

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Reading literary work is very interesting. Literature is any single body of written work. It is an imaginative work that depicts human life that can be appreciated, recognized and used by the community as well. The author must write from his or her own imagination in this type of literary work. Drama, poetry, short stories, and novels are all examples of literary works. Wellek and Warren in their book *Theory of Literature* said that:

the term literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature. Literature is also produced by imagination of the author. Literature is not just a document of facts, it is not just the collection of real events though it may happen in the real life. Literature can create its own world as a product of the unlimited imagination (1963: 22).

As the experts stated above, literature is the creation of the imagination of someone who wrote the work itself.

Poetry is one of the literary works. Poetry is a beautiful word in writing that uses every word to convey a message to the readers. According to Wordsworth in Peck and Loyle that “poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling, expression of emotion, and it is always concerned with ordinary human concerns, with the daily matters of one life” (1984: 11). It means that poetry is literally work which are expressed of feelings or emotions from author to the readers or listeners related to our daily life.

In poetry, there are two elements. The elements are intrinsic and extrinsic. Symbol is an intrinsic element. Symbol is a person, place, or thing comes to represent an abstract idea or concept. It is anything that stands for something beyond itself. The researcher also discusses the symbol dealing with intrinsic element.

There are many different sorts of symbols representing a concept. One is a symbol of religion. In literary works such, religious symbolism portrays a meaning from scripture. It has to do with certain religions or beliefs. In this research, the poems show religious symbols, especially the Christian religion. There are many Christian symbols, such as the lion symbolizing Jesus, the dove symbolizing the divine God, and the lamb symbolizing humanity, etcetera.

The poems will be discussed in this research were written by William Blake. From 1783 to 1827, he was England's greatest author. In 1784, he published his first literary work, entitled *Songs of Innocence*. During his career, he got a vision of God. Therefore, he wrote some poems related to religion. Furthermore, the poems that have become the focus of analysis dealing with religion through symbols are "*The Little Girl Lost*" and "*The Little Girl Found*".

This research used William Blake's works entitled "*The Little Girl Lost*" and "*The Little Girl Found*". The primary goal of this research is to identify the symbols in both poems. Due to the reasearch was related to religion, symbol will be focuses to the religion as the topic of the discussion.

Therefore, the researcher feels challenged to conduct research about the phenomenon. Furthermore, studying the symbols will develop the researcher's

and the readers' understanding of symbolism, especially related to religious symbols.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In line with the topic of the study namely religious symbols as portrayed on biblical in William Blake's "*The Little Girl Lost*" and "*The Little Girl Found*", there are two problems that will be investigated. Those are:

1. What are religious symbols in William Blake's "*The Little Girl Lost*"?
2. What are religious symbols in William Blake's "*The Little Girl Found*"?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the research problem above, the objectives of study are:

1. To find out religious symbols in William Blake's *The Little Girl Lost*.
2. To find out religious symbols in William Blake's *The Little Girl Found*.

1.4 Scope of the Problem

The precise intended objective of the writer has to determine the direction of the analysis, that is, to determine what aspects of study should cover the right answer to the research problem. This research will analyze the symbols. There are many kinds of symbols, such as religion, life, sin, and love, etcetera. The poems that become the focus are William Blake's "*The Little Girl Lost*" and "*The Little Girl Found*." Both poems are discussed deal with religious symbols.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study should develop and provide obvious descriptions of the religious symbols in William Blake's poems. In addition, the results of the study are expected to be useful for other researchers who are interested in conducting the same studies. Hopefully, this study will help readers understand the content of "*The Little Girl Lost*" and "*The Little Girl Found*," particularly the critical analysis of the symbols. Following that, it will serve as a reference for conducting research on William Blake's poems, particularly "*The Little Girl Lost*" and "*The Little Girl Found*," and will serve as inspiration for other researchers, particularly those at the Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University, to conduct literature research.