

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

According to Lianawati (2019), literature is a work that is born from a person's feelings in his social life and then arranged systematically and delivered orally and in writing. Literature is an expression, thoughts, feelings and even events that are experienced by creators outlined in the form of literary works. Wicaksono, (2017) states that literary works are written expressions of human and humanitarian problems, about the meaning of life and also human sufferings; then he adds that literary works consist of three genres: poetry, prose and drama. In this study the object of the research is poetry.

Literary works in the form of poetry are the sounds of language (rhyme, rhythm, intonation) and stanza and are characterized by dense language. Based on this explanation, it can be assumed that poetry is a literary work that contains the feelings or thoughts using the choice of words forming the rhythm and rhyme of the words used to produce imagination in a concrete and meaningful way, (Yohanes, 2016)

The object of the research is concerned with a poem, entitled *Ode to a Nightingale* by John Keats'. *Ode to a Nightingale* was composed in spring of 1819 and was published in July, 1819 in an issue of the *Annals of the Fine Arts*. The occasion of the poem is very interesting as reported by Keats' friend Charles Armitage Brown. According to him, this poem was written under a plum tree in the garden of Wentworth Place in Hampstead. Charles brown told the real story of how Keats' composed the poem spontaneously after listening to the nightingale's song.

Brown said, “In the spring of 1819 a nightingale built her nest near my house” that he shared with Keats in that spring. John Keats’ was born in Moorgate, London, on 31 October 1795. He was one of the main figures of the second generation of Romantic poets along with Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley; despite his work only having been in publication for four years before his death. Although his poems were not generally well received by critics during his life, his reputation grew after his death, so that by the end of the 19th century he had become one of the most beloved of all English poets. The poetry of Keats is characterized by sensual imagery, most notably in the series of odes. Today his poems and letters are some of the most popular and most analyzed in English literature.

The poet is an expression of Keats’ feelings that arise in his heart when he hears the melodious chirping of birds. The nightingale’s song moves from the poet to the very depths of his heart and creates the same heartache and numbness caused by drinking hemlock. According to him the bird lives in a beautiful place. When he heard the nightingale’s song, he was captivated by its sweetness and his joy became so great that it turned into a kind of pleasant pain. He was filled with the desire to escape from the world of caring to the world of imagination. In addition, Keats put forward several concept including life, death, disappointment, failure, sadness, grief, time, nature, animals, landscape, trees, flowers, and music. (Mohammad, 2015).

In this study the researcher uses the theory of Wellek & Warren, (2014), concerning intrinsic approach to literary works observing and analyzing the elements in the literary work. These elements are visual aspects which include: typography, stanza, rhythm, rhyme, diction, themes, and images, including figurative language such as metaphors, similes, personification and symbols. The elements of the poem are interrelated and form a unified whole so as to support the meaning.

Romanticism was one of the literary movements that began in the late of 18th century and ended around the middle of the 19th century; although its influence continues to the present time. It is marked by focusing on the individual (the unique perspective of a person that is often guided by irrational and emotional impulses), a respect for nature as a whole, and a celebration of the common man. Romanticism is visible as a reaction to the drastic changes in the society that occurred during this period, including the revolutions that spread like wildfire through the countries like France and the United States, ushering in the grand experiments in democracy (Jena, 2022).

The poem depicts on a speaker standing in an imaginary forest, listening to a beautiful song of the nightingale bird. This provokes a deep and meandering meditation by the speaker on time, death, beauty, nature, and human suffering. At times, the speaker finds comfort in the nightingale's song and at one point even believes that poetry will bring the speaker metaphorically closer to the nightingale. By the end of the poem, the speaker is isolated as the nightingale flies away, and the speaker is unsure of whether the whole experience has been a dream. The main substance of the poem is tied to a concept that human beings have to realize that life goes up and down and every single problem has to be faced. Meanwhile lots of people make a choice on escapism when coming through a conflict. This is a good moral to be gained from the poem.

1.2 Problem of Identification

Based on the descriptions above and aims of the research, there are two questions formulated linked with background of the study.

