

IMAGERY DEALING WITH DEATH IN ALGERNON CHARLES SWINBURNE'S "IN MEMORY OF WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR" AND "THE GARDEN OF PROSERPINE"

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Abstract

The research aimed to discuss imagery dealing with death in Algernon Charles Swinburne's "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "Garden of Proserpine". It focused on two major purposes: (1) to find out, classify and describe the imageries dealing with death in Swinburne's "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine". (2) to understand how the death is based on Swinburne description in his poem entitled "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine". In conducting the research, some theories were used. They were theory of imagery, kinds of imagery, death, and meaning. Additionally, the research used two approaches. They were structural approach and formalistic approach. Furthermore, descriptive method and library research were used to finish the analysis and collecting the data. There were some visual and organic imageries which could be found in the poems. They were used to describe the body's condition of the dead man and what would come after death. Furthermore, there were some images of death, that is, death as eternity, freedom, and certainty.

Keywords: *imagery, death, image*

1. INTRODUCTION

Poem is one of literary works which consists of words. It is an arrangement of beautiful words. Moreover, it usually has rhyme. A poem is the reflection of the poet's idea or opinion about some issues which make him/her interested. Then, it can be written based on the poet's life's experiences. A poem has a purpose to evoke the reader imagination and sentiment as the poet feel.

Each poem has its own main discussion. In this case, the poems which are used as the data talk about human death. The poems are "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine" written by Algernon Charles Swinburne. Those poems use some imagery to create the description of the death itself. Death is something which definitely happens to all humans. Although it is a certain event, the death's happening is unpredictable. Thus, some people often think that it is scary. However, there are other images of the death which are rarely known by people. Therefore, this topic is interesting to be discussed.

The aims of this article are to find out, classify and describe the imageries dealing with death in Swinburne's "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine" and to understand how the death is described in the poems. To finishing those problems, some theories are used. There are four theories which are applied. They are theory of imagery, kinds of imagery, death, and meaning.

The first is imagery. Imagery refers to description that deals human sensory. Morris, in *Imagery in Sport*, quotes Suinn's statement which says that "Imagery is mental creation of sensory experiences that appear to the person imagining them to be similar to the actual event" (2005 : 4). It clarifies that imagery not only says or tells some information but also drives the

readers to feel, experience, and understand the same event as the poet through their sense ability. The readers have to be able to suffer the pain of broken heart although actually they have never yet.

The second is kind of imagery. Imagery is divided into several classes. Edwards writes on his book that “The language of imagery falls into seven classes or type, each related to the particular sensation that seeks to evoke: (1) Visual (sight); (2) Auditory (hearing); Gustatory (taste); Olfactory (smell); (5) Tactual (touch); (6) Kinesthetic (muscle strain); and (7) Organic (internal sensation)” (2013 : 74