

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

People express their feeling in the different ways; it can be through prose, drama, or poetry. In this thesis, the present writer is interested in analyzing poetry because “poetry reveals these ‘deeper, unnamed feeling’ common to everyone. Poetry interprets our hidden emotion and gives them voice.” (Rozakis 1995:1). In poetry, people express their ideas in short sentences but in deep meaning. Sometimes the poet uses symbolism in the poem. It makes the readers curious to find out the meaning of the poem itself and what it is about.

From a poem the readers may know the poet’s condition and situation when the poem is written. The poet’s feeling and environment may influence his or her works and his or her point of view of something.

Emily Dickinson ( 1830 – 1880 ) lives in the Puritan era in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She was the mother of American poetry. She wrote about 1700 poems but only 6 or 7 of the poems were published during her lifetime; most of her poems were published after her death and her works were untitled. The titles that the present writer uses in the thesis are taken from the first line of each poem chosen.

The major theme of her work is about death, pain, grief, love and loneliness. However, her great concern in her poem is about death because she experiences great difficulty in her life. Her father depressed her. Her life was unsociable and she had only a few friends. She doubted that there would be another life after death and whether her life background influences her views, the present writer is triggered to analyze Dickinson's views of death.

The poems that the present writer chooses are "I felt a Funeral in my Brain", "It was not Death, for I stood up", "I died for Beauty, -but was scarce", and "There's been death in the opposite house". There are similarities in the poems. All the poems talk about death but each poem has its own characteristics. Each poem has different patterns and literary devices. It was influenced by the poet's feelings, emotion, and surrounding at that time.

In order to carry out good analysis, the present writer uses intrinsic approach by focusing on the words and the literary elements used in the poems. She also refers to the poet's biographical background to know about the poet's feelings and surrounding at that time.

## **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Emily Dickinson's view of death is also related to her life background; and as she lived in the Puritan era, her background was Christianity. Her fear of the mystery of death is influenced by her belief and her life.

Based on the facts above, the statement of the problem of this thesis is in the questions below:

1. What are the poet's views of death?
2. How does Emily Dickinson reveal her views about death in each poem?

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

Considering the facts in the statement above, the present writer has decided to analyze two things:

1. To show the poet's view of death
2. To show how Dickinson reveals her views of death.

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

In this thesis, the present writer uses library research. She reads the poems of Emily Dickinson and reads the biography of the poet and the books that are related to the poems to support her opinion about the views of death in the poems. In order to achieve this purpose, the writer also looks for more information about the poet's life, her background, her lifetime, and about the poems themselves from the Internet.

### **ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

The present writer will divide her thesis into three chapters, namely Chapter One 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 analysis of Emily Dickinson's four poems. And Chapter Three is a conclusion of the analysis of Emily Dickinson's views of death. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices.