A BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY ON THE DEVOTIONAL THEME OF
CHRISTINA GEORGINA ROSSETTI'S POETRY

A PAPER

Submitted To The Faculty of Adab And Humanities In Partial Fulfillment Of The

Requirements For The Degree of Strata I (SI)

BY:

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JAKARTA
1428 H / 2007 M
APPROVAL SHEET OF ADVISOR

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THE APPROVAL SHEET OF BOARD EXAMINATION

A paper entitled “A Biographical Study on the Devotional Theme of Christina Georgina Rossetti’s Poetry” has been examined before on March 9th, 2007. It has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for acquiring strata I degree (S1) in English Letters Department at Syarif Hidayatullah, State Islamic University Jakarta.

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In the name of Allah, most gracious, most merciful

Thanks to Allah created me as human

Thanks to Muhammad brought me Islam

The paper is submitted in partial accomplishment of the requirement for the Strata I Degree To The Faculty of Adab And Humanities, English Letters Department State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. There are number of people who have contributed valuable assistance toward the successful completion of the writer’s study in general and this paper in particular. Without their helps it would have been impossible for her to finish. Here, the writer can mention but a few of those to whom the writer’s indebted.

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Jakarta, March 11, 2007

Farah Dian Dini
ABSTRACT

FARAH DIAN DINI: “A Biographical Study on The Devotional Theme of Christina Georgina Rossetti’s poetry”. Supervised by Dr. Muhammad Farkhan, M.pd. The English Letters Department Faculty of Adab And Humanities State Islamic University (UIN) Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta 2007.

In this paper, the writer studies about the poet biography of Christina Georgina Rossetti through her devotional theme of poetry that the writer has chooses before, namely: Uphill, Sleeping at last, A Pause and What would I give, the devotional theme that appears in her poetry is a reflection of her daily religious life so that, the research applies the biographical approach to reveal the life of Christina Georgina Rossetti and to find out the meaning inside her devotion poetry.

The objectives of the research are to understand the devotion issue completely as her major theme on her literary work by, exploring the life of Christina Georgina Rossetti which build her devotional theme of her poetry to know the religious and social life around her that infects her making poem and to describe how did she appears the devotional theme in her poetry.

The result of the research is to reveal the feeling of love Christina Rossetti’s save in her life. Her love to Jesus Christ and the feeling of proud being Christian brought her to be a down-earth and kind-hearted person, she dedicated her life to those who needed her help, knowledge and skill. She is one of an excellent example of obedience servant because she reflected her love of Jesus to all her activity in her life. Because, she was expected the heaven of god, she found that Jesus is her ideal love that substituted another love in earth. The idea of love came from experience of her love failure. This research is also to expose the feeling of fear of living a life in pain she had inside. She had suffered a pain along of her life and the pain changes her perspective in seeing and interpreting the meaning of life. She became a wiser person and contemplator that give her literary work wealth with sympathy.

This study is expected to give much contribution to readers of poetry especially to those who interested in analyzing Christina Georgina Rossetti’s literary work from all of aspects. And finally, it is also to give a positive input specifically on how we should devote to our god and reflect it to our daily life.
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BIBLIOGRAPHY
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The relationship between universe and art in many different cultures is in harmony. In the west culture history, the relationship between art and nature is quite central. Both cannot be separated because they are related to one another. Poetry as one of many arts is a medium for the poet to conceive his or her sensitive feeling toward everything that they see and feel, to create a good sense to the reader in his or her poetry. The poets usually support their poetry by several elements such as theme, figure of speech, rhyme, rhythm, imagery and tone to enrich the meaning and make the readers feel easy to understand the message inside the poems. "The point about poetry and the other form of literature is that the choice of words and elements inside which used by the author." So the reader can achieve the message of the poetry.

Poet is a person who displays imaginative power, beauty of thought, and language or one (as a creative artist) of great imaginative and expressive capabilities and special sensitivity to the medium.

Pengetahuan kita tentang penyair dan latar belakang sejarah, dapat membantu kita memahami makna puisi. Keduanya tidak dapat dilepaskan dalam usaha

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1 Partini S. Pradotokusumo, *Pengkajian Sastra*, (Jakarta; Sun Press 2005.), cet. Ke-1, p. 77
2 Ibid
memahami puisi, latar belakang penyair dan kenyataan ikut memberikan makna pada puisi.⁴

(Our knowledge about poet and her history background can help us to understand the meaning of poetry. Both cannot be separated in order to understand the poetry, the poet background and the reality also gives meaning in the poetry.) The medium to expose the poet background and the reality that had happened in writing poetry is by studying the biographical approach. The writer chooses a biographical approach to study the devotional theme of Christina Rossetti’s poetry in order to understand the meaning of her poetry.

According to Wellek and Werren, biographical approach is a systematic study about creativity process. A creator is seen as a cause of work of art⁵, the meaning of work of art as same as an intention, message and even as an author specific purpose that relates to the understanding of sociological science. A biography expanse the analysis process but at the same time also limits it.

Dalam ilmu sosial, pada umumnya biografi dimanfaatkan dalam kaitannya dengan latar belakang proses rekonstruksi fakta-fakta, membantu menjelaskan fikiran-fikiran seorang ahli, seperti: system ideologis, paradigma ilmiah, pandangan dunia dan kerangka umum sosial budaya yang ada di sekitarnya.⁶

(In social science, the advantage of biography usually relates to the background of reconstruction process of realities or facts that helps to define

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scholar’s thought. Such as, ideological systems, scientific paradigm, world point of view and the common structure of social culture surround.)

While according to the modern paradigm nowadays, the author or the poet should release from their works, a roman author should have a space to the story or plot he/she made. The readers should realize when they’re reading roman they do weren’t face to the roman author directly. Such case became the most interesting base to analyze, which the importance of “point of view” is considered as a symptom that underlines the effort to release the poet from their works then to decide and to keep the roman autonomy toward the author. According to this paradigm, we do not need to relate the meaning or the point of a story to the writer’s intentions.

Although the modern literature researcher tries to release the authors from their works not all of it agrees with this statement, such as the new American community criticism and other autonomy movement of Holland, H.A., Gomperts, known by his literary expert and critics, who states the important thing of literary work is not a narrative vocalist intention or an implied author who came from certain structuralize organization, but the author’s life unique. As Partini S. Pradotokusumo quoted in her book “Pengkajian Sastra” says P.D. Yuhl in his book “Interpretation: An Essay in the philosophy of literary criticism” delivered statement against the structural statement and the autonomy organization that release the literature work from its author’s detail or from the author’s intention. Yuhl stated three theses to interpret a literary works:
1. The logical relation takes place between literary works and the author’s detail.

2. The author is the only one who involves deeply and responsible to the proposition which he or she presents in his or her works. A literary work is not autonomy because; there is definitely a literary work, which is relating to the author’s life.

3. A literary work has only one meaning that is intention; the intention appears to form a sentence; a selected sentence that is used in a work.

E.D. Hirsch in his book Validity in interpretation (1967) remarked to release the text’s meaning from the author’s detail. Basically, it’s a denial or an abolishment of the objective understanding probabilities.\(^7\)

According to Longinus, to create a masterpiece, the most important thing is the elements of writer creativity,\(^8\) so that the writer would like to analyze the poet’s literary work on how he or she or he can express him or her self-feelings toward everything they seeing aesthetically and beautifully.

In this research the writer would like to analyze Christina Georgina Rossetti’s poetry. She was one of the most important woman poetry writers of England in nineteenth century, she also wrote short story and prose. Christina Rossetti was born on December 5, 1830 in London, to Gabriel and Frances Polidori Rossetti, Christina Rossetti lived in Victorian era. She and her friends belonged to the upper and middle

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\(^7\) Partini S. Pradotokusumo, *op. cit.*, p. 75
\(^8\) *Ibid.*, p. 71
classes. Her poetry explored the complex issues of the most Victorians minds, which consisted of faith, spiritual love, earthly love, nature of artistic creation and like many other poets, Rossetti was stunned by the secret of death, which became one her big themes in her poems.

She wrote poetry as a medium to express whatever she had felt. Most of her works were a reflection of all her life experiences, happiness, worries, sadness, loneliness and other feelings resulted abstract themes. Her work was often full with witty, playful, mysterious, and suggestive.

