

Chapter I: Introduction

Background

Delineate human experience through the emotive, imaginative and creative use of language is one of purposes in creating literary work. In addition, the presence of much aesthetic, intellectual and emotional pleasure will help to convey the intention of literary work into reader's mind. Literary work can convey everything that related to human life. History, tragedy, conflict, social, culture, life, economics, politics, wisdom, feeling or even imagination that never happens can be explain into a literary work (Barry, 2002).

The power of the word in literary work that can explain everything even feeling or imagination was the result of great movement in Europe that known as Romanticism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in revolt against the previous movement known as Neoclassicism. Romanticism provides new vision in art and literature world that carry imagination, emotions and freedom as the focal point of the movement which Victor Hugo called in his phrase as "Liberalism in Literature". Any list of particular characteristics of the literature of romanticism includes subjectivity and an emphasis on individualism, spontaneity, freedom from rules, solitary life rather than life in society, the beliefs that imagination is superior to reason and devotion to beauty, love of and worship of nature, and fascination with the past, especially the myths and mysticism of the middle ages (Morner, Kathleen and Ralph Rausch, 1997).

The spirit of romanticism movement in America proposed by several literary men which one of them is Edgar Allan Poe. Poe showed how the romantic affects the literary style that also has a full stake in his works. As one of many great poets in America who made a long poem ever in his life. His several poems in around 19th century have showed and clearly

depict the involvement of romantic characteristics. One of his works is a poem entitled *Al Araaf*, published in 1829. It was one of his longer poem consist of 422 lines that divided into two parts based on its chronology. The poem is likely a pure product of imagination that tries to depict a high place that draws in his mind. Actually, the high place that Poe's trying to tell in his poem has inspired by a surah of the holy Qur'an called *Al A'raf*. It has been proven by Thomas Ollive Mabbott (1969) an American professor and scholar of literature who did research on Edgar Allan Poe works. He cites a letter from Edgar Allan Poe to Isaac Lea (an American publisher) "*I send you, for your tenderest consideration, a poem... its title is Al Araaf – from the al Araaf of the Arabians, a medium between Heaven and Hell where men suffer no punishment, but yet do not attain that tranquil & even happiness which they supposed to be the characteristic of heavenly enjoyment...* ".

Meanwhile, *Al A'raf* as the seventh Surah of Qur'an that inspired Poe in composing his poem entitled *Al Araaf* sent down for the man since 1400 years ago. It was a surah consisting of 206 verses, which is talking about faith, rules, the duty and rights as a human, several stories of Prophet and about the *Al A'raf* itself. The word *Al A'raf* here means the high place that placed between Heaven and Hell where men who stay there are waiting for placed in both last places.

As the statement above that tell the poem "*Al Araaf*" was essentially inspired by the Qur'an, which historically the work have been built by having a basic vivid about the high place from the Surah *Al A'raf*. Then this research is going to analyze the whole part of the poem (*Al Araaf* by Edgar Allan Poe) to find out the clear description of "High Place" which Poe is trying to describe in every line of his poem. It is because of in writing the poem, Poe basically have the picture of the "High Place" itself from *Al A'raf* (a surah from the Holy Qur'an) that shortly tell us about the "High Place" by its several verses. The picture which

Poe has tried to draw in his poem would be different from what the Qur'an tell about it, it can caused by factors that basically living inside Poe's self which make him draw it in his own version and his own vision. One of the proven that the "High Place" in his Poem affected by his own version is in Mabbot (1969) *I have placed this "Al Aaraaf" in the celebrated star discovered by Tycho Brache that appeared & disappeared so suddenly.*

In order to interpret the poem "Al Aaraaf" to find out the clear description about the "High Place" that have been told by Qur'an since thousand years ago, the presence of Hermeneutic approach and Imagery analysis in this research will help to find it. Hermeneutic approach presents a way to the researcher to have a stake in order to determinate the meaning of the work or in other words called meaning interpretation. The role of reader/researcher in meaning interpretation of a literary work is not totally have a stake but also hand over the external and internal factors of the work itself to have a part in the process of meaning interpretation. According to Ricouer (1981) in his book *Hermeneutics and The Human Science*, he stated that Hermeneutics is the theory of the operation of understanding in their relation to the interpretation of text. Therefore, the use of hermeneutics would be the basic approach in conducted this research.

Furthermore, none of the literary work made without any message, meaning, or even value inside. It has come as the written form of feeling or even experience that could be bring something that author wants to deliver and convince the reader. According to Thornley and Roberts (1984:280) imagery as the use of language to represent objects, actions, feelings, thoughts, ideas, states of mind and any sensory or extra-sensory experiences. The experts believe that every literary work contains things related to human sensory and feelings that made them can give a vivid picture in readers' mind about the work in when they read it.

Hence, the use of hermeneutic to do the structural analysis in in gaining the imagery elements inside the works that would be the primary data for this research.

Research Questions

1. How is the description of “High Place” in Poem Al Aaraaf and Surah Al A’raf?
2. How is the relation of the Poem Al Aaraaf and the Surah Al A’raf?

Research Objective

Based on the problem statement, the research objectives are to find out the description of the “High Place” in both works and to show the relation that being the background of the works in how the Surah Al A’raf inspired the poem Al Aaraaf.

Research Significance

Academically, this research would be one of any useful references for the lecturer, students or even department to enrich the research resources about literary criticism, improve their information about literary criticism, and help them understand in using hermeneutic approach to criticize literary work and interpret it, particularly in a poem. At last, hopes that this research would be one that can be a useful reference for the next researcher who interested in doing research in literature field that needs hermeneutic.