

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

In this chapter concerns with some theories related to the research problem.

#### **2.1 Poetry**

In this world, many language which can be mentioned but just poetry can unite us from other country and different culture. Poetry and literature can not separate each other. Through the verses from poetry we can learn about the meaning of life. C. Hugh Holman & William Harmon (1986 : 341) states

Poetry is a term applied to many forms in which human beings have given rhythmic expression to their most imaginative and intense perceptions of the world, themselves, and the relation of the two. Poetry deals with emotion as they are aroused by some scene, experience, attachment. Another key to the content of poetry can be found in beauty. All a poets will agree to this element although by no means will all agree as to what is beautiful.

#### **2.2 Figures of Speech**

All words expressed idea and feelings, The English language contains a wide range of words from which to choose for almost every thought, and there are also numerous plans or methods of arrangement of these words, called "Poetic Devices". A figure of speech is a use of a word diverging from it is usual meaning or a special repetition, arrangement or omission of words with literal meaning or a phrase with a specialized meaning not based on the literal meaning of the words in it. Some critics and teachers object to this list, but it has it is uses in drawing attention to some of the ways in which words work (Graham Little, 1996 : 163).

There are some of figure of speech in this study, they are:

### 2.2.1 Antithesis

A figure of speech characterized by strongly contrasting words, clauses, sentences or idea. Antithesis is balancing of contrasts in words or idea.

For example: To err is human; to forgive, divine – *Pope, Essay* To reign is worth ambition, though in hell: Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven. – *Milton, paradise lost* (Smithberger; 1931 :154)

### 2.2.2 Alliteration

According to Brogan and Primenger (1993: 36) alliteration is repetition of sounds of an initial consonant or consonant cluster in stressed syllables close enough to each other for the ear to be effected. The term is sometimes also used for the repetition of an initial consonant in unstressed syllables as in Poe's "lost Lenore", where the weak second *l* affects the ear less than the long *o* followed by *r*, but this less direct patterning is arguably not of the same class as stress enhanced.

### 2.2.3 Irony

According to C. Hugh Holman (1986 : 236) states irony is figure of speech in which the actual intent is expressed in words that carry the opposite meaning. Irony is likely to be confused with SARCASM, but it differs from SARCASM in that is usually lighter' less harsh in its wording, though in effect probably more cutting because of its indirectness. Its presence is marked by a sort of grim HUMOR and "unemotional

detachment” on the part of the writer, a coolness in expression at a time when the writer’s emotions appear to be really heated.

#### **2.2.4 Metaphor**

Reaske (1966 : 37) states metaphor is the figure of speech which compress one thing to another directly. Usually a metaphor is created through the use of some form of the verb “to be” for instance, if we say “Life is a hungry animal” , hungry animal has become a metaphor for a life. If a poet writes “my love is a bird, flying in all directions”. The bird has become a metaphor of poet’s love.

#### **2.2.5 Paradox**

C. Hugh Holman and William Harmon(1980:357) states paradox is a rhetorical devices used to attract attention, to secure emphasis. As we approach the conceptual limits of discourse-as commonly happens in philosophy and theology-language seem to rely increasingly on paradox.

#### **2.2.6 Simile**

Brogan and Primenger (1993 : 1149) states simile a figure of speech most conservatively defined as an explicit comparison using “like” or “as” – eg. “black, naked woman with neck / wound round and round with wire / like the necks of light bulb” (Elizabeth). The function of comparison is to reveal an unexpected likeness between two seemingly disparate things, in this case the reduction of tribal African women to object in a certain cultural context, just as light bulbs are object in ironically similar.

### 2.2.7 Personification

Lynn (1969 : 13) states another figure somewhat similar to metaphor is personification. Here abstraction is endowed with the qualities of a human being in such a way as to render a normally disembodied idea dramatically effective.

### 2.2.8 Anaphora

Anaphora is one of the devices of repetition, in which the same expression (word or words) is repeated at the beginning of two or more lines, clauses or sentences. It is one of the most obvious of the devices used in poetry of Walt Whitman as these opening lines from one of his poems show:

As I ebb'd with the ocean of live,  
As I wended the shores I know,  
As I walk'd where the ripples continually wash you  
Paumanok.

(C. Hugh Holman & William Harmon; 1980 : 21)

### 2.2.9 Assonance

Assonance is similar vowel sounds in stressed syllables that end with different consonant sound. *Assonance* differs from **RHYME** in that **RHYME** is a similarity of vowel and consonant. “lake” and “fake” demonstrate RHYME; “lake” and “fate” *assonance*.

*Assonance* is a common substitution for **END RHYME** in the popular **BALLAD**, as in these lines from “The Twa Corbies”:

-In behind you auld fail dyke,

I wot there lies a new-slain Knight.

(C. Hugh Holman & William Harmon; 1980 : 41)

### **2.2.10 Synecdoche**

Synecdoche in which a part signifies the whole or the whole signifies the part. In order to be clear, a good synecdoche must be based on an important part of the whole and not a minor part and usually, the part selected to stand for the whole must be one directly associated with the subject under discussion. Thus, under the first restriction we say “threads” and “wheels” for “clothes” and “car”, and under the second we speak of infantry on the march as foot rather than as hands just as we use hands rather than foot for people who are at work at manual labor. See metonymy.

