

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **CONCLUSION**

In this chapter, I am going to draw a conclusion from my analysis of three of Dylan Thomas' poems and three of Anne Sexton's poems.

The three poems of Dylan Thomas that I analyze are "And Death Shall Have No Dominion," "Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night" and "The Conversation of Prayer." From each poem the reader may see that Thomas uses some diction that represents an opposite meaning that gives a contrast between the condition before and after death. Furthermore, Thomas uses the words representing the passion of struggle against death and also the diction proving that one's life can be saved through a prayer.

Dylan Thomas' poems mostly deal with the "divine purpose in every human and natural process" (Dylan Thomas Biography, Par.7). The natural human process discussed in the poems are life and death. Using his passionate and vivid way of writing poems, Thomas shows how passion occurs while someone is fighting against death, facing death, and facing the possibility of life or death.

The three poems of Anne Sexton that I analyze are "Wanting to Die," "Sylvia's Death," and "The Death King." From the diction used in each poem, the reader may see directly that one has the desire to die which turns into a passion and then if the desire to die is not fulfilled one will feel betrayed. Furthermore, the diction also clearly describes that one's resignation to death may end one's suffering and fear.

Anne Sexton is famous for her confessional voice as she makes the reader falsely believe that she wrote her poems based on her own life experiences. Her poems mostly deal with taboo and shocking subjects, such as mental breakdowns, suicide, and marital problems. In these poems the taboo and shocking subjects are death and suicide. In all three poems, the speakers say that their desire is to die, specifically by committing suicide.

Both Dylan Thomas and Sexton are very descriptive in writing poems concerning death. Both of them use some words that make the poems easily understood and imagined. For example, in one of the Thomas' poems here, in line 2 to line 3 of "And Death Shall Have No Dominion," the reader can easily imagine how dead people will lay in the grave and will be united with other dead people or how the word "care" is emphasized to reveal the idea in the poem. Yet, Thomas uses some common words to explain the hidden idea behind the connotative meaning present in some words of his poem. For example, the word "rage" represents not only the struggle against death but also the act of anger.

Sexton is also descriptive, which can be seen when she explains about someone who has a desire to die and the desire has turned into a passion. Her description is apparent, for example, in "Wanting to Die," which simply refers to

the speaker's desire to die. Different from Thomas, Sexton has used much simpler words or everyday words in describing what happens to the speaker in the poem. In other words, Sexton's way of explaining the idea is quite simpler as she only uses the denotative meaning of the words in each line of her poems. Significantly, both of them, through their descriptive way of writing, enable the reader to feel, smell, taste, hear, and see everything presented in the poem.

Even though Dylan Thomas and Anne Sexton share the same subject, which is death, and also similarly use the diction in accordance to the importance of their conveying something from their poems, they share different perspective in seeing death. Referring to the fact that he does not make any statement about what death is, Thomas seems to regard death as a natural thing that happens to anyone. Moreover, he indirectly shows the general expression that encourages the reader to have positive attitude in facing death. Different from Thomas, Anne Sexton makes a statement that death is a solution or something desirable. Referring to the fact that she suffers from depression and that she is one of Confessional poets, it seems that through the diction used in the poem she directly expresses her belief that death is a solution to her problems.

In my opinion, Dylan Thomas and Anne Sexton are both skillful in presenting their perspectives and their perceptions of death. However, I prefer Dylan Thomas' idea about perceiving death positively, as it makes me feel no fear in facing death. It also makes me think positively of how to live my life and what kind of attitude I should possess when facing death. My favorite poem is "Do Not Go Gentle into that Goodnight," which personally reminds me that I should struggle while facing death and I should not surrender easily.