

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Maurice Bowra in her book entitled The Romantic Imagination (1985:102), states that death is “an intermediate condition between sleeping and waking, a half-conscious state in which memories are dim”. On the other words, it can be said that actually death is not end of everything, that the dead person is not completely dead as people think. He or she is just waiting for something of his or her new life in another world.

Death is generally considered as the separation of the soul and body; in which sense it stands opposed to life, which consists in the union thereof. The word *death* is used in at least three primary and numerous secondary ways. The context indicates the intended meaning in some instances, but it is not unusual for ambiguity or a shift in meanings to occur in the midst of a discussion. ([http://www.eTrans.com/what is the meaning of death.htm](http://www.eTrans.com/what_is_the_meaning_of_death.htm))

People may talk or write past each other when the specific usage of "death" is not clearly shared. The three primary usages are: death as an event; death as a condition; and death as a state of existence or nonexistence. First, “Death as an event”. In this usage, death is something that happens. As an event, death occurs at a particular time and place and in a particular way. In this sense of

the term, death is a phenomenon that stays within the bounds of mainstream conception and observation. Time, place, and cause can be recorded on a death certificate (theoretically, in all instances although, in practice, the information may be incomplete or imprecise). This usage does not concern itself with mysteries or explanations: Death is an event that cuts off a life. Second, “Death as a condition”. This is the crucial area in biomedical and bioethical controversy. Death is the nonreversible condition in which an organism is incapable of carrying out the vital functions of life. It is related to but not identical with death as an event because the focus here is on the specific signs that establish the cessation of life. These signs or determinants are often obvious to all observers. Sometimes, though, even experts can disagree. Third, “Death as a state of existence or nonexistence”. In this sense, it can almost be said that death is what becomes of a person after death. It refers not to the event that ended life nor the condition of the body at that time, but rather to whatever form of existence might be thought to prevail when a temporal life has come to its end. (<http://www.deathreference.com/Da-Em/Definitions-of-Death.html#b>)

For periods of time, death has been seen as a horrible and scary experience that someday will come to all people. Most people are scared when death comes. They will feel miserable and depressed when one of their friends or relatives die. However, in some poems of Christina Rossetti “*When I am Dead, My Dearest*”, “*Sleeping at Last*”, “*After Death*”, “*Dream Land*”, and “*Rest*”, death is not as horrible and fearful as everybody thinks.

The writer assumes that the poet has her own perception toward death in these poems. This is shown through the use of imagery and symbol in those poems. That is why the writer is interested in analyzing the poems of Christina Rossetti due to the fact that they give some perceptions of the death. Also he is interested in choosing Christina Rossetti's poems because the simplicity of her poem by using a simple words and symbols so that it is easily understood by the readers.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

In certain poetry chosen by the writer "*Sleeping at Last*", "*After Death*", "*Dream Land*", "*Rest*", and "*When I Am Dead, My Dearest*" , the imagery and symbol which are used in those poems seem to show the perceptions of death. The writer is curious to find out :

1. What are imageries used in Christina Rossetti's poems in revealing the perception of death?
2. What are symbols used in Christina Rossetti's poems in revealing the perception of death?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on statement of the problem as mentioned above, the objective of the study is :

1. To analyse imageries used in Christina Rosetti's poems in revealing the perception of death.
2. To analyse symbols used in Christina Rosetti's poems in revealing the perception of death.

1.4 Significance of the Study

For the readers of this research, this study hopefully helps the readers to understand about analyzing poetry. The writer expects that this study will be useful for those who are interested in studying literature especially the poems by Christina Rosetti. Hopefully, this analysis may give some contributions on how to analyze symbol and imagery about the perception of death in Christina Rosetti's poem.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope and limitation of this study focus on the use of imagery and symbol in "*Sleeping at Last*", "*After Death*", "*Dream Land*", "*Rest*", and "*When I Am Dead, My Dearest*" and the writer will find out the perception of death in those poems by Christina Rosetti.

1.6 Research Method

This study uses descriptive qualitative method. In qualitative research, the research procedures produce descriptive data in form written data. The data that

emerge from qualitative study are descriptive. That is, data are reported in words, rather than in number (Creswell, 2003:199). Qualitative research is concerned with collecting data and analyzing information in many forms, chiefly non-numeric form (Margareth Roth, 1986:80). The writing method of the study is descriptive confirmatory. It means that the analysis of the study is based on the confirmation of the theories and taken from the poems themselves (Roth, 1986:75).

Margareth Roth (1986:77) says that in qualitative approach, the research is an instrument. As an instrument, the writer functions as the main person who participates in this research and analysis in order to get better and valid answer result. The writer reads the whole poems in order to get the unified of the story and to point out a significance topic of the study that represents the major content. The written result of the research contains the quotation from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation. All facts that are found will be classified, arranged, and the interpreted.

Descriptive qualitative method also prioritizes the depth of the understanding of the interaction between concepts that were examined empirically, and the data are in the form of words which is a sign system that provides a more comprehensive understanding. To analyze the poems, the writer uses theories from H. Coombes's Literature and Criticism because this book gives a detail theories and explanation of how to use imagery and symbol in poems.

The thesis writer also applies extrinsic approach. Extrinsic approach is used to analyze the poem. According to Brannen, the extrinsic approach makes

the critic to give more importance to the context of text. The extrinsic approach is a window when one does not look on the size and form of the window but looks out of it, into the outer world.

According to Wellek and Warren in their book entitled Theory of Literature (1956:87), “The extrinsic approach is a kind of approach that focused the study on other aspects outside the literary element that had a great influence in shaping the literary works.”

Beside on the statement of problem the writer uses poetic device (imagery and symbol) to find the perception of the death in “*Sleeping at Last*”, “*After Death*”, “*Dream Land*”, “*Rest*”, and “*When I Am Dead, My Dearest*” by Christina Rossetti.

This research is done to find the answer about the perception of symbol and imagery used in poem. In doing this research, the writer describe, classify, and analyze the poem in every line of stanza.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This study is organized as follows. Chapter I contains the introduction, which consist of the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, research method, and organization of the study. Chapter II contains the review of related literature. Chapter III is the analysis discussing about the use of symbol and imagery in revealing the perception of death. Chapter IV deals with conclusion, which

contains the conclusion of the discussion, bibliography and appendixes about biography of the author of the poems.