

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents introduction of the research. It consists of five sub-chapters. Firstly, is background informing why the researcher chooses certain topic to be analyzed and how importance the research is. Secondly, statement of problem containing statement and question words of the research that will be answered in this research. Thirdly, purpose of the research presenting the research goal, and significance of the research mentioning benefits of the research. Fourthly is previous study consisting of previous studies.

1.1 Background

Poem is about how someone expresses all his feelings, whether his feeling of sadness, happiness, depression and upset, through a series of words or a dense array. Everyone, surely, has an imprint it in the mind so that it becomes material that can be expressed through the medium of poetry, of course, with the words that can best represent their feelings. Unlike prose or drama, that tends to use language or words in a long narrative, poetry chooses words effectively and efficiently to represent the poem's feelings.

There are many definitions of poetry. But all these poetic sense can be simplified and there are similarities, which is about how to express a feeling that raged in mind. Samuel Taylor Coleridge suggests that poem is the most beautiful words in a beautiful arrangement (Reaske, 1966). Poets choose words exactly and prepared as well as possible, for example, balanced, symmetrical, from one element to the other elements

are closely related, and so on. Meanwhile, Shelley argued that poetry is recording the moments of the most beautiful in life. For example, the events that lead to a very impressive and strong emotion such as happiness, excitement peaked, romance, and even sorrow for the death of a much loved.

Notions above poem are the lines of the poem actually. The elements in the form of emotion, imagination, thoughts, ideas, tone, rhythm, sensory impressions, the wording, the proverb, density, and mixed feelings. One of the key elements to build a poem is the presence of the themes raised by the poet. Themes are closely related to the poetic experience of the poet who then used the object in his poems.. Theme is the central concept developed in a poem. It is the basic idea which the poet is trying to convey and which, accordingly, the poet allows to direct his/her imagery (Reaske, 1996: 42).

Most of the images, in other words, are designed to present the central theme, or main idea, of the poem. The theme is, in another light, the poet's reason for writing the poem in the first place. It is usually an abstract concept which becomes concrete through the idiom and imagery. One theme that is often brought up by a poet in his poem is about a historical event, especially the moments that are considered important cause heartache and anguish for the poet. The poetic experience in the memory be eternal poet and as a part of life eternal poet.

One of the many contemporary poets who wrote the themes of grief and sadness in his poems is Derek Walcott. He is the recipient of the 1992 Nobel Prize for literature, one the world's most prestigious awards. Walcott won the prize on the strength of his many works of poetry and his plays about island life in a post-colonial era. He is the first native Caribbean writer ever to win a Nobel for literature. His poetry confronts his own mixed ethnic legacy--Walcott is of African, Dutch, and English descent--as well as the multi-ethnic character of the West Indies in general. In the 1981 biography of Derek Walcott, Robert D. Hamner wrote:

"Nurtured on oral tales of gods, devils, and cunning tricksters passed down by generations of slaves, Walcott should retell folk stories; and he does. On the other hand, since he has an affinity for and is educated in Western classics, he should retell the traditional

themes of European experience; and he does. As inheritor of two vitally rich cultures, he utilizes one, then the other, and finally creates out of the two his own personal style". (Robert D. Hamner , 1993)

About his work, the poet Joseph Brodsky said, "For almost forty years his throbbing and relentless lines kept arriving in the English language like tidal waves, coagulating into an archipelago of poems without which the map of modern literature would effectively match wallpaper. He gives us more than himself or 'a world'; he gives us a sense of infinity embodied in the language". (Brodsky : 2005)

On poetry, Walcott defines "Poetry, which is perfection's sweat but which must seem as fresh as the raindrops on a statue's brow, combines the natural and the marmoreal; it conjugates both tenses simultaneously: the past and the present, if the past is the sculpture and the present the beads of dew or rain on the forehead of the past. There is the buried language and there is the individual vocabulary, and the process of poetry is one of excavation and of self-discovery." (from the Nobel Lecture, 1992)

Central to Walcott's poetry is an exhilarating tension between two disparate cultural traditions, the Caribbean and the European. Sometimes the two idioms jostle uncomfortably; yet upon occasion they combine with stunning effect to form a brilliant synthesis. Walcott observed: "*My society loves rhetoric, performance, panache, melodrama, carnival, dressing up, playing roles. Thank God I was born in it....*" In his dramatic works, this vivacious island culture, with its historical roots and its political subtexts, takes precedence.

Through his poems, Walcott reveals his feelings of life experiences especially about the sadness of historical background; as the ex-colonized country. He describes of how the sadness of being colonized.

Recognizing Derek Walcott's historical background, so the researcher is

interested to analyze the themes of his poem, especially the theme related to sadness or sorrow described in Walcott poems.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The researcher focuses this analysis into theme within Walcott's Collected Poems 1948-1984, especially the theme of sorrow revealed by Walcott in his poems. Then the researcher will analyzes sadness theme appeared in Walcott Poems. In addition, the researcher will find the most influencing aspect of life in Derek Walcott Poems, by analyzing the historical background of Derek Walcott himself. The researcher will elaborate some focus point in the question below:

1. What sadness found in Derek Walcott poems?
2. How does Derek Walcott reveal his sadness through his poems?

1.3 Purposes and Significances of Research

1.3.1 Purposes of Research

This research is aimed to find the answers for the questions mentioned above as accurately as possible. Thus, the purposes of this research are:

- To know how Derek Walcott reveals his sadness through his poems
- To know what sadness mostly found in Derek Walcott's poems

1.3.2 Significances of Research

Regarding the significance of the research, it is divided into two kinds of significances,

namely academic significance and practical significance. Academically, this research can be used as a reference for students, lecturers, or someone who intend to analyze the ways of Walcott revealing his historical background of sadness through his poems, and also what the most influencing aspect of life on his poems. And practically, this research can be used as the reference for people especially for authors who want know how Derek Walcott write his poems based on the sadness he felt. So, the reader may learn to the way how Walcott write poetry well.

1.4 Previous Studies

On the theme of sadness or about Derek Walcott poem, the researcher found several previous studies in the same field. The first comes from George Benter titled “ *An analysis of Derek Walcott's poem "A Far Cry from Africa" on the influence of colonialism in his language*”, and also from Christopher Benfey that talk about “*Trouble in Paradise Splendor and sadness in Derek Walcott's The Bounty*”. Those previous researches on Walcott’ works mostly talked about Walcott’s poems related to colonialism completely. In this research, the researcher focuses on the how the works of Walcott corelated to his historical background (correlation between intrinsic and extrinsic unsure by Genetic Structuralism of Lucien Goldman especially regarding on the sadness on every Walcott’s poem)

1.5 Definitions of Key Terms

Humanitarian Fact : Humanitarian Fact is all the result of human activity or human behavior, both verbal and physical, w hich seeks to understand by science (Faruk, 1999b: 12). Activity or human behavior should adapt to the life of the surrounding environment. All human activity is a response from the subject of collective or individual in a particular situation is the creation of modifying the existing

situation in order to match the aspirations, so in this case the man has a natural tendency to behave because they have to adjust with the universe and environment. Therefore, the fact of humanity can be individual or social.

Collective Subject : Collective subject is part of humanity than the subject individual facts. Humanitarian facts arise because of human activity as a subject. Author is a subject that lives in the midst of society. Therefore there are facts in the humanitarian community. Collective subject is a collection of individuals who form a unity and its activities.

World View : World View is categorical structure which is thoroughly complex ideas, aspirations, and feelings, which links together the members of a particular social group and defy it with other social groups called worldview.

Understanding-Explanation : Understanding-Explanation is cohesion between structures with each other. Outside elements as well as elements of have the same significance in the building works of literature. Cohesiveness of the two elements gives completeness, that literary works can be seen not only from the (text) literature, but elements forming outside. Literary work trying to uncover the problems facing mankind. The problems that some have been solved and some not found a way out.