

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

In this chapter, the writer deals with a general introduction to the research. Therefore, here are some definition of reading. According to *Kamus Bahasa Indonesia*, reading is to see and understand the contents of the text, either vocally or silently. Smith said in Mr. Ginting's book, that reading is a process to build the core of reading in written text. In Addition, the Ministry of National Education as quoted by Ainyyuliat stated that "Reading in wide meaning is a process of formulating the text in a critical and creative way that is aimed to get comprehension about the text, value, function, and the impact of the text itself. Also to get the message and information that is hand-over by the researcher through written form".

From some definition above, the writer could interpret that reading is an activity that connects the writer and the reader through the text. To give the message and information for the reader to interpret and understand the text.

Literature is writings valued as works of art, especially novels, plays, and poems. Literature, according to the Oxford Dictionary, is a piece of writings on a particular subject. Literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material. Broadly speaking, "literature" is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination. Literary genre

according to the literary world, divided into three; namely poetry, prose, and drama (Abrams, 1999: 108).

Oxford Dictionary says that poem is a piece of writings arranged in lines, usually with a regular rhythm and often with a pattern of rhymes. The poem is one of the oldest forms of literary work. Many literary works in the world are written in the form of poetry. In the poem, the poet often expresses his/her ideas and thoughts about events or events that occur in the midst of people's lives. Thus poetry has a close relationship with life in society.

Poetry is a literary work that can be studied from various aspects, whether in terms of structure and elements, type and variety or from the author historical point of view. Considering that the poem has its own form as a literary work. From time to time poetry is always written and always read by people. Throughout the ages of poetry, there have always been changes and developments. This is due to its nature as a work of art, there will always a tension between conventions and renewal. Its also always change according to the evolution of tastes and in the aesthetic concepts.

According to Pradopo, (2005:3) Poetry is the work of aesthetic that has significance and meaning, it is not just something empty without meaning. Thus, the presence of poetry in the structure of human life not only gives the feel of a magnificence but also carries messages about life. So, that in addition to the poem contains elements of magnificence in language, poetry is also capable of presents values that are useful in life. With the values that are contained, poetry

can form a good character in a human being. Which means poetry made not only to enjoy but it also has meaning and message to convey to the readers.

Poetry is also said to be the most unique literary work because it is created from the poet's deepest contemplation. However, in understanding its meaning, we must associate poetry with the author's history and the conditions that become the context of the creation of works. Based on its comprehension, it can be said that poetry is a form of literary works that can convey aspects of life deeper and broader with words that are far less than the words used in other literary works.

Most people find that it is difficult in studying and reading poems. Poems are full of meaning and symbol. It is very important in understanding poems when someone reads it. When readers read poems, they will find something hidden, message, and theme. Therefore, it is important to know and learn about the meaning of the poems.

The prose is in the sense of literature it is also called fiction, narrative text or narrative discourse (in a structural and semiotic). This is because fiction is a narrative work whose contents are not addressing factual truth or something that really happened (Abrams, 1999: 94) According to Kamil (2009: 41), the type of literary works included in the genre prose is a novel, short story, and drama.

From the explanations above, we know that the prose contains narrative and does not follow any set of rhythm, while poetry is rhythmic and image-based. Therefore, what is poetic prose then? It is quite simple. According to Blas

(2016: 6) Poetic Prose is a poem that written in the form of prose. However, it is not simply poetry without line breaks. But its more like a poetry that can make use of any and all poetic devices found within verse poems with the exception of line breaks.

From the explanation above, poetic prose is anything that combines these elements into a single piece of writing, If you want a definition, the prose is the process of poetry that is not written in verse.

Khalil Gibran is a prominent artist, writer, philosopher and poet which has been created a lot of work he did not only write poems but he also wrote novel and prose poetry. One of his popular and best-loved work is “The Prophet”, arrayed as 26 prose poetry essay, speaking of love and marriage, joy and sorrow, reason and passion, beauty and death, and yearning for a Unity-of-Being that can only be achieved through love. The book is one of his masterpieces after it was published in 1923 since then it is already been translated to more than 50 languages and sold over 8 million copies.

The writer chose the “The Prophet” because it seems that this Khalil Gibran’s work depicts the phenomena that exist in human life. A spiritual yet religious phenomenon that Khalil Gibran conveyed which contained messages that will not be understood if only reading it once, but it must be with deep understanding in interpreting it, that if we want to know what the real intention is in fact contained in his poetry. Indeed his choices of a theme in this work strongly reflects our life as a human, a social creature which is sometimes lost in their own world and needs some wise advice for their life.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

The literary work that the writer would like to analyze is “The Prophet”, it is the prose poetry work written by Khalil Gibran which contains 26 collections of poems because the writer thinks that Khalil Gibran poems are given her viewpoint of life and inspire her to value the life. By reading through the poems, we will find more information about the values of life which play an important role in each person aspect of life. Therefore, it means that it can be drawn in so many lessons that the author tried to convey through his works.

The writer is interested in Khalil Gibran’s literary works because Khalil Gibran’s poems describe life especially about human life and the theme of his works content philosophical values. It also remains her that life will always up and down, there will always be troubles, problems, sadness, etc. But there will also be happiness, joys, and smiles. It can be seen in one of his poem “*Joy and Sorrow*”. In this poem, the writer interpreted that Gibran tried to emphasize that joy and sorrow are inseparable and will always compliment each other.

