IMAGERY AND FIGURES OF SPEECH
IN COUNTEE CULLEN’S POEMS

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IMAGERY AND FIGURES OF SPEECH
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A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Adab and Humanities
as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement’s for
Strata One Degree (S1)

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ABSTRACT


This research discusses Countee Cullen’s poems. The objectives of the research are to know about kinds of figures of speech and imagery utilized in Countee Cullen’s poems, to know the meaning of them and their contribution in building themes of the poems. The writer selects two poems as the objects of the study, they are: *The Loss of Love* and *Songs In Spite of Myself*. Those poems are studied by using descriptive qualitative method and descriptive analysis technique. Those poems are carefully and accurately analyzed using the intrinsic elements concept.

In this research, the writer finds five figures of speech. Those are: overstatement or hyperbole, symbol, metonymy, understatement and personification. Two poems have the same theme, the first poem, *The Loss of Love*, the theme is about the true love. The second poem, *Songs In Spite of Myself*, the theme is about suffering of love and how to solve it. Using figures of speech and imagery make easier to conclude the theme of each poem.

The writer expects that this study will be useful to the readers who want to know further about figures of speech and imagery and their contribution in building the theme in Countee Cullen’s poems.
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The thesis has been defended before the Faculty Letters and Humanities’ Examination Committee on July 12, 2011. It has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, July 12, 2011

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my original work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extend has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgements has been made in the text.

Jakarta, July 2011

Euis Tiyanah
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

First of all, the writer would like to thank to Allah SWT for all favors and guidance in completing this paper. All praises belong to Him, the greater of living things from being nothing to existence. Many salutation and benediction be upon the greatest prophet Muhammad SAW, his family and companions and adherents realize that surely owes much many people materially, morally, scientifically, and spiritually.

This paper is presented to English Letters Department Faculty of Letters and Humanities, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta as partial requirements for the degree of strata one (S1).

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   The writer realizes that this thesis is far from being perfect. Accordingly, she hopes any suggestions and criticism for this thesis. Finally, she hopes this thesis is able to be reference of some literary interpretation.

   May Allah bless us, Amin

   Jakarta, July 2011

   The Writer
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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Poetry is something that floated in the form of votes which each person in a group of activities involved. The word poetry imports something quite peculiar in its nature, something which may exists in what is called prose as well as in verse, something which does not even require the instrument words, but can speak through the other audible symbols called musical sounds and even through the visible ones which are the language of sculpture, painting and architecture.\(^1\)

With the definition of poetry above, the writer should like to propose it more. Poetry is divided into two elements that are intrinsic and extrinsic element. The intrinsic element is the elements compiler which inside it, while the extrinsic element is the elements compiler which out of it.

Intrinsic elements consist of the structure of poetry like theme and figure, groove and context, background and narration center. The intrinsic element only look into the elements which inside it. The true value to determine this intrinsic element is objective assessment, because the assessment only assessing the elements which inside it. Objective assessments assume a poet who can stand by himself, even from its poet or the other

aspects which influence it. Extrinsic elements come from sociology and psychology of the poet.

One of those elements can be seen when a poet pours his imagination to the readers to strengthen words so that from the poem we can awaken our mind and feeling.

The creation of poem is not from the blankness, but it must base on the experiences of the real life. There is mind, feeling, obsession, idea, and imaginations which wish to be translated. There is a kind of phenomenon; event, voice and color which wish to be stringed up with words, for that the poems is born with the creative process. The creativity process in creating poem is often referring by imaginative process. The process of imagination which processed by a poet is not a fantasy or imagination, but exactly the experience of the real life, experience of mind, experience of language, and also the aesthetic experience from the author itself.

And one of those experiences can be described through figure of speech. Figure of speech has many roles in fiction. It makes the fiction interest in evoking emotion, making vivid sensory experience, and eliciting image. Figurative language enables a writer to communicate experiences which he would find very difficult or even impossible to do in literal term. It enables the writer to accomplish in many words. The figure of speech as one of literary element and creates the sense or power to describe things in unique ways. Readers can explore the words in fiction or nonfiction which are expressed by the poet. And also the writer interests to describe the two selected poems with
imagery because it is the representation through the language of sense experience.

Imagery refers to the "pictures" which perceive with mind's eyes, ears, nose, tongue, skin, and through which we experience the "duplicate world" created by poetic language. Imagery evokes the meaning and truth of human experiences not in abstract terms, as in philosophy, but in more perceptible and tangible forms. This is a device by which the poet makes his meaning strong, clear and sure. The poet uses sound words and words of color and touch in addition to figures of speech. As well, concrete details that appeal to the reader's senses are used to build up images.