Many of her religious and spiritual poetry’s themes related with her failing in love. The researcher finds that her unmarried life related with her fear of loving because in 1848, James Collison engaged her but the engagement was canceled in 1850 when he converted to faith Roman Catholicism. Then in 1866 she rejected the marriage inquiry from Charles Cayley, whom was not a Christian, she is afraid of being married by someone whose life was not religious enough. Then, she had been giving all of love to her god, which could be viewed in her poem untitled “A Better Resurrection”:

\[
\begin{align*}
I \text{ have no wit, no words, no tears;} \\
My \text{ heart within me like a stone} \\
Is \text{ numb'd too much for hopes or fears;} \\
Look \text{ right, look left, I dwell alone;} \\
I \text{ lift mine eyes, but dimm'd with grief} \\
\text{No everlasting hills I see;} \\
\end{align*}
\]

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My life is in the falling leaf:
O Jesus, quicken me.
My life is like a faded leaf,
My harvest dwindled to a husk:
Truly my life is void and brief
And tedious in the barren dusk;
My life is like a frozen thing,
No bud nor greenness can I see:
Yet rise it shall—the sap of Spring;

O Jesus, rise in me.
My life is like a broken bowl,
A broken bowl that cannot hold
One drop of water for my soul
Or cordial in the searching cold;
Cast in the fire the perish'd thing;
Melt and remould it, till it be
A royal cup for Him, my King:

O Jesus, drink of me.

Rossetti’s first poetry was published in the Athenaeum when she was eighteen. She became a frequent contributor to the Pre-Raphaelite journal The Germ: thoughts towards art and poetry.

Why the writer chooses Christina Georgina Rossetti to analyze? Because, as the writer had studied Christina’s poem called “Uphill” for the first time, (at the short semester program which Poetry subject that running by the English letters in the university where she had finished her study) made her enthusiast to analyze and learn about the poet her self and her literary work continuously. The writer found that Christina Rossetti was one of the most important woman poets in nineteenth century
of England. The writer also found that Christina lived unpretentious life and devoted to her god and Christian as her religion.

After the writer found out Christina Rossetti’s biography, then the writer reads and learns about her literary work specifically in poetry. She found words used by Christina in making poem are light, understandable, also casual. These facts assure the writer to emerge Christina Rossetti and the devotional theme to be the writer’s subject matter in her paper.

At first, to get more information about the devotional theme, the writer shall to reveal the meaning of devotion. As the writer quoted from “Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary” Devotion means:

1. Constant strong love for or loyalty to somebody / something
2. The action of giving one’s time, energy, etc. to somebody / something.
3. (a) Religious worship enthusiastic religious activity.
   (b) Prayers or other religious practices.

While devotional: is an adjective word, the word used in religious worship. And devotional theme means obedience to god theme, that Christina was believed in god and always obeying the rules and god commands.

The writer chooses this theme after her understanding on Christina Rossetti’s biography that choose to love god and leave the world amusement. Christina had spent her life to help other people and to worship frequently to show her biggest love to god. These reasons lead the writer to reveal her devotional theme as the major problem in this paper.
B. Focus of the Study

In this paper, the writer analyses on Christina Georgina Rossetti’s poetries focusing on their Devotional theme, which is the biggest theme in most of her work. This analysis deals with the form and the intrinsic elements of the poem.

C. Research Question.

Based on the background and the focus of the study, the writer would like to analyze the following questions:

1. How did Christina Rossetti use the devotional theme in her poetry?
2. How did she describe the devotional theme in her poetry?
3. How did the religious and social life around her influence her making poetry?

D. Significance of the Research

The writer hopes that this research can give the clear information about the life of the poet reflected in her literary works, because of the life, the society, the environment and the feeling of the poet had a big input to her works. At least the literature reader knows exactly how important is to analyze the poet biography to give more advantages rather than reads and understand.

E. Research Methodology

1. The Objectives of the Research are:

   A. To explore the life of Christina Rossetti that builds her devotional theme of her poetry.
   B. To know the religious and social life around her that infects her making poem.
   C. To describe the devotional theme of her poetry
2. Research Method

This research uses a descriptive qualitative method to describe how Christina Rossetti made her works of short stories, prose or poem that mostly deals with devotion and to describe her poetry’s devotional theme.

3. Technique of Data Analysis

In this research the writer uses the biographical approach to explore the entire life aspects of Christina Rossetti by relating it with the relevant theories that support the data of this research comprehensively.

4. The Unit of Data Analysis

The units of data analysis are Rossetti’s four poetries that the writer had selected, they are: Uphill, A Pause, What Would I Give and Sleeping at Last. The writer shall to analyze only four poetries represents the devotional theme.

5. Place and Time

This analysis will be accomplished in sixth month of nine semesters. The writer uses the library research in analyzing and writing this paper. All the material are taken from the library such as, Syarif Hidayatullah state Islamic University library, University of Indonesia’s library, British Council library, Victorian readers library, National library and other libraries at Jakarta to get more references and more information about this research.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. BIOGRAPHICAL APPROACH

Biography is a history, as same as a history of a city, country or a history of a nation. Biography in other words, is the history of someone’s life, although biography is a quite micro, but it is the biggest part in a history mosaic. Because people were believe in history commonly, while Kuntowijoyo stated in his book “Metodologi Sejarah” that “History was made by biography adding”. In writing someone’s biography, we have to be responsible of what we write; we have to look for the right source. Means that, to make someone’s biography, the biographer needs to find, collect and write the valid data based on the true history that had happen to the figure to present the fact and accurate biography.

Setiap biografi seharusnya mengandung empat hal, yaitu (1) Kepribadian tokohnya. Pertama, keperibadian sangat ditonjolkan bagi mereka yang menganut Hero in History. Mereka percaya bahwa sejarah adalah kumpulan biografi. Individuah yang menjadi pendorong transformasi sejarah. (2) Kekuatan social yang mendukung. Kedua, Marxisme sangat mendukung anggapan bahwa kekuatan sosiallah yang berperan, bukan perorangan. (3) Lukisan sejarah zamannya, ketiga, melukiskan zaman yang memungkinkan seseorang muncul jauh lebih penting daripada pribadi atau kekuatan social yang mendukung. Dan (4) Keberuntungan dan kesempatan yang datang. Keempat, para tokoh muncul berkat adanya factor luck, coincidence, atau chance dalam sejarah. 11

Kuntowijoyo, in his book Metodologi Sejarah has divided the problems of biography into four kinds that each biography should contain:

11 Kuntowijoyo, Metodologi Sejarah, (Yogyakarta: Tiara Kencana Yogya, 2003), edisi ke-1 p. 106
1. The personality of the figure.
2. The social power.
3. The historical background of the figure’s.
4. The opportunity and fortune.

The writer quotes Kuntowijoyo words to support the theoretical framework that reveals about the biographical approach; the writer finds that the four characters mentioned by Kuntowijoyo are accurate character also related to her research.

Talking about the poet biography, our mind straightly associates to a human art creator, contemplator and thinker that always involves with the creativity issues. That is why in reading literary text poetry, biography is important to be learned so the reflection of the poet’s life in her literary work stays forever to be an essence.

The poet is a creative artist of great imaginative and expressive capabilities and special sensitivity to the medium. Poet is one who has the absolute inspiration and one who has the absolute power to give the right meaning of a poem. His or her poetry is a reflection of what had happen when the poet made a poem to express his or her sensitive feeling. The subjective aspect of literature

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13 Merriam Webster Dictionary, *loc. cit.*
implied the existence of some means by which authors would be able to communicate with the absolute as the source of any act of creation\textsuperscript{14}.

When we read poetry, do not face just the language elements that involves with a set of beautiful words. We also face a set of thinking shape or a meaning structure that the poet wants to convey. Basically, poetry is built by the two fundamental elements, which are: surface structure, the language that is used in making poetry and deep structure or meaning structure. These two elements are a set of fundamental functional elements; both of them cannot be separated.

A poet has a certain purposes in making poetry. As we can see it by its shape, lines and stanzas or by its words, symbols, figure of speech, rhythm, rhyme and other. What poet presented has one original meaning. According to Richard Ellmann and Robert O’clair, poets have their own different ways of working. A few maybe able to write out a finished poem in the first draft with at most a few retouching, but among serious writers such performances are rare. More often poets have to work their poems into a satisfying shape through successive drafts, sometimes starting with very rough material substituting some words for others, refining or even changing the poems meaning in the process of perfecting it. Means that, the poets have their own abilities in making poem. Some of them can finish their poem making in short of time. While other, have the difficulties in finishing their literary work. This kind of revisions can reveal to us what matters.

\textsuperscript{14} Vladimir Braginsky. The Comparative Study of Traditional Asian Literatures from Reflective Traditionalism to Neo-Traditionalism, (London Richmond: Curzon Press 2001) p. 101
most to a particular poet writing a particular poem, and deepen our response to that poem, or that poet, or indeed poetry\textsuperscript{15}.

B. POETRY SURFACE STRUCTURE

1. Language Disorder

Geoffrey Leech says, when we read a poem we can find nine-language disorders. Although, not entire poem has that nine aspect of language disorder, we can find it in minimum one. The nine of language disorders appeared from variety poetry that came from the different time as a valid data. Although Geoffrey Leech has stated the nine language disorders found in poetry but in this research, the writer finds only one from her limited four poetries named “Uphill” by Christina Georgina Rossetti. The disorder found inside the poem is a lexical disorder. Although there is only one mistake found on Christina Rossetti’s poem among other four, but to get more information about the language disorders, the writer shall to analyze them.

a. Lexical Disorders, the words that we find in poem usually written in a wrong word because it’s different from the daily language. The poet chooses words that suitable with his or her soul expression or the word is suited to the aesthetical demands. Wendy Cope wrote in “Lonely Hearts”

I’m Librar, in experienced and blue-

The right word should be written is “librarian”

b. Semantically Disorders, word in a poem does not have one meaning, but it has double meanings. The words meaning is not always as same as a daily words in daily language. The word

“land” in Christina Rossetti poem refers to the meaning “the life after death” but land in our understanding is “a wide open area”

c. Phonological Disorders, for the rhyme importance, the poet used to make phonological disorders.

You tell me of our future that you *plann’*d:

Only remember me; you *understand*

Taken from Christina Rossetti poem “Remember”

d. Morphological Disorders, poets used to break the morphological principle. As we can see it in a poem “Jailhouse Blues” a poem taken from the folk-music blues song African-American communities 1910’s by the second stanza in the first line “I don’t mind *bein’* in jail but I got to stay there so long” the author of this song should write it correctly “being”.

e. Syntaxes Disorders, poets used to neglect of using capital letters in the beginning of sentence. We used to have difficulties in seeking one comprehensive sentence in a poem. Poem lines should not build a sentence because the meaning inside is wider than a sentence.

f. Dialect Using, poet used to feel unsatisfying by using the nation language. To express his or her feeling entirely, he or she uses a dialect according to his or her mother language. A black African-American used to write his or her poem that describes a black
dialect. A poem by Bessie Smith and Clarence Williams entitled “Jailhouse Blues”

>You better stop your man from ticklin’ me under my chin.
>You better stop your man from ticklin’ me under my chin.
>‘Cause if he keep on ticklin’ I’m sure gonna take him in.

g. Register Using, register is one of language variation used by certain group or certain profession in social community.

h. Historical Disorders, historical disorders by using an ancient word that have not been use for a long time in daily words, this ancient word used to raise the aesthetical value.

i. Graphology Disorders, in writing words, sentence, lyric and lines. Poet uses to break the language principle on purpose; capital letters and punctuation mark were not used, as they should. A poet does this thing to give an aesthetic effect in his or her poetry.

2. Poetry Syntaxes

Richard Ellmann and Robert O’Clair in their book Modern Poems An Introduction To Poetry say, Syntax is a set of rules for making understandable sentences. A poem’s syntax-the structure of its phrases, clauses, and sentences-may also contribute to its tone. Christina Rossetti was full attention of poetry syntaxes in making poem; she begins most of her poetry with a capital letters and using the punctuation mark such as, dot and comma correctly. She made her poetry understandable.

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3. Poetry Method

Poetry method is one of the elements of poetry that build an aesthetic set of words to be one perfect poem. Poetry method helps poetry reader to understand more through that method. Like music, poetry is written to be heard. The aesthetic value of its content makes all the reader enjoy the beauty of poetry. The reader can enjoy it more when he or she has knowledge of poetry method so the reader can understand the poetry content comprehensively. Poetry exists in the language of imaginative insight. Through its language, poetry sharpens our senses and freshens our awareness that we understand, almost intuitively, what would otherwise be impossible to express through images and metaphor, closely allied with the symbols he creates, the poet attains the rich suggestiveness of his language, evoking the subtlest emotions. The elements of poetry method can be learned one by one, but each of them cannot be separated in understanding a poem. Those elements are:

1. Diction.

Words are the poet’s medium. Poets are especially careful in choosing their words; poets explore and try to use all the expressive resources of words. Therefore, to make a meaningful arrangement of poem the poet needs to choose words that they want to write to produce a perfect poem. The activity of choosing words is named diction.

Sylvan Barnet, Morton Berman, and William Burton in their book Literature for Composition Says, from the whole of language, one

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20 Richard Ellmann, op. cit., p. xxvii
consciously or unconsciously selects certain words and grammatical construction and this selection constitutes one's diction.

In creating tone, poet uses language that communicates emotion. Curses, groans, and common adjectives such as beautiful, wonderful, and marvelous express emotion, but they do not often communicate so that the listener shares the speaker's feeling. Successful poets use language not merely to express but also to communicate precisely. Their choice of words is called diction.

2. Imagery

Laurence Perrine and Thomas R. ARP. In their book define imagery as "the representation through language of sense experience." A poet wants his or her readers to have a same feeling with a poet in sense something. By his or her language the poet tries to convey the reality in his or her poem. Imagery in a poem created by a poet appears an imagination in reading a poem. Whether it's to feel, to taste, and to hear or to see. Imagery serves a sensory impression for the reader or the listener. The poem helps him see, hear, touch, taste, and feel.

According to Herman J. Wahuyo in his book Apresiasi Puisi, Imagery is divided into three kinds:

A. Visual Imagery, the poet tries to describe something that make us to have a vision of what poet writes.

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21 Gloria M. Henderson, op. cit., p. 14
23 Walter Loban, loc. cit.
24 Herman J. Wahuyo, op. cit., p. 78
“But in the summer bower, and at the morning hour,
We still shall look in vain for the same bird and flower”

(Christina Rossetti “Gone For Ever”)

By reading this poem, we seem to have a vision and to imagine that in the bright summer at the morning hour the speaker and we are seeing at the same bird and flower.

B. Auditory Imagery, in this imagery, when we read a poem we feel like we hear something that the poet described in his or her poem.

“Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone
Prevent the dog from barking with a juicy bone,
Silence the piano and muffled drum
Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come”

(W.H. Auden “Funeral Blues”)

In this poem we feel all the noise that came from a ticking clock, the ringing phone, the barking dog and the tinkling piano stop for the noise belongs to the mourners of losing a loved one.

C. Olfactory Imagery is an imagery that makes us to touch or to feel something real in the poem we read.

“You know the parloc trick
Wrap your arms around your own body
And from the back it looks like someone is embracing you,
Her hands grasping your shirt,
Her fingernails teasing your neck”

(Billy Collins “Embrace”)

There is no doubt that by reading this poem, we feel embracing someone that is ourselves. It is not just to feel, but we also want to do the same thing that the poet told us to do.

3. Concrete Word.

Poets want to describe something concretely. Therefore words are concreted. Poet may not to waste words in his or her poem although the readers may be troubled in understanding the poet words. Christina Rossetti composed her poem with concrete, compact and solid word.

4. Figure of Speech.

Figure of speech in other word, figurative language is anyway of saying something other than the ordinary way. Robert Frost has said,” poetry provides the one permissible of saying one thing and meaning another” means that saying one thing in terms of something else. Words have their literal meanings, but they can also be used so that something other than the literal meaning is implied.

Figurative language is far from being the exclusive property of poets.

Because everybody uses it all the time, in order to give freshness and

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26 Laurence Perrine op. cit., p.61
spice to what they say. We also use comparisons to make our point.

Example: she’s beautiful as the blooming rose.

There are a few figure of speech found on Christina Rossetti’s four poetry which she used it to arrange a perfect poem:

1. **Personification.**

   Personification defines as the attribution of human feelings or characteristics to abstractions to inanimate objects.

   Example, The fixed bells rang, their voices come like boats over the oil slicks. (Poem lines by Charles Olson)

2. **Hyperbole**

   Hyperbole defines as “simply exaggeration, but exaggeration in the service truth”\(^{28}\) we can say it as the overwhelming words. Hyperbole gives an extra emotion with the redundantly pressure that poet puts in words to get an extra attention and the intensive effect from its reader.

