

CHAPTER III
THE ANALYSIS OF IRONY IN
EDWIN ARLINGTON ROBINSON'S POEM

A. Irony used in Edwin Arlington Robinson's Poems

1. The poem "Richard Cory"

The poem "Richard Cory" uses a quatrain stanza form. It means that the stanza comprising four lines of verse with various rhyme patterns. As Kittredge (2010) said that quatrain stanza is one of the most common and popular stanza forms in English poetry. It is a stanza comprising four lines of verse with various rhyme patterns.

"Richard Cory"

Whenever Richard Cory went down town,
We people on the pavement looked at him:
He was a gentleman from sole to crown,
Clean favored, and imperially slim.

And he was always quietly arrayed,
And he was always human when he talked;
But still he fluttered pulses when he said,
"Good-morning," and he glittered when he walked.

And he was rich - yes, richer than a king -
And admirably schooled in every grace;
In fine we thought that he was everything
To make us wish that we were in his place.

So on we worked, and waited for the light,
And went without the meat, and cursed the bread;
And Richard Cory, one calm summer night,
Went home and put a bullet through his head

The poem "Richard Cory" is a very simple poem. Three stanzas describe the subject, Richard Cory, and the one stanza shocks the reader with Cory's suicide. In this poem, the Author reflects his life's experience or his personal history with character of "Richard Cory". "Richard" is a word which suggests the idea of being rich and wealthy. In addition, "Cory" is an extension of the root "core" which suggests the center of one's inner being.

This poem uses situational irony. The functions of irony to deliver his idea and make easier the reader in catching the idea of the poem. The irony in this poem can be found when Cory failed to get the spiritual values. So that he can not survive. Finally he decides to end his live by kill himself.

Richard Cory is a picture of wealthiest man in a town which most people want to be like him. Hence he was isolated from town people because of his wealth.

Whenever Richard Cory went down town,
We people on the pavement looked at him:

In the first stanza the words draw that Cory is separated from the society, in this case the townspeople. The writer can say this statement because if Richard Cory went down town, he must have previously been up town. It indicates a wealthy residential neighborhood, whereas the words "down town" suggest the business district where the people of working class reside. It means, between Richard and the societies are separated by the place where they live.

The life between Cory and the townspeople are very contrast. The distinction is Cory as a wealthy man but the townspeople's life is full of poverty. Richard Cory is a perfect man who has everything. It is explained in line three and four below:

He was a gentleman from sole to crown,
Clean Favored, and imperially slim

And he was always quietly arrayed,
And he was always human when he talked;

In the next stanza (line five and six) give picture of Cory's appearance, in this line shows that Cory is not a king, he is only a human being. The speaker of this poem is careful to make sure his listeners understand that Richard Cory is a really nice guy. He does not behave arrogantly, he speaks to townspeople like another, Cory seems very friendly, affable, happy, just like the common working-class but he is better than them because of his manner, education and wealth. Even though Cory is "quietly arrayed," not arrogant or haughty, and even though he chats like a common guy but he makes townspeople a little nervous when he greets or talks to them. Perhaps it is caused by Cory's manner, attitude and wealth. It is explained in line seven, "And he was always human when he talked", this line explains that Cory assumes the townspeople is like himself. That is one thing that makes Cory different from the townspeople, namely his politely manner and well education. So, that is the reason why the townspeople are little nervous when they talk to him. It can be concluded that politely manner, well education

and wealth will have an effect on the people. One of them is separated from society.

But still he fluttered pulses when he said,
 "Good-morning," and he glittered when he walked

In the next stanza (line seven) the words “But still” explain an ego of a man. The writer can say this statement because in the next line there is a word “Glittered” (line eight) that shows the appearance of a wealthy man in the town who has everything. That is way that makes the people assume that he is like a king who has a manner of a perfect man. So, his appearance is assumed by the writer as an ego in facing townspeople. As a perfect man that has good education and politely manner he should not show his wealth by wearing “glittered” in front of the townspeople that is ordinary and poor because it will make the separation between them.