1.3 Research Question

What messages that are contained in the prose poetry work "The Prophet" by Kahlil Gibran from the writer’s perspective?

1.4 Objective of the Study

Every study has a certain purpose. In this research, the writer objective is to understand further and fathom every message in Khalil Gibran’s prose

poetry work “*The Prophet*” through reading and interpreting of each poem and to be able to describe it for further understanding and studying of literary work. Therefore, through reading and interpreting “*The Prophet*” the writer can learn about valuing her life. Furthermore, it is to learn value our own life and the social life around us, not only the life between human to another human being but also human to nature that surrounds them.

1.5 Limitation of the Problem

Problem restriction is very important in studying literary work. The aim is that the discussion will be more focus on something the writer would like studying and analyzing it to become more clear. To limit the analysis, the writer will only analyze the messages of each poem from the book “*The Prophet*” written by Khalil Gibran.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Every research must have benefits or benefits uses to be desired based on the results of the study. The benefits or usefulness of the results of a study is expected not only beneficial for the researcher themselves, but also for the institution where the study was conducted or professional and scientific organizations.

The benefits of research cover two dimensions, namely scientific and practical. The benefits of science are related to the dimension of justification. Namely, that structural theory that emphasizes literary studies autonomously

regardless of extrinsic and intrinsic factors is still relevant still used as a significant approach or perspective to analyze and provide an assessment of literary works. Through analysis guided by theory or concept. Besides that, benefits justification is related to the requirements for mastering literary competence, namely the ability to master the rules of literary creation, for researchers who apply a structural approach. Without literary competence, there will never be literary research, let alone provide an assessment. True or not poetry research from a structural perspective relates to literary competence as the main requirement.

According to Arikunto, (2010:99) Actually the explanation about the usefulness of the results of this research is not absolutely necessary there is. The formulation of the usefulness of research results is a continuation of the goal research. If the researcher has finished conducting research and obtaining results, he/she is expected to contribute the results to the State, or especially to the field under study. Talk about usability the results of this study became important after several researchers could not hold actual expected results, and to what extent his/her contribution to the advancement of science.

Based on the opinions above, the expected benefits from this research are:

1. Can enrich the writer's insight or knowledge about the work of poetry and prose;
2. Can enrich the devotion in literature especially literary works in the form of prose poetry;

3. To give information and knowledge to analyzing poems, especially for English Department of Pasundan University students and for further researchers' reference;
4. The result of this study can broaden the literary reader in understanding poetry;
5. Can inspire literary work reader to improve their creative thinking.

1.7 Research Method

This study uses a library research method, which is a method that can be used both in the workspace or library where the writer can obtain data about the objects through books or other audiovisual equipment that is focused on literary texts. In this paper, there are two sources of data; the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data is the book itself that was written by Khalil Gibran "*The Prophet*". Whereas, the secondary data is taken from some critical works, books, and journals that concern with the primary data.

Qualitative researcher usually relies on methods to gain the information; a. participant in the setting; b. direct observation; c. in-depth overview; and d. analysis of documents and materials. The method carried out by the writer is a descriptive method of analysis. Descriptive method is a method that implements based on books and references. It used to describe clearly everything that will be analyzed. The method, not only to do pure descriptive but also to find the relation, to determine the meaning and to make the conclusion.

Below is the diagram of the research method to give an overview of the procedure of collecting the data;

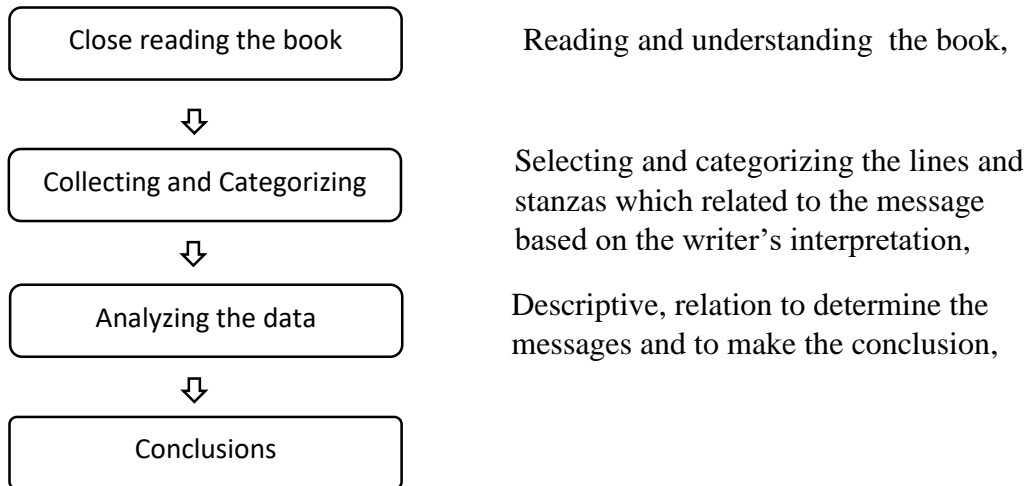


Diagram 1: the procedure of collecting the data