

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Background of Study

Figurative language is an expression that deviates from everyday language by using comparison, analogy and allusion. Rozakis (1995: 28) defined that “Figurative language is saying one thing in terms of another.” Based on this definition, figurative language means that expressing something in another way to refer one thing by giving the implied meaning. It is often used in literary works to demonstrate the creativity of the author and the beauty of language itself. Besides, it is also one of the ways to interpret the meaning hidden in the literary works.

One of literary works which contains figurative language is poems *The Sick Rose and Ah Sun Flower* included to the collection of *Songs of Innocence and of Experiences* written by William Blake.

William Blake was born in London England in the year 1757. He considered an artist, mystic, and poet. William Blake was among the literati of London’s intellectual circle. He was called eccentric, insane, and or demented. He was not much a commercial success.

William Blake was influenced from the Romantic poets, asking questions of morality. He was also influenced by Raphael and other Venetian masters, when studied painting in Italy. His political and social beliefs were that men and women are equal, and all races are equal. He strived for justice abhorred

oppression in all forms.

William Blake claimed to be medium and prophet that he spoke to God and the angels, plus relatives that were deceased. He focused on the internal life of the imagination. His work was to show the struggle of creative forces struggling oppressive forces such as law and religion. In 1803 William Blake was charged with sedition when Blake expressed his dislike for the King and his law to a soldier. After the ordeal with the charges of treason, he began to work on illustrations for the Book of Revelations in 1805. When William Blake died he was broke and money was borrowed from a patron to bury William Blake in the Non-Conformist Bun hill fields in London. He was later remembered in 1957 in the Poet's corner of Westminster Abbey, London. William Blake beliefs about life and how the ideal life should be could be a significant influence on his poetry. (Robert Silva, 2004, p.3)

The BBC has placed Blake at the number 38 of the 100 Greatest Britons in 2002. Blake was considered mad by contemporaries for his idiosyncratic views, he is held in high regard by later critics for his expressiveness and creativity and for the philosophical by mystical undercurrents within his work.

Many of Blake's best poems are found in two collections: *Songs of Innocence* (1789) to which was added, in 1794, the *Songs of Experience* (unlike the earlier work, never published on its own). The complete 1794 collection was called *Songs of Innocence and Experience Shewing the Two Contrary States of the Human Soul*. Broadly speaking the collections look at human nature and society

in optimistic and pessimistic terms, respectively - and Blake thinks that you need both sides to see the whole truth. Cited in (Andrew Moore, 2002, p.2)

His poetry have been characterized as part of the Romantic Movement and as “Pre-Romantic”. Blake was influenced by the ideals and ambitions of the French and American Revolution. The 19th-century scholar William Rossety characterized him as a “Glorious Luminary” and a man not forestalled by predecessors, nor to be classed with contemporaries, nor to be replaced by known or readily survivable successors”.

Blake composed many great poems in his life since he was a young man. In 37 years old he wrote two popular poems entitled *The Sick Rose* and *Ah Sun Flower* that both published in 1794 as parts of his collection *Songs of Experience* in the sequence of the combined book, *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* at the same year.

The researcher deciphers the poem “The Sick Rose” was confusing and enigmatic poem in the English language" The rose and worm have been considered by critics as "figures of humanity", although the direct equivalence of Man as a worm; when Blake makes this comparison in other places, he is explicit about it. Nevertheless, the "lesson of the worm may be applicable to human experience".

It is very reasonable that the writer choose this poem as one of the research object, moreover it was written by the famous talented poet on earth.

The researcher decided to explore the figurative languages as the object of this research. It is because figurative languages are used by authors in their literary

works, particularly poem. And this is one of the reasons for the use of figurative languages in poetry - to help us understand what we did not know earlier. It is the best way to care for, or shun inanimate objects that we revolve our lives around. It helps us realize the gravity of a situation that needs to be taken care of. A great poet will evoke the precise emotions in you, no questions asked. Which is why personification is so important to poetry. We get to see the world through the eyes of the poet. Analyzing the poem will get you what the poet was thinking when they wrote the poem.

Analyzing the poem is not an easy thing to be completed it should be considered as a scientific research instead of just looking for the meaning beyond the words, it has to use the expert theory, the writer is about to realize that the poems are worth to be analyzed. Both of the poem that the writer want to analyze are truly splendid.

It is very reasonable that the writer chooses William Blake's poems as the object of analysis because the title of the poems have deep meaning and the writer curiosity to analyze the poems, more over Blake was a very famous poet who create many great poems. Another reason is because William Blake's poems entitled "The Sick Rose" is a weird poem, which makes the readers think that the author is a little weird too, the title is "The Sick Rose" but we don't learn a whole lot about the roses. Everyone might see it as a simple poem which talks about the rose who get sick, and a weird worm, but this is more than the general readers can notice, when we face and read it, Blake was an expert of playing the words. The

curiosity is one that encourage the writer to analyze the poem. To pursue the meaning beyond the beautiful words that described by the plants or objects.

The same thing exist in the second poem, the reader might see the sun flower as a woman, but William Blake was not interpreted the sun flower as the reader in common sees it.

Therefore the writer has an inquisitive to discuss and to analyze the figurative languages in *The Sick Rose* and *Ah Sun flower*. The writer also believes that the readers need to understand the meaning and the purpose of the poems, because there are hidden meaning beyond.

Research Questions

Based on the background above, the problems of research can be formulated as follows:

- a. What kinds of figurative language that are in William Blake's poem entitled "The Sick Rose" and "Ah Sun Flower"?
- b. What are the meaning of William Blake's poem entitled "The Sick Rose" and "Ah Sun Flower"?

Objective of Research

Based on the problems formulated above, the objective of this research is as follows:

- a. To identify what kind of the figurative languages that used in William Blake's poem entitled "The Sick Rose" and "Ah Sun Flower".
- b. To explore the meaning in William Blake's poem entitled "The Sick Rose" and "Ah Sun Flower".

Significant of Research

The significant of this research are to enrich semantic studies especially in understanding the form and kinds of figurative languages and also the meaning, especially in poem. The result of this research can be used to provide the knowledge and the additional information for language learners to improve their skill in analyzing the figurative languages, especially in poems. The brilliance of figurative languages come with the thinning of reality and the rise of the imaginary. The best way to turn someone's attention to a topic is to make it more appealing. Figurative languages help us do that. This makes the object more interesting to the reader. Without it, describing one's views on the object will be difficult and bland. It's a literary work from the soul of a writer or a poet. What they felt when they wrote, is what you feel when you read.

Scope of Study

As stated in the objectives of research above, the writer want to identify and describe the figurative languages and also the meaning which are found in William Blake's poems "The Sick Rose" and "Ah Sun Flower". In this research, the writer will analyze the figurative languages that are used in every word in The Sick Rose and Ah Sun Flower poems including the meaning of each line.

Also this research used structuralism approach where this research focuses in the text itself.