And he was rich - yes, richer than a king -
 And admirably schooled in every grace;

In this stanza, the speaker tells us that Richard Cory is very rich, but the speaker also exaggerates Cory’s wealth by saying he was “richer than a king”. At this point, the writer can conclude that the speaker really refers to money, not personality and a successful life, because in the next line, the speaker informs us that Cory is educated in every respect. Cory has knowledge and good behavior as well.

In fine, we thought that he was everything
To make us wish that we were in his place

The next lines in third stanza talks about the people wish to be like Cory. “He was everything”, Cory is a lucky person that has wealth and good education. Those are impossible things for common people. It is described in (line twelve) “To make us wish that we were in his place”, the townspeople dream and hope to be a rich man and have many things like Cory.

So on we worked, and waited for the light,
And went without the meat, and cursed the bread,

The first two lines of the last stanza once more demonstrate the differences between the two socio-economic classes or the contrast between the townspeople and Cory. The people still work for a better life, though they never give up and continue to live. They struggle on and on, they strive to get something like him. Not only work hard, but they also sacrifice because they can not buy everything they want, and they complain about the low quality of the things that they can afford.

In the last stanza, the irony can be seen clearly. The expectation of the townspeople to Richard Cory is not realized. The townspeople expect that Richard Cory will be happy with all of thing he has, but finally Richard Cory shocks the townspeople because of his action. He ends his life by kill himself or suicide. So, in this case the townspeople have been deceived by his appearance that is not appropriate with their expectation. The townspeople assume that all of people in

this world that have everything either material or good education or another else can make the life of people happy, but Richard Cory is not. Moreover Cory decides to end his life by kill himself. That is the reason which makes the townspeople shocked with Cory's action.

Explicitly, the poem shows the lack of Cory's spiritual value that makes him end his life. "The light" in line one in the last stanza draws the spiritual value. It is stated that people are looking for that spiritual value but Cory does not. For everybody's life "The light" gives greater meaning but Cory does not realize it. So, because of it Cory does suicide. The spiritual value clarifies in the intent of the poem; it reveals the inner strength of the people and the Cory's inadequacy. The spiritual value is very needed in everybody's life. By having the spiritual value, people can balance his life and they are not easy to do bad thing because it can control the people's life, it can be emotion or something bad. In this case, Cory is lack of spiritual value, so he can not manage his emotion and take over his life.

And Richard Cory, one clam summer night,
Went home and put, a bullet through his head

Finally the writer comes to the last two lines. Richard Cory, the man who has everything, the icon of success and happiness kills himself. He commits suicide in the night, "night" here is considered as peace and calm. The reader here leaves a question about the motive of Cory's suicide. Robinson also hides the real

character of Cory in order to make the reader guess the motive of Cory's suicide. In short, the poem tells the reader about a failure in facing fate in life that is not appropriate between the expectation and the result.

2. The poem "Mr. Flood's Party"

The poem "Mr. Flood Party" uses an ottava rima stanza form. It means that the stanza is build by eight lines. As Kittredege (2010) said that the ottava rima derives from Italian models like the terza rima and the sonnet do, it is a stanza with eight lines rhyming *abababcc*.

"Mr. Flood's Party"

Old Eben Flood, climbing alone one night
 Over the hill between the town below
 And the forsaken upland hermitage
 That held as much as he should ever know
 On earth again of home, paused warily.
 The road was his with not a native near;
 And Eben, having leisure, said aloud,
 For no man else in Tilbury Town to hear:

"Well, Mr. Flood, we have the harvest moon
 Again, and we may not have many more;
 The bird is on the wing, the poet says,
 And you and I have said it here before.
 Drink to the bird." He raised up to the light
 The jug that he had gone so far to fill,
 And answered huskily: "Well, Mr. Flood,
 Since you propose it, I believe I will."

Alone, as if enduring to the end
 A valiant armor of scarred hopes outworn,
 He stood there in the middle of the road
 Like Roland's ghost winding a silent horn.
 Below him, in the town among the trees,
 Where friends of other days had honored him,
 A phantom salutation of the dead
 Rang thinly till old Eben's eyes were dim.

