

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter consists of the theory that related to symbol and theme. Those theory help to analyze the study about symbolism in the song “If We Hold On Together”, “When You Tell Me That You Love Me”, “Endless Love” by Diana Ross.

#### 2.1 Symbol

Symbolism is derived from a Greek word, *syn* means ‘to gather’ and *ballein* means ‘to throw’. Thus, symbolism means ‘to throw together’. In literary work, a symbol pulls or draw together a specific thing with ideas, values, persons, or way of live, in direct relationship that otherwise would not be apparent. When symbols are introduced, like key opening a lock, it signifies specific combination attitudes, a sustained constancy of meaning, and the potential for wide-ranging application (Robert and Jacobs, 1989:326).

Symbol as something that stands for something else is a mean to communicate effect or meaning. According to them, a complex of emotional experience is a symbol. And the power of symbol is to a rise the deep emotional self, and the dynamic self, beyond comprehension. It takes a century to create a significance symbol. Some images could be a symbol, it embedded in the soul and ready to start alive when touched, carried on the human consciousness for centuries. When men become unresponsive and half dead, symbols die.

According to Abrams, symbol is applied only to a word or phrase that signifies an object or event which in turn signifies something or has a range of reference beyond itself (1999:311). In poems, symbol has its own objective to convey what the poems writer wants to say the reader. Symbol is kind of way used by the poet through limited space and symbol if the right means to deliberate it with precise meaning.

In an introduction to the interpretation of literature by Beebe, Lawrence states that, “symbol are organic units of consciousness with life of their own, and you can never explain them away because their value is dynamic, emotional, belonging to the sense consciousness of the body and soul, and not simply mental (1953:39)”. Symbol the part of a complex of emotional experience and have the power to arouse the deep emotional self, and the dynamic self, beyond comprehension.

Walcott (1953:39) states that symbol is creating patterns of thought and emotion that is not previously exist and of communicating what had previously been ineffable. In here, the readers also participate in the artist’s perception and creation.

DiYanni states that, “symbol is any object or action that means more than itself, any object or action that represents something beyond itself (1994:419)”. For example, a rose can represent beauty or love or transience and a tree may represent a family’s root and that symbol whether an object and action or a gesture is controlled by its context. How then do we know if a poetic detail is symbolic? How do we decide whether to leap beyond the poem’s literal detail into a symbolic interpretation? There are no simple answers to these questions. To interpretation connections we make in reading, the decision to view

something as symbolic depends partly on our skill in reading and partly on whether the poetic context invites and rewards a symbolic reading. There will be occasions when we are not certain that a poem is symbolic. And there will be times when, though we are fairly confident that certain details are symbolic, we are not confident about what they symbolize. Such uncertainty is due largely to the nature of interpretive complications are also due to the differences in complexity and variability with which poets use symbols. According to Alterbernd (1963:73) “a symbol is anything that stands for something else”. The symbol usually stands for several things, which may or may not be related. While we can identify the several referents of symbol, we can’t wholly elucidate its complex meaning, so that to an extent the symbol is the only way of expressing what it symbolize. Further, Perrine states that, “symbol is something that means more than what it is. It is an object, a person, a situation, an action, or some other item that has a literal meaning in the story but suggests or represents other meanings as well (1970:227)”. Obviously explained by Perrine above the usage of symbol in literary works, which is not only to suggest things, but it is used as tools to show beyond the literal meanings. A symbol is way of telling reader something without having to come right out and state directly.

The ability to interpret symbols is nevertheless essential for a full understanding of literature. There are several things used in understanding the meaning of symbols; first, to be called a symbol an item must suggest a meaning different from actual meaning or from its literal meaning. Second, the meaning of literary symbols must be established and supported by the entire context of the story. The symbol has its meaning in the story, not

outside it. Third, the story itself must furnish a clue that a detail is to be taken symbolically.

Kennedy states, "... a symbol: a visible object or action that suggests some further meaning in addition to itself (2005:641)". Every object or act must consist with further purpose beyond its original meaning in order to convey the writer's goal in deliberate the explanation to the reader with an attractive style of language.

Abrams states that in the broadest sense, symbol is anything which signifies something else, in this sense all words are symbols (1999:311). The theories above are used as means as in searching the symbol and transforming the symbols into understandable language for the reader. The writer assumes that Diana Ross songs are rich with meaning full symbols.

## **2.2 Type of Symbols**

Hurtik and Yarber (1971:143) classes symbol into two groups; they are traditional symbol or conventional symbol and contextual symbol.

The first group is traditional symbol. It is a symbol which carries and accepted meaning and has specific and singular denotation. For example, the water which is substance in the sacrament of baptism, is acknowledgment to be the symbol of life; or desert, it has specific meaning of spiritual emptiness, death, hopelessness. Other example are the season, day and night, light, mountain, valley, sun and rain, and the other such elements of nature are universally used to represent birth, death, aging, good, evil and so

forth. These types of symbols are embodied ideas or emotion that the writer and the reader share in common as a result of their social and culture heritage.

The second group is contextual symbol. Contextual symbols are those symbols whose meaning is determined within the context of the story in which they appear. It means that the symbols have different meaning depend on the context. It can be happened because some authors or writer create their own set of symbols whose significance is developed by and limited to one particular story. Thus, the meaning of the symbols which are used in a story based on the author's perception.

Since a symbol has deeper and larger meaning than itself, it is not easy to understand a symbol. It needs not only intellectuality, but also instinctive feeling and sensitivity. It is difficult to understand a symbol if the reader read it without using his feeling. Intelligence is importance role to understand the surface meaning of symbol, while sensitivity helps the reader understand the deeper meaning of the symbol.

### **2.3 The Method of Symbol**

According to Perrine, a literal symbol is something that means mean more than what it means. Literary symbols are to be distinguished from arbitrary symbols, like letters of alphabet, numbers and algebraic signs, which have no meaning in and of themselves but which mean only something else, not something more than what they are. It means that it is something which is itself and yet stands for suggests or means something else. It is an imaginative that evokes an objective, concrete reality and has that reality suggest another level of meaning (1984:172).

Symbols are fit into literal context that their symbolic value is not at be first apparent expect to the most perceptive reader. In this case, the symbols support and add to the meaning. Therefore, we made imaginative development to get the interpretation symbols in a lyric of song that is result idealization form of human about reality and the true life in society.