1. What are the romantic elements found in John Keats' poem *Ode to a Nightingale*?

2. How are the romantic elements revealed in John Keats' poem *Ode to a Nightingale*?

1.3 Objective the Problem

Based on the problem identification above, the objectives are as follows:

1. To identify the romantic elements in John Keats' poem *Ode to a Nightingale*.
2. To analyze the romantic elements in John Keats' poem *Ode to a Nightingale*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The poem could be studied from various angles. A major concern in *Ode to a Nightingale* is Keats' perception of the conflicted nature of human life, the interconnection or mixture of pain and joy, intensity of feeling and numbness or lack of feeling, life and death, mortal and immortal, the actual and the ideal, and separation and connection. Written in the spring of 1819, the poem is inspired by the song of a nightingale building its nest close to the house of a friend of Keats. The bird's song throws Keats' into a sort of trance of tranquil pleasure. Based on this brief note on the poem and the popularity of John Keats as a romantic poet, the research goes to the elements of romanticism: nature, supernaturalism, contemplation, love and beauty

1.5 Significance

This research provides theoretical as well as practical significances. Theoretical, it is hoped that the research can provide an understanding of literary works using the literary theory proposed by Wellek & Warren; then some other respective concepts and theories regarding romanticism could be used as contributions of any research of similar fields. Practically, this research can be used as a reference of learning and understanding morality as a poem also contains

aspect of didacticism. Escapism is not a way out of any problem; a problem is to be faced.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Poetry

Poetry is a literary work in metrical form or patterned language. It can also be said as the art of rhythmical composition, written or spoken, designed to produce pleasure through beautiful, elevated, imaginative, or profound thoughts (Irmawati, 2014).

2.2 Types of Poetry

Poetry is a branch of literature that uses words as a medium of producing illusions and imagination, as well as paintings that use lines and colors in describing the artist's ideas. We can accept the meaning of a poem owing to an illusion of beauty, carried away in a delusion, in line with the beauty of the arrangements of sound elements or creation of ideas.

Some well-known poetry are as follows:

- a. Narrative poetry, poetry which contains a story, with the actor, character, setting, and series of events certain to tell a story. Included in the type of narrative poetry is what is commonly called a ballad, a poem in the form of a story.
- b. Lyric poetry, poetry that contains the poet's individual inner overflows, with all kinds of deposits of experience, attitude, and atmosphere of the mind. This type of poetry is mostly found in the repertoire of modern literature.
- c. Dramatic poetry, one type of poetry that objectively describes a person's behavior, either through action, dialogue, or monologue so that it contains a picture of a particular story. In In this poem, the poet tells about himself or someone else represented through a monologue.

- d. Satirical poetry, poetry that contains satire or criticism about imbalance or irregularity in the life of a group or group public.
- e. Romance, poetry that contains overflowing feelings of someone's love towards the lover.
- f. Elegy, lament poetry that expresses someone's pain.
- g. Hymns, poetry that contains praise to God and expressions of love for the nation or homeland (Aminuddin, 2020).

2.2.1 Ode

Ode becomes the focus or object of the research. In general ode is a subjective poetry, classified into lyrical poetry, originated in Greece and indeed the name is derived from Greek "Aeidein" which means to sing or chant. It is originally invented to make public performance during some occasions like athletic victories, celebration of ancient warrior's and their heroic deeds, etc. Odes are short or sometime long lyrical poems, accompanied by musical instruments to express praise of an individual or an event. Further, Ode has a peculiar structure and expresses the message in formal and ceremonial tone (Udhayakumar, 2021; Salavati, 2015).

In analyzing John Keats' Odes, the writer also applied an approach of expressive theory. The expressive theory is born in English Romantic period which is a reaction against classicism and places individual at the center of art. The theory is closely related to the romantic temperament (Janiswara and Christiawati, 2012).