Then, as a mother lays her sleeping child
 Down tenderly, fearing it may awake,
 He set the jug down slowly at his feet
 With trembling care, knowing that most things break;
 And only when assured that on firm earth
 It stood, as the uncertain lives of men
 Assuredly did not, he paced away,
 And with his hand extended paused again:

"Well, Mr. Flood, we have not met like this
 In a long time; and many a change has come
 To both of us, I fear, since last it was
 We had a drop together. Welcome home!"
 Convivially returning with himself,
 Again he raised the jug up to the light;
 And with an acquiescent quaver said:
 "Well, Mr. Flood, if you insist, I might.

"Only a very little, Mr. Flood--
 For auld lang syne. No more, sir; that will do."
 So, for the time, apparently it did,
 And Eben evidently thought so too;
 For soon amid the silver loneliness
 Of night he lifted up his voice and sang,
 Secure, with only two moons listening,
 Until the whole harmonious landscape rang—

"For auld lang syne." The weary throat gave out,
 The last word wavered; and the song being done,
 He raised again the jug regretfully
 And shook his head, and was again alone.
 There was not much that was ahead of him,
 And there was nothing in the town below--
 Where strangers would have shut the many doors
 That many friends had opened long ago

Like in "Richard Cory" the same irony also occurs in "Mr. Flood's party", namely uses situational irony. In Mr. Flood's Party, the loneliness and the weakness in the old age are the main source of his failure in facing life. The weakness is something that is natural and common for the most of old people in

the world. In this poem Eben Flood is an old man who tries to find something in a place that he used to live long time ago.

Old Eben Flood, climbing alone one night
Over the hill between the town below
And the forsaken upland hermitage
That held as much as he should ever know

In the first stanza explains that Eben tries to reach what he wants in his old age. To get it, Eben must face full of challenges, because in his old age he must climb. So, to reach it, is needed more strength. In the poem "Mr. Flood Party", Eben or Mr. Flood is an old man living alone on the outskirts of Tilbury town (line eight) has gone into town to fill his loneliness with liquor.

"Well, Mr. Flood, we have the harvest moon
Again, and we may not have many more;
The bird is on the wing, the poet says,
And you and I have said it here before.
Drink to the bird." He raised up to the light

This stanza is talking about Eben in the first time starts to be a drunker while Eben in his past time was strong with the grace he had. It shows that the life of Eben is contrast between the past time and the present.

Alone, as if enduring to the end
A valiant armor of scarred hopes outworn,
He stood there in the middle of the road
Like Roland's ghost winding a silent horn.
Below him, in the town among the trees,
Where friends of other days had honored him,
A phantom salutation of the dead
Rang thinly till old Eben's eyes were dim.

In the third stanza is perhaps the most important thing in the poem. This stanza describe about Mr. Flood has left of life and does a journey to look for something better in the town and re-evokes his mind to his former friend which honored him in the past time.

Then, as a mother lays her sleeping child
Down tenderly, fearing it may awake,
He set the jug down slowly at his feet
With trembling care, knowing that most things break;

This paragraph explains that Mr. Flood is someone who is very sad. He does not have anyone in his life to be given the kind of affection as like a mother that can not give a kind of affection to her child. And it is pathetic or sad because Mr. Flood only will feel comfort if he comes to the bottle of alcohol. For Eben, the jug needs a special treatment in order to keep the memory of the past as the only things he had.

And only when assured that on firm earth
It stood, as the uncertain lives of men
Assuredly did not, he paced away,
And with his hand extended paused again

Eben assumes that the memories of the past only give him sadness and sorrow. So that he runs drinking to forget it. He should not become a drunker if he could realize that there are a lot of things that can stop him to be a drunker.

Unfortunately it is all too late; Eben finds his new world in a drink and it makes him comfortable with his new world.

"Well, Mr. Flood, we have not met like this
In a long time; and many a change has come
To both of us, I fear, since last it was
We had a drop together. Welcome home!"
Convivially returning with himself,
Again he raised the jug up to the light;
And with an acquiescent quaver said:
"Well, Mr. Flood, if you insist, I might.

Eben has a new world, namely he becomes a drunker since his loneliness. He feels comfortable becoming a drunker because by drinking a lot, he can forget all of thing alone even though no friends at all that accompany him.

In the line six in fifth stanzas explains the reader about the thing that is very important in his life and he can not leave it at all. The thing is a drink. It is as if giving the view that by drinking he can face everything in his life, one of them is loneliness in facing life. On the other hand, if there is no a drink he can not do and face the loneliness in his life.

