

Chapter I

Introduction

Background

Basically, a woman's images in literature could not be separated with literary work and the reality at the time. In Western Europe, 17th -18th century, there was a complex era for intellectual movement, artistic and particularly literature. The increasing of industrial revolution influenced the art, music, literature in the line. Poem became one of the important literary works that described historical phenomenon in that era/time of the literary published. It includes what or how the society faces the woman. Particularly, woman in poets point a view.

This study arises from reading William Wordsworth's Selected poems by S.K Mukherjee (2001) and William Wordsworth Poems, Classic Poetry Series by Poem Hunter-The World's Poetry Archive (2004). Mukherjee presents 23 poems of Wordsworth in his book and Poem Hunter offers 197 poems in the site (includes the poem which Mukherjee presented). They had shown that there are 110 poems of nature, 60 poems describe humanity, 18 poems express the romance, and 9 poems reflect the women. It can be seen as clearly below clearly,

Nature	Humanity	Romance	Women	Total
110	60	18	9	197 poems

Pointing out Wordsworth's works which focus on woman, there is evidence that explain the motive. Based on his biography in Mukherjee (2001),

when Wordsworth settles in London and French, his uncles put pressure on him to enter a profession. But Wordsworth could not choose any profession, and for the next four years he drifted, defying his uncles and disappointing his friends. What he did was for his own purpose worth doing. He went first to London in the spring of 1791, and lived there for a time on a small allowance and with no definite aim. There he filled 'an idler's place'. His relations with London were of a very slight and external kind. He had few acquaintances, and spent by the far larger part of his time wandering about the streets. But his life in London was productive, as two or three noble sonnets and such tender poems as *The Reverie of Poor Susan* testify.

His next step was to go abroad, apparently to learn French and fit himself for a private tutorship. In November 1791, Wordsworth landed in French, and went first to Paris, where he visited the Legislative Assembly. He passed through the revolutionized Paris with satisfaction and sympathy, but with little active emotion and proceeded first to Orleans and then Blois. At Blois, Wordsworth met and fell in love with Anne Vallon, a French girl coming from a family with strong Royalist sympathies. He did not marry her, but she saved him a daughter in December 1792 (Mukherjee, 2001),

What a pathetic life of a famous poet. It had shown that a relationship between William Wordsworth and Anne Vallon. Even though he did not marry Anne Vallon but Wordsworth's evidently inspired by her in composing his works which can be seen in the percentage of group of *women's poem* in previous page. Therefore, this study will explore the images of the women in his poems.

Sharpening the study, the interpretation of women in Wordsworth's poems will be one of the interesting parts to be investigated. This is chosen because of several important reasons. The first is women are great creature. Whoever she is, wherever she goes, whatever she does, and whenever the time shows them may attract people attention. Moreover, when the poets put them with any other characters into their works, it must be good to be criticized. There will be many interpretation based on the data (lines) and fundamental theory.

The second, William Wordsworth is well known as English poet in Eighteenth century. He presented simple and creative expression in his poems. Poetry lovers have known Wordsworth by his ideology of poetry, "*Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling recollected in tranquility*". This study chooses Wordsworth because many people know him as Nature poet. There are several well-known poems of his work of Nature, namely: *Tintern Abbey*, *The Prelude*, and *Daffodils* (Mukhrejee, 2000). However, this study will present to the reader that Wordsworth also has interest of women in his literary works. It had shown it in *A Highland Girl*, *She was a Phantom of Delight*, and *The Solitary Reaper*. Those poems are the main sources of this study.

There are several justifications in choosing *A Highland Girl*, *She was a Phantom of Delight*, and *The Solitary Reaper*, the poems that will be analyzed in this research. Firstly, *A Highland Girl* has the futility of the women which contrasts with the environment as Wordsworth presented. It can be seen at line 30,

"The freedom of a *Mountaineer*" (line 30) – Metaphor

Mountaineer is the person who is good at climbing mountains. However, this people must be a strong man or woman. It is because to claim something high needs more strengthen. In this word, Wordsworth used it to express the personal attitude of the highland girl. She is shy, not stress and also not disponent with her condition therefore she explored her freedom.

Secondly, *She was a Phantom of Delight* shows a beautiful woman imaginatively. One of the examples shows below,

“Her eyes as stars of *Twilight fair*” (line 5) – Simile.

There is a comparison of two entities, *eyes* and *stars of Twilight fair* which lexically different. *Eyes* are bart of body whereas *stars* are little part of the Galaxy that will shine when night (in this case is *Twiligt fair*). The image of woman is figured. Wordsworth wants to tell that the woman’s eyes arsente like the evening stars. Therefore, the stars will not shine brightly in the part of the evening when there will be twilight. Generally, there are not too much stars in the evening or even it is so rarely to find the stars in the twilight. It means, the eyes like the woman’s is difficult to find from the others.

The last is *The Solitary Reaper* which explains the conversation of the poet with nature through the women’s image who as reaper. It indicated in line 2 of this poem

“Yon *solitary Highland Lass!*” (line 2) – Metaphor

Wordsworth tries to explore about the condition of the woman. Therefore, the expression of highland refers to the condition of a solitary woman who gets no more attention from others. Consequently, it will enrich the data of this research.

Hence, *New Criticism* is the approach which is used to analyze the poems. The main reason this uses New Criticism as the “*knife*” to “*dissect*” the poems are because people will know how the poet (William Wordsworth) represents the women in his works as “work”. Therefore, there will be no effect from the extrinsic elements of poems which has been already explained. Moreover, the result of this research will produce the pure literary analysis based on the literary works itself. It will develop the critical analysis of the intrinsic element of the poems which belongs to “*image*”, women’s image. Another reason which emphasizes of using this “*tool*” is to explore the women’s image in Wordsworth’s poem deeply by seeing the use of figurative language inside the poem. Then, the combination of figurative analysis and this approach with theory of image will be sharpening the study.

Research Question

Based on the background of study, this research focus on answering, “How the women’s images reflected in William Wordsworth poems?”.

Aim of Research

The aim of this research is “To find out how the women’s images in William Wordsworth poems.

The Scope of Study

The limitation of the study analysis would be concerned on several aspects. They are (1) Wordsworth's poem, *A Highland Girl, She was a Phantom of Delight, The Solitary Reaper*; (2) New Criticism approach; (3) Componential Analysis as the instrument of study; (4) Intrinsic Elements, which belonged to Figurative language (Simile, Metaphor, Personification, and Hyperbole), Rhyme, (5) Imagery.

Significance of Study

This research is expected to inform the reader about women's image which is presented by William Wordsworth in some of his poems. Hopefully, this research also could give lots of contribution for literary teaching in my Faculty of Letters and Culture particularly in English Department. By exploring the women's image, this study can support language teaching, particularly in literary field. The use of the literary theory as the fundamental theory for the whole of this study also becomes the important consideration which this study focuses on, in this case New Criticism, Componential Analysis, and Figurative Language theories. It can point out what exactly this research is conducting for; moreover it is deepen the readers' thought of literary theory in scientific work.

Hence, it will become one of the references in increasing the literary understanding of poem. Furthermore, this research also might be beneficial for other researchers who will conduct the literary research specifically in poetry.