

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is important in our life. To understand thing and to be understood, human being needs language feeling communication. It is also medium to express idea, mind, opinion, thought, and feeling to others. Human beings need a language not only to express emotion but also describe that state of the world around us. It can be done orally or written, in verbal or non verbal communication. (Rubin, 1992, p. 3)

Language itself is the God's gift to human. It is one of the signs of his power. It is written in the holy Qur'an al-Hujurat : 13 (Yusuf, 2008, p. 1081-1082) as follows :



English is the most popular language in this world. Many countries in this world use this language. Discussing English, someone can not leave the literature. British as a country which produces this language has historical period of literature. Discussing literature, someone has to know the meaning of literature. As Terry (1983, p.1) said that literature is as imaginative writing in the sense of fiction - writing which is not literally true. Literature also refers to any body of written material which has a lasting appeal and which is highly regarded and widely accepted by its readers. It is imaginary, not the real world. It is merely the reflection of reality representing it. It can be said that literature is imaginary world that reflects the life of human being because literature creates metaworlds, worlds which exist within our mind and such things are readily accepted. Despite the fact how strange or mysterious it maybe, we say it really exist because we believe in it. means that everything occurs in the literary work does not always really happen, but it still has possibility to happen in human life. So by studying work of literature, someone can learn human's life.

Literature is the result of human creation or the writer. The writer as the member of a group or society, in expressing his/her idea, at least will be influenced by society condition that becomes the background. The result of the writer is in order to communicate to the reader. So far, if the literature is

considered to be the form of communication, so the writer, the society condition that becomes the background and the form or the style of the literature are involved inside the literature.

The literature is as the media for the writer to realize his/her idea. By literature, the writer can communicate everything that exists in his/her mind. All of human activities that had been summarized become a history of life that colored the literature of the writer. It describes that literature comes from society, which is described by the writer in his/her work. Literature is as the reflection of life that exists, which is created by the writer with all of his/her imagination. So, beside the existence of social reality, a writer in creating his/her work is also influenced by his/her imagination. This imagination is being influenced by the experience of the writer's life, and the existence of life reality.

There are many forms of literature such as folktales, poetry , drama, novel, short story, etc. On the other hand, it can be said that poetry is a kind of literature on which the poet reveals his experience, ideas and feeling.

Poetry is an imaginative awareness of experience expressed through meaning, sound, and rhythmic language choices so as to evoke an emotional response. Poetry is often associated not only with specialized language but with a very dense use of such specialize language. Poems usually try to express their meaning in much less space than, say, a novel or even a short story.

As Perrine (1974, p. 524) said that poetry is a kind of multidimensional language. Perhaps it is the most difficult kind of language. It needs a compactness

language. Many experts have different overview in defining what the poetry means. According to Perrine (1974, p. 518) poetry may be defined as a kind of language that says more intensely than does ordinary language. Intense, however, refers to compactness, full of meaning which is differing from the usage of language in the daily life. Knowing the meaning of a poem can deliberate the message as clearly as possible. The message can be gained in the straight line. As the result, there may be no confusion appear. The message, of course, is not always printed clearly in poem. It may be a hidden or an implicit message. Because of this reason, the readers are more interested in reading a poem because they can imagine the meaning by themselves. Thus, they find a pleasure from it.

To understand the hidden message, the figurative language that covers it must be known by the readers. Siswanto (2002, p. 23) said that figurative speech or figurative language is poetic devices in which two images or objects are compared to make language interesting and meaningful. The poet uses common expression in original and creative ways to compare objects and makes the poem more interesting and meaningful. As Bradford (1961, p. 4) states that figurative language is the language, on the whole, favored by rhetoricians, poets, fiction writer, lover and the like. Negatively, figurative language is the language that avoids speaking directly or plainly about the subject under examination. Positively, figurative language is the language that either speaks symbolically about the subject or heightens the musicality of the language when speaking about the subject.

There are many types of figurative language. They are simile, metaphor, personification, irony, apostrophe, hyperbole, antithesis, synecdoche, paradox, and symbol. Each of them has certain function. Personification, for instance, reveals an inanimate is recognized as animation.

Irony is the use of words in a way to conceal true intention with literal intention. Like paradox, irony has meanings that extend beyond its use merely as a figure of speech (Perrine, 1974, p. 612). More clearly, irony is when someone says one thing but means another. Much subtext, many puns, and quite a bit of sarcasm and slander are dependant on irony. When someone gets a new awful haircut and asks you what you think, and you say that it is "*a real good do*" (using "do" to mean she was done over, she did not get her money's worth,) you have used irony - whether or not it is obvious probably determines whether you get yelled at.

