

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I would like to draw a conclusion of the discussion which has been discussed before. After I have discussed Tennyson's Lady of Shallot and Mariana and Browning's My Last Duchess and Porpyria's Lover, I find that Tennyson and Browning are such great poets that they deliver a reality at that time to their poems. I have analyzed their poems and from my analysis I can see women's lives in the Victorian period and conclude the themes of the four poems.

In Tennyson's poem, Lady of Shallot, the theme of the poem which is 'Women are conditioned to be domestic while the outside world belongs to man' is showed by Tennyson's idea of telling that The Lady of Shallot should stay in her room and not be involved in other activities outside because the outside world belongs to man. If the lady gets involved in the activities outside, she will get a punishment. The fact that the outside world belongs to man can be seen in the poem when the lady decides to leave her room, she finally dies.

In Tennyson's other poem, Mariana, Tennyson wants to tell that woman's life depends on man's existence in her life. It can be seen by the way

Tennyson uses his words to express how depressed the woman character in the poem is. By using repetition 'awearry', Tennyson implies that the woman feels lonely and useless because her lover doesn't come back. Tennyson also states his choice of words by saying 'the blackened moss', 'the rusted nails' in his poem to show the woman's gloomy feeling from the first time. Another description used by Tennyson is by stating that her life, her night and her day are very dreary. That gives an impression that all women will always get depressed if there is no man beside them. As well, the woman's presence in the Victorian period really depended on man's presence. By looking at all the statements above, I can see that Tennyson's choice of words in the poem really reflects the impression that woman's life really depends on man's presence.

My Last Duchess, which was written by Browning, shows that woman is an object. The Duchess here is actually the picture the owner of which is the Duke. That shows that the woman character in the poem is described as a picture which becomes the object to be owned by the Duke. The Duke is very proud of the picture because the picture is really good. He always shows the picture to the people by the hope the people will respect him because he has something good while other people don't have. Man makes a woman an object to be showed off and proud of to make other people respect him. The picture is closed by a curtain, so when the Duke wants to show it to people, the Duke opens the curtain. The Duke controls the access to see the picture. It gives an implication that woman is controlled by man. Browning uses a picture as a woman character in his poem. Realizing it or not, Browning reduces woman's position by using it.

In Porphyria's Lover, another poem written by Browning, the woman character is said to serve man without any exception. Woman's roles in the Victorian period were taking care of her husband and children besides doing housework. In the poem, the woman and man characters are wet because it is raining. The first thing the woman does is stoking the fire to make sure that the man becomes warm. She doesn't change her wet cloth first but she stokes the fire first. Woman must serve man without any exception can be clearly seen here. Woman must serve man first before doing something for herself. The woman in the poem serves the man anything including sex, after she has served the man, she is strangled by her hair. She is said not to scream, this statement shows that woman must serve man, but she cannot refuse to serve him although she suffers. That the woman does not scream when she is strangled shows that fact.

The four poems show the similarity that all the poems show the woman's condition in the Victorian period if they are analyzed by sociological approach. Each poem shows the different situations of woman but the condition is the same as women's condition in the Victorian period. I think both Tennyson and Browning are successful in revealing the themes of their poems and compare them with the real condition. Browning and Tennyson create their women characters in their poems as if they were concerned with the women condition at their time. But they probably do not realize that their choice of words often makes the woman character in their poem overshadowed by their voice.

The characters in the four poems are women, but their characters in the poem are always seen through man's point of view. That can happen because the authors are men. The masculine voice of the author sometimes dominates the

poems so that it creates a distance between the readers and the women in these poems.