The writer will propose one of the reasons why she loves to analysis Cullen’s poems and it is because where he came from. In a country like America, poems are used to explore the feeling and the thought of certain social group in certain area. One of them is African American who is experienced racism. One of the first Afro-American poets to be "famous" was Countee Cullen. Countee Cullen's poetry was extremely motivated by race. He produced poetry that celebrates his African American Heritage, exaggerates black heroism, and reveals the reality of being black in the world. Many of his works talk about racism and the way a black person looks at the world. Three of his famous works were The incident, Saturday's Child, and Simon The Cyrenian Speaks.²

Countee Cullen is born on 30th May 1903, in Louisville, Kentucky, U.S and he is died on 9th January 1946, in New York. Countee at age 15 is unofficially adopted by the Reverend F.A. Cullen, Minister of Salem M.E. Church one of Harlem's largest congregations. He won a citywide poetry contest as a schoolboy and saw his winning stanzas widely reprinted. At New York University (B.A., 1925) he won the Witter Bynner Poetry Prize, and his first collection of poems, Color (1925), was published to critical acclaim before he had finished college.

Cullen received an M.A. degree from Harvard University in 1926 and worked as an assistant editor for Opportunity magazine. Cullen married Yolande Du Bois, daughter of W.E.B. Du Bois (divorced 1930). After publication of The Black Christ and Other Poems (1929), Cullen's reputation as a poet waned. From 1934 until the end of his life he taught in New York City public schools. Most notable among his other works are Copper Sun (1927), The Ballad of the Brown Girl (1928), and The Medea and Some Poems (1935). His novel One Way to Heaven (1932) depicts life in Harlem.³

With the intrinsic elements used and the biography of the poet above, here the writer will try to analyze imagery and figure of speech in the poem “Songs In Spite of Myself” and “The Loss of Love” by Countee Cullen with the theme of love. The writer would like to analyze his poem with the love theme because in every of his poem that he created containing significance of imagery and figure of speech analysis so that the writer and the readers are

interested to analyze further. The writer also interested to analysis the Countee Cullen’s poems because these two poems about Cullen’s experiences in love and the writer will explain what kind of love which describe. Love has been handled by the poets with every conceivable emotional tone sincerely and simply, artificially, and with elaborating convention and conceit, ironically and with tongue in cheek.\textsuperscript{4}

With imagery and figurative language, the writer proposes how to analyze the poems which used. The writer will find out the meanings contained in the poem. After the writer examines the meaning that contains imagery and figure of speech then the writer proposes the explication and the theme of the two poems clearly.

B. Focus of the Study

According to the background of the problem above, in this research, the writer will study and analyze the selected two poems and to know the imagery and the figurative language that are used as well as the writer tries to interpret the meaning of them and their contribution in building the themes of the poems.

C. Research Questions

Based on the background above, the writer tries to propose the following research questions:

\textsuperscript{4} Maurice B. Mc Namee, \textit{James E Cronin & Joseph A Rogers, Literary Types and Themes}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} Ed, (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc.), 1971, p. 663
1. What kinds of figure of speech and imagery can be found in the poems of “The Loss of Love” and “Songs In Spite of Myself” by Countee Cullen?

2. From the figure of speech and the imagery, what kind of love theme showed from the two poems?

D. Significance of the Study

With this research, it is expected that the readers can expand their knowledge in how to analyze the poems with relevant theory so that they can understand and make the poem well. This research is also expected to extend knowledge of the writer herself and useful to everyone who is interested in the poem. In addition, this research can be a reference of literary study for other researchers who are interested in the same study.

E. Research Methodology

1. The Objective of the Study

This research aims to know the types of the figurative language and the imagery used. There are some messages and theme which submitted by every poem. Here, the writer also will try to describe about the themes which are proposed by the two poems.

2. The Method of the Research

The method which used in this research is qualitative method. The writer will try to analyze the poem based on the collected data. From the selected data, the writer analyzes the two poems which contain figurative
language and imagery. Then, the writer tries to describe the figurative language and the imagery from each analyzed poem as well as answering the two research questions.

3. **The Technique of Data Analysis**

   In analyzing data, the writer uses descriptive analysis technique. In this analysis, the writer analyzes each poem to find out its figurative language and imagery as well as interprets its meaning and its theme.

4. **The Research Instrument**

   The instrument of this research is the writer herself as the subject to get the data. The process of collecting data is: the writer reads the selected poem comprehensively. Then, underlines their figurative language and imagery. Lastly, the writer analyzes the data by using intrinsic elements of the Poetry Analysis, such as explication, find out the theme and find out figure of speech and imagery.

5. **The Unit of Analysis**

   The analysis-units of this research are two poems of “The Loss of Love” and “Songs In Spite of Myself”, written by Countee Cullen. They were published in 1903-1946 and 1927-1932 by Countee Cullen.

6. **Place and Time of the Study**

   The writer conducts this research at ninth semesters, 2011. It took place in Faculty of Adab and Humanities, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic Jakarta.
CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Understanding Poetry

Etymologically, poem term comes from Greek word, poites, meaning constructor, shaper, and maker. In Latin language of poeta, with the meaning developing, causes, appearing, and poetizing. In the next growth, the meaning of that word becomes narrow which its words arrange in certain condition by using rhythm, rhyme and sometime with figure of speech.

Poems is a piece of writing in which the word are chosen for their sound and the images they suggest, not just for their obvious meanings. Poems often show us the very process of putting feelings into a language that can be share with others to say feelings in a communicable way. Poetry can be intellectual too, explaining and exploring ideas but its focus is more often on how people feel than how they think. Poems work out a shareable language for feeling, and one of poetry’s most insistent virtues involves its attempt to express the inexpressible.