Romantic period in English Literature is considered a revolutionary time. It brought artistic, intellectual, literary as well as musical movement across Europe. Many renowned poets, novelists, dramatists, writers came out of their shells and contributed their masterpieces to English literature. However, romantic period is mostly influenced by poetry that is called "Age of Poetry". In this period,

Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats, and Byron have significant contributions to make English Literature exist in modern time. All poets from this era believe in individualism and personal experience that they show in their literary pieces. (Canli, 2019)

Romanticism affected arts and culture in general. Its main feature was a reaction against the eighteenth century and the Age of Reason. In fact, "Romanticism", or the "Romantic Movement", was a reaction against the rationalism of the eighteenth century, the view of the physical world increasingly dominated by science, and the mental world by the theories of Locke, and the neoclassicism of the Enlightenment. During the Romantic period changes in various fields took place: in philosophy, politics, religion, literature, painting and music. All these changes were represented, articulated and symbolized by the English Romantic poets (Benin, 2019).

Authors of the Romantic era, William Wordsworth, born in 1770 and died in 1850, is considered as the father of Romantic Movement. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, born in 1772 and died in 1834, was another great poet of Romantic Era. John Keats, born in 1795 and died in 1821, was one of the prominent figures of the second generation of English Romantic poets. P. B. Shelley, born in 1792 and died in 1822, was an English poet and friend of John Keats who contributed in English Romanticism along with John Keats. William Blake, born in 1757 and died in 1827, was highly influential figures in the history of Romantic era. His poetry often accompanied by fantastic imagery (Eldridge, 2014).

2.3 The Elements of Romanticism

‘Romantic’ which comes from English (Romantic) is used in the middle of the 17th century at the time of the romantic triumphs. Romantic words, beside has a

meaning as old romance, also means something that is not real and difficult to obtain in reality because of the adventures which are far away from ordinary life. Romance stories are fun and bring up the fact. However, in the 18th century, romanticism had conceived notions of fictitious or exaggerated aspects. In addition, it is also used in the romance novel or poem that describes a pleasant atmosphere. Furthermore, the romance refers to emotion, as Eldridge (2014). states that in further development, the term romanticism commonly refer the resurrection of progressive thought and emotion, which is never stressed entirely by the rationalism of the 18th century.

Beside that, the people of romantic generally prefer liking towards beauty and sadness which is based on nature. This causes humans to be closer to nature. The most important characteristic of romanticism is the natural goodness of humans, which means that humans will always do well as long as there is no outside influence. If humans make mistakes, then lust must be limited by the mind, but if they do good thing, then it will be influenced by a normal emotion that will lead to the right direction. In addition, it also encourages the romantic individualism to believe that emotions created in man will give identity to the man himself.

The significant elements of romanticism (Wati, 2020) are listed below.

2.3.1 Nature

The romantic poets believe nature is the source of all things. Romantic poets adore and enjoy nature in its different aspects. Romantic poets focus on the spook of nature in art and language and make the observation of dignity through a connection with nature. Keats is one of the greatest fond and swain of nature. He expresses the beauty of both real and artistic forms of nature.

2.3.2 Supernaturalism

Supernaturalism, in general, is anything that goes beyond nature, reasoning, something unexplained by logical grounds. The supernatural beliefs have already existed in many cultures, tradition throughout human history. Supernaturalism, a belief in an otherworldly realm or reality that, in one or another, is commonly associated with forms of religion. Supernaturalism is one of the elements of romanticism that is always discussed through the allusions presented by the romantic authors in their works.

2.3.3. Contemplation

The term "poetic contemplation" signifies the gaze of the mind, which results in the production of poetry. It is another term for the act of literary composition, and it is used here to emphasize that this act of composition is a type of contemplation, that it is a simple gaze which gives emotional expression to thought.

2.3.4. Beauty

For Keats, beauty is Deity, synonymous with truth. A thing of beauty is for him a joy for ever. Beauty is his religion. It is in this pursuit of beauty that he completely forgets himself and the world around him.

2.3.5. Love

The most significant romantic theme is love. The poet describes the character of his love for his beloved. According to the poet, this love is perfect and therefore unattainable. This love is divine but sometimes hopeless too.