

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

In literature, there are three kinds of genres: novel, drama, and poetry. Poetry is more interesting than drama and prose because poets usually use special diction, metaphors, personification, and similes. Poets also frequently use other poetic devices like symbols to express their thoughts and feelings. Poetry has deep meanings so that I feel challenged to analyse poems for my thesis.

I have chosen the works of Andrew Marvell and Robert Browning for my thesis. Both are English poets but they are of different periods. Marvell's 'lyrics have a more forceful and spontaneous eloquence. The life and work of Andrew Marvell are both marked by extraordinary variety and range. Gifted with a most subtle and introspective imagination, he turned his talent in mid-career from incomparable lyric explorations of the inner life'. (<http://www.kean.edu/-creation/AndrewMarvell>) As an English poet Robert Browning is a 'towering poetic presence of the Victorian era...Browning combines lyric and demotic language, and introduces everyday events of the streets and marketplace into the rarified world of the Victorian poetry.

Browning always makes a strong appeal to the reason and the intellect’
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Browning)

Browning’s poems are realistic. He presents both positive and negative sides of life:

‘If we agree that life can be both ugly and beautiful, dull as well as exciting, fantastic and rational, grotesque and sublime, then we must accept the themes and style of Browning’s poems. He wanted to give a picture of life in the round, so he included everything, the trivial, the transitory, the degraded and the sublime.’ (Blamires, 1976: 66)

The four poems of Andrew Marvell and Robert Browning are about love with variety of emotions and views of love in each. I have chosen the poems by Andrew Marvell and Robert Browning because they have similarities; they are about the relationship and the feeling of love between men and women. The literary works are: To His Coy Mistress, The Definition Of Love, The Lost Mistress and The Last Ride Together. I would like to find out the messages the two poets want to convey. In other words, I would like to analyse the themes of the four poems by Marvell and Browning.

Theme is one of the most important literary aspects in poetry because ‘theme is the central concept developed in a poem’ (Reaske, 1966:42). Through theme, the reader can learn and understand the meanings and the messages implied in the poem. Understanding the theme means knowing the poet’s intention of writing the poem.

Statement of the Problem

I have decided to find out the answers to the following questions:

1. What are the themes of Andrew Marvell's and Robert Browning's poems?
2. How are the themes revealed?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is formulated 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 that I use is library research. I read: To His Coy Mistress, The Definition Of Love, The Lost Mistress and The Last Ride Together and then analyse them. I use some reference books and collect data from the Internet to support my analysis.

Organization of the Thesis

I present my thesis in 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 is the analysis of the theme of each of Andrew Marvell's and Robert Browning's poems. Chapter Three is the Conclusion. The thesis ends with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which contain the biographies of the two poets and the poems that are discussed in this thesis.