Poetry presents a few grammatical problems which many block our understanding if we do not know how to go about solving them. Reading poetry is an experience that increases in richness as it is repeated. A poem may

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7 Chatman Seymour, An Introduction to The Language Poetry, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1968), p. 16
be enjoyed on first sight, for it is brilliant imagery, perhaps, or it is satisfying sound relationships, the appeal of wit or an intellectual concept pointed with subtlety, or for all these together, flashing upon the mind with a man’s poetic translation of Homer. There are three distinct tours in poetry: the design, the language and the versification.

Poetry is a form of literature that many readers hold in a special kind of affectionate admiration. Great poems differ from others exactly because of these, since their words invoke thoughts and powerful feelings in the listener or reader. Some poets, like the Hungarian József Attila, wrote exceptional poems with words combined in sentences that achieve meaning greater than the sum of the meanings of the words. Some of these became sayings in the everyday language. Across time and cultures the meanings of the words change, and make it difficult to enjoy the original beauty and power of poems.

Finally, poetry is a broad term that includes many subtypes, such as sonnet, lyric, pastoral, ballad, song, ode, drama (which may be in either prose or poetry), epic, mock epic, and dramatic monologue. Essentially, poetry is a compressed and often highly emotional form of expression.

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B. Intrinsic Elements

B.1. Musical Devices

1. Rhyme

   Rhyme is two or more words which are ended with the same sound. There are three types of rhyme:

   a. Masculine

      The rhyme sounds involve only one syllable words. For example:
      cow-how, bend-send, old-cold and ring-sing.

   b. Feminine

      When the rhyme sounds involve two or more syllable words. For example: turtle-fertile, singing-running, and recovery-discovery.

   c. Identical

      When the rhyme sounds consist the same words or different word with the same sounds. For example: hill-hill, wind-wind, and flower-flour.

2. Rhythm

   Rhythm is refers to the regular recurrence of the accent or stress in poem or song. Experience the rhythm of day and night, the seasonal rhythms of the year, the beat of heart, and the rise and fall of chests as breathe in and out.

3. Meter

   Meter is the measure or the patterned count of poetic line. It is a count of the stresses feel in the poem’s rhythm. By convention, the unit of
poetic meter in English is the foot, a unit measure consisting of stressed (‘) an unstressed (-) syllables.

B.2. Devices of Sound

1. Alliteration

Alliteration is the repetition of like consonant sounds. One of the old poems of the end of the fourteen century:

“In a summer season when soft was the sun,
I shope me in shrouds as I shepe were”

2. Assonance

Assonance is the repetition of vowel like sounds. This generally takes place at the end of lines, but not necessarily so. Here is the example of assonance:

“I would the white cold heavy-plunging foam,
Whirled by the wind, had rolled me deep below
Then when I left my home”

C. Explication

In explicating poem that embodies many aspects of literary components, perhaps it is best to begin at the foundation and work up. A type of analysis frequently used to explain literary works is explication, a careful line by line or word by word examination of passage in a poem, story, play or essay. Explication involves scrupulously close reading to unfold the layers of
meaning in text. It provides the close-up look at the language of passage with a view to explaining its significance. Because explication involves such careful attention to detail, it is usually reserved for specific sections or parts of longer works as well. As with any type of analysis, however, explication is most effective when it is used to illuminate the meaning of the work as a whole.  

Explication is particularly useful for unraveling the meaning of a complex passage, something as long as a section, paragraph, stanza or scene or as a brief as a bit of a dialogue, a sentence, a line of poetry, or even a phrase.  

D. The Understanding of Figure of Speech

Let us assume that your brother has just come in out of rainstorm and you say to him “Well, you’re a pretty sight! Got slightly wet, didn’t you?” And he replies, “Wet? I’m drowned! It’s raining cats and dogs, and my raincoat like a sieve. You and your brother probably understand each other well enough yet if you examine this conversation literally. Actually, you have been speaking figuratively. It is means, you have been saying less than what you mean, or more than what you mean, or the opposite of what you mean, or something other than what you mean.

Broadly defined, a figure of speech is any way of saying something other than ordinary way, and some rhetoricians have classified as many as 250

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separate figures. For our purposes, however, a figure of speech is more narrowly definable as a way of saying one thing and meaning another, and we need to be concerned with no more than a dozen.

D.1. The types of figure of speech, namely:

1. Metaphor and Simile

   When the poet uses a simile, he makes it plain to the reader that he is using a conscious comparison. He does this by drawing the reader’s attention to the comparison by using certain words: like, as, as though, as is, as…as, and as…so. Example of simile is:

   The poet Wordsworth described a beautiful woman as:

   “...Fair as a star, when only one
   Is shining in the sky....”

   Similes and metaphor range from simple and hackneyed comparison such as the one discussed above to highly original and creative ones, which are perhaps more typical of literary or even poetic discourse. Example, in a poem by Frances Cornford (1886-1960) entitled "The Guitarist Tunes Up".