   Example in word: he is hurting her feeling to die. The word “die” here, means an exaggeration, no one dies because of the feeling hurts, die here means sad.

3. **Metaphor**

   A metaphor asserts identity, without a connective such as like or a verb such as appears, of terms that are literally incompatible.

   Example, she is the rose, the glory of the day.

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\(^{28}\) Laurence Perrine *op. cit.*, p. 64
(A poem line by Edmund Spenser.)

Metaphor is divided into two kinds, they are: Synecdoche, the whole is replaced by the part, or the part by the whole. For example, bread in, “give us this day our daily bread” replaces all sorts of food. And Metonymy, something is named that replaces something closely related to it. For example, James Shirley names certain objects, using them to replace social classes to which they are related:

*Scepter and Crown* must tumble down
And in the dust be equal made
With the poor crooked scythe and spade.

4. Symbol

A symbol is an object or an action which both represents itself and at the same time has a larger meaning than it ordinarily has—a meaning which can often be multiple or ambiguous. Symbols are more suggestive than figures of speech, usually more complex, and often harder to interpret. Example, “she is a rose” rose here is a symbol of beauty and soft.

A symbol maybe viewed as a specific sort of metaphor, at least insofar as one thing is made to stand in for, or represent another. Symbols differ from conventional metaphors, however, in that what is symbolize is generally a concept or an abstraction. While,

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29 Richard Ellmann *op. cit.*, p. xliii
the purpose of a symbol is to point the reader toward a larger, and
more generalized, order of significance. A wedding ring
symbolizes union (as well as purity true love, constancy, and so
on), and a bird symbolizes freedom. A white dove, meanwhile, is a
symbol of peace.30

Symbol is a visible object or action that suggests some further
meaning in addition to it self. However, symbols in literature have
no conventional, long-established meaning. But particular
meanings of their own.31

5. Rhyme

Rhyme is usually reserved to refer to the final syllables of different
lines of poetry when the vowel and syllable-final consonants (if any) of
the words in question are identical.32 True rhymes occur when the last
stressed syllables of two or more lines share the same vowel sounds,
followed by identical-sounding consonants or unstressed syllables.33

Home is so sad. It stays as it was left, a
Shaped to the comfort of the last to go b
As if to win them back. Instead, bereft a
Of anyone to please, it withers so, b
Having no heart to put aside the theft a

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32 Mick Short, *Exploring The Language Of Poems, Plays and Prose*. (New York: Addison Wesley Longman USA, 1996) p. 113
33 Richard Ellmann, *op. cit.*, p. 1
Rhyme divided into four kinds, they are: Alliteration, is sometimes defined as the repetition of initial sounds (“All the awful auguries “or” Bring me my bow of burning gold”), sometimes as the prominent repetition of consonant (“after life’s fitful fever”). Consonance is the repetition of identical consonant sounds and differing vowel sounds in words in proximity (fail-feel, rough-roof, pitter-patter). Sometimes consonance is more loosely defined merely as the repetition of consonant (fail-peeel). Onomatopoeia: is said to occur when the sound of a word echoes or suggests the meaning of a word. His and buzz are onomatopoetic. And Assonance: is the repetition, in words in proximity, of identical vowels sounds preceded and followed by differing consonant sounds whereas tide and hide are rhymes, tide and mine are assonantal.

To have an easier understanding about the poetry, the writer shall to mark the final syllables of the poetry in each of different lines with letters (A, B, C, D, E, F, and so on) on her analysis at chapter three “Research Findings and poetry Analysis”
C. POETRY DEEP STRUCTURE

The elements that we’re about to discuss are the most important elements in the poetry because they are dealing with the poet the one who has an inspiration in making poem. Through the poets work we learn to try to be in their position to feel the same feeling with a poet when we read it. Poetry stabilizes one’s whole experience-thoughts, feeling and sensations.\(^{34}\)

The four elements inside a poem are:

1. Theme.

Theme is the central idea of literary work.\(^{35}\) As we know that theme is Controlling Idea: The theme of a literary work. The controlling idea of a poem is the idea continuously developed throughout the poem by sets of key words that identify the poet’s subject and his attitude or feeling about it. It may also be suggested by the title of a poem or by segment of the poem. The poet rarely states it explicitly, but the reader can state it and it can be stated in different ways. According to James Pickering the word theme defined as “the controlling idea or meaning of a work of art.”\(^{36}\)

Theme is what is made of the topic. It is the comment on the topic that is implied in the process of the story.\(^{37}\) Theme is a major idea.\(^{38}\) In literature, theme is the central idea or statement about life that unifies and contrasts the total work. In exploring poetry we can find various theme that hiding

\(^{34}\) Walter Loban, *op. cit* p. 350

\(^{35}\) Laurence Perrine *op. cit*. p.13


\(^{38}\) Gloria M. Henderson, *op. cit*. p. 13
inside the poem itself. Love theme, social theme, national theme, devotional theme and other. While in this discussion, Christina writing devotion mostly. While, the devotional theme is based on the experience of believing in religion and god deeply that writer’s had inside.

2. Tone.

The true subject of a lyric is a state of mind or attitude, known by the technical term tone. Tone maybe defined as a complex of interrelated attitudes, those of the speaker, writer, and reader, toward the poem’s situation. Tone maybe defined as complex interrelated attitudes, those of the speaker, writer and reader, toward the poem’s situation. The tone of a poem maybe quite complex, expressing feeling that cannot even be suggested by such general words as love, joy and pain.


Dalam melciptakan puisi, suasana perasaan penyair ikut diekspresikan dan harus dapat dihayati oleh pembaca. Untuk mengungkapkan tema yang sama, penyair yang satu dengan yang lainnya memiliki perasaan yang berbeda. Sehingga hasil puisi yang diciptakan berbeda pula.

In creating poem, the feeling of poet atmosphere is involved in expression of poem, so the reader could comprehend fully to reveal the same theme. Poets have a different feeling in creating poetry that produces a different poetry.

4. Intention.

Amanat yang hendak disampaikan oleh penyair dapat ditelaah setelah kita memahami tema, rasa dan nada puisi itu. Tujuan atau amanat merupakan

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39 Gloria M. Henderson, *op. cit* p. 13
40 *Ibid*
41 Herman J. Wahyono, *op. cit* p. 111
hal yang mendorong penyair untuk menciptakan puisinya. Amanat tersirat dibalik kata-kata yang disusun, dan juga berada dibalik tema yang diungkapkan\textsuperscript{41}.

An intention, in other word message made by poets can be learned after we understand a theme, feeling and tone inside the poem. The intention tempts poet to create his or her poem. The intention is hiding inside the arrangement of words, and also behind the revealing theme.

These two fundamental elements, which were: Poetry Surface Structure and Poetry Deep Structure has found on Christina Rossetti’s four poetries as the writer shall to analyze to give a wider understanding about each elements appeared in Christina Rossetti’s poetry, the writer puts her analysis on the chapter three “Research Findings and Poetry Analysis”.

\textsuperscript{41} Ibid p. 130
CHAPTER III

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND POETRY ANALYSIS

A. The Biography of Christina Georgina Rossetti.

Christina Georgina Rossetti was one of the most important women poets writing in nineteenth-century England. She was born and lived in an era of renewed popular interest in myth, romance, legend and fairy tales. There were so many intelligent people, talented writers from many fields, such as, prose, poetry, dramas, and novel also paintings and the era was including the development of politics. So the era was called High Victorian Literature. Christina Rossetti, (Also wrote under the pseudonym Ellen Alleyne) English poet, short storywriter, and prose writer was born on December 5, 1830 at Charlotte Street, Soho, near Portland Place in London. The Rossetti family members were all devoted students of religion, art and literature. Her family belonged to the upper class; her friends also came from upper and middle classes. Christina Rossetti was a youngest daughter. She had two brothers Dante and William Rossetti, and one older sister Maria Rossetti.

