

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **1.1 Background of the Research**

Poetry is one of literary works that have special values than the other works, because inside the word in poetry there is language that says more and says it more intensely than ordinary language (Perrine and Thomas, 1992: 3). It means the language in the poem needs more analysis. Every word in the poem has more meanings. So in the poem is usually used various languages to enrich the meaning.

The study about language is called Linguistics. Linguistics is scientific study deals with language and the only academic discipline that deals with language alone and is concerned (Matthews, 1997:vii). One kind of the study in linguistics which concern with meaning is called Semantic. Semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, or sentences in the language or semantics is the study of linguistic meaning (Leech, 1981:2).

There are two varieties of meaning in Semantics, linguistic meaning and speaker meaning. According to Leech, the linguistic meaning of an expression is simply the meaning or meanings of that expression in some form of language while speaker meaning is what a speaker means in producing an utterance (1981:8). Speaker meaning is divided in two different types, literal meaning and non literal meaning. Literal meaning based on the real or lexical meaning of utterance. We can find this meaning in the dictionary, for examples:

1. I am a smart student.

2. They are university students.

3. She is beautiful.

All the sentences above have literal meaning as long as the speakers mean lexically in all utterances. The first sentence means that “I” is smart, or clever, has a good knowledge, it also shows an ability in study. The second sentence means that “they” are university students, a group of person who study in university. While the third sentence means that “she” is beautiful, or gergeous, has a good face. In daily activity, a speaker does not always speak literally and means what his words mean easily, but sometimes the speaker speaks non literally to tell the listener another meaning of his word and his purpose. So non literal meaning is very important to understand and to avoid misunderstanding of the meaning between speaker and listener.

As the product of language, people also use language to write letters, novels, drama, short stories, song lyrics, poems, etc. According to Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, poem is a piece of writing in which the words are combined in separate lines, often ending in rhyme, and are chosen for their sound, their images of mind and ideas they suggest (2008). The language of poetry is needed in making literary work, especially poem. They are diction, imagery, figurative language, rhetorical device, and metaphor that is included to figurative languages.

According to Matthews, Metaphor is one part of figurative language which is the most common and widely used. It is an implicit comparison in which the intended idea is compared with another idea through a similarity or likeness of characteristics, qualities or attributes between the two ideas and he defined

metaphor as a figure of speech which a word or expression is normally used for one kind of object, action, and extended to another (1997:224).

Metaphorical mappings is used to find the concept of metaphor. Lakoff said that metaphorical mapping is the preservation the cognitive topology (that is, the image-schema structure) of the source domain, in a way consistent with the inherent structure of the target domain (1992:10).

According to Lakoff dan Johnson (1980), Metaphor is principally a way of conceiving of one thing in terms of another, and its primary function is understanding. Metaphor expression like "*Time is Money*", is an example based on similarity in which *Time* and *Money* are two things that are obviously different, but *Time* is referred as a precious commodity that can be conceptualized with *Money*. Holman also said that Metaphor is an implied analogy which imaginatively identifies one object with another and describes to the first one or more of the qualities of the second one with emotional or imaginative qualities associated with the second (1978:313).

A poet usually uses figurative language such as metaphor to make a message in poem well. The metaphor enriches the meaning of the poem which make the reader interested to imagine and understand the meaning of the poem. Maya Angelou as the poet do the same thing. She uses a kind of figurative language, it is metaphor in her poems. Maya Angelou was an author of poetry and scenarios, orator and actress of African-Americans. She was a female African-American first asked to read a poem of her work in the inaugural president of the United States in 1993. She had bad experiences about racial inequality and

discrimination and gives an illustration of the difference between the black race and the white race in her era in her poems.

In this research, the researcher is interested to analyze the metaphors that are found in poem. Poem is defined as a piece of writing in which the words are chosen for their sound and the images they suggest, not just for their obvious meaning (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 2010/2012). A poem is a media for a poet to express feeling and imagination based on condition of a poet's life. There are many things that the poet wants to send message in the poetic words that have deep meaning. Most of ideas were taken by a poet is about happiness, sadness, beautiful things, etc. Those themes interpret everything happened at the time.

