

CHAPTER I

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1.1 Background of the Study

As it is claimed by Beardsley (1956:xxi) that “ literature is not permanently interesting and enduring - but an immense amount of transient writing”, literature is a reflection of the dynamic phenomena of human life throughout time that constantly attract people to not only explore its beauty but also its eternal life essence. Throughout the exploration of verbal, we are lead to be more sensitive , flexible, and logical in our interaction with the real world and this means that we are more ready to face the reality in life.

First, since literature is the art of words, our sensitivity to our own language as well as the others can be deepen (Kennedy, 1990:vii). With it, we are capable of getting into the care of a message even the implicitly stated one and not only the surface.

Furthermore, in our own careers later on, acquiring certain information and skill of the profession do not guarantee our success. It demands also the ability of placing ourselves in other's shoes - to see through another person point of view (Kennedy,1990:vi). Our flexibility in socialization can make us adaptable in various circumstances and in relation with different characters of people; which result in a good social relation with the other co - workers and in general with other human beings. We can acquire this flexibility as literature gives us insights that not only to

assist us to see ourselves, but also it can expand the scope of our knowledge on human motives and feelings (Beardsley,1956:xxxv).

In education field, literature is the only subject for college students that involves both intellect and emotion (De Lisle,1971:ix). This function is made possible as literature evoke a complete, systematically, and unified experience of the real world. Its possession of sound resources which elicit the multiplicity of the meaning, also the emotional attraction that in balance with the logical argument, and finally, the story and description which make it possible for literature to range over the various aspects of human thought, action and feelings (Beardsley,1956:xxxv). Since we are going to be in the field of teaching which deals with human beings with their thoughts, actions, feelings and personalities, literature holds an important role that cannot be overlooked.

Since literature contains valuable messages withdrawn from human experiences, the writer is intrigued to explore and study literature as the writer can expand her perspective toward life through the life philosophy of others which is influenced by their life experiences. Therefore, by studying literature, it is hoped that we can be wiser and mature in facing the world.

Here, poetry as one of the modes in literature besides prose fiction, drama, and essay is chosen as the object of the study. Poetry has been an attraction to both the uneducated and the intelligent in all ages. Not only that it gives pleasure for them, but since it fulfills our spiritual needs in life. The spiritual need is concerned with "the

inner more deeply and fully and with greater awareness, to know the experience of others and to know better our own experience" (Perrine,1956:4).

Poetry is a very interesting object to be studied as despite of its condensed form, it can communicate a message very deeply and complete. Poetry is an utilization of language in an effective way, yet displays the aesthetic aspect as a work of art.

The language of poetry is not employed language in only one dimension like in the informative language, but it is multidimensional language which covers the intellectual dimension, the sensuous dimension, the emotional dimension, and finally the imaginative dimension. The only reason for the existence of this dimension is that poetry deals with the human experience that should be directed to man as a complete unison of intelligence, senses, emotions, and imagination (Perrine,1956:11). The four dimensions especially the extra ones can be achieved through the use of the figurative language or language using figures of speech. Therefore, analyzing the figures of speech in a poetry is one of the steps in comprehending the content of a poem as they cannot be interpreted literally (Perrine,1956:65). That is another reason for a further study of figures of speech is necessary to deepen our understanding about them.

Emily Dickinson is one of the productive English poets with more than five hundreds poems. Her poems are known for the richness of verbal artifacts. Therefore, it is interesting to explore a part of her works that varied also in themes. One of the themes which is dominant is Death which expressed by the author with different figures of speech.

Death is an interesting phenomena to be studied because of its mysterious nature which arises various views both positively and negatively among the society, therefore it is interesting to know the author's views toward Death which are reflected through the figures of speech.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

As the writer analyzed the figures of speech in Emily Dickinson's poems on Death, one problem came up which was:

What figures of speech are used to represent Death in Emily Dickinson's poems ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In giving the answers to the above research question, this study is intended to locate and describe the figures of speech used to represent Death in Emily Dickinson's poems on Death.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is dedicated to the study of discourse especially the written forms in serving the function as the means to express the message of the poet, in this case Emily Dickinson, as an artist who needs to reflect a mirror image of the society through her works. This study contributes also to the study of literature especially poetry concerning its language element related to the figures of speech and specifically to

help the seventh semester students who take the Literary Appreciation subject in understanding the use of the figures of speech in literature as one of the means in delivering the message implicitly and in the other hand presents a masterpiece that worth to be admired.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The writer limited the study on literature by focusing on poetry as one form of the verbal literature besides short story, prose fiction, and drama. The poems are taken from one subject only that is Death in this case the physical one and since there are almost a hundred of Emily Dickinson's poems on this theme; therefore only fifteen of them were chosen to represent the theme. The figures of speech in these poems is the focus of this study as the death theme is expressed through various figures of speech and from different points of view.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Poetry might be defined as a kind of language that says more and says it more intensely than does the ordinary language (Perrine,1956:3).

A figure of speech is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way (Perrine,1956:65).

Figurative language is the use of words in an unusual order or meaning to achieve a new way of describing or expressing something (De Lisle,1971:439).

Death is the end of life (The Merriam Webster Dictionary,1974:189).

1.7 Theoretical Framework

There are three related theories that are used in analyzing the figures of speech in Emily Dickinson's poems, they are:

1.7.1 *Content Analysis*

This analysis theory is used to make this study more specific in its objectives, the data collection and the procedure of analyzing the data and findings, so a systematic and qualitative description of the object of the study can be achieved (Krippendorf, 1980:1).

1.7.2. *Practical Literature Analysis*

To get to the core of the literacy works, this theory is needed (Robert, 1977:7). based on the knowledge of the core, it is expected that a judgment can be made on the literacy work. This is done by analyzing the stylistic features which exist with focusing on the verbal expression that are used.

1.7.3. *Discourse Analysis*

Since a literary study analyzes its object through language so in order to get a maximum result, discourse analysis is needed with the two principles and they are:

- a. The principle of local interpretation which guides the researcher in viewing the written discourse as an extract.
- b. The principle of analogy which guides the researcher in analyzing the relation of each verbal forms to gather the message.

1.8 Organization of the Thesis

In all, this thesis is consisted of five chapters. The first chapter consists of the background, the statement of the problem, the objective, the significance of the study, the theoretical framework, and the organization of the thesis; while the second chapter contains a review of the related literature consisting of the review on the related theories and the review of the previous study. Chapter three of this thesis talks about the research methodology that includes the nature of the study, the source of data, and the procedure of data analysis. Finally in chapter four, the analysis of the data is given and this thesis is ended with the conclusion on the study and some sugesstions in the fifth chapter.