"Only a very little, Mr. Flood--
For auld lang syne. No more, sir; that will do."
So, for the time, apparently it did,
And Eben evidently thought so too;

The phrase "auld lang syne" above is a song that suggests a moment's re-evocation of better time in the past. It means that by singing this song reminds him in the time where he lived better in the past.

For soon amid the silver loneliness
 Of night he lifted up his voice and sang,
 Secure, with only two moons listening,
 Until the whole harmonious landscape rang--

This paragraph suggest that the song simply represents a moment of heightened experience. Eben tells to the reader about the reason why he becomes a drunker in that stanza, it is caused by the loneliness of his old age, and he drinks in the night because he does not want the entire world know his failure.

"For auld lang syne." The weary throat gave out,
 The last word wavered; and the song being done,
 He raised again the jug regretfully
 And shook his head, and was again alone.

Actually Eben regrets his action in facing the fact his life. Eben realizes that becoming a drunker does not solve the problems. It is done because of his loneliness in old age and no friends at all accompany him, on the contrary in the past he lived better with many friends. So, he keeps drinking only for reminding the memory in the past time.

There was not much that was ahead of him,
 And there was nothing in the town below
 Where strangers would have shut the many doors
 That many friends had opened long ago.

Finally Eben realizes that all he had in the past time now is only a memory to keep. Now, no friends at all that accompany him in facing the life in the old age. So he assumes only a drink that can accompany his loneliness in facing the

life. In short, the irony in “Mr. Flood’s Party” occurs when his expectation to live happy in the old age is not realized. Furthermore he can not face his life in the loneliness because no more friends accompany him. Hence, he feels frustrated and runs to alcohol in order to forget his sadness and loneliness in facing fact in life.

3. The poem “Miniver cheevy”

The poem “Miniver Cheevy” uses a complex quatrain stanza with an alternating rhyme scheme that conveys order and control. He overleaps the constraints of a simple four-beat line with lengthenings — “When swords were bright and steeds were prancing” — and ominous shortenings, “Could he have been one.”

Miniver Cheevy

Miniver Cheevy, child of scorn,
Grew lean while he assailed the seasons;
He wept that he was ever born,
And he had reasons.

Miniver loved the days of old
When swords were bright and steeds were prancing;
The vision of a warrior bold
Would set him dancing.

Miniver sighed for what was not,
And dreamed, and rested from his labors;
He dreamed of Thebes and Camelot,
And Priam’s neighbors.

Miniver mourned the ripe renown
That made so many a name so fragrant;
He mourned Romance, now on the town,
And Art, a vagrant.

Miniver loved the Medici,
 Albeit he had never seen one;
 He would have sinned incessantly
 Could he have been one.

Miniver cursed the commonplace
 And eyed a khaki suit with loathing;
 He missed the mediaeval grace
 Of iron clothing.

Miniver scorned the gold he sought,
 But sore annoyed was he without it;
 Miniver thought, and thought, and thought,
 And thought about it.

Miniver Cheevy, born too late,
 Scratched his head and kept on thinking;
 Miniver coughed, and called it fate,
 And kept on drinking

"Miniver Cheevy" is a poem about a person who is depressed. The main character, Miniver Cheevy, is a man who questions his life. He wants to live, yes, but he wishes he had lived about 400 years earlier than he actually was living. Robinson uses verbal irony to convey the contrast between the life Cheevy wants, and the one he has. This poem is a struggle between Miniver's wanting of a better life, and his acceptance of his fate as a miserable man.

Miniver Cheevy, child of scorn,
 Grew lean while he assailed the seasons;
 He wept that he was ever born,
 And he had reasons

In the first stanza draw that Miniver Cheevy born into hatred, in this case the unsatisfied feeling that Miniver has for his life is not short lived. It is a constant problem implied by seasons being plural. The writer can say this statement because he wished he had never been born, and rightfully so. It showing regret for the lifestyle that he was born into.

Miniver loved the days of old
 When swords were bright and steeds were prancing;
 The vision of a warrior bold
 Would set him dancing

The second and third stanzas introduce Miniver's escape from his hard reality, the romanticized ideal of the knight in shining armor.

