

## **Chapter 1**

### **Introduction**

#### **Basic Consideration**

Literary work is an artistic work that used as a tool to express emotions, to criticize something and to entertain readers. Besides, literary works also provide education to the readers. As the content of the poem contains some information which give knowledge to the reader. It conveys through a beautiful structural of language, while it is also an instrument to deliver ideas in a poem. There are various types of literary works, namely poetry, drama and prose.

Poem can convey about an event that has experienced by the poet, can be used to express someone's feelings when see an event or passing a beautiful day and it also create to criticize a phenomenon that happens in the community. So, the essence of poem is to describe an event happened, such as the poet experienced which conveyed through language explicitly or implicitly.

Sometimes, poet writes a poem in some stanzas which consist of diction, figurative language, rhyme, sense, tone, imagery, and rhythm. The diction is the important element of a poem, as the diction will make it becomes an artistic work. It also can create some figurative languages. In the light of this, figurative language also can be used to convey the meaning in poem and it need diction as the important element in write a poem. Hence, the selection of the types of the figurative language can influence the meaning of a poem.

Implicit meaning in poem make it different with other literary works. In poem, implicit word has a special meaning. This implicit meaning will cause difficulties to the reader in understanding the truth meaning of the poem. It also cause by the reader's ignorance about figurative language. So, before the reader knows the meaning of a poem, they have to find figurative language first and knows the meaning of those figurative language. After that they can get the meaning of the poem that they read.

Figurative language has various types such as metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, and irony. Figurative language is a word or phrase that changes the true meaning of a word or phrase. Katz (1998: 3) states that the creative interplay of language and thought is particularly evident in figurative language. It is known that, figurative language in poem has the same meaning with the language that used in other literary works. Therefore, figurative language makes the ordinary language becomes implicitly.

Figurative language makes poem becomes more imaginatively, gives a beautiful impression in creating it and also a word will have variously meaning, because the figurative language changes the truth meaning of the words. Therefore, if the poet uses figurative language in their poem, one or two words can mean many things. For example, to compare two different things, the poem when tries to use metaphor or simile.

Metaphor is kind of figurative language that compare two different things which have similarities. In a metaphor, a word or expression that in literal usage

denotes one kind of thing is applied to a distinctly different kind of thing, without asserting a comparison. For example, "O my love is a red, red rose" it would have uttered, technically speaking, a metaphor instead of a simile (Abram, 1999:97). It is clear that so important to know the meaning of metaphors in a poem. It will be better if we also know the elements of the metaphor.

Many famous poets use metaphor in their poems. One of the poet who often use metaphor is Robert Frost. Robert Frost is one of the most popular of American poets (Faggen, 2008). Robert Frost was born on March 26, 1874, in San Francisco. He is highly regarded for his realistic depictions of rural life and his command of American colloquial speech. His work frequently employed settings from rural life in New England in the early Twentieth Century, using them to examine complex social and philosophical themes. A popular and Often-quoted poet, Frost was honored frequently during his lifetime, receiving four Pulitzer Prizes for Poetry (Biography Robert Frost <http://www.poemhunter.com/robert-frost/biography/>, available on 20th may 2015 at 9:19 pm).

To express his ideas in poems, Frost uses a lot of figurative language especially metaphor. Faggen (2008: 36) states that Frost interest to metaphor. Frost make a strong and unapologetic case for the importance of metaphor in poetry. It confirms that Frost uses metaphor in his poems. So, when readers read Frost's poems, the reader do not know the truth meaning that implied in the poem. So, the reader have to know what type of figurative language used in the poem and what the meaning of the figurative language.

In order to understand the messages of the poem properly, the reader needs to know a few things such as to get the metaphor, the meaning of the metaphor, and the structure of metaphor. With this comprehensions, the readers can understand the implicit message in the poem. Hence, at this process, reader requires knowledge of how to interpret a metaphor.

However, some reader cannot understand the metaphor in poem. It is because of some factors. One contributing factor is the lack of reader's comprehension about the metaphor itself especially for students of English Department in Universitas Negeri Gorontalo. In the other hand, they have learned the metaphor in the third semester. It means they have passed the poetry subject and they already have understood the metaphor itself. However, the reality shows that there are some students who do not understand how to understand the metaphor itself.