In this research, the writer works to focus on the dominant irony used in five Edwin Arlington Robinson's poems. Edwin Arlington Robinson (22 Dec. 1869 – 6 Apr. 1935), poet, was born in Head Tide, Maine, USA. Most of his works explore the traditional metrics and a modern sensibility with its skepticism, pessimism, and irony. Irony is one of Robinson's most consistently employed tools, Robinson characteristic in tone is ironic and he uses it variously to achieve various ends. A major theme that Robinson incorporated within his poems was *failure*, along with the reaction that occurred within human nature as a result of experiencing this loneliness and separateness. Some say that

he was someone that understood it the best: the feeling of alienation, separation from society, and the depression that followed.

That is why the writer intends to analyze and find the meaning of irony in Edward Arlington Robinson's poem. This research is entitled "**AN ANALYSIS ON IRONY USED IN EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON'S POEMS .**"

B. Statement of the Problems

From the background of the study above, the writer formulates the problem as follows:

1. What are the irony used in Edwin Arlington Robinson's poem?
2. What is the meaning of the irony in Edwin Arlington Robinson's poem?
3. What type of irony is mostly found in Edwin Arlington Robinson's poem?

C. Objective of Study

1. To find irony used in Edwin Arlington Robinson's poems
2. To know the meaning of the irony in Edwin Arlington Robinson's poems.
3. To point out the irony mainly used in Edwin Arlington Robinson's poems.

D. Significance of the Study

This study will give benefits to the readers who want to analyze literary works, especially poetry. Hopefully, through this study on irony in poetry the

reader will notice the irony in each poem and the idea of the poet using the irony as the theme of his works. Irony is an important feature in English poems . Hence, this study will discover the use of irony in order to understand the poet's idea through the content of the poems.

E. Method of Research

A. Subject and Object of The Research

The subject of this study are Edwin Arlington Robinson's poems. The object of this research is analyzing irony in Edwin Arlington Robinson's poems.

B. Data and Source of Data

There are two kinds of data are investigated in this research , they are primary data secondary data.

a. Primary Data

- Poem texts
- The analyze of poems

b. Secondary Data

To complete the primary data, the writer also collects the supporting data.

These data consist of:

- Description about figurative language especially irony, types of irony.
- Biography of the author

C. Library Research

In this library research there are four main steps namely:

- Searching library catalogue

In this step the writer hunts for the references by searching catalogues. They guide the writer to get the assumed information contained in the available references.

- Selecting the related references

It is possible that the available references do not contain the needed information. The writer must read quickly each references and the reading may end up into nothing valuable at all. If that is the case, the writer must go on hunting for other references

- Note-taking from the available references

This step is also important. What and which to take into notes will be a matter of trial and error to mention the adequacy of the notes.

- Picking quotation is the guidance in the formulated problem limitation.

This means that the problem must be made more operational so that the writer can pick the right quotations. It is not only the matter of the quotations, but also they are adequate to analyze irony.

D. Technique of Data Collecting

To collect the data in this research, the writer uses the technique by exploring some literatures which are related to the study (documentary)

E. Technique of Data Processing and Analysis

1. Data Processing

In this study, the writer uses two techniques of data processing, they are:

- Collecting

This process to collect all data that needed in this research

- Classifying

This technique to classify the poem that found based on the kinds of irony.

2. Data Analysis

Before all of the collecting data have been reported, the writer analyzed them. The writer's analyze irony from the poems. The analysis helps the writer's to highlight some important conclusions of this research.

F. Research Procedure

Some steps that are passed through in this research are as follows:

1. Preliminary step

- a. To read the relevant literature.
- b. To discuss the result of the previous with the writer's academic advisor.
- c. To make a research design proposal to be submitted to the Tarbiyah Thesis Bureau to have approval.

2. Preparatory step

- a. To hold a seminar on the research design proposal.
- b. To ask dean of Tarbiyah Faculty for written mandate to conduct the research.
- c. To make the instrument of data collecting.

3. Research step

- a. To collect all the needed data from the source by using some techniques of data collecting.
- b. To process the data in the procedural way, then to analyze them properly.

F. Definition of Key terms

Poetry : Kind of language that says more and says it more intensely than does ordinary language (Perrine, 1974, p. 517)

Analyzing : Oxford dictionary (1995, p. 5) defines analyzing is to examine the nature or structure of something by examining its part, in order to understand or explain it.

Irony : The use of words to convey the opposite of their literal meaning; a statement or situation where the meaning is contradicted by the appearance or presentation of the idea (Bradford, 1961, p. 23).

Edwin A. Robinson : (December 22, 1869 – April 6, 1935) was an American poet who won three Pulitzer Prizes for his work. "Miniver Cheevy" and "Richard Cory" are among the most famous of his brief, dramatic poems. Volumes of

his collected poems were published in 1921 (Pulitzer Prize), 1937, and years after his work fell out of popular and critical fashion, in 1999.