Christina’s father was Gabrielle Rossetti, a political exiled from Italy. He was also an aesthetics poet, her mother Frances Lavinia Polidori Rossetti had been intellectually inspired by her own mother. She was one of eight children born to Anna

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43 http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/rossetti/bioov.html Monday, December 11th 2006
Louise Pierce, an English governess. Her brother Dante Gabriel Rossetti was known before as a poet-painter and the founder of the Pre-Raphaelite movement, along with his friends. Its aim was to combat the 'Raphaelism' of the artistic 'establishment' by drawing on the detailed naturalism of medieval frescoes. In the short-lived periodical called The Germ, started in 1850, the movement was extended to literature. While her other brother William Rossetti was a biographer and her sister Maria Rossetti was a writer then finally she become a nun because of her devotion to the religious that tempted Christina considered to be.

Christina Rossetti and her brothers and sister was never to school but under the influence of an extremely bookish household she had begun to write verses about the age of twelve, and, when she was only twenty, contributed a number of poems to the Germ, an experimental amalgam of poetry, prose, and essay, also served to extend the range of an artist's literary and pictorial predilections.

In 1893 Rossetti contracted cancer. She died the following year, in 1894, on December 19, and was buried beside her parents in Highgate Cemetery. She had been an excellent example of the influence of Puseyism in the Anglican Church.

47 Peter Quennel, op. cit. p. 414
1. HER CHILDHOOD AND EDUCATION

Christina Rossetti was educated solely at home and never went to school as all four rossetti children learned at home until their mother could not accommodate their education. It was the boys, then, who were allowed to attend school to learn Latin in preparation for Kings College School. Christina and her sister Maria followed typical Victorian custom; girls did not attend a formal school, as did the boys. This is how the Victorian demonstrate its way to allow girls far fewer educational opportunities than boys.

Rossetti childhood was not only spent with learning. Christina also looks back on the happy holidays she spent in her grandfather Polidori’s home Holmer Green in Buckinghamshire. Christina spent whole days discovering the landscape around them and the animals that lived there. Which allowed her to be exposed to nature and wilderness. These themes are recurrent in her poetry. She had begun to write verses about the age of twelve.\(^50\)

2. HER RELIGIOUS LIVING

Christina Rossetti was a very high devout Anglican. She was finally decided to write her feeling of devotion through the poetry medium. Her love to god brings her to live a charitable work and unpretentious. She found the world evil. She repudiated pleasure: “I cannot possibly use the word happy’ without meaning something beyond this present life.”\(^51\) Her word indicates her high devotion in loving

\(^{50}\) Peter Quennel, *op. cit.* p. 414
\(^{51}\) Louis Untermeyer, *op. cit.* p 939
god until the love that she feels make her to be close to the nature and creatures, which have suggest her more in believing of the almighty god presence, she does all the generous and noble deeds as to obey god’s commands and to surrender a self then to have a feeling that god is all above no power can compare. Christina quoted “obedience is the fruit of faith”.

Christina Rossetti’s love obsession to god spends her loyalty and much time went to church work and church at tendencies. One from many proofs of her obedience to god is refused twice to marry. She does never marry in all of her life; her denial is related to the matter of religion, despite this consideration she decided not to marry. She had lived her life in despair and broken hearted. This love affairs many time appears in her writing of poetry that reflect personal renunciation as sonnet-sequence, Monna Innominata is her fervent of love denied.

In the sadness and disappointment of her failing love, she had never try to be in love for more. Christina’s enthusiasm hiding love inside her had blown up, and its blow directs to one and only the almighty god. And only for him she gave the entire love. Because. In the end, Rossetti’s love for god always trumps the love of another human. Christina in very truth ‘unlocks her heart’ and we can see what the sacrifice she had felt it right to make meant to her.

The greatest love that she has had feeling leads her to be a generous, kind-hearted and down to earth person. She dedicated her lives to help people surround

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52 John Wilson Bowyer, op. cit. p. 601
53 Taken from http://www.usp.nus.edu.sg/victorian/authors/crossetti/bocher4.html Monday, 11th December 2006
her. She published during the year of 1860, including a book of verse for children, *Sing-Song: A Nursery Rhyme Book* in the year of 1871, and after 1875 she was very much involved with the society for her noble activity in spreading the Christian knowledge. Christina was expected heavenly rewards for her self-denial on earth.54

The love that she had feel to her god Jesus Christ, marks a turning point of the pure love that existed in her self, for she know that Jesus Christ is her ideal lover, he would never hurt her. In a poem like “A Better Resurrection” the lines “a royal cup for Him, my King: o Jesus, drink of me” express the imagination of her self being a royal cup that Jesus would like to drink. This love was not only meant in a spiritual but also in a very physical way. We can find often the word that fills with such a desire to be love by Jesus.

Christina Rossetti used the devotional theme in her poetry with light words, various symbol, metaphor, hyperbole and personification, the way she putted her words makes the reader of her literary work easier to interpret and to be understood. Christina had composed her words to be a perfect understanding and she built the devotional theme hidden inside her poetry becomes casual interpretation. Such as, she made the word “Death” as a release from pain unlike other that describe the word “Death” as the scariest thing people have to deal with.

In 1871 Christina Rossetti contracted grave disease or exophthalmic bronchocele, an illness, which would bring her on the verge of death. She suffered

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54 Taken from [http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/crossetti/bioov.html](http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/crossetti/bioov.html) Monday, 11 December 2006
from it until 1873 and it transformed her both mentally and physically. And in 1891 she was diagnosed with cancer and having an operation two year before she finally past away, and during the past five months she had been a great sufferer. She passed quietly away at her residence in Torrington square on Saturday 19 December 1894 at the age of sixty-four and was buried in Highgate Cemetery next to her parents.

Christina Rossetti was an extremely devout Christian, and her religious views affect everything she wrote, in Rossetti’s poetry, god is always present, is always there, god is everywhere. Religion for Christina was ‘the most awful and serious personal thing on earth.’ In her scrupulousness, her reserve, her austerity, her deep spiritual awe, Christina was a true Tractarian. Her deep sense of her own unworthiness, her humility of soul, was not ‘sweet egotism’ but the mark of the saint—stern with self, tender with others. Her love of her Lord and his Church was the greatest love of her life—a love that finds a personal expression in her devotional poems. And the devotional theme became her greatest theme of all of her poetry.

55 Taken from http://anglicanhistory.org/bios/crossetti.html Thursday, February 01, 2007
3. HER ACTIVITIES

Christina Rossetti was a very active young woman who had a vision to achieve a better life through her career work. In her earlier career, she was a writer with an obedience expression of Christian in her writings. Two dominant themes pervade her work; her own deep-rooted sense of frustration and the keen spiritual longings of her ‘naturally Christian’ soul. Her standard was high; there seems no doubt that she was a more gifted poet than her brother (that also a poet) Dante Gabriel, at once more sensitive and more various in her use of words and images.56

In many respects Christina’s interest in social problem was determined by contemporary conservative religious opinion. After the death of her widowed mother and her aunt, with whom she had settle down at 30 Torrington Square, she very seldom left home except to worship at a neighboring Anglican Church. She did her writings mostly at home.

She wrote verses at the age twelve and dedicated it to her mother as a birthday greeting. The birthday greeting she presented to her mother was delighted Gaetano Polidori (Christina’s grand father) then he printed in his own private printing press in Regent’s park.57 Provided early evidence of her poetic talent. On this press too, he printed a collection of Christina’s juvenile poems when she was seventeen, Christina submit the two poems of her to the Athenaeum (the important literary weekly) and was established. Christina publicly announced her calling as a poet.

56 Peter Quennel, op. cit. p. 414
57 Taken from http://anglicanhistory.org/bios/lovely/rosetti.html Thursday, February 01, 2007
In 1848 came to her through associating members of the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood which intended to challenge the old-fashioned academic art traditions of the day. Christina occasionally served as a model for the painters she also offered suggestions for the group’s short-lived journal, The Germ (thoughts toward nature in poetry, literature, and art.) In 1850, Christina contributed seven poems under the pseudonym Ellen Alleyne to the Germ, the journal of the Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood.

A family crisis marked Christina’s entry into adolescence made her often delegated to stay at home as her father’s caretaker until his death. As disciplined in familial as in religious matters, Christina joined her mother in teaching school at Frome, Somerset, from 1851 to 1854 the year of the passing away father, to improve the family financial situation.

In 1860, she volunteered at a home called “Mary Magdalene” a home that build for fallen women or prostitutes who wanted to change their lives and escape from their dangerous and exploitative profession. There, she taught reading, writing, and various practical skills like sewing and embroidery to the women at this home. Her volunteer work involved women from the lowest classes of British society.