   “...Not as a lordly Conqueror who could
   Command both wire and wood,
   But as a man with a loved woman might,
   Inquiring with delight...”
In the poem above, describes a man who loved his guitar like loving a woman (think of the guitar as a living thing that must be cherished).

2. **Personification**

Personification is the embodiment / incarnation, uniting people with animals or human qualities are attributed to an animal, object, or idea. In Sylvia Plath’s, though the mirror speaks and thinks, we continue to visualize it as a mirror “Bereft”, the “restive” door remains in appereance a door tugged by the wind. In Browning’s reference to “the starlet little waves” (Meeting at Night), a personification is barely suggested, we would make a mistake if we tried to visualize the waves in human form or even, really, to think of them as having human emotions. For example: talking birds, the wind whispers etc. Here is the example poem:

“I am silver and exact.

I have no preconceptions.

Whatever I see I swallow immediately

Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.

I am not cruel, only truthful”
3. **Apostrophe**

Apostrophe is expression considers it / something that does not live but as human beings. In the poem of Anonymous (c. 1500) by the title “Western Wind”:

> “Western wind, when wilt thou blow,
> The small rain down can rain
> Christ! If may love were in my arms,
> And I in my bed again!”

4. **Symbols**

Symbol is the sign, something that represents / suggested meaning (which can be touched objects / tangible and visible). Image, metaphor, and symbol shade into each other and are sometimes difficult to distinguish.

In the William Blake’s poem (1757-1827) by the title “The Sick Rose”:

> “....That flies in the night
> In the howling storm,
> Has found out thy bed
> Of crimson joy...”

5. **Allegory**

Allegory is a narrative or description that has a second meaning beneath the surface. Allegory also may be defined sometimes as an
extended metaphor and sometimes as a series of related symbol. For example in a poem by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886), by the titled "Our journey had advanced".

“……Our pace took sudden awe.
Reluctant led our feet.
Before were cities, but between the
forest of the dead…”

In the poem above, there are the following allegory; fork = path to heaven, the white flag = welcome to the inhabitants of heaven, and cities = because the city is always considered to be complete.

6. Paradox

Paradox is two contradictory things, but in certain situations it is true. For example in a poem by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886), by the titled "Mad madness is divinest sense".

“...Much sense, the starkest madness.
'Tis the majority
In this, as all, prevail:
Assent, and you are sane;...”

The purpose of poetry was above, we see people who can see ghosts or something that nobody else could see but we cannot see what he saw and we are in a circle of people mad at Rs soul, we are considered insane by those that were insane.
7. Overstatement

Overstatement, understatement, and verbal irony form a continuous series, for they consist, respectively, of saying more, saying less, and saying the opposite of what really means. Overstatement or hyperbole is simply exaggeration, but exaggeration in the service of truth. When Tennyson says of his eagle (The Eagle) that it is “Close to the sun lonely lands;” he says what appears to be literally true, though we know from our study of astronomy that it is not. When Frost says, at the conclusion of “The Road Not Taken”

“I shall be telling this with a sigh somewhere ages and ages hence.”

8. Understatement

Understatement is modest or saying less than one means may exist in what one says or merely in how one says it. For example in a poem by Coutee Cullen (1903-1946), by the titled "Incident":

“...Now I was eight and very small,
And he was no whit bigger,
And so I smiled, but he poked out
His tongue, and called me, “Nigger.”...”

9. Irony

It may use in the form of sarcasm and with satire or may not permissible. For example: "You like the charcoal very white", "You smell gorgeous, have not showered in two days huh?".
10. Allusion

Allusion takes a person, the name of the place of the previous examples memorable by the readers. For example in a poem by Robert Frost (1874-1963), by the titled “Out, Out”:

“….five mountain ranges one behind the other
Under the sunset far into Vermont.
And the saw snarled and rattled, snarled and rattled,
As it ran light, or had to bear a load...”

11. Metonymy

Metonymy is when a poet uses metonymy; he names one thing when he really means another thing with which the first is closely connected. For example in a poem by Jhon Oyer, by the titled “Grongar Hill”:

“A little rule, a little sway,
A sun beam on a winter’s day
Is all the pround a mighty have
Between the cradle and the grave”

E. The Understanding of Imagery

Imagery can be translated into the notion of "imagined", imagery is one of the special techniques associated with psychological skills by engaging the imagination in a broad sense and each case is included in it have their own
understanding. For example, one form of visualization-oriented visual imagery, but imagery is not in a visual form, (mental imagery or mental training or mental rehearsal); calling back memories (memory recall) is also a form of imagery. Imagery can also be interpreted to bring back through the language of words generated by a tool based on sensory experiences. Imagery is also called imagery, or fantasy images.

E.1. The Types of Imagery

There are several kinds of imagery, among others:

1. **Visual imagery**

   Visual imagery is the imagery that can be gained from the experience of the senses of sight (eyes). For example in a poem by Robert Frost (1812-1889):
   
   “The gray sea and the long black land;
   And the yellow half-moon large and low;....”