*Caged Bird* by Maya Angelou was first published in her book, "*Shaker, Why Don't You Sing?*" in 1983. The poem is a metaphor illustrating the differences between African-Americans and Whites during the civil rights era in 1965-1999. The civil rights era act of 1964 discrimination in a wide of social environment (Maloney, 2002). The author was a woman of black races who grew up in America during this era, she was expressing her experiences and feelings about the discrimination that she faced during her life. Her first autobiography published in 1970 is titled, "*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*"

*Still I Rise* is the one poem of Maya Angelou that shows her identity that she is the black woman. This poem published on 1978 is about the black woman who lives among whites. Maya Angelou is one of the most celebrated American Poets of our time. Born in 1928, and she also ever experienced a racial inequality and discrimination, she dedicated her life to struggling for racial equality for the

African American because during in twentieth century the African American still experienced a racial inequality and discrimination although in ninetieth century black races were freed from slavery and began to enjoy their rights as citizens (Maloney, 2002). Her confident is influenced by Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In this poem, Angelou gives the motivation to the African-American who faced the discrimination experience.

The researcher decides to analyze about metaphor in Maya Angelou's selected poems which have the same theme of racial inequality and discrimination. Hopefully, this research used theory of metaphor will give contribution in linguistic especially in figurative language or non-literal meaning.

### **1.2 Research Question :**

According to the background of the research about metaphor, the research questions of the analysis are formulated as follows :

- 1.2.1 What are the kinds of metaphor that find in Maya Angelou's selected poems?
- 1.2.2 Why does Maya Angelou use metaphor in her poems?
- 1.2.3 How do the metaphor convey the interpretation of Maya Angelou's selected poems?

### **1.3 Objective of the Research**

The purpose of this research is intended to achieve some objectives, as follows :

- 1.3.1 To find out the kinds of metaphor that are used in Maya Angelou's selected poems.

1.3.2 To know the reasons why does Maya Angelou use metaphor in her poems.

1.3.3 To interpret the meaning of the poems conveyed by using metaphor in the poems.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Research**

This research concerns about the study of metaphor in the poem. Theoretically the result of this research can give explanation about how useful the metaphor convey the meaning in the poem. In addition, it is also hoped that this research can be useful for the readers easily in understanding the form and the meaning conveyed by metaphors in Maya Angelou's selected poems. The writer hopes that this research can be useful for linguistic development, especially for study of meaning related to metaphor. Beside that, it can be useful for other readers who want to use metaphor in their research.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Research**

The scope of this research is literary work that focused on the metaphors which used in Maya Angelou's *Caged Bird* and *Still I Rise* poems and describes the meaning on those poems. Furthermore, to complete the analysis, the descriptions of the meaning on those poems are based on dictionary, explication of the poems and Maya's biography.

#### **1.6 Definitions of Key Terms**

##### 1.6.1 Poetry

Poetry is the form of literature that used as language and almost ancient. As a life's communication, poetry describes or express something from people's feeling and history by figure of speech. According to

Hoeper and Pickering said that “A poem is composition that makes you think about words and their arrangement. The poet must write carefully reflectively in order to find words that not only fulfill the demands of meter and rhyme, but also express the meaning in a manner that complements the imagery and tone of the rest of the poem.” (1990:23)

### 1.6.2 Figure of Speech

Figure of speech is the various uses of language which depart from customary construction, order, or significance in order to give a special effect or meaning (Holman, 1978:224)

### 1.6.3 Metaphor

Metaphor is an implied simile which comparison between two unlike objects. It does not like the simile, state one thing is like another or acts as another, but takes that for granted and proceeds as if two things were one. It is made more vivid by transferring to it the name or attributes of some other objects (Wren and Martin, 1990:360).

### 1.6.4 Semiotic

Semiotic is the study of signs and symbols and their meaning and the use, especially in the writing, or method to analyze the sign. Semiotics involves the study not only of what we refer to as ‘sign’ in everyday speech, but of only anything which ‘stands for’ something else. In a semiotic sense, signs take the form of words, images, sounds, gestures and objects. They study how meanings are made and how reality is represented. Semiotics is concerned with meaning-making and

representation in many forms, perhaps most obviously in the form of ‘text’ and ‘media’ (Chandler, 2002:2).

### **1.7 Organization of the Research**

This research is divided into five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction which consist of the background of the research, research question, objective of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, definitions of key terms, and organization of the research. Chapter two is theoretical review that consists of the theory used in this research. Chapter three is method of the research consists of research design, theorytical approaches, source of data, data, data collection, and data analysis. Chapter four is about the findings of analysis and discussion. The last chapter in this research, chapter five is the conclusion and the result of the research.