

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

Symbol is sign, mark, object, and so on that looked upon as representing something (Hornby, 1987: 876). A rose, for example, may indicate love; a dove refers to the peace, and etc. Furthermore, symbol is a word or something which can be analogized as a related word to (1) the user's interpretation, (2) the rules of usage that depends on the context, and (3) the creation of the meaning given that suitable to user's dimension. The symbol that is included and related to those three aspects is called a symbolic form (Alex Sobur, 2004: 58).

A symbol is anything, which signifies something. In this sense, all words are symbolic, because the more we read and study literature, the more we will come across words that always function symbolically. In discussing literature, the term symbol applies only to word or phrase that signifies an object or event which in its turn signifies something, or has a range of reference, beyond itself (Abrams, 1985: 206).

A symbol is a shorthand way of suggesting an idea. As Heilman says (1980:177) that, "Artful writers use symbols to suggest abstract ideas, not only for their brevity but for the feelings they convey." A symbol is a thing, something concrete; color, natural, phenomena, etc. may be utilized to symbolize women in kinds of literary works.

At the time that Yeats published this collection, Maud Gonne was the major focus of his life. He was deeply in love with her, and although Gonne did not return his romantic sentiments, she remained close friends with him. He saw her often enough to become obsessed with her. Most of the poems in the collection were written for or about Gonne. Maud Gonne is one of the objects that Yeats presents a woman in his poems. Furthermore, the women in Yeats' poems are not only referred to Maud Gonne, but also for other women, until the so-called "mother nature."

Women are chosen as the reference of the symbols in Yeats Poems because in those poems, Yeats always describes a specific woman and he symbolizes it often by "rose". "Rose" in the poems is Maud Gonne's representation who is truly a woman. W.B Yeats poems are chosen also, because the poems have symbolical elements to be analyzed.

From the statement above, the researcher tries to analyze W.B Yeats' poems based on its symbols. Because, the researcher assumes that all poems of W.B Yeats contain symbol that related to woman. Finally, the researcher proposed this research proposal entitled **"Woman Symbolism in W.B Yeats' Poems."**

B. Statement of Problems

The main problem of this research is the searching and the analyzing of symbols that represent women in W.B Yeats Poems. The problems can be formulated into the following questions:

1. What kind of woman symbols in W. B Yeats' poems?
2. What are the meanings of woman symbols in W. B Yeats' poems?
3. What kinds of phases of woman symbols are found in W.B Yeats' poems?

C. Purpose and Significance of Research

The purposes of significance of this research are:

1. To find out kind of woman symbols in W. B Yeats' poems.
2. To analyze the meaning of woman symbolisms in W.B Yeats poems.
3. To explore kinds of phases of woman symbols found in W.B Yeats' poems.

The writer expects this research to be useful and helpful in developing of scientific discourse, either in linguistic field or in literary field. This research is very significant for the writer in special and for the students who studies English literature, as the part of it field can deeply develop about this research in the same problem, and to give the number of references in library about symbolism observation in literary works.

D. Frame of Thinking

Literature cannot be learned directly, that literature is an object, not a subject of study, and that we must learn about it through a conceptual framework or subject, Frye proceeds to offer essays on various aspects of criticism in his “Anatomy of criticism” as a subject (Abrams, 1981:1045). Therefore, in this paper the writer applies Northrop Frye’s phases of symbolism as a grand theory for discussing up the proposed problems. Then, the theory of symbols raised by Northrop Frye is surely reinforced by the other supporting theories on the proposed problems.

When we read a literature we found the word that have more meaning than one meaning (ambiguities). Whatever, is written in the form of a text could be as symbol and it may signify different meaning in every different work. When a word, a phrase, or an image in a work that is possible to be symbols, it encounters a process of constructing meaning and the theme. Because of that reason, Frye divides symbols into four phases: literal and descriptive phase: symbol as motif and as sign, formal phase: symbol as image, mythical phase: symbol as archetype, and anagogic phase: symbol as monad.

Furthermore, the researcher uses the structural analysis method to analyze the problem of these poems. This method is applied to the poems by taking the elements that wanted to be analyzed from the text of the poems, in this case the intrinsic elements of the poems. The research used this method is to analyze the intrinsic rather than the extrinsic. Therefore, for analyzing the symbols of these poems in the research is analyzing the representation of the symbols by relating it

with another intrinsic element, and then interpreting them to Frye's category of symbols.

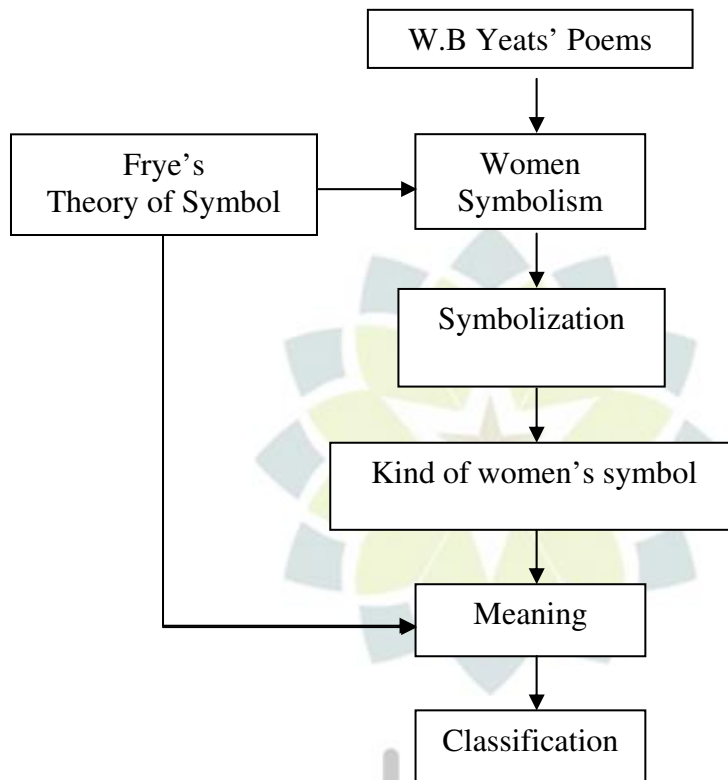


Figure 1. Frame of Thinking

At the first time, the researcher chooses William Butler Yeats' Poems as the object of researcher and then the researcher sees the problem about Women Symbolism. To make the research perfect, the researcher uses theories of Symbol based on Frye, because Frye's theory has connections with this research. Then, the researcher divides the words that show about women symbolism. Then, the researcher will find the meaning. Finally, the researcher classified of woman symbolism based on Frye's theory.

E. Organization of Writing

1. Introduction

This chapter deals with the background of research, statements of problem, research questions, purposes, and significances of research, and organization of writing.

2. Theoretical Review

This chapter reviews theories underlying and supporting the research including: a) the theories of symbol include; theory of symbolism and Frye's theory of symbol, and b) biographical sketch of W,B Yeats, about *review W.B Yeats' Poems*

3. Methodology

This chapter elaborates methodology of this research. It begins with the method of research, the data, sources of data, the technique of collecting data, and ends with the technique of analyzing data.

4. Symbol of Woman in W.B Yeats' Poems

This chapter provides data representation and discussion based on Frye's theory of symbol.

5. Conclusions and Suggestions

This final chapter provides the conclusion of the whole analysis and suggestion for better understanding.