2. **Auditory imagery**

   Auditory imagery is the element of imagery associated with the sense of hearing. For example in a poem by Robert Frost (1812-1889):
   
   “… A tap of pane, the quick sharp scratch
   And blue spurt of a light match…”

3. **Olfactory imagery**

   Olfactory imagery is the imagery associated with the sense of smell, a smell of thing. Things that can be described based on the
experience of smell from a nose are an example of olfactory imagery. For example in a poem by Robert Frost (1812-1889):

“…Then a mile of warm sea-scented beach
Three fields to cross till a farm appears…”

4. Gustatory imagery

Gustatory imagery is imagery that portrayed the experience of the sense of taste, a taste of thing. Things like sweet, bitter, sour, tasteless are some examples of words that indicate gustatory imagery.

5. Tactile imagery

Tactile imagery is directly related to our sense of touch. Tactile imagery can be seen from the description of feelings such as feeling hot, cold, smooth, rough, and anything that can be felt to be touched.

6. Organic imagery

Organic imagery is the imagery that emerged from our minds. Organic imagery can be seen in the disclosure of feelings such as hunger, thirst, fatigue, and drunkenness.

7. Kinesthetic imagery

Kinesthetic imagery is the imagery produced from an experience that form of movement. For example in a poem by Robert Frost (1812-1889):

“…And a voice less loud, through its joys and fears,
Than the two hearts beating each to each”

F. Theme

The theme by analogy is the heart, or soul. According the Perrine the theme of a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. Theme is what is made up of the topic. It is the comment on the topic that is implied in the process of the theory. The theme is the lost analysis of the poems. The focus of this analysis is to know the ideas of what the poet wants to show to the readers. Theme in literature whether it takes the form of a brief in meaningful insight or a comprehensive vision of life can be said as the vehicle on author uses to establish a relationship with the larger world in which he/she lives and works.\textsuperscript{15}

A. The Analysis of Cullen’s Poems

In this chapter, the writer will analyze the two poems with imagery and figurative language through explication description of intrinsic elements. An explication has been defined as an examination of a work literature for knowledge of each part for the relation of these parts to each other, and for their relation to the whole. The analyses of the two poems are as follows:

A.1. The Loss of Love

All through an empty place I go,
And find her not in any room;
The candles and the lamps I light
Go down before a wind of gloom.

Thick-spraddled lies the dust about,
A fit, sad place to write her name
Or draw her face the way she looked
That legendary night she came.

The old house crumbles bit by bit;
Each day I hear the ominous thud
That says another rent is there
For winds to pierce and storms to flood.
My orchards groan and sag with fruit;
Where, Indian-wise, the bees go round;
I let it rot upon the bough;
I eat what falls upon the ground.

The heavy cows go laboring
In agony with clotted teats;
My hands are slack; my blood is cold;
I marvel that my heart still beats.

I have no will to weep or sing,
No least desire to pray or curse;
The loss of love is a terrible thing;
They lie who say that death is worse.

a. Explication of the poem

Explication is particularly useful for unraveling the meaning of a complex passage, something as long as a section, paragraph, stanza or scene or as a brief as a bit of a dialogue, a sentence, a line of poetry, or even a phrase. These strategic locations afford opportunities for the writer to make a lasting impression on the reader. An explication has been defined as an examination of a work of literature for knowledge of each part for the relation of these parts to each other, and for their relation to the whole.

The poets usually describe their feeling by writing a poem. Here, the writer will try to analyze the poems which about the deep of love and in the
poem “The Loss of Love” by Countee Cullen, Cullen talks about his experience with love. The writer assumes that the speaker in this poem is a man and it is can be proved in 2nd stanza “Thick-spraddled lies the dust about, A fit, sad place to write her name, Or draw her face the way she looked, That legendary night she came”. The writer also thought that the speaker uses imagery and metaphors to express how bad he feels.

The speaker tells the reader for 1st and 2nd stanza “All through an empty place I go, And find her not in any room; The candles and the lamps I light, Go down before a wind of gloom, Thick-spraddled lies the dust about, A fit, sad place to write her name, Or draw her face the way she looked, That legendary night she came”. This shows that he comes home and expects to see the love of his life, but she is not there and doesn’t return and how he begins to not care about anything. He is still waiting and recalling the memory of her.

The speaker does this the best in 3rd stanza and next. Where he says, “the old house crumbles bit by bit; each day I hear the ominous thud, which says another rent is there, for winds to pierce and storms to flood.” This shows that he is lazy; his heart is heavy now that his love is loss. He is no longer doing the things he did before. In 4th stanza “My orchards groan and sag with fruit; Where, Indian-wise, the bees go round; I let it rot upon the bough; I eat what falls upon the ground”. He is just letting the fruit sit in the orchards. In the Cullen’s poems that he does a great job of helping the reader
feels his emotion. And finally, the last stanza is obvious about how death is even better than not being loved.

The writer sincerely thinks the speaker is a man. When her and she is used in the 1st stanza, the writer thinks it is referring to love to a woman. When it talks about the cows and orchards, the writer thinks it is about the loss of innocence because of the work he has to go through.

b. The Types of Figure of Speech and Imagery Used

b.1. Table Data Types of The Loss of Love

Table I. Figure of Speech in poem The Loss of Love

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Figure of Speech</th>
<th>Corpuses</th>
<th>Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Hyperbole</td>
<td>The old house crumbles bit by bit;, Each day I hear the ominous thud</td>
<td>9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Understatement</td>
<td>I eat what falls upon the ground</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Personification</td>
<td>The heavy cows go laboring</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Metonymy</td>
<td>The loss of love is a terrible thing;, They lie who say that death is worse</td>
<td>23-24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
c. Figure of Speech and Imagery Analysis

The writer finds several types of imagery of the poem. Here is the imagery that found in poem *The Loss of Love* by Countee Cullen. First, visual imagery in line *The old house crumbles bit by bit* (9), and in line *The heavy cows go laboring* (17). Those line shows about visual imagery signed those are images of sight with the words underlined and also because that words is an object which can be seen with an eyes. The house is visualized as old, not beautiful and many of the damage there, while the cows are visualized as big and strong. Second, auditory imagery in line *Each day I hear the ominous thud* (10), and in line *My orchards groan and sag with fruit*; (13). Those line shows about auditory imagery signed those are images of hearing with the words underlined and also because that words is something which can be hear with ears. The ominous thud only can be heard by the speaker who in broken
heart, while the voices of orchards are makes the speaker in hallucination and crazy thinks. Third, tactile imagery in line *My hands are slack; my blood is cold* (19). This line shows about tactile imagery signed that images of an internal sensation and it is only can be feel inside of body. The speaker’s hands are slack because he only thinks that he is the only man who in heavy depression and his blood is cold which makes him in the corner of life and he thinks that his blood as a animal’s blood. And the last, kinesthetic imagery in line *I marvel that my heart still beats* (20). Those line shows about kinesthetic imagery signed those are images of motion and it is a movement and tension of body. The speaker’s heart still beats and it is a miracle to him who in bad of romantic love.

The writer identifies several figures of speech such as hyperboles or overstatements in this poem. First, in line *The old house crumbles bit by bit* (9) and *Each day I hear the ominous thud* (10), explain that the speaker is really in broken heart because he loss es of his love and makes him always hear the stranger voices every day, he describes that his heart is crumbles little by little and the writer thinks that the speaker is too exaggerated to think until he looks like a crazy man. Second, in line *My orchards groan and sag with fruit* (13), it signed that orchard is a park which full of fruits and they just grow but cannot make some noise. In this line the speaker describes if orchard can make a noise as human being. And finally the writer thinks that the speaker is also too exaggerated until he can hear the plant’s voice.
In line *I eat what falls upon the ground* (16), the writer found understatement. It is signed that the speaker wants to eat anything what falls upon the ground to get alive and also to survive from great hungry. The aim of that line is the speaker wants to do anything to get what he wants and he does not care what another say about him.

The writer finds personification in line *The heavy cows go laboring* (17), the writer thinks that it describes the heavy cows who can work as human and the writer analyzed that it is uniting people with an animal.

Besides, the writer also finds metonymy in line *The loss of love is a terrible thing*; (23). As it is said in statement that one thing is something else, which in literal-sense. It also uses something closely related for thing that actually meant. And in line *They lie who say that death is worse* (24), both lines describe that the speaker thinks that death is worse than anything but in fact that the loss of love is the most horrible thing. Only the people who fall in love who can say that broken heart is the most horrible things than anything but in the real life the most horrible think is depend on themselves to definite it.

The writer finds that this poem is referring to love, before and after left by his couple even he says that his heart was broken until a thousand million pieces but he cannot make it back as before. This poem is just about the deep of love from a man to whom he loved. “Love is not just for a while but forever and true love can be described by many ways”. Somebody thinks that love is
beautiful but others think that love is terrible thing; because of love someone can do something crazy for getting it.

d. Theme

From the analyses above, so the theme of the first poem is “Love is not just for a while but forever and true love can be described by many ways”, and love also can be terrible thing and it can be proofed in this poem.

In line The old house crumbles bit by bit; (9), Each day I hear the ominous thud (10), and My orchards groan and sag with fruit; (13), which shows that love can be terrible thing and also the describes of the speaker’s heart who in bad condition because of broken heart.

A.2. Songs In Spite of Myself

Never love with all your heart,
It only ends in aching;
And bit by bit to the smallest part
That organ will be breaking.

Never love with all your mind,
It only ends in fretting;
In musing on sweet joys behind,
Too poignant for forgetting.

Never love with all your soul,
For such there is no ending;
Though a mind that frets may find control,
And a shattered heart find mending  

Give but a grain of the heart's rich seed,  
Confine some undercover,  
And when love goes, bid him God-speed,  
And find another lover.

a. Explication of the poem

This poem is one of the best Cullen’s poem and this poem themed by love too. The speaker tells the readers that do not make love to someone else with the deep of heart in first line “Never love with all your heart”. The writer assumes that the speaker suggests the readers about the effect of love by the deep of heart in 2nd line by saying “It only ends in aching”. As a human being, the speaker tells the readers that love with full of heart just ended by ache.

However, this speaker is in love suck. In 2nd and 3rd line “And bit by bit to the smallest part” and “That organ will be breaking”. This tells that the speaker feels to loving someone with his full of heart and in the end his heart is ached little by little.