Miniver sighed for what was not,
 And dreamed, and rested from his labors;
 He dreamed of Thebes and Camelot,
 And Priam's neighbors.

He realizes it's a dream he can't actually live, "Miniver sighed for what was not / And dreamed, and rested from his labors;" but the daydreams provide him with a pleasant escape from his monotonous daily routine. Miniver feels he would have been better off in Thebes, Camelot or Troy [11&12], though he may have been surprised to find life just as difficult. The verbs Robinson uses through the poem: assailed, wept, sighed, dreamed, rested, and dreamed – suggest that Miniver's real problem may be a lack of work ethic, or motivation.

Miniver mourned the ripe renown
 That made so many a name so fragrant;
 He mourned Romance, now on the town,

And Art, a vagrant

The greatest irony in the poem Miniver Cheevy comes from the phrase 'on the town.' While he is dreaming and fantasizing of a great adventure and heroics, what the truth is is that 'on the town' means he is being supported by the town because he is unsuccessful and considered a loafer. He blames the times for his lack of success, though it is clear he would lack success in any time.

Miniver scorned the gold he sought,
But sore annoyed was he without it;
Miniver thought, and thought, and thought,
And thought about it.

In the last stanza is perhaps the most important thing in the poem. The repetition of the word "thought" four times in one line immediately calls the attention of the reader. Robinson, through this repetition, emphasizes the thinking being done by Miniver, in contrasts with any real doing, any real action. Cheevy so deeply desires this glorious life, but instead of working for it, or doing anything important, he merely thinks about it.

Miniver coughed, and called it fate,
And kept on drinking

Finally the writer comes to the last two lines. Miniver's antagonist, fate, has set him down where he doesn't feel he belongs. Despite Cheevy's passionate dream to amount to something glorious and leave the commonplace behind, he ironically falls into the least glorious and most commonplace role of all, the

drunk. In short, the poem tells the reader about how to handle depressions, but these are not the best ways for people to handle it; it just is what appears in these poems by Edwin Arlington Robinson that makes them real.

4. The poem “Luke Havergal”

The poem “Luke Havergal” uses an ottava rima stanza form. The rhyme scheme in the poem is very reliable and consistent being made of eight lines which rhyme in an *aabbaaaa, ccddcccc* pattern.

LUKE HAVERGAL

Go to the western gate, Luke Havergal,
 There where the vines cling crimson on the wall,
 And in the twilight wait for what will come.
 The leaves will whisper there of her, and some,
 Like flying words, will strike you as they fall;
 But go, and if you listen she will call.
 Go to the western gate, Luke Havergal--
 Luke Havergal.

No, there is not a dawn in eastern skies
 To rift the fiery night that's in your eyes;
 But there, where western glooms are gathering,
 The dark will end the dark, if anything:
 God slays Himself with every leaf that flies,
 And hell is more than half of paradise.
 No, there is not a dawn in eastern skies--
 In eastern skies.

Out of a grave I come to tell you this,
 Out of a grave I come to quench the kiss
 That flames upon your forehead with a glow
 That blinds you to the way that you must go.
 Yes, there is yet one way to where she is,
 Bitter, but one that faith may never miss.
 Out of a grave I come to tell you this--
 To tell you this

There is the western gate, Luke Havergal,
 There are the crimson leaves upon the wall.
 Go, for the winds are tearing them away,--
 Nor think to riddle the dead words they say,
 (Nor any more to feel them as they fall;) [line omitted by Duke]
 But go, and if you trust her she will call.
 There is the western gate, Luke Havergal--
 Luke Havergal

This poem uses situational irony. The function of irony to deliver idea and make easier the reader in catching the idea of poem. The irony in this poem seems as though Havergal is actually so blinded by the love he feels for her that he is actually going through with it. He goes to the western gate of death and expects his beloved to want him now. Havergal decide to kill himself to be with the woman he loves.

