey. The pall-bearers include Jowett, Leighton, Hallam Tennyson, and George Smith (who has been in charge of the funeral arrangements). The choir sings a setting of lines from EBB's 'The Sleep' (*'What would we give our beloved? ...'*), which RB read at her funeral in 1861.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (EBB) (née Moulton-Barrett; 6 March 1806 – 29 June 1861) was one of the most prominent English poets of the Victorian era. Her poetry was widely popular in both Britain and the United States during her lifetime.

She was the eldest child of Edward Moulton-Barrett (1785–1857) and Mary Graham-Clarke (1781–1828). Born in County Durham, the eldest of 12 children, Elizabeth Barrett was educated at home. She wrote poetry from around the age of six and this was compiled by her mother, comprising what is now one of the largest collections extant of juvenilia by any English writer. At 15 she began to battle with an incurable lifelong illness, which the medical science of the time was unable to diagnose. She became ill, suffering from intense head and spinal pain for the rest of her life, rendering her frail. This illness caused her to be frail and weak. She took laudanum for the pain killer, which may have led to a lifelong addiction and contributed to her weak health.

Her first adult collection, *The Seraphim and Other Poems*, was published in 1838. During this time she contracted a disease, tuberculosis, which weakened her further. Elizabeth's volume *Poems* (1844) brought her great success. During this time she met and corresponded with the writer Robert Browning, who admired her work. The courtship and marriage between the two were carried out in secret, the reason being is because of her father's disapproval. Following the wedding she was disinherited by her father and rejected by her brothers. The couple moved to Italy in 1846, where she would live for the rest of her life. They had one son, whom they called Pen. Towards the end of her life, her lung function worsened, and she died in Florence in 1861.

A collection of her last poems were published by her husband after her death. Most of her poems were dedicated to her loyal husband RB appreciating for loving her dearly and truly and accepting her the way she is,. Even though she was suffering from a lifelong disease, but that was not the matter to him. Her famous poem is *How Do I love Thee?*. The poem that tells about how she loves the beloved one. She's also remembered for poems such as *Aurora Leigh* and *If Thou Must Love Me*. Most of their poems were dedicated to each other in the conception of their real love.

Here the researcher quotes the example of figurative language found in one of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's sonnets called Go from me, yet I feel that I shall stand:

D6/Ln 6/St 2/HDILT/EBB/Sym

“I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.
I love thee to the level of everyday'
Most quite need, **by sun and candlelights**”

Context:The **addressor** of the utterance above is EBB Elizabeth Barrett Browning and the **addressee** is her beloved RB Robert Browning. The **audiences** are the readers of the poem. The **setting** of the poem is not mentioned in the poem. The **topic** discussed is describing on how love should be. She loves her lover really much that soul can't even reach. Love poem is the **message form** of how the addressor expresses her feeling to the addressee. The relationship among the participants of the event is maintained by speech **channel** in English language **code**. The **purpose** of the addressor to the addressee is EBB is describing on how EBB loves RB. Apart from that, she also describes through these lines that she wants RB so desperately in her life to give her company for the rest of her life. She couldn't ask for anyone better than Robert Browning.

Implied Meaning: The line “**By sun and candlelights**” means sun comes in the day and candle lights as a night time. Sun does not necessarily mean as the sun in the sky or candlelights as candles flamed but “**Sun and candlelights**” are ways of saying day and night (all the time).By the explanation above, EBB implicitly describes on how much EBB loves RB. She mostly loves him every day and night or simply all the time (non-stop). Moreover, it is included to connotative meaning because the meaning or

words contained in the line have multiple interpretation. Therefore, this line is included to **Connotative Meaning**.

Based on the examples above, the researcher is interested in doing this research which deals with the description of the types and implied meaning of figurative language used in The Browning's poems. The researcher analyzes the data in pragmatic frame.

This research focuses on the Figurative Language used in the Browning's poems. The researcher is interested in knowing the types of figurative and implied meanings used in the poems. The making of this research is genuinely to give more understanding about poems by The Browning.

B. Focus of the Study

Based on the research context above, the focus of the study is "Figurative Language Used in The Browning's Poems". This focus is broken down into the following subfocuses:

1. What are the types of Figurative Language used in the Browning's poems?
2. What are the implied meanings of Figurative Language used in the Browning's poems?

C. Objective of the Study

In this research, the researcher proposes three major objectives to be described as follows:

1. To identify the Figurative Language used in the Browning's poems.
2. To find out the Implied Meanings of Figurative Language used in the Browning's poems.

D. Benefit of the Study

The researcher hopes that her research will bring some benefits:

1. Practical Benefit

- a. Teachers

The result of this study can help teachers have a broad understanding in teaching and practising figurative language and meaning analysis.

- b. Future Researchers

The result of this study can be a contribution and additional reference to future researchers who would like to conduct the same field on Figurative Language and its meanings.

2. Theoretical Benefit

The researcher hopes that the result of this research can be a contribution to the development of linguistics field especially on Figurative Language and the implied meaning.