Rossetti spent the last 15 years of her life in dedicating herself to write, study and spiritual contemplation. Although she could not admit that women should have

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58 Taken from http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/crossetti/bio0v.html Thursday, January, 11th 2007
equality with men, but she was interested in such projects where she also involve in. such as, Victoria Press, which employed women only, a Factory Girls’ club\textsuperscript{59}.

4. Major Works of Christina Georgina Rossetti

Rossetti’s first published poem appeared in the _Athenaeum_ when she was seventeen. She became a frequent contributor to the Pre-Raphaelite journal *The Germ*. *Goblin Market And Other Poems* (1861), relates the adventures of two sisters who are tempted by the fruit of the goblin merchant of Efland. The title poem of *The Prince’s Progress, And Other Poems* (1866) relate a prince’s physical, moral, and spiritual journey to meet his bride. In 1870 she published *Commonplace*, a book of short stories and in the year 1871 she published *Sing-Song*: a nursery rhyme book, beautifully illustrated by Arthur Hughes.


on the Revelation (1891), and Verses (1893). In 1891 she began to suffer from cancer and died, after a long and painful illness.

The first authoritative collection of her work *The Poetical Works Of Christina Georgina Rossetti* (1904) was edited by her brother William and contains most of Rossetti's highest esteemed and frequently studied works. In *The Face Of The Deep*, Rossetti explores, verse by verse, the entire *Book Of The Revelation Of St. John*. Throughout Rossetti's verse and prose, the themes of isolation and unhappiness recur.
B. THE ANALYSIS OF CHRISTINA GEORGINA ROSSETTI’S POETRY

1. Uphill

UPHILL

"Does the road wind uphill all the way?" A
Yes, to the very end. B
Will the day's journey take the whole long day? A
From morn to night, my friend. B

But is there for the night a resting place? C
A bed for when the slow dark hours begin. D
May not the darkness hide it from my face? C
You cannot miss that inn D

Shall I meet other wayfarers at night? E
Those who have gone before. F
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight? E
They will not keep you standing at that door F

shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak? G
Of labor you shall find the sun. H
Will there be beds for me and all who seek? G
Yes, beds for all who come." I

Most Christina Rossetti’s famous literary work with sad themes such as unhappy love, death and premature resignation relates to the strong feeling of a god presence, to obey god’s commands, to surrender a self and to have a belief that god is all above, no power can compare. “Uphill” that written by Christina Rossetti known as one of her best literary work indicates a cause that reflected her feeling toward life and death. Uphill has a very casual tone, natty and harmonic rhyme, the familiar setting has mentioned in the poem: place and time were exposed in a very simple words.
The poet gave an analogy to the poem with the light words that indicated the poem main idea, which tells the process of life, death, life struggles, and the life after death is our destination as our final resting place. But, the poet describes these compositions in light words. But, death is a medium for us to feel the absolute life as our faith depends to our deeds. We will get our competent resting place, as we shall to analyze “Uphill” the poem.

Many poems that talk about life struggle and death expressing a frightening interpretation, this interpretation construct our mind to think of life struggle and death is the scariest thing we have to face. But, life is such a ride, it will take us round and round sometimes we’re up but sometimes we’re down. There is a time to feel the sadness, pain, loss, suffer, disappoint, hopeless and tears but there will be happiness, smile, joy and laugh for us. Uphill is the symbol of life road, long journey and what it took as our consequences in life.

First line begins with a question about life struggle “Does the road wind uphill all the way” is it true that a journey of life is tears, pain, effort and struggle? Then the second line the speaker corrects it by answering the question with “yes to the very end”. It means, that the speaker agreed with life is not just about living. But there is also to struggle, Literally, the first line seems the speaker feel a great responsible toward the life that the speaker had experienced in very hard condition and situation. People are living to struggle. It’s in our innate to keep going and moving such, the day that keep changing morning to night, moon to sun, dark to light as in the fourth line that functioned as an answer to the third line that agreed to the
way of struggle which, to achieve success needs the whole attention and
determination that took our times “from morn to night, my friend” this line
expressed the life and its struggle took most of our times. The word “morn” also
shows the lexical disorders made by poet, the correct word should be written with
“Morning”.

Morn to night is a symbol of a time. And there is no time to hesitate. The
word “…my friend” here, the poet intended that her poem would be understood by
all of the readers so she used the word as a medium to convey her purposes with the
language approach “my friend”. The poet tries to build a relation between her and the
readers.

In fifth line there is a question about the resting-place “But is there for night
a resting-place?” which is the writer symbolizes as a death place, day after-life place.
The question over here is a feeling of worry if there is no place in the day after life.
Continued by the sixth line “A roof for when the slow dark hours begin” a roof is a
symbol of a place, slow dark hours begin is a symbol to a dusk age, when people
become old and weak.

Then they hope “may not the darkness hide it from my face?” as found in the
seventh line. The question asks a convincement that pushes us to answer, “You
cannot miss that inn”, the eighth line used to end up the feeling of worry to answer
the questions of a doubtful and confusion. Inn as a symbol of a resting place means,
that we’ll get our place that deserves us dependent on our good and bad deeds. The
word “Inn” in this line shows diction. The poet has an authority in poem making, she
choose to use the word "an Inn" rather than "a room", "hotel" or "motel". Besides diction, the word "Inn" also shows a Synecdoche. Inn represents any places to stay in.

This line gives a positive influence to the readers, which is to build a strong relation to the almighty god and to be more grateful of his merciful and love. Toward human, we would appreciate, respect and love them, to be generous and to live harmonically among them. The ninth & tenth line "Shall I meet other way farers at night? Those who have gone before" farers, symbolize people before us that have passed away long before us, night symbolizes the death. We can easily understand with shall I meet those who already died before when I die? In these two lines it seems that the speaker has her own feeling of excitement that the speaker hopes to meet someone or some people who are the speaker’s family or relation before they’re died. In “Then must I knock or call when just in sight” the speaker seems to describe the phase of the life after death. The people who have gone before live in different houses. There are so many houses over the land that they can stay, and the houses seem a usual house that we used to see right now. It has a door, a window and a wall and others as a component of a house.

“Should I knock?” means, knocking someone’s door, whom have gone before, or else “or call when just in sight” is calling someone that of course we knew before to call and greet him/her. This is the speaker’s imagination; the speaker’s taking us to explore what became the speaker’s imagination. We’ll meet them and we wont be feeling lonely. Together they’re united because “They will not keep you
standing at the door”. Those who have gone before welcome you, will take you into their house and greet you. The word “door” in this line shows a Synecdoche, it represents all sorts of a house component.

The eleventh line “Shall I find comfort, travel sore and weak?” means, “Shall I find comfort from a suffering journey and weak?” It seems that this analysis return to the explanation of happiness we will achieve if we do the right thing. This sentence line shows personification because, she used an adjective word “sore” and “weak” these words should refer to characterize human being. In “Of labor you shall find the sun” of a tiring long journey you will find the comfort, joy, happiness and the light.

The next line “Will there be beds for me and all who seek?” is a question that the secret has already been revealed before but only to coherent the line questioning a resting place before “You cannot miss that inn” because the last line of the poem is “Yea, beds for all who come”. A bed symbolizes a resting place. A house for each one of us will come to die.

At a glance we can easily understand the meaning behind the words, but when we read more we will get a lot of information appearing in this poem literally. This poem is not just about a life ride that makes us up and down, or about a resting place but this poem also conducts an advices that the life has its own phase of born, live and die. Some people live through such process and some people don’t, but life remains a life that we should be aware and gives the best effort to achieve the happiness and we should not waste our life with doing bad deeds and we should do
good deeds to find comfort of tiring hard long journey, to obey God’s commands and
to avoid what he forbids, to build a harmonic relation among the people, to
appreciate, love and respect them.

At first, the feeling of the speaker is full of worries. She kept questioning
about the end of a long journey and her anxious about the resting place. But, the
speaker feels calm after knowing that the long journey will be paid by the happiness.

