

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

The poem *On the Death of the Beloved* by John O'Donohue is the ideal farewell gift for Fr. Christian, a kind man who is a blessing to everyone who knows him even though he does not spend much time here. That is a day to honour and mourn Fr. Christian Mondor, a man who touches the lives of countless people. Only a few days separates him from his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. The speaker “we” is not surprised that he is present and at peace in body, mind, and spirit right up until the very end, based on all sources. Present and at ease, he passed away as he has lived. This poem is from the book written by John O'Donohue himself entitled “To Bless the Space Between Us: A Book of Blessings”. The book was published by Doubleday in 2008.

Meanwhile, the second poem is *On the Death of Anne Brontë*. The aforementioned Anne, who is just twenty-nine years old, passed away from pulmonary tuberculosis in May 1849. Despite being the third of six children, Charlotte becomes a lone child after Anne passed away. The speaker “I” is left to care for her elderly father after her mother passed away from uterine cancer when the children are very small. Ironically, her father lives longer than any of his offspring. Reading the poem will lead to believe that Charlotte and Anne are quite close. Even though the Brontë sisters are all close, their relationship becomes unbreakable after the deaths of the other Brontë siblings, particularly in the final

stages of Anne's life. It is hardly surprising that Charlotte composed this poem for her in light of this.

Analyzing poems are similar to having a discussion with a supportive people who makes the writer to think outside of predetermined ideas or it can be likened to critical introspection. As a result, the writer is free to go into rarely explored intellectual nooks. Poetry analysis can also assist readers in appreciating the methods the poet employed to create the poem. Readers can gain an appreciation for the poet's work as well as the meaning of the poem by comprehending the strategies employed by poets. The writer chooses this poem because the deep feelings of loss experienced by the speaker who expresses their love for someone who died and give rise to deep despair and deeply felt sorrow.

The writer's intention is to find out the feeling of loss in the poem. The writer believes that the poem is full of feeling of loss. Apart from that, the writer also wants to explore the poet's aims and objectives in creating the poem. Donohue believes that there is more to say than people's grief for Fr. Christian. Specifically, the writer wants to conduct a study analyzing the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the poem. Loss of somebody might be visible, but the feeling of it is beyond the grieving takes on the man.

To describe the purposes of analyzing the poem, the writer uses the theory to analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the poem. The theory for intrinsic aspect is taken from the book *Understanding the Elements of Literature* by Richard Taylor. Meanwhile, the extrinsic aspect is analyzed by the writer using several theories related to the feeling of loss.

The intrinsic and extrinsic aspects are the element that the writer will analyze. Intrinsic aspect is a component of a poem that is utilized to analyze and comprehend the poem's meaning. The interpretation and analysis of literary works itself is a logical and natural place to start for work in literary scholarship (Wellek and Warren, 1942: 139). Therefore, the intrinsic aspects will be analyzed are imagery, symbol, and metaphor. Extrinsic aspects are the externally sourced supporting components of poetry. Based on René Wellek and Austin Warren's book (1942:65), the most popular and expanding approaches to literary analysis focus on the work's context, surroundings, and external factors. Whereas, the feeling of loss and mourn of the speakers will be the focus for analyzing the extrinsic aspect.

From conducting this study, there will be some benefits for the writer. There are two kinds of benefit, theoretical and pragmatical benefit. The theoretical benefit of this study is the writer can increase insight and knowledge about poem. The writer can also interpret the meaning of a poem and appreciate it on a deeper level. Besides theoretical, the pragmatical benefit is the writer was able to find the novelty of the study that was different from other researchers.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

- 1.2.1 How is feeling of loss reflected in John O'Donohue's *On the Death of the Beloved* and *On the Death of Anne Brontë* poem?
- 1.2.2 How is the cause of feeling of loss in John O'Donohue's *On the Death of the Beloved* and *On the Death of Anne Brontë* poem?
- 1.2.3 How is the impact of feeling of loss in John O'Donohue's *On the Death of the Beloved* and *On the Death of Anne Brontë* poem?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

1.2.4 To analyze feeling of loss reflected in John O'Donohue's *On the Death of the Beloved and On the Death of Anne Brontë* poem.