Go to the western gate, Luke Havergal,
 There where the vines cling crimson on the wall,
 And in the twilight wait for what will come.
 The leaves will whisper there of her, and some,
 Like flying words, will strike you as they fall;
 But go, and if you listen she will call.
 Go to the western gate, Luke Havergal--
 Luke Havergal

In the first stanza explains Luke Havergal is grieving of his dead love. From the very beginning of the poem it's clear that narrator pushes Luke to the action of going "to the western gate". True meaning of the place becomes clear later in the poem, which it's not an actual gate, but it symbolizes death, the end of life. The sun sits down at the west; therefore it represents the end of the cycle, the

darkness, night and death. And the word “gate” represents the portal, the point of transition, the way to escape from the misery.

No, there is not a dawn in eastern skies
 To rift the fiery night that's in your eyes;
 But there, where western glooms are gathering,
 The dark will end the dark, if anything:
 God slays Himself with every leaf that flies,
 And hell is more than half of paradise.
 No, there is not a dawn in eastern skies--
 In eastern skies

The second stanza is trying to comfort Luke in the decision to kill himself by saying that even “God slays”, and because Luke will definitely go to hell if he kills himself, writer describes hell as not that bad of a place to be. The stanza ends with repeating “not a dawn” line, emphasizing that there is no hope, locking Luke in desperate set of mind.

Out of a grave I come to tell you this,
 Out of a grave I come to quench the kiss
 That flames upon your forehead with a glow
 That blinds you to the way that you must go.
 Yes, there is yet one way to where she is,
 Bitter, but one that faith may never miss.
 Out of a grave I come to tell you this--
 To tell you this.

In the third stanza explains that the speaker is Death, because in the Western culture grave is associated with death and usually Death kisses her chosen ones. By kissing Luke, Death will “flame” his forehead, which implies madness, craziness. Luke will be blinded and led to the wrong path, sinful path,

again suggesting the suicide. Luke will join his love in death and it is a sure way to reconnect with her.

There is the western gate, Luke Havergal,
 There are the crimson leaves upon the wall.
 Go, for the winds are tearing them away,--
 Nor think to riddle the dead words they say,
 (Nor any more to feel them as they fall;) [line omitted by Duke]
 But go, and if you trust her she will call.
 There is the western gate, Luke Havergal--
 Luke Havergal

In the final stanza Death rushes Luke to the action. She hurries him because the fatal western gate with its “crimson leaves” of depression is fading away, as “winds are tearing them away”. Death warns him not to think of anything and lock his senses as any of those actions might change his suicidal mindset. In short, the poem tells the reader about a sorrowful man being lured by a voice from the grave to commit suicide in order to reunite with his dead beloved woman. Although the poem appears to demonstrate belief in life after death, the intense despair of his experience points to a manifestation of yearning for death and failure to bear life in such devastating loneliness.

B. The meaning of Irony in Edwin Arlington Robinson's Poems

1. The poem “Richard Cory”

Robinson uses situational irony in the poem “Richard Cory” with some purposes. One of the purpose is Robinson wants to describe his own failure by using the character of Richard Cory. He also wants the reader know that spiritual values in life is very important. By having the spiritual value, people can balance his life and they are not easy to do bad thing because it can control the people's

life, it can be emotion or something bad. In this case, Cory is lack of spiritual value, so he can not manage his emotion and take over his life. It draws someone that has material but he is lack of spiritual value, it is not enough to make him happy. The spiritual value can be symbolized as a wisdom, insight, goodness and hope. Someone can live happily if there is a balance between material and spiritual. Material can fulfill the needs where it is a concrete thing. Spiritual value can fulfill the inner strength that makes life has a deeper meaning rather than live with a material only. Hence, the fulfillment of the value in life is very important to balance life and make it to be happy and comfortable.

The most important thing, Robinson wants the reader know and take a valuable lesson from “Richard Cory” where there is always a contrast between high and low class in the real life. God creates each person different each other with his or her strength and weakness. In this poem the contrast is between Cory and his wealth and the townspeople with the light (spiritual value) that they have as the strength to live.

In the last stanza, it is stated that although the townspeople are not as lucky as Cory who has wealth and everything, they run their lives as usual in order they can survive though it is hard for them. On the other hand, Cory who has everything and live better than the townspeople, he cannot survive or cannot live because of it; on the contrary the townspeople that only have a little wealth but they have a “light” can survive and control their emotion to do not do like Cory does. Here the reader can understand that the most important thing to be happy is

to keep alive. And to become happy in life is not enough with material or wealth only but it is also needed something more than that, in this case is the spiritual value.

