

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

One of the most famous dark romanticist figure is Edgar Allan Poe. Poe is considered to be the founding father of the psychological thriller and mystery. “In the area of popular literature, he is said to have fathered the modern detective story and some forms of science fiction” (Dameron). As a person with great literary mind, Poe has his unique way to show the dark and bleak nature of human psychology and somber tone into his writing; his work manage to capture and shows the beauty from tragedy. Almost every of Poe’s work, especially poems, expresses the beauty and the tragedy of life and death in an unconventional way that holds the possibility of the poems to be interpreted with interesting perspective.

As a major figure in the world of literature, his imaginative and philosophical short stories, poems, and critical theories manage to establish his name in history as the father of modern short stories. His work is filled with sophisticated use of language and technique as well as an originality which can be seen on several of his work. One of Poe’s strong characteristics is in showing emotion in his writing,

In Poe's writings there is despair, hopelessness; and the echoes of a melancholy extremely touching to those who read with a remembrance of his broken life, but nowhere in them does "conscience roused, sit boldly on her throne." The ideas of right and wrong are as feeble in his chains of thought as in the literature of Ancient Greece. (Daniel)

His works cannot be easily interpreted. There is no right or wrong interpretation, meaning, the interpretation can vary greatly depending on one's experience and knowledge.

While Poe has considerable amount of works, three particular poems are really caught my interest, they are namely "To One Departed", "To One in Paradise", and "Annabel Lee." These three poems bring up lost and death and how it affect a person life which is the most recurring idea in a Dark Romantics literary work. In addition to that, these three poems are beautifully crafted in showing the painful tragedy of lost and death with contrast of love and life.

The main objective of this study is to try to convey the theme of the literary work through the diction used. According to the *Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*, Theme is "A salient abstract idea that emerges from a literary work's treatment of its subject-matter; or a topic recurring in a number of literary works"("Theme"). While diction is "the choice of words used in a literary work"("Diction").

Formalism will be used as an approach of this study with consideration that in trying to convey the theme of the poems through its diction, relying solely on its source material is deemed sufficient.

Statement of the Problems

The problems that are going to be discussed are as follows:

1. How does the diction in the poem help in revealing the theme?
2. What is the theme statement of each poem?

Purpose of the Study

Based on the above problems, the purpose of the study are:

1. To see how the diction in the poem help in revealing the theme
2. To show the theme of each poem

Method of Research

Library research is used in writing this thesis. First, I read the poems thoroughly and understand their meaning. Second, I analyze and connect the interpretation with particular diction which represent the idea. Third, I compare the interpretation with other ideas from the internet and some references. Finally, I draw conclusion from the analysis

Organization of Thesis

This thesis consists of three chapters, preceded by the Table of Contents and the Abstract. Chapter One is Introduction, which consists of the Bacground of the Study, the Statement of the Problems, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two is Analysis of Edgar Allan Poe's Poems. Chapter Three is the Conclusion, then followed by the Bibiliography and the Appendices, consisting of the poems and the Biography of the Author.