The speaker then continues the same case in the 2nd stanza “Never love with all your mind” and “It only ends in fretting”. The speaker tells the same case to the readers that do not make love to someone else with all of mind even though in aware or not aware condition because it will be ended by
fidgetiness. Then, he continues to the effect of that in the next line, “In musing on sweet joys behind” and “Too poignant for forgetting”. Of course, the speaker is in bad condition because he thinks that love with that way will be happy ending and there will be a sweet memory in his life. The speaker also thinks if the sweet memories have to save in his heart and mind forever because if he forgets about that, it is too painful and suck.

In 3rd stanza “Never love with all your soul “, “For such there is no ending”, “Though a mind that frets may find control”, “And a shattered heart find mending”. The writer finds that the speaker emphasizes in the third stanzas of making love by full of soul. The writer also thinks that this stanza just the expression of the speaker that how bad his romantic love until he imagines that love is just a drama stage which there is no ending in each play and love just bring him to suffering. The speaker also thinks that broken heart will find a new way to a better romantic love.

The last stanzas “Give but a grain of the heart's rich seed, “Confine some undercover”, And when love goes, bid him God-speed, and, “And find another lover.” The writer thinks that the speaker finally finds a little path with God’s helps and he also thinks if his romantic love will find a secret which in the end will be happy. The speaker welcomed by the new love in his life after he gets bad romantic love which he feels.

This poem only talks about “the suffering of love by the excessive attitudes” and the writer thinks that the speaker can be a man and a woman
because there are no statements which sign a gender. These conditions can be felt by anyone and also depend on their condition to face it.

b. The Types of Figure of Speech and Imagery Used

b.1. Table Data Types of *Songs In Spite of Myself*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Figure of Speech</th>
<th>Corpuses</th>
<th>Line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Hyperbole</td>
<td><em>Never love with all your heart, It only ends in aching; And bit by bit to the smallest part, That organ will be breaking</em></td>
<td>1-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Hyperbole</td>
<td><em>Never love with all your mind, It only ends in fretting, In musing on sweet joys behind, Too poignant for forgetting</em></td>
<td>5-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Personification</td>
<td><em>In musing on sweet joys behind</em></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Hyperbole</td>
<td><em>Never love with all your soul, For such there is no ending; Though a mind that frets may find control, And a shattered heart find mending</em></td>
<td>9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Personification</td>
<td><em>Give but a grain of the heart's rich seed</em></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Personification</td>
<td><em>And when love goes, bid him God-speed, And find another</em></td>
<td>15-16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table II. Imagery in poem *Songs In Spite of Myself*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Imagery</th>
<th>Corpses</th>
<th>Line</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Tactile</td>
<td>In musing on <em>sweet joys</em> behind,</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Tactile</td>
<td>It only ends in <em>aching</em>;</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Tactile</td>
<td>It only ends in <em>fretting</em>;</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. Figure of Speech and Imagery Analysis

The writer chooses this poem because it is the advice that she is never successful when getting into a relationship. She agrees completely with the poem, and yet she never listens to what it says when the writer experiences in the moment of love. The writer also thinks it means a lot to love, but the hurt that comes from the ending love is never worth all of the pain that one goes through. This poem describes love and gives great wisdom and insight into the matter. The writer thinks it is a good poem because its statement gives the reason for why not to do what it says. For example, she doesn’t find herself asking why not to fall in love with all of her heart.

Cullen said about his venture into poetry: “If I am going to be a poet at all, I am going to be poet and not a Negro poet”. By that he means, “I shall not write of negro subjects for the purpose of propaganda”. This attitude is
resplendent in Cullen’s poetry. Would that so many others eschewed the tendency to propagandize about race, gender, and class in their art.\textsuperscript{16}

In “\textit{If Love Be Staunch},” for example, the speaker warns that love lasts no longer than "water stays in a sieve" and in "\textit{The Love Tree}" Cullen portrays love as a crucifixion whereby future lovers may realize that "Twas break of heart that made the love tree grow." What Lewis identified in Cullen's love poems as a "corroding suspicion of life cursed from birth" may have resulted from Cullen's alleged homosexuality.\textsuperscript{17}

This poem is about love too but this poem is more complicated than in the first poem. We can see from the theme that Cullen who has a romantic temperament is one of the finest Harlem Renaissance, and also one of the famous American poets but the writer wants to give the other side of Cullen’s poem by analyzing the love theme. Here the writer will analyze this poem which about suffering loves.

The writer finds the only one kind of imagery in this poem. It is tactile imagery in line \textit{It only ends in aching};(2), \textit{It only ends in fretting};(6), and \textit{In musing on sweet joys behind} (8). Those lines show about tactile imagery signed that is an internal sensation because the joy just can be feeling inside of body. The sweet joys is visualized the happiness of the speaker’s feeling in his

\textsuperscript{16} My Soul’s High Song: \textit{The Collected Writings of Countee Cullen} (Anchor Books, 1991)

\textsuperscript{17} \url{http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/countee-cullen}. Accessed on January 10, 2010
heart even though it is just a while not forever. While the aches and the frets are the representations of another bad conditions of the speaker’s heart.