(C. Hugh Holman & William Harmon; 1980 : 497)

### **2.2.11 Litotes**

Litotes is a form of UNDERSTATEMENT in which a thing is affirmed by stating the negative of its opposite. To say “she was not unmindful” when one means that “she gave careful attention” is to employ litotes. Although a common device in ironic expression, litotes was also one of the characteristic FIGURE OF SPEECH of OLD ENGLISH POETRY.

(Holman & Harmon; 1980:277)

### **2.2.12 Hyperbole**

Hyperbole is figure of speech which conscious exaggeration is used without the intent of literal persuasion. It may be used to heighten effect, or

it may be used to produce comic effect. Macbeth is using hyperbole in the following LINES: No; this my hand will rather the multitudinous seas incarnadine, making the green one red. (Holman & Harmon; 1980 : 246)

### **2.2.13 Symbolism**

Symbolism is an image that expands in meaning through the friction of emphasis until it inflames the imagination. A symbol remains what it is as an image, but it also takes on new and tenuous meanings that cast a flickering, magical glow over the work as a whole. A symbol may be private (it is meaning known only to one person), original (it is meaning defined by its context in a particular work), or original (it is meaning defined by our common culture and heritage). Example: Sword, Heart, Love, Peace (Hooper & Pickering; 1982:76)

## **2.3 Theme of Death in Literature**

What has literature to do with the theme of death? People consider this question is in need of an answer to give knowledge. People realize that every work in literature has a specific theme for making certain the beginning and ending from the story or the poetry, purpose for keeping consistency in every story. (Cuddon; 1992: 913) states the theme of a work is not its subject but rather is a central idea, which may be stated directly or indirectly. For a reader wants to enjoy the poem and we ought to take such people they are never know that poetry has beautiful verses in it, because content of literature makes poetry so beautiful. The relation between literature or as a whole arts and organization theory is manifested clearly in the emerging field of corporate aesthetics. 'Literature' is taken to include oral, dramatic, and broadcast

compositions that may not have been published in written form but which have been (or deserve to be) preserved. (Oxford Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms, New Edition 2001). Life and death are correlative terms. In the realm of relativity can not think, speak and act except by putting one thing in juxtaposition to another. This is the way to understand what is phenomenal. (Singh; 2007 :1 ) states Death is the greatest enigma in life. It has baffled human kind from times out of mind. And yet despite all attempts to solve the mystery, it has remained as mysterious as ever before.

#### **2.4 Theme of Death in Poetry**

Death is a natural part of life, which we will all surely have to face sooner or later. Public awareness of death and the many issues surrounding dying has been heightened. Books, Web sites, conferences, serious radio and television series, films, and support groups have all contributed to a greater openness toward looking into death. There has been a considerable expansion in hospice work and palliative care, and this has been the period during which, in some countries, the whole field of care for the dying has been opened up. Initiatives of many kinds have taken place, inspired by courageous men and women, for whom I have the greatest respect and admiration. The death of the body, particularly of the brain, is then seen as the absolute end of any form of conscious activity. Belief in the posthumous journey of the soul, afterlife, or reincarnation is usually ridiculed as a product of wishful thinking of people who are unable to accept the obvious biological imperative of death, the absolute nature of which has been scientifically proven beyond any reasonable doubt.

This theme poetry is about death. Death is mystery every human, so many verses in poet tells about mystery of death. Poetry is open our mind for knowledge about life, especially of death.( Holman C. Hugh 1985: 341) states A term applied to the many forms in which human beings have given rhythmic expression to their most imaginative and intense perceptions of the world, themselves, and the interrelationship of the two.

### **2.5 Death Theme in Robert Frost's Poems**

Robert Frost is one of the most widely celebrated of American poets as we know that Robert Frost is a famous poet with a lot of literary works that have relationship with nature but the writer choose poetry about death in Robert Frost's poems "Fire and Ice", "In a Disused Graveyard", "The Death of The Hired Man" . So many happens in Frost's live, he creating poetry about death because his wife and his children death. Peter Davison notes the sadness and turmoil Frost experienced in his personal life. Frost "lost two children to death in early childhood, another to insanity, another to death after childbirth, and still another (after the death of [his] wife, Elinor) to suicide". Given the personal tragedies Frost experienced, it seems inevitable that a strain of grief and, perhaps, bitterness would run through his poetry.

### **2.6 Review of Previous Studies**

The writer chooses one thesis discussing about death. The thesis is by Febriyah Puji Indah Rahmawati (2012) with her research "FIGURE OF SPEECH IN EMILY DICKINSON'S POEMS". She analyzed about the death of poem and



the figure of speech in Emily Dickinson's poems. There are kinds of figurative language in Emily Dickonson poem such as Metaphor, Anaphor, Simile, Personification, etc.

This thesis is different from the thesis above, because this thesis analysis about figure of speech and theme death in Robert Frost's poems. Those poems are "Fire and Ice" , "In a Disused Graveyard", "The Death of The Hired Man". The writer finds figure of speech such as Alliteration, Anaphora, Simile, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Synecdoche, Litotes, Antithesis, Irony, Paradox, Symbol, Assonance and explained theme death.