

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of the theme of four of Emily Dickinson's poems, namely "Alone, I Cannot Be", "I'm Nobody! Who Are You?", "I Had Been Hungry All The Years" and "There Is A Solitude of Space", I find that Emily Dickinson is successful in revealing her themes through certain literary devices, such as poetic diction, metaphors, similes, rhetorical question, symbols, double dashes, an irony, and an anaphora.

In "Alone, I Cannot Be", the poet employs poetic diction, a simile, symbols and metaphors. The most dominant literary device is poetic diction. This poetic diction helps me to get the idea that when one lives in society, one feels that one cannot really have solitude. I agree that in reality it is extremely difficult to seclude ourselves when we live in society. This poem must have been based on her solitary background especially after the death of her beloved father.

In "I'm Nobody! Who Are You?", the poet uses poetic diction, a rhetorical question, a simile, a metaphor, an irony, and symbols to contrast someone who lives in society and someone who lives in solitude. In this poem, the poet says that she is living in solitude. From the analysis, it is obvious that the poet prefers living a solitary to living in society. I disagree with the poet because I think as

human being, one must be able to get on well with one another in society instead of living alone without making any social contact. The desire to live alone is quite uncommon.

In “I Had Been Hungry All The Years”, the poet reveals the theme through poetic diction, metaphors, and simile. The use of metaphor is very dominant in the revelation of the theme of this poem. Through the analysis, I find that the poet conveys the theme that living in society hurts one who wishes to be secluded. I am not sure whether Dickinson is right or wrong because I never try to be secluded. I do not even agree with her to try to live a solitary life. As homo sapiens, I think we should socialize and gain any advantages that we may get from one another. It is natural for human beings to mix in society.

The theme of solitude is also found in the last poem “There Is a Solitude of Space”. The poet uses poetic diction, an anaphora and double dashes. The most dominant literary device is poetic diction. Through all the poetic devices above, the poet reveals that there is not a real solitude except when one’s soul is admitted into itself. I do not agree with the poet. I think we can have a solitary life in certain place if we want to. Moreover, there must be solitary in death. The message that she reveals in this poem is really extreme.

Each of the titles of the four poems also plays a significant role in the revelation of the theme, especially the title of the last poem because without it, it would be more difficult for me to find out what the poet really wants to say.

The theme of solitude, as is revealed in “Alone, I Cannot Be”, “I’m Nobody! Who Are You?”, “I Had Been Hungry All The Years” and “There Is A Solitude of Space”, mostly likely based on the Emily Dickinson’s life, who lived in a quiet and private life in her big old house. Most of the poems are related to

her own life and experience. I should say the four poems analysed in this thesis share one thing in common, namely glorification of living in solitude.

Through the analysis of these poems, I hope the reader can understand Dickinson's message about solitude. However, I do not want to suggest to anyone that we should imitate the poet's attitude because as I have stated earlier, as human beings, we are destined to socialize. We should be able to get on well with one another and gain the most advantages that we can gain for the sake of mankind.