

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

A poem is usually more difficult to understand than a novel or a play. However, i feel that it is more interesting to analyse poems because i have more freedom to interpret the poet's feelings, thoughts and emotion as is stated in *How to Analyse Poetry* : 'There is virtually no limitation placed on the analysis of poetry...One then has to be resourceful, to use the imagination, and, in particular, to search for the least obvious, yet possible meaning' (Reaske, 1966 : 7). Although it is the shortest of the three genres, a poem usually has a hidden meaning. Therefore i feel challanged to analyse poems.

I have decided to analyse Wilfred Owen's poems because he is considered a great poet. 'Owen is a 'war poet' where we can with increasing confidence regard him as the greatest of his kind.' (Hibberd, 1975 : 5). I have chosen four of Owen's poems to analyse in my thesis, namely 'Another Version', 'Anthem for Doomed Youth', 'Disabled', and 'Insensibility' because I find that these four poems have deep maenings and great literary values. The four poems reflect Owen's experience as a soldier during World War I. He believes that war is cruel and brings nothing but sufferings. The four poems reveal Owen's disagreement to war. In the four poems, he uses the same subject matter, namely about the sufferings caused by war.

I would like to analyse the themes of the four poems. Theme is one of the most important literary aspects in poetry because theme is the ‘central concept developed in a poem’ (Reaske, 1966 : 42). The theme of a poem is the main idea of what the poet has written. Through theme the readers can learn and understand the meaning and the message that are implied in the poem.

Statement of the Problem

I propose to find out the following:

1. What are the themes of the four poems?
2. How does the poet reveal the themes?

Purpose of Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, i would like to formulate the purposes of the study as follows:

1. To show the themes of the four poems.
2. To show how the poet reveals the themes.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

Intrinsic research is used in the analysis. Fristly, I read the four poems in Owen’s The Pity of War as the primary text. I then read several books relevant to the topic discussed. Finally, I select some information from the Internet to support my analysis.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

This thesis is divided into three chapters. In Chapter One, there 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 contains the analysis of the theme of each of the four poems. The Conclusion will be presented before the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consist of the Biography and the four poems.