

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

World War I was such a devastating tragedy in history that it inspired many literary figures to write about it, prominently in poetry. It can be seen from the fact that there were poets produced war poems at that time. Among all of the war era poets, I choose to focus on Wilfred Owen, who is against the war.

Wilfred Owen is a famous English poet and was also known as a great soldier. His poems were characterized by brutal honesty about the condition at the battlefield and deep compassion for the soldiers as victims, as stated at this biography; “Owen is regarded by historians as the leading poet of the First World War, known for his war poetry on the horrors of trench and gas warfare” (“Wilfred Owen”). Besides, his poems were rich and multi-layered, concerning his negative points of views about the war. I choose to analyze three poems which showed his dislike towards the war, namely “Dulce Et Decorum Est,” “Anthem for Doomed Youth,” and “The Last Laugh.”

In my thesis, I am going to analyze the theme of the poems through the diction to get a better understanding about the meaning of the poems and the

poet's view about World War I. Theme itself means "the total meaning discovered by the writer in the process of writing and by the reader in the process of reading" (Kenney 94), while diction is "a saying, expression, word, in its original, primary meaning, refers to the writer's or the speaker's distinctive vocabulary choices and style of expression in a poem or story" ("Diction"). Diction can also mean "The choice of words, phrases, sentence structures, and figurative language in a literary work; the manner or mode of verbal expression, particularly with regard to clarity and accuracy" ("Diction").

Statement of the Problem

1. What are the themes of the poems?
2. How do the dictions help in revealing the themes?

Purpose of the Study

1. To show the themes of the poems.
2. To show how the dictions help in revealing the themes.

Method of Research

I conduct a library research for my thesis. First, I read the poems. After that, I analyze the themes of these poems through the dictions. And then, I search for a number of references from books and Internet websites. In the end, I draw some conclusion from my analysis.

Organization of the Thesis

I divide my thesis into three parts, preceded by the Acknowledgments, the Table of Contents and the Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is the theme analysis of three of Wilfred Owen's poems. Chapter Three is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the bibliography and the appendices, which contain Wilfred Owen's poems and the biography of Wilfred Owen.

