CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

The following theoretical framework below consists of the theory of a poem's lyric, denotation and connotation, allusion, mimetic concept, oppression.

2.1.1 Poem's Lyric

Lyric is an essential part of poetry. Lyric is surrounded by a longer narrative. Most definitions of lyric agree that it is brief, has a first-person speaker or persona, is a performance, and conveys the author's or performer's personal emotions (Brewster, 2009:1); as can be seen, lyric is the expression of the persona's feelings. Modern lyric keeps using self-evident forms of address like the apostrophe, dramatic monologue, and confessional poetry (Brewster, 2009:13). Lyric is a small part of tragedy and epic poetry, but what makes it beautiful is that it can show by illustration how a character acts in a given situation (Brewster, 2009:18).

2.1.2 Denotation and Connotation

The choice of language which an author employs when composing a literary work, especially poetry, is one of the most significant factors in the creation of a literary work. The denotation of a word is its primary meaning or reference; the connotation is the range of secondary or associated meanings and emotions that it commonly implies or suggests.

For example, the word "home" in denotation means a place to live, but it can also mean safety, privacy, and warmth in connotation meaning (Abrams, 2009:57). The connotation of a word is just a range of possible secondary meanings. Which of these meanings comes up relies on how the word is used in a specific context.

2.1.3 Allusion

Allusion is one word with associated meaning. Allusion is a passing reference to a specific person, place, or event in literature or history. It can also refer to a section within another literary work (Abrams, 2009:11). Furthermore, most allusions are used to show, explain, or enrich a subject; nevertheless, some allusions are used in order to undermine the subject in an ironic style by creating a contrast between the subject and the allusion (Abrams, 2009:11). Allusion is a helpful element for poets because it allows the poets to emphasize emotions and ideas from the poet's own work by drawing parallels to another works.

2.1.4 Abrams' Mimetic Concept

Mimetic comes from the Greek word 'mimesis,' which means imitation. Mimetic concept is a work's reference to the subject matter it imitates. The arts are characterized by their imitation of human actions, and the type of action imitated is one of the most distinguishing characteristics among artistic species. The origins of art can be traced back to the natural human instinct to imitate (Abrams, 1953:16); as can be seen, human action is the origin of artistic inspiration. Those things in the world which art imitates or should imitate have been thought of as

either real or in some way ideal. From the beginning, "action" has been thought of as the main thing that art should imitate, along with things like human character, thought, and even inanimate things (1953:17).

Furthermore, mimetic concept is often applied in two ways. First, it is used to describe the character of literature and other arts. Second, it is used to show how one literary work is related to another literary work that it based on (Abrams, 2009:153). In general, authors try to avoid copying the work of others. However, in the literary theory of mimetic, imitation is an integral part of any artwork.

2.1.5 Frye's Theory of Oppression

The root of the word 'oppression' is 'press.' Pressed into the military, to press a pair of clothes, or press the button. Things are shaped or made smaller using presses. When something is pressed, it is stuck between forces and barriers that are so close to each other that they stop or limit the thing's ability to move (Frye, 1983:2). When the word 'oppression' is applied to society, it can be the force that limits and denies individuals' basic rights, freedoms, and sincerity, which keeps injustice and inequality going in a systematic way. People who are oppressed know that their lives are limited and shaped by forces and barriers that are not accidental, so it cannot be avoided. Instead, these forces and barriers are connected in a way that makes it impossible to move in any direction without being punished. It is like being stuck in a cage because every way out is blocked (Frye, 1983:4).

Marilyn Frye illustrates the systematic oppression of women using the symbol of a birdcage,

> If you look at single wire in a bird cage, you cannot see why the bird cannot just fly around the wire to get out of the cage. Meanwhile, when you take a step back and view the cage as an entire system of connected wires, you will see that bird has absolutely no possibility of escape due to all the barriers that have been placed in its way (1983:4).

The same goes for women. When people make an effort to figure out women's oppression, people are tend to focus on one aspect of women's oppression rather than seeing the big picture. If people took a broader perspective on the problems that women confront, such as door opening that is usually done by men and similar services offered, as well as the services that are actually needed by people who are disabled, it could indicate that women are incapable of doing that (1983:6). Oppression can occur in many forms, but in this study the form of oppression belongs to male's dominance and women's subordinate.

2.1.5.1 Male's Dominance and Women's Subordinate

Women frequently experience oppression as they are portrayed as weak, powerless, which is very detrimental to them. In this study, the dominant group is men and the subordinate group is women. Men, in general, keep and push the boundary that separates women's realm for their own good, and most men gaining it from its existence (Frye, 1983:13). Oppression is a system of interrelated barriers and forces that limit, immobilize, and shape people who are part of one group and make them submissive to another group (both as individuals and as a group) (Frye, 1983:33).

In other words, anything that gives impression that men are very much like other men and very different from women and that women are very much like

other women and very different from men makes it seem like men are in the naturalness of dominance and women are in the subordination. All behavior that gives the impression that people are biologically very different between the sexes makes women more likely to accept that women are subordination (Frye, 1983:34). Men uses both physical and psychological abuse toward women to makes women reliant upon them in many ways (1983:77), this is a broad definition of dependence.

2.1.5.2 Women's Separation

Women who are conscious of their oppression will seek knowledge and search for ways to escape this detrimental situation. One of the possible way is through separation,

> Women separation is separating oneself from various aspects of society that are influenced or controlled by men, including institutions, relationships, roles, and activities. This separation is started or kept by women at their own will. A separatist complete separation as an intentional strategy for freedom and acts in a planned way (Frye, 1983:96).

When women separate (withdraw, step outside, say no), women simultaneously control access and define. These acts are right because, through separation, women can stop relying on an oppressor for validation and, eventually, for their sense of self (Card, 1986:159).

2.2 Research Method

There are two research method in this study: the research approach and the method of collecting the data.

2.2.1   Research Approach

Based on the background of the research, which concerns the poem's background that has mythical resemblance and the feelings of being oppressed by the persona 'I,' the writer applies the mimetic concept of M. H. Abrams' mimetic approach, the orientation directs the study of a work to other literary works which it imitates (Abrams, 1953:16). This orientation is used to juxtapose Hilda Doolittle's "Eurydice" to the Greek myth of "Orpheus and Eurydice."

2.2.2   Method of Collecting Data

In collecting the data, the writer used library research. George states that library research identifies and obtains sources that provide individuals factual information or an expert's opinion (2008:6). The writer compiles the data from several sources. George divides the sources into two categories: primary sources and secondary sources. The primary source are first-hand evidence, whereas the secondary sources are based on human interpretation (2008:56). The primary sources of this study is the poem "Eurydice" by Hilda Doolittle. While the secondary sources are electronic books, article journals, and some reliable sources from the internet.