At least, the student who already took the Poetry subject knows that Metaphor is a kind of figurative language. Metaphor creates to compare two different things. As the comparison things, it means that metaphor has the element or things to be compared. These element will make the reader easier to get the meaning of the metaphor. But, if the readers do not know the element of a metaphor, the reader will difficult to get the meaning of metaphor, because these elements consist of what the metaphor talk about and the keyword of how to interpret the meaning of metaphor.

Based on the explanation above, metaphor is a kind of figurative language that has implicit meaning which difficult to be understood if the reader do not read it carefully. Moreover, they will get difficulty to determine the meaning of metaphor, if

they do not understand the metaphor itself. It means the message of the poem cannot be conveyed properly to the reader. The cause are, there are several keywords to find the meaning of the metaphor which writes implicitly. Metaphor compare two different things which have similarities. There are two things that has to consider with. The first is metaphorical meaning. The second thing is the comparison of the metaphorical meaning. They facilitates the reader to find the meaning of a metaphor in Frost's poems. But if the reader is an expert in literary interpretation, these elements become unimportant for them in understanding the metaphor. But for the beginner who do not know these elements, then these elements will be important to consider before doing the interpretation of the meaning of a metaphor.

Based on the explanation before, the researcher will conduct a research about the analysis of metaphor in 5 Frost's poems. The first is finding the structure of the metaphor. After discovering the structure of each metaphor in 5 Frost's poems, the researcher will interpret the meaning of metaphor through the structure that has obtained from previous analyzes. For example, analysis of one metaphor that exists in *"Wind and Window Flower"* is as follows:

The use of metaphor in Frost's poem titled *"Wind and Window Flower"* have seen since the third line of the first stanza. On this line, Frost tries to compare a Girl with a plant. Based on Knowles and Moon theory, the metaphor has ththree elements, namely, tenor, vehicle and ground. So the line of Frost's poem *"She a window flower"* has these elements. The Vehicle on this line is the *"Window Flower"*. Because it is a thing that has a metaphorical meaning of this metaphor. While the Tenor of *"Window*

*Flower*" of this metaphor is the meaning of the Vehicle. "*Window Flower*" means a wonderful and beautiful plants placed at the window of the house, "*Window Flower*" also means that plants adorn in a narrow place with a little amount of land. And the ground of this metaphor is the idea of beauty.

Based on the analysis of the structure of the metaphor before, as in the example "*She a window flower*" the key word is "*Window Flower*" and know well the meaning of the word, it will be easier to interpret the metaphor. Thus, the meaning of "*She a window flower*" is a charming and beautiful girl of a house that loved by someone.

In interpreting the meaning of a metaphor, there will be different perception from some interpreters. In this study, the researcher interprets and analyzes the structure and the meaning of the metaphor from some data that take from the poem that becomes the main data resources as the evidence of the interpretations.

### **Research Question**

Base on basic consideration above, the researcher make the research questions as follows:

1. What is the meaning of metaphor in Robert Frost's poems through the analysis of the structure?

## Research Objective

The aim of this research is to analyze the metaphor on Robert Frost's poems. In analyzing the metaphor, the researcher analyzed the meaning through the structure of the metaphor. The researcher uses the result of the analysis of the structure of the metaphor as the keywords in interpreting the meaning of metaphor.

## Scope of Study

Based on the research question, this research focuses on the metaphor of Frost's poems. The poems are entitled "*Wind and Window Flower*", "*Rose Pogonias*", "*The Trial by Existence*", "*A Line-Storm Song*", and the last poem is "*October*". The researcher focuses on the poems because those poems gives the desire data. So, by using those 5 poems, the researcher gets enough data about metaphors. And the focus of the analysis of this study is the analysis of the structure of metaphor of Frost's poems and this research also analyze the meaning of each metaphor.

## Research Significances

- 1) Theoretically, Through this research, the researcher knows more about figurative language, especially metaphors and the structure of the metaphors that analyzes by using Knowles and Moon theory. In addition, for the reader, this research expects to provide a deeper understanding of metaphor, not only about the meaning but also about the structure of the metaphor.

- 2) Practically, this research gives the reader more information about the analysis of the structure of metaphor by using Knowles and Moon theory. The significances for students of English department are the understanding about the concept of metaphor and its structure, and this research also give reference to the teaching and learning process which relates to this research. The researcher intends that this research gives any references to the other researcher who wants to analyze Frost's metaphor deeply.