

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Background of the Study**

James Laughlin is an American poet whose “poetry comes mainly in two sizes, short-line poems and long-line poems. He began by writing in short lines and, of course, he has frequently returned to that form. These poems seem to belong at the center of his achievement” (Laughlin xiii). The strength of his poems is “a flowing distinctiveness and clarity, where many another poet might sound merely diffuse” (Laughlin xiii).

He is regarded “as a master of concision, of the well-placed word that penetrates the human heart” (“James Laughlin: Poems New and Selected Book Description”). Moreover, they are also considered “fresh, concise, full of wit, of impeccable quality, lucid, ironic, and often intense” (“James Laughlin (1994-1997)”).

I choose four of Laughlin’s poems which are “The Visitor”, “Fata Morgana”, “The Search” and “The Invisible Person” because these poems

talk about the same subject matter, namely love. These four poems depict different kinds of love which becomes the unifying element of these four poems. It interests me to know what the meaning of these four poems are.

To know and understand the meaning of these four poems, I am going to analyze the theme of the poems. As Reaske has mentioned, theme is “the central concept developed in a poem” (42) and I believe the theme will reveal the unique concept of love that Laughlin wants to present.

I will reveal the theme of the poems through diction and figures of speech. Diction is “the use of words in poetry” (Reaske 31). While figure of speech is “where a word or words are used to create an effect, often where they do not have their original or literal meaning” (“Term: Figure of Speech”). By analyzing the diction and figures of speech in the poems, I will be able to come up with the theme statement for each poem.

## **Statement of the Problem**

The statement of the problem is as follows:

1. What is the theme of each poem?
2. How is the theme revealed?

## **Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is as follows:

1. To show the theme of each poem.
2. To show how the theme is revealed.

## **Method of Research**

I use library research in doing my thesis. Firstly, I read the poems that I choose. After that, I analyze these poems to understand what the poems tell about and the meaning of these poems. And then, I search the materials for my references from books and internet. In the end, I make conclusion for my thesis.

## **Organization of the Thesis**

I organize my thesis as follows: The thesis is preceded by Acknowledgements, Abstract and Table of Content. Chapter One is Introduction which consists of the Background 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 the Four of James Laughlin's Poems. Chapter Three is Conclusion. The thesis ends with Bibliography and Appendices which contain of the poems and the Biography of James Laughlin.