In this poem the speaker brings the readers to see the romantic temperament of Cullen and the speaker invites the readers what he feel as a broken heart man who feels born in a suck loves. Countee Cullen is a great poet and writes many other sorts of things such as plays, he is also an anthologist and a black activist Minister. The writer thinks that he writes about something that is very easy to connect with and something that everyone can understand at some point or another in life. That is why the writer finds it to be such a great and greatly written poem. This poem is a narrative poetry because the main purpose is the speaker likes to tell a story.

Relating to the kinds figure of speech, the writer can see in line Never love with all your heart (1), It only ends in aching; (2), And bit by bit to the smallest part (3), and That organ will be breaking (4). Those are hyperboles or overstatements signs that the speaker assumes that love only brings him to suffering and make him in broken heart. There is no love which ends in happiness. Finally, the writer thinks that the speaker is too narrow-minded and exaggerates and also he thinks that he is just the one guy who has a complicated love and other person should do what he wants.

In line Never love with all your mind (5), It only ends in fretting (6), In musing on sweet joys behind (7), and Too poignant for forgetting (8). Those are hyperboles or overstatements too because the speaker always thinks that
only him who feels bad in love and the speaker suggests to the readers to make love rationally and make it easy because it will end with the happiness in the reader’s thought, even though it is in sad or happy ending.

In line *Never love with all your soul, (9), For such there is no ending (10);, Though a mind that frets may find control (11), And a shattered heart find mending (12)*. Those are hyperboles or overstatements too tell that the speaker suggests the readers how to love someone in the real life that the readers should keep their heart and soul in finding true love. The writer also thinks that the speaker is too excessive in broken heart.

In line *And when love goes, bid him God-speed (15)*. This line is personification and the writer thinks that it describes an idea which can work as human. And the writer also thinks, it is the attribution of human qualities to an idea of love. In word ‘love’ cannot do anything as a human because it is just an idea.

Based on those analyses, the writer concludes that Cullen gives to the creativity inherent in a bittersweet experiences is paralleled throughout the Afro-American literary tradition. “This poem is very sad poem”. The message of the poem is the speaker is so focused on finding the woman or man of his dreams that his mind subconsciously makes every woman or man is part of him. There are few things in life better than a great poem that the readers can understand and feel it in the real life.
The writer’s favorite part is in the ending. Throughout the entire poem, Countee is giving the reasons not to love with all your heart and all your soul, but in the second to last stanza he admits that one can find control and be mended. Then in the last stanza he makes for one last push of advice to save some of the “heart’s rich seed” and keep it hidden in case your heart should break, at least the readers will have this small part to go back to and start again.

d. Theme

From the analyses above, so the theme of the second poem is “the suffering of love by the excessive attitudes”. In this way the readers should make love rationally because love is not only ended by ache but also ended by happiness. The speaker also suggests to the readers how to solve the broken heart by do not all out in falling in love and it can be proofed in line Never love with all your heart (1), Never love with all your mind (5), and Never love with all your soul, (9).

With that ways, someone who falls in love with someone else will not ended in heavy depression because of broken heart. And when love goes, there will be another love. It is explicit by the speaker in the last stanza.
CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

Based on the poem analysis in chapter III of the two poems of Countee Cullen entitled *The Loss of Love* and *Songs In Spite of Myself*, the writer concludes that the poet doesn’t use too many intrinsic elements of poem. On the two poems that analyzed, the writer finds some kinds of figure of speech such as overstatement or hyperbole, symbol, metonymy, understatement and personification and several kinds of imagery such as visual, organic, kinesthetic, tactile and auditory imagery. She also proposes the themes of the poems. These two poems are also relating to each other in finding true love and how to solve it well.

In the first poem, the poet tells the readers about the true of love that makes the speaker in broken heart and he shows the readers that love can be a terrible thing. This poem is based on the poet’s feeling and also his experience too and then he turns to his poem. One of a line that proof the speaker’s feeling that describe what he feels, *Each day I hear the ominous thud, The old house crumbles bit by bit*; as the overstatement sentences of his heart until he is like a crazy man who feel and hear a bad things.

In the second poem, the poet also tells about love too but in different expressions that Countee Cullen was perhaps the most representative voice of
the Harlem Renaissance and here the writer would like to show his other side in his characteristic poems. In the second poem, Cullen describes someone who loves someone else by all of the heart; mind and soul will end in heavy depression. The speaker wants the readers make love by rationally because love is not only ended by ache or fret, but also can end by happiness. Because when love goes, there will another love that waits someone who needs the true love.

B. Suggestions

From the conclusion above, the writer suggests the readers who are interested in analyzing the poems in order understand poetry analysis concepts comprehensively, such as using intrinsic or extrinsic elements in order to the readers can explicate the poems deeply, find their themes, analyze the core selected data and to know the poet’s motivations in writing the poems. In addition, the writer expects this study will be useful to the readers who want to know further about figure of speech and their contribution to the theme of the selected poems, especially the students of English Letters Department, Faculty of Letters and Humanities Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University Jakarta.
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