2. A Pause

A PAUSE

They made the chamber sweet with flowers and leaves, A
And the bed sweet with flowers on which I lay; B
While my soul, love-bound, loitered on its way. B
I did not hear the birds about the eaves, A
Nor hear the reapers talk among the sheaves: A
Only my soul kept watch from day to day, B
My thirsty soul kept watch for one away:-- B
Perhaps he loves, I thought, remembers, grieves. A
At length there came the step upon the stair, C
Upon the lock the old familiar hand: D
Then first my spirit seemed to scent the air C
Of paradise; then first the tardy sand D
Of time ran golden; and I felt my hair C
Put on a glory, and my soul expand. E

A Pause is a simple poem filled with symbols we can understand easily by
explores it carefully. If we read it at a glance we get the understanding about the
situation in a room decorated beautifully with flowers where, the speaker stays.
Actually the words in the poem have another deep meaning inside. That is not just
telling about a beautiful chamber but this poem also has a casual tone and light
words. A pause is a symbol of a death.
The first line begins with “They made the chamber sweet with flowers and leaves” shows Visual Imagery; the poet arranged the first line by giving the readers a chamber description and situation. The word “they” refers to “the grieve people whom made the chamber looks so sweet”. The chamber symbolizes “the grave” by giving it the flowers and leaves. The word “Chamber” also shows diction, the poet made her poem looks beautiful with using the polite word “Chamber” instead “Room”.

In the second line “And the bed sweet with flowers on which I lay” shows Olfactory Imagery, the poet made the reader of this poem feels laying on the comfort bed where the speaker laid. The speaker specifies it with the word “bed” as a symbol of “coffin” which is also decorated beautifully with flowers where the speaker’s body and soul lays. So the speaker can rest comfortably forever, as we can see it on the third line “While my soul, love-bound, loitered on its way” where her body stays linger over the flowered coffin. Why is the word pause here means as a death?, The Chamber as a grave?, While the bed as a coffin? These questions will be answered in the fourth and fifth line “I did not hear the birds about the eaves, Nor hear the reapers talk among the sheaves:” shows auditory imagery that giving the reader an imagination about the birds wont chirp and people weren’t talking while the speaker used to hear them in noise. The death statement here has been supported with the speaker’s condition who does not hear the birds chirp and the people talks at some place. The speaker can only see them talking with their moving mouth, and the birds chirp above the tree where the birds are hanging. The speaker can only watch they’re
running activities she can’t hear their talks, as the next line says “Only my soul kept watch from day to day”.

The seventh line tells “My thirsty soul kept watch for one away” shows hyperbole, the poet used the word thirsty to express her longing feeling toward someone and in this sentence, the speaker states her condition of being thirsty not from the freshness drinking but the thirsty came from her missing of “a love one” this thirsty is the only thing she cannot let go. As we have learned from the biography of the poet earlier, which might indicates the poet herself (Christina Rossetti) who never marries her lovers because of the religion matter. But, the missing of someone she would love and be loved never ends. As she states it in the eighth line with “Perhaps he loves, I thought, remembers, grieves” she mentioned her hopeless wishes, for her lovers to love her, to remember her then to grieve her passing.

The ninth line of the poem is no longer shows her grave condition and her wishes as we can see “At length there came the step upon the stair” after her surveillance around her grave which is full of mourning people. She sees steps came over her as a stair. Then she goes up into the stairs finds the door at above “Upon the lock the old familiar hand”. The old familiar here, might indicate her parents that have passed away long before her to welcome her in the new place of living. And the word “hand” shows a synecdoche, hand as a representation of human body.

In “Then first my spirit seemed to scent the air of paradise” she feels like she’s already smell the scent of paradise air where she will be live linger. As we have learned from the biography of the poet earlier, Christina hopes her sacrifices on earth
be paid by the heaven of god. In “Then first the tardy sand of time ran golden; and I felt my hair put on a glory, and my soul expand,” is the speaker mentioned of what had happen over her. “The tardy sand of time” is the speaker word to call the clock or the watch. “Ran golden” means, no more pain, the speaker is no longer waiting her time to die, to feel the pain. Because the death she has been waiting has already come as a release from pain she had suffered from many years.

In “And I felt my hair put on a glory” her beauty is back by mentioning that her hair became glory. Back to Christina’s (The Poet) youth she has a healthy perfect hair. “Glory” symbolizes “the beauty”. The last sentence of the poem telling “and my soul expand” refers to her spirit to feel delight happiness, the gloried spirit, her spirit or soul to feel the most excitement moment of that time. The line eleventh to fourteenth shows Olfactory Imagery, the poet described such process she’s going through that makes the reader sense and feel in their imagination the same thing.

If we read this poem carefully, we found the speaker in this poem intended to describe her feeling of what will happen to her at her agony, death and after she had passed it all where she welcomes the paradise and stays over there. The speaker describes an amusement when her weak and old body replaced by her strong and young body, her hair backs to the way it seem when she was young and her beauty face backs to her. By mentioning these processes, the speaker shows the reader her calm, comfort condition and situation, while in the real word she was about to die. Because she knew that after the death there will be cheerfulness and happiness.
The tone appeared in this poem is the speaker wants the reader to get the positive vibe, to not afraid of the death and to feel the same thing. The speaker intended to calm the readers down when we face our arriving time. She wanted the readers to know that after we pass our agony there will be a paradise where becomes our final destination and we will feel the happiness and amusement. The poet shows her devotional theme by longing God’s heaven and to live in His arm as soon as it can be.

3. What Would I Give

What Would I Give

What would I give for a heart of flesh to warm me through, A
Instead of this heart of stone ice-cold whatever I do! B
Hard and cold and small, of all hearts the worst of all. C

What would I give for words, if only words would come! D
But now in its misery my spirit has fallen dumb. D
O’ merry friends, go your own way, I have never a word to say. E

What would I give for tears! Not smiles but scalding tears, F
To wash the black mark clean, and to thaw the frost of years, F
To was the stain ingrain, and to make me clean again. G

Reading this poem, the writer understands it is actually back to the poet biography itself that full of unhappiness. She prefers to live with disappointment of love she never feels. She chooses to be alone in living a life. She assumes that happiness only exists in heaven of god. We can only feel happy in Jesus Christ arms. And the genuine love is love of Jesus. In this poem, Christina exposes this statement entirely. The title of this poem is a keyword of the poem content “what would I give” is a question, which actually uses a question mark. It means as, I wont give anything.
The first line that says “What would I give for a heart of flesh to warm me through” literally, has one particular meaning, which is “why should I give up my self to someone so he can embrace me to give me feeling of warm?” The speaker has a hidden purpose in this sentence. This line also shows hyperbole, the poet express her word redundantly by saying the word “a heart of flash” which means, “someone”.

She questioned her self, but in the meantime she has already had the answer by “Instead of this heart of stone ice-cold whatever I do” She feels cold and her heart frozen like a hard rock inside even though she gives herself away. It means, to give love for someone is useless, the love of someone would not warm her inside but outside this line also shows a metaphor, she identifies her heart with stone ice-cold.

She empowers her word with the next line as a closure of first stanza “Hard and cold and small, of all hearts the worst of all”. She states that her heart is the coldest heart among others. So, there is nothing in the world where she live could warm her frozen heart.

The second stanza begins with “what would I give for words, if only words would come”. It has a same meaning above, but she continues with words literally, or “why should I say something to whom loving me?” Perhaps the words that she meant are: “I love you” as a statement or “I do” as a full agreement or as a replay of oath of allegiance in marriage, as the poet herself refuse to marry twice. Although she hopped the phrase “if only words would come” but it would not come as she stays qui tes and be silence to feel the loneliness inside.
In “But now in its misery my spirit has fallen dumb” shows hyperbole by expressing “my spirit has fallen dumb” while the poet meant that her silence have brought her to a misery, a misery that regretted her and made her silence to be a complete silence. “O merry friends, go your own way, I have never a word to say” means, she wants her lover or someone who would marry her to stay away from her. Because, she has nothing to say, neither it is a statement word, oath of allegiance or anything else. This line shows the poet biography Christina Rossetti, she used the word “merry friends” refers to her fiancée and lover.

At the age eighteen, Christina Rossetti was in love to a member of Pre-Raphaelite brotherhood named James Collinson. She was engaged with him but the engagement was finally end because James Collinson reverts to the Roman Catholicism while Christina was the true Tractarian so she was release her love away. And later at the age thirty-six she was in love for the second time to a scholar named Charles Bagot Clayley because he was not a Christian. She refused to marry both of them under the religion matter. These proofs show us how much she devoted to her god. While the word “Friends” as plural shows the number of Christina lovers it also shows her diction, she used the word “friend” rather than “boyfriend or lover” to express her casual words.

