

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a subject taught at English Department of Widya Mandala University. It is one of the most important subjects for literature is an important part of language. Actually, learning literary works as they are given in class is very interesting for literature gives insight, explanation and understanding about human's life.

Learning literature is not only interesting but also important. Perrine (1973:6) claims that literature is an important means of allowing us through our imagination, to live more fully, more deeply, more richly and with greater awareness in two ways. The first way is that it broadens our experience and makes us acquainted with range of experiences which we, in the ordinary course of events, might have no contact. The second way is that it deepens our experience and makes us obtain more understanding about our everyday experiences.

Literature has also much practical knowledge to offer us. As an art of words, it helps us become more sensitive to languages, for both our native language and people's. Being sensitive to our native language means that we have the ability to use words and easily express our own feelings, thoughts and ideas in a better and clearer way. On the other hand, being sensitive to other people's language means that we have the ability to communicate and comprehend other's

language either explicitly or implicitly. This also can be seen in the verbal interactions between characters in a literary work. How they address each other, how they express their own feelings and how they respond, are some examples.

Literature also supports education. Little (1966:1) says that wherever there is education, there will be the study of literature. To help students towards effective expression, there is no such better way than the study of literature for when we see how others have achieved something, we are in much better position to achieve something ourselves. In studying literature, we explore 'the best' in writing and in doing so, learn to think, speak and write more effectively ourselves.

Realizing the importance of learning literature, it is necessary for the readers to have more attention and interest in literary works. There is deep meaning inside the literary works that can be studied briefly since such works are written beautifully to afford pleasure and seek for insight and truth.

Poetry has hyponymic relationship with literature, meaning that poetry is a part of literature. Poetry, prose and drama are co-hyponymic. All of them discuss about human's life. In this study, the writer chooses poetry as the subject of matter of her study. Initially, poetry is like a shrine – box which serves a number of surprising facts – in the sense that poetry is expected to refer to implied meanings from connotative language. It is supported by Graham Little (1960:69) who states that poetry is the most intensely imaginative use of language. Also, poetry talks about experiences of people in a solid and short time, much less than what prose or drama should have. Besides, reading great works of poets are probably good for the spirit and take some pleasure in the experience. It

is also supported by Laurence Perrine (1960:69) who states that poetry, being universal language, has given pleasure to the readers or listeners because they find pleasure and enjoyment in it.

In this study, the writer wants to choose Psalms to be analyzed. For some reasons, Psalms is written by using poetic language. A reader who reads Psalms will find no difference in a way he reads a poem. Besides that, Psalms picture what the poet experiences by expressing his feeling through his words. In addition, Psalms are using simple and beautiful words that are easily understood by many people because they are full of senses and values.

After deciding Psalms to be analyzed, the writer decides to focus her study on imagery and figure of speech. She chooses them because they are the keys to understand certain literary works in this case, Psalms.

In poetry, imagery and figure of speech are mostly used, because they are the keys to understand poetry. Laurence Perrine (1973:55) states that imagery is the first thing that the readers have to consider due to it represents the imagination of sense experience. In a poem, words can express more than a dictionary and grammar can afford because they force the reader to use imagination from concrete words in the poem, into something that he has experienced before or it can be said that the words bring real, concrete life into it; they represent life that the poet wants the reader to experience. Such concrete words are called 'imagery'. Without imagery, a poem will be abstract and, thus, lack its qualities, logical expression. Figure of speech is also important to study the language of poetry. It is a way of saying one thing by referring to its

synonym (Perrine, 1973:65). In other words, figures of speech are imagery in specific ways. By using figures of speech, one can express something unknown through the known.

Based on the above reasons, the writer tries to analyze the imageries and figures of speech found in Psalms of Asaph.

1.2 Statement of the problem

In line with the background of the study, the question investigated by the writer is formulated as follows:

- What imageries are found in Psalms of Asaph?
- What figures of speech are found in Psalms of Asaph?
- What is the meaning of imageries and figures of speech found in Psalms of Asaph?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The study is investigated to answer the above- formulated question as follows:

- To find out the imageries in Psalms of Asaph.
- To find out figures of speech in Psalms of Asaph.
- To find out the meaning of imageries and figures of speech to help the readers in more appreciating the literary work by understanding the language used in Psalms.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is expected to help the readers to appreciate literary works in general by understanding the poetic language, in particular the meaning of imageries and figures of speech used in the works. Hopefully could be useful for the teaching of literature at English department in Widya Mandala University.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The writer would like to limit this study in several ways:

- a. In this case, the writer discusses the imageries and figured of speech found in Psalms of Asaph.
- b. For practical purpose, the writer will take two examples of figure of speech and imagery found in Psalms of Asaph.
- c. The writer will also try to describe the meaning of each imagery and figure of speech.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

The definition of the key terms will be explained by the writer to give general picture of the theories related to this study.

Imagery

Imagery is the use of concrete words to replace the abstract ones in order to enable the reader of a literary work to join in everything experienced by the author (Knickerbockers, 1969).

Figure of Speech

Figure of speech is the use of accurate, specific, informative and concrete words to conjure up a picture (Guth, 1975). This is to about any way of saying something unknown through the known.

Psalms

Psalms is a sacred song, poem or poetical composition used in the praise or worship of the Deity (Merriam, 1986).

1.7 Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction. It deals with the background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, definition of key terms and organization of the study. Chapter II presents the review of related literature. Chapter III is concerned with the methodology of the study. Chapter IV contains the discussion of the findings and the last chapter, Chapter V is the conclusion.