

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Poetry is one of literature which has beautiful side, like imagery, figure of speech, theme, and sense inside. Poetry is the most perfect and truth of speech. The poets write their experiences of life completely, freely, without feeling pressed by others. The poets combine word by word into sentence, sentences into stanza, stanzas into a beautiful poem. Sutton, Puckett, and Brown stated that:

Poetry is different from other writing. Poetry attempts to put into words feelings and thoughts which are difficult to verbalize. Poetry also attempts to do this in a manner which will make a memorable impression; thus it uses memory jogging devices and aids, such as figure of speech, rhyme, and rhythm. Poetry generally attempts to do these things as economically as possible.¹

The range of poetry is the range of human experience. The contents usually tells about people's feeling, emotion, experience, environment, or just an imaginative brainwork of poets. Little said that: "Poetry is the most intensely emotive of literary forms. It displays that almost indefinable quality of emotional and imaginative impact".²

There are so many kinds of themes of poetry, such as: death, love, religion, humor, etc. Most of poets use love's theme to write poems. Love's themes are also very influence in the outhor's life. It's like Elizabeth Barrett

¹Larry M. Sutton, W. Ronald Puckett, and Dion K. Brown, *Journeys: An Introduction to Literature* (Boston: Holbrook Press, Inc., 1971), p. 249.

²Graham Little, *Approach to Literature* (3rd edition; Australia: Science Press., 1966), p. 162.

Browning which has wrote many poems with love's themes. Her collections in "*Sonnets From the Portuguese*" are consist of poems with love's themes, such as: "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...", "I think of thee!--My thoughts do twine and bud...", "My own Beloved, who hast lifted me...", "A heavy heart, Beloved, have I borne...", "My future will not copy fair my past'..." , etc.

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...", "I think of thee!--My thoughts do twine and bud...", and "My own Beloved, who hast lifted me..."³ are Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poems (1806-1861) that include in 44 collections of "*Sonnets From the Portuguese*" which published in 1850. Elizabeth Barrett was born on March 6th, 1806 in Coxhoe Hall, Durham, England. She started write the poems since 12th years old. She married in 39th years old with Robert Browning, and he gave so many inspirations to Elizabeth Barrett Browning in writing.

These poems has been chosed as the object of this study because it want to depict the love as Elizabeth Barrett Browning means. Besides, these poems have deep meaning and can make the reader going to feel what the poet wrote. The writer sure that this analysis of these poems will give something useful to the reader.

"How do I love thee? Let me count the ways..." tells about love and human feeling to another, and loving someone better after death. As it explains in the last sentencs of it, "...and, if God choose, I shall but love thee better after death". In "I think of thee!--My thoughts do twine and bud..." animates love and thoughts through asociacions and comparisons with plant life. And "My own

³Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Sonnets From the Portuguese* (Florence: Browning's Courtship, 1850), sonnet XLIII, XXIX, XXVII.

Beloved, who hast lifted me...” tells that love can make someone feels save, strong, and glad. It also tells that love as strong as Death and retrieves as well.

These poems are tell about love. According to <http://www.iep.utm.edu/l/love.htm> said that: “Love is an emotion that nearly everyone has experienced at some time in their life”.⁴ Some people feel of love when they have become accustomed interact to other people with their emotion.

<Http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love> stated that:

Love is any of a number of emotions and experience related to a sence of strong affection and attachment. Love can refers to a variety of different feelings, states, and attitudes, ranging from generic pleasure to intense interpersonal attraction.⁵

Sometimes love will makes people going crazy but it also will makes people being more patient and calm. More over, if there are more attentions and appreciates each other. Love will create a possitive character such as modesty, resolute, honest, strong, etc. These poems can be interpeted that to love someone we should give our love wholeheartedly and sincere. Sometimes love also better to give than to receive. It also out of logic and make people find difficulty to get the real meaning ao love. <Http://www.touchmaggic.it/very-maggie/molto-maggie-filosofia-amore.html> said that:

Love is not about being content and accepting, love is not about staying silent to avoid discussions. Love is complicity and joy in every moment spend together. Love is what makes the world go round, but people easily lose their way when it comes to heart deals.⁶

⁴<http://www.iep.utm.edu/l/love.htm>

⁵<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Love>

⁶<http://www.touchmaggic.it/very-maggie/molto-maggie-filosofia-amore.html>

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, the problems of this study are:

1. How is love depicted in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem "*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...*"?
2. How is love depicted in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem "*I think of thee!---My thoughts do twine and bud...*"?
3. How is love depicted in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem "*My own Beloved, who hast lifted me...*"?

1.3 Purpose of the Study.

The purposes of the study are:

1. Analyzing love depicted in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem "*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...*".
2. Analyzing love depicted in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem "*I think of thee!---My thoughts do twine and bud...*".
3. Analyzing love depicted in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poem "*My own Beloved, who hast lifted me...*".

1.4 Significance of the Study

Hopefully, by analyzing these poems, this study will enrich the knowledge or experience of the readers, literature's lovers especially poem's lovers. After reading these poems, the reader hopefully will get not only pleasure and enjoyment but also get more point to appreciate and admire the poems, especially on Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poems. It is also expected that the readers will

take the positive point of the content of the poems, and perhaps they will apply it to their own life.

1.5. Limitation of the Problem

This analysis attempts to analyze three of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poems "*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...*", "*I think of thee!---My thoughts do twine and bud...*", and "*My own Beloved, who hast lifted me...*" only. This analysis focusing on love depicted in these poems.

1.6 Methodology

1.6.1 Research Focus

This analysis focuses in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's poems "*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways...*", "*I think of thee!---My thoughts do twine and bud...*", and "*My own Beloved, who hast lifted me...*".

1.6.2 Research Data

1.6.2.1 Main Data

The main sources of this analysis are three of 44 collectios of "*Sonnets From the Portuguese*" which published on 1850 by Browning's Courtship in Florence.

1.6.2.2 Aditonal Data

In doing this study, it has been collected many sources by seeking and reading several books and articles connected with the topic.

1.7 Organization of the Study.

This analysis is divided into four chapters. Chapter I is the introduction that consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, limitation of the problem, methodology, organization of the study, and definition of key term. Chapter II deals with review of related literature that consists of definitions of love, components of love, forms of love, and styles of love. Afterward, chapter III is analyzing of story, then chapter IV is the conclusion. Bibliography and appendixes will be put in the last page of the study.

1.8 Definition of Key Term

- Love is an essential part of our faith.⁷
- Poem is a form of literary art in which language is used for its aesthetic and evocative qualities in addition to, or in lieu of, its apparent meaning.⁸

⁷<http://www.nfie.com/mirza.html>

⁸<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poetry>