

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Everybody may experience solitude. Solitude provides a peaceful moment which is refreshing and enjoyable for some people. Being solitary, one has time to relax and enjoy oneself, to find a peaceful moment to think about anything more clearly. “Solitude is the state of being alone without being lonely. It is a positive and constructive state of engagement with oneself. Solitude is desirable, a state of being alone where you provide yourself wonderful and sufficient company.” (<http://www.psychologytoday.com/articles/pto-20030825-000001.html>)

Poetry is one of the literary genres which is complicated and challenging but interesting to discuss. People may have different interpretations of a poem because poems very often have hidden meanings. “Poetry's use of ambiguity, symbolism, irony and other stylistic elements of poetic diction often leaves a poem open to multiple interpretations.” (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poem>)

Literary men, especially poets, write on solitude. One of the most famous American poets, Emily Dickinson, has written amazing poems on solitude. They are mostly based on her own experience. In reality, she decided to shut herself

off from outside world from 1865 to 1886 when her father, Edward Dickinson, died. (<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/emilydic.htm>). She chose to live in solitude and she never regretted her decision.

I have chosen four of Emily Dickinson's poems for my thesis. They are "Alone, I Cannot Be", "I'm Nobody! Who Are You?" , "I Had Been Hungry All The Years" and "There Is A Solitude of Space". All of them are concerned with solitude.

I would like to analyse the themes of the four poems because theme is one of the most important aspects of literature. Through theme, one can find the essence of the poem because theme is "(1) the central and dominating idea in a literary work; (2) the message or moral implicit in any work of art." (Appreciation of Literature, 2003)

Statement of the Problem

The problems are stated as follows:

1. What are the themes of the four poems?
2. How are the themes revealed?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is stated as follows:

1. To show the themes of the four poems.
2. To show how the themes are revealed.

Method of Research

The method of research is library research. I apply Formalist approach to have a better understanding of the themes of the poems. First of all, I read the four poems and analyse them. I also gather and search for information needed for the thesis from some reference books and materials from the Internet to support my analysis. Finally, I draw the conclusion.

Organization of the Thesis

I divide the thesis into three chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which contains 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 deals with the analysis of the themes of the four poems. Chapter Three is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consist of the biography of the poet and the four poems.