

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Robert Lee Frost is an American poet whose “poems show deep appreciation of natural world and sensibility about the human aspirations. His images of woods, stars, houses and brooks are usually taken from everyday life. Often, Frost uses rhythms and vocabulary of ordinary speech” (“Robert Lee Frost (1874-1963)”). The strength of his poems is that his poems “seem to be mere translation of everyday events into poetry” (“New England characteristics in Robert Frost’s poetry”).

Robert Frost’s poems come mostly from his life experiences and the influence of living in New England. His poems are also “very natural in its wording, using words that most people understand and that make his poetry seem practical and ordinary” (“New England characteristics in Robert Frost’s poetry”). Even though his poems are simple, they are formally structured.

Most of Frost's poems are related to nature, which is defined as "all the plants, animals and things that exist in the universe and are not made by people" (Hornby 285). Through nature, Frost shows that whatever choice that one has made, one should be ready for the consequences of his or her decision. By paying close attention to diction related to nature, I am going to analyze Frost's poems that concern people's choices in life. Four of Robert Frost's poems that I am going to analyze in my thesis are: "The Road Not Taken", "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening", "Two Tramps in Mud Time", and "The Trial by Existence."

The themes of Frost's four poems are closely related to choices. Reaske states that theme is "the central concept developed in a poem" (42). I will analyze the themes of Frost's poems through diction, one of poetic devices, which is defined as "language, vocabulary, phraseology, phrasing, style" (Webster's Dictionary of Synonyms 240).

Statement of the Problem

1. What is the theme of each poem?
2. How is the theme revealed?

Purpose of the Study

1. To show the theme of each poem.
2. To show how the theme is revealed.

Method of Research

I use library research in writing my thesis. Firstly, I read the poems that I have chosen. After that, I analyze these poems through diction. And then, I search for references from books and Internet websites. In the end, I make conclusion for my thesis.

Organization of the Thesis

I divide my thesis into three parts, preceded by the Acknowledgements, the Abstract, and the Table of Content. Chapter One is the Introduction, which consists of the Background of 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 Analysis of Theme of Four of Robert Frost's Poems through Diction. Chapter Three is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with Bibliography and Appendices, which contains Robert's Frost's poems and Biography of Robert Frost.