1.2.5 To analyze the cause of feeling of loss in John O'Donohue's *On the Death of the Beloved and On the Death of Anne Brontë* poem.

1.2.6 To analyze the impact of feeling of loss in John O'Donohue's *On the Death of the Beloved and On the Death of Anne Brontë* poem.

### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

There are several literary works in literature. Poem is a beautiful literary work. Therefore, the writer analyses a poem. In analysing the poem, the writer should read the poem more than twice to acquire the content and message of the poem. Poem consists of intrinsic elements and extrinsic element. In intrinsic elements, the writer will analyze imagery, symbol, and metaphor. Meanwhile the extrinsic element, the writer will focus on the loss of someone in "On the Death of the Beloved" by John O'Donohue and "On the Death of Anne Brontë" by Charlotte Brontë.

### **1.5 Previous Studies**

The first study is from Laurie D. Sedgwick's master thesis of Harvard Divinity School entitled "*Coming to Reckoning and Peace: Mourning America's War Dead – A Reflection*" written by Laurie D. Sedgwick. The main topic covered in this thesis is the pursuit of reverence and understanding. She mentions that respecting someone or something deeply is the essence of reverence. Throughout her study, she experiences a constant sense of reverence, as evidenced by the people who were involved in the remembrance of the war dead.

The second study is entitled "*The Absence of Something*" from Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA). This journal article was written by Lawrence J. Hergott, MD. When he started writing this journal article, his eyes lingered on that picture, something strange about the way it seemed, not because of a flaw in his hand but more because it was missing something, the golden wedding band he had seen him wear for years. As his wife's death's first anniversary drew near, he had been thinking about her. He questioned why surviving spouses do this, how he was doing, and when he had taken off the ring. The reason he wrote this article was because he and his wife had experienced the same condition. They lost their child, Zach. John O'Donohue's poem "On the Death of the Beloved," which tenderly portrays Zach in each stanza as it does others, was read aloud through noddy sobs and shaky voice.

The third study relates to the second poem in this research thesis. This study analyzes the structure of the poem. It is written by Emma Baldwin. She analyzes this poem in stanza by stanza.

The next study is written by L.A Walsh. She also analyzes the poem in stanza by stanza. She also talks about how the poem speaks to her. It turns out she has also lost his daughter. Through her loss, she learns to love each living creature without discrimination. She vented her loss by always playing with her dog.

Therefore, the first study, Sedgwick's study, and this study have similarity and differences. The poem in the first study is used as the object of the America's mournful war memorial because the poem is about the death and memories of a respected person. This thesis does not use the intrinsic elements to study the poem.

throughout the discussion, she talks about death, honor, funeral, memory, and mourning. The both studies also discuss about the mourning atmosphere felt by the speakers. On the other hand, there is the feeling of losing the person who is respected by many people. Meanwhile, the difference between these two studies is the first study does not discuss the intrinsic elements of the poetry, but this study discusses them.

The next study also has similarity and difference. It discusses the feeling of loss of someone they loved, namely their child who died in a plane crash. This article does not discuss the intrinsic elements of the poetry. In this study, the writer will also talk about the feeling of loss experienced by the speaker because of someone's death. Besides similarity, there are the differences too. The second study above does not analyze the intrinsic elements, and it discusses that the author of the article has experienced losing someone. However, on the other hand, it turns out that there are many people who feel a deeper loss. Thus, he and his wife are not alone in feeling this grief and loss.

The second study also discusses the intrinsic element of the poem. The structure of the poem is analyzed in the second study. It is also analyzed in stanza by stanza. In this research thesis, the writer discusses the intrinsic elements by using theory of imagery, symbol, and metaphor. The extrinsic elements discussion in this research thesis talks about the feeling of loss experienced by the speakers.

The similarity of this research thesis and the last study discusses about the feeling of loss because of someone's death. Meanwhile, the difference between this research thesis and this study is the writer analyzes the poem using theories related

to the intrinsic and extrinsic elements. But, the last study analyzes the content of the poem in stanza by stanza.