2. The poem “Mr. Flood’s Party”

This poem uses situational irony. The purpose of irony used in Mr. Flood’s party is Robinson wants the reader know the reason why Mr. Flood becomes a drunker. Mr. Flood runs in to alcohol is caused by his misery in facing life and his loneliness in old age. He has no friends at all. The effort of old Eben to look for his former friends in the town is not realized and there is no hope at all to find him. He can only memorize his past and regretting him. So, to forget his dreaming finding his former friend and his better life in the past and also his loneliness in the old age, he runs in to alcohol.

At the end Mr. Flood truly fails in facing his life. To forget it he runs into alcohol. The effect of alcohol makes him talk to himself and talk to other though there is no one hears him. As the result the life of Eben in his old time is full of misery and no friends at all. He cannot have fun anymore with his former friends because the location of his former friend is in long distance and Eben cannot find him because of his weakness in old age, it causes he can only remind the memory of the past with his former friend. From the statement above, it can be concluded that Eben’s expectation to live better by looking for his former friend to accompany his life is not realized because of his weakness in old age and the result Eben can not find his former friend and he is frustrated. He runs to alcohol

to accompany his loneliness but it does not solve the problem. Moreover, he is separated by the society because of his action and he has no friend at all. At the end he regrets his action. In this case his expectation to live better in the old age is not appropriate with the result that makes him sorrow and sad and it can be called irony of situation that everybody can face it in real life.

Finally the Author wants the reader know the valuable lesson that can be taken from the poem "Mr. Flood's party". He wants the reader learn that becoming a drunker is useless because it does not solve the problem. Furthermore it will make the problem bigger than before and bring the regret at the end.

3. The poem "Miniver Cheevy"

This poem uses verbal irony. Irony that is used in "Miniver Cheevy" also has some purpose. In this poem Robinson wants the reader know the reason why Miniver Cheevy chooses his own "fate" by drinking his life away and wallowing in his own self-pity.

Unfortunately, it is the alcohol that destroys his drive and motivation to live within the present time. Miniver Cheevy is a man who dwells on the "what if's" of life. Ironically, Miniver "mourned" to be honored and have fame, yet he lives as "a vagrant." Instead of trying to change his current social and financial status he chooses to intoxicate himself with the unrealistic dreams. Miniver Cheevy escapes the burdens of everyday life by dreaming of bygone days and soothing himself with a bottle of liquor. It is normal, of course, to think about the past; but it is abnormal to dwell on it constantly.

Finally, the author wants the reader know the valuable lesson that can be taken from the “Miniver Cheevy” poem. He wants the reader learn that self-pity is not going to change our lives for the better. we must learn from the past for a better future.

4. The poem “Luke Havergal”

This poem uses situational irony. The purpose of irony used in Luke Havergal to show the reader what is assumed to happen sometimes doesn't. Robinson wants to illustrate the point that Luke Havergal must go beyond the grave (die) to find his desire.

Luke Havergal has lost his lover too death which sets a dark tone and along with powerful imagery and rhyming signifies the end or climax of a plight. Although committing suicide is considered a mortal sin it would send Luke Havergal through the gate to hell with his lover. He is even given reassurance in that “hell is more than half or paradise”. Robinson could have then consider this a successful life mainly because Luke Havergal was willing to give up life in his struggle for what he truly desired.

This poem explains the idea that what one truly desires can only be obtained beyond the grave. Specifically, this poem presents the situation wherein Luke Havergal, the subject and addressee of the poem, is told by someone beyond the grave that death is the only path wherein he can find his true love or desire.

C. Type of Irony mostly found in Edwin Arlington Robinson's poem

After analyzing the four poems of Edwin Arlington Robinson above, it can be concluded that irony mostly found in Edwin Arlington Robinson's poems is situational irony. In this three poems Robinson uses situational irony because he wants his idea is easier to be understood by the readers.

The idea of the two poems is related to human's daily life. "Richard Cory", "Mr. Flood Party", and Luke Havergal are poems that draw the life surround him. The main theme which is used by Robinson from the two poems is the failure of person in facing the life that usually happens in society.