

Chapter I: Introduction

In this chapter there are several sub-topics that will be described. They comprise basic consideration, problem statement, research objective, scope of the study, and significant of the study.

Basic Consideration

There are many definitions of literary works coming from literary experts or critics. Tarigan (2011; p.3) stated that literary works paints life and creates imaginative mind into the shape and structure of the language. The term “Literary” derives from Greek *litariture* or *litteratura* which means writing formed with letter. Literature also divided into several types such as drama, prose, and poem.

A poem is the arrangement of words that contain meaning and musical elements. It can inspire and awe and can be a welcome escape into something that is totally wonderful. Poem can be either rhyming or non-rhyming. It uses symbol and has lines and stanzas that have sentences fragments of sentences or both. Poem contain metaphor and alliteration especially poem for children.

Poem is one of the types of literature that reflects the history of the poet. Sumarjo and Kosim (1986; p.3) stated that literary is an expression of the human in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, enthusiasms, and beliefs in forming concrete imagery that evokes the charm of the language. This perspective means that a literary work is created based on experience of the poet that portrayed by his own language.

In addition, a poem also is a media that used to share feeling, idea and emotion of the poet. A poem is made of the poets through their words choices. Poem contains figurative language, imagery, rhythm and rhyme. The structure of the high art value can be seen from the language and diction used. Wolowsky (2001; p.3) stated that poetry has several of elements, such as words and words order, sound, image which have significant relation. Commonly, poem talks about the experience of the poet which happens around the poet's life. A poem can be used to trace the history based on the time of the poem is made. In order to analyze the history in literary works such as poem, it can be used historical approach.

Historical approach strives to examine literary works within their historical context. In analyzing a text, this approach considers cultural, political and social forces that influenced and reveal through the text. According to Ratna (2013; p.65) historical approach is different with literary history, because historical approach considers to the time when the works were written. Historical approach seeks to understand a literary work by investigating the social, cultural, and intellectual context that produced it a context that necessarily includes the artist's biography and milieu. A historical reading of a literary work begins by exploring the Biography of the writer and conducted to the situation the works were written.

Besides historical approach, this study also used semiotic analysis to find out experiences of Wilfred Owen that he portray in two of his poems. According to pierce (1977) semiotic is the study of sign processes (semiosis), or signification

and communication, sign and symbol, both individually and grouped into sign system. It includes the study of how meaning is constructed and understood. In semiotic analysis, poetry is usually supported by certain element to enrich the meaning and bring the writer's mind to the reader's imagination. The elements in poem called intrinsic elements such as figure of speech, rhyme, rhythm, imagery and tone enrich the meaning and make the readers easily understand what the poet means. The object to be communicated in poem are various such as the experience of life and emotional condition.

One of the best British poets that portrays his experience in World War I is Wilfred Owen. He was born on March 18, 1893, and grew up in British army environment. When he was 18 years old, he became a soldier in World War I. He composed almost all of his poems in slightly over a year, from August 1917 to September 1918. There are only five poems were published in his life time- three in the nation and two appeared anonymously in the hydra, a journal he edited in 1917 when he was a patient at craiglockhart war hospital in Edinburgh. One of the interesting aspects from Owen's poems is obvious portray of World War I in almost of his poems. According to Sassoon (1931) Owen wrote out his personal experience as a soldier and wrote unrivalled power of the physical, moral, and psychological trauma of the First World War.

One of the symbols used by Wilfred Owen to describe his experiences during World War I was the story of "Isaac". In the Bible told that Isaac was the son of Abram that he would slay on a hill, in order to do the god commands (Genesis: 19). Symbol Isaac described by Owen in his poem "parable of the old

men and the young" was a representation of his experience and also young men who at the time were forced to fight on the battlefield.

World War I is a war that entailed several powerful countries in Europe include UK, France, Russian, and Germany. It happened in 1914, and became the large war in history that killed more than 9 million soldiers and 7 million civilians. There are several interesting aspects that could be learned in World War I such as the transformation of the social life in that time. One of the examples of social changes affected the women's role. Most of the men fought in the war and women took over the business and jobs. Women forced to work in industrial outfits and took positions that traditionally held by men because of a revolution in terms of women's empowerment.

Based on description above, this study will analyze two poems of Wilfred Owens. They are *Parable of Old Man and The Young* and *Strange Meeting*. Both of those poems are selected because they have reflection of the poet's life in World War I, and by using historical approach and semiotic, the study will carry out deepest analysis about the experience of Wilfred Owen that portray in his poems.

In analyzing the poems, Semiotic is the first approach that used to analyze symbols that implied by the poet to describe his experiences in World War One. According to Luxemburg (1989; 89) symbolism is a stream of literature that describes the inner experiences, thoughts, emotion through object and words that have reference meaning.

After finding symbol that identified portray the experience of the poet, all symbols then examined by using historical approach. This approach is used to examine the poet's life and the circumstances when the work is create and also to find out the purpose of the poet to portray his experiences in two of his poems.

Problem Statement

Based on the basic consideration, the study focused on answering this question:

What are Wilfred Owen's experiences that reflected in two of his poems?

Research Objective

The aim of the study is to describe more deeply about the experiences of Wilfred Owen that portray in two of his poems such as Parable of Old Man and The Young and Great Meeting. Those poems are the reflection of Owen's experience in World War I, and both of the poems will be analyzed through historical approach and theory of semiotics to find out the trace of poet's experiences.

Scope of Study

Based on the problem above, this study is only focused on analyzing social and politic situation in World War I based on Owen's experiences that portray in his poems.

Significance of the Study

The significant of the study is not only for the researcher but also for the reader to develop and increase their knowledge about literary work particularly poem. In this case, the author as a researcher receives more knowledge about

literary works, because from the analysis of the study, researcher will find out experiences of Wilfred Owen that reflected in his poems.

In addition, this study also helps the reader to add their knowledge about historical aspect that portrays Wilfred Owen's experiences through his poems, include social life, culture, and politics in World War I. However, by conducting this study, the reader also will learn about the historical analysis of poem, such as theoretical used and the methodology of the study.