

Chapter I

Introduction

Basic Consideration

Theme is a brief “mind’s full” on any particular subject; that is, it presents and consider the subject in several of its various aspects. The theme cannot cover all aspect, as might a book or a long essay. A theme should be a short, accurate, and forceful presentation of ideas or descriptions, well contrived as a totality or unity. A theme should not ramble in anyway, but should be clearly united around a dominating thought or central idea, (Roberts 1973, p.4). In other words, a theme does not summarize a work, but it does reflect what happens in the work.

Theme is the central idea that expressed by literary work. Prose, drama, and poetry are three types of literature that have theme. But in this case I focused to analyze theme in poetry. Poetry is a special kind of writing. In poems the poet organizes the words into lines and patterns. The poet does this in order to make memorable sounds and shapes with language. These sound patterns and word shapes make poets’ ideas unforgettable, because poets want to say original things in original ways; ways which have never been used before (Leng 2002, p.1)

The poet wants to express their feeling, experiences, or whatever happened in her/his life by their language. Other words, the poet want to share their experiences through poems. So that as the reader should know the central idea or theme that the

author express in poetry. James Pickering stated that theme must be simple, objective, and specific. The theme in poetry has to relate with the author and his/her imagination concept, (in Kurniawan 2010, p.16). But to understanding the meaning and to find out the theme in poetry is does not easy. It needs skill, imagination and analyze more the words that used in every lines in poetry.

Based on the explanation above, I want to analyze theme in Anne Bradstreet's poems. Bradstreet was the first poet and first female writer in the British North American Colonies to be published. This statements has supported by Kathryn Vanspanckeren that said American first published poet and book in America, (2008, p.7). Actually, Bradstreet created her poems based on her daily experiences, her love for her children and husband, the beautiful New England landscape. Religion was a dominant poem in her work. Bradstreet wrote many poems that the volume of her poems namely *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America*. She likes to write long poems and religious topic. Most of readers like her written with everyday topic. Besides that, the people like her poems that can give motivations and patient whatever the condition. One of her most famous poems is "To my dear and loving husband":

I prize thy love more than whole Mines of gold
Or all the riches that the East doth hold.
My love is such that Rivers cannot quench,
Nor ought but love from thee give recompetence. (l.5-8)

The orientation above described about love to husband. She compares love that she has that cannot be compared with anything, which it is too strong and too powerful, and cannot be measured. An example she said that love to my husband more than gold anywhere.

Based on the cases above, I concluded that to analyze theme in poems, we should understand the whole stanza of a poem. It means that, we should understand the meaning of every words in a poem. This statement has supported by Tuloli (2000, p.3) “a literary works is not constructed for direct or simple communication purpose, but it should be interpret if we want get its point in the content”. In other words to get the theme in a poems it is not easy to understand. Firstly, we must know more what is theme and how to get it in a poem. Secondly we must understand what the purpose of poem itself. So that, the title I formulated in “*An analysis of theme in Anne Bradstreet’s poems*”.

Problem Statement

The problem statement in this research is “what are the themes in Anne Bradstreet’s poems?”

Objective of Study

The objective of study in this research is to analyze theme in Anne Bradstreet’s poems.

The Scope of Study

In this research, I focused on the kinds of theme those found in Anne Bradstreet's poems. Basically, every poem has a theme, but I just took five of the fifty-nine poems to be analyzed. Because those five poems were the famous poems and from those poems there are many lessons that can be taken like a love that she has to her husband is so deep, patience to face all of conditions and believe to the power of God. The five poems are (1) To my dear and loving husband (2) Contemplation (3) A letter to her husband, absent upon public employment (4) The prologue (5) Deliverance from another sore fit.

Significant of Study

The significance of study in this research are:

1. To enrich reader's knowledge about poetry especially theme
2. To help readers knowledge how to find out theme in a poem.
3. To show that reading and understand a poem is not difficult as people thought.

Reason for Choosing the Topic

The topic of this research is choosing by several reasons, there are as follow:

1. Analyzing theme is helpful to get the aim of a poem. In other words to analyze theme we can know what the poem talk about, which is increase our knowledge about theme itself.

2. Anne Bradstreet is one of well known poet which has written many poems. Besides that, she was a first poet in America; also her works are so inspiring and romantic.
3. Poems of Anne Bradstreet contain a lot of advices that can inspire the readers to be patient to face all of conditions both of in love and grief.

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