In “What would I give for tears! Not smiles but scalding tears” here is the clear explanation about the entire poem, in the last stanza she expressed that if the speaker’s gives her heart away to love and be loved by someone else is nothing that
she would give, not happiness, not joy, not smile except tears. The tears wash and parish her big mistake of fake and cold heart that she gave to someone who loves her.

In “To wash the black mark clean, and to thaw the frost of years, to was the stain ingrain, and to make me clean again.” The last stanza shows hyperbole sentences came from the poet by saying the word “scalding tears” and “to thaw the frost of years” these sentences exceeds her simple meaning.

This poem is not about the speaker’s regret of loving someone she could not possibly marry. By reading this poem literally, we can easily assume that this poem tells about her love story when she was in love with the two different men. She decided not to marry them because of a religion matter. Here, we can get a massage where the speaker wants to put into words that, “The love of her god will triumphs the love of other”.

To Christina, the obedience of god is the first thing and above all. She quoted once “Obedience is the fruit of faith.” This poem is simply about a poet message of her devotion. Christina expects the love of god and the happiness she wished to achieve came from her devotion.

The tone appeared in this poem is, the speaker wants to proof her devotion to god by describing her enthusiast love she feels to her god. Her words using made the readers to feel her deepest love and to feel the same obedience. The poet also wishes the readers to obey god commands and stay away of what He forbids.
4. Sleeping at last

Sleeping at last

Sleeping at last, the trouble and tumult over,
Sleeping at last, the struggle and horror past,
Cold and white, out of sight of friend and lover,
Sleeping at last.

No more a tired heart downcast or overcast,
No more pangs that wring or shifting fears that hover,
Sleeping at last in a dreamless sleep locked fast.

Fast asleep. Singing birds in their leafy cover
Cannot wake her, nor shake her the gusty blast.
Under the purple thyme and the purple clover
Sleeping at last.

According to the author of Christina Rossetti biography by her own brother William Rossetti. Sleeping at last is the last poem written by Christina. It shows her season day, her weak body suffers pain as usual, her using of words in this poem is light and make easier for its reader to understand her purpose of writing.

In this poem she expressed her calm of near death, she assumed death as a release from pain that she had been through of it. Sleeping at last or sleeping finally, shows her exhaustion of life then she just wants to get rest. The first line begins with “Sleeping at last, the trouble and tumult over” sleeping finally, as the hard problems and riot of life has ends. She repeats the word of “Sleeping at last” in the second line “Sleeping at last, the struggle and horror past” to intense the word of she’s happy of being relax finally. There is no more struggle, no more fight to achieve one thing in life because she is finally gets rest. And she has been passed the horror, the fear of anything that haunts her in life for every day.
In "Cold and white, out of sight of friend and lover" expresses the characterizations of death. Her body is cold and her face is pale, there are no friends and lovers around the speaker when the speaker died, because no matter how many our friends and lovers are, we are alone when we are face to the death. Then the speaker encloses the first stanza with "Sleeping at last". This line is to support the statement of the speaker who has ended her trouble and confusion of life until she finally rests a comfort rest.

On the second stanza, first line begins with "No more a tired heart downcast or overcast". When the speaker had finally ended her trouble of life, then there was no more an exhausted heart of being alone and lonely, being depression and gloomy that the speaker always feels.

The next line fills with "No more pangs that wring or shifting fears that hover". The speaker’s life is full of pain and emotional distress acutely and its only shifted with another fears those feelings never come to an end. It stays linger in the speaker’s life. The speaker indicates that the life she had is really frustrated and full of sadness. It seems like the death is the only cure she has to swallow. The death is the only medicine could freshens her body and soul, she expects the better life in the life after death. She enclosed the second stanza with "Sleeping at last in a dreamless sleep locked fast", sleeping deeply and peacefully without dreaming of anything unlike another usual sleeps. The sleep that locks another sleeps forever.

In this last stanza of the first line "Fast asleep. Singing birds in their leafy cover cannot wake her, nor shake her the gusty blast", the speaker tells about the
condition after her eternal sleep, she cannot hear the birds singing or other noise around and no shake of hand can wake her up again even the heavy crash of thunder because she sleeps an eternal sleep. This eternal sleep is supported by the last sentence of “Under the purple thyme and the purple clover sleeping at last”. The enclosing of this poem is as the clear explanation of the eternal sleep, which she’s actually meant it as a death. She sleeps under the purple aromatic purple beautiful and colorful flowers.

By interpreting this casual and light words poem, we will get the understanding about the life of the poet her self. She assumes her life full of trouble, horror, and pain. She wants to release her self from those dilemmas. She hopes the death come to her. She considered death as a release from pain. Sleeping at Last meant sleeping forever, the true sleep with no dream and never awakens.

People terrified of facing the death. Most of them choose to live longer rather than to quicken death. Here, the poet shows her devotion of god, as the tone hidden in this poem is she was not afraid of the death. She considered death is one of many phase people have to pass. The poet intended to inform us that the entire thing in this world created by god including the death as the power mark of god. The entire universe is fleeting, also creatures live inside it belongs only to Him.
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Literary always exists as long as the human, live because it’s the human who makes a literature along their life. Poem, as the oldest part of literature, has many elements that bound one another. To make good literary competence, we should not forget to learn the entire part of them. So we get the comprehensive understanding about the poem. We cannot understand the poem just by reading it. We have to reveal the meaning inside the poem, which is related to the background of history.

To reveal the meaning inside the poem is to learn the elements of the poetry. We have to understand the surface and deep structure that build a perfect poem such as, the intention of the poet when she makes poetry. When a poet makes a poem she certainly wants to pour her genuine story of life and to make a single perfect poem. She chooses the suit word to give the same rhyme, she also makes symbols to give extra feeling when the readers read it, she uses a metaphor at the same time to make her poem language is desirable to be read and learned.

In this research, the writer studied a theme as a central idea of poem by reveal the poem itself and the biography of the poet. Theme is a keynote to expose the meaning of poem entirely. When Christina Rossetti made a poem, it was based on her feeling that she had felt inside. When she felt in love, she made a beautiful love sonnet called “Monna Innominata” that express her feeling in love. And when she felt
frustrated about the politics issue that full of corruption she made a poem called “Remember.” In this poem she mentioned, “For if the darkness and corruption leave” and when she felt the deepest love to her god whom she have had felt it everyday she made a poem called “A Better Resurrection”. The poem the writer has mentioned has a love theme, nationalism theme and devotional theme. But in this research, the writer limited the research of theme by choosing the domain theme Christina Rossetti had written. Which was “The Devotional Theme.”

As we have studied, Christina Rossetti was an extremely devout Christian, and her religious views affect everything she wrote, regardless of topic. In Rossetti’s poetry, God is always present. While Rossetti loves poetry, however, she explores another topical space as human relationships. She still maintained the religious undertones in the background. And it can be particularly interesting to see how Rossetti navigates love and admiration of another human being with her love for God.

The entire poetry the writer has discussed is devotional theme. The feeling of secure that she wants to achieve, in the poem “Sleeping at last” and “Uphill” is ended by the power of god, of the creature soon or later will face the death. She considered “death” as; a release from pain that Jesus bestowed the only cure will heal.

The poem “A Pause” is the poet imagination of the life after death. She hopped that the entire beautiful thing and the glorious to happen after death, which she mentioned above. While, the poem “What Would I Give” is the poem that expressed a self-sacrifice, renunciation of something that people deserve. But she
parishes this wishes that she believe god is the only healer of her feeling of cold. God is the only one she should give her love away. By that, god would do the same thing.

To figure the theme, we can simply read the poem by the title then make a wider understanding by exploring its content, or we can figure it by scanning the jargon words that the poet uses. Then, we studied and find the meaning inside the difficult words. The theme of each poem that the writer has discussed has a similarity but the ideas in each poem are different, so we have to read it carefully.

B. Suggestion

In this research, the writer suggests to those who are interested in analyzing Christina rossetti’s devotional theme to explore more exclusively not just by understanding her life biography but also to analyze it from various aspects. To those who interested in the same field the writer lets them to find more accurate data so the research results a deep understanding about Christina Rossetti’s life.

The poetry, whose language is used to communicate experience involves not only our intelligence but also our sense, emotion and imagination. The beauty of poetry can be seen through its language, sharp, rhyme and the meaning inside until the poetry readers can be easily admired. Above all, we shall not to forget that a poem cannot be separated from its maker, who is the poet herself because, poetry, is an expression medium of poet. The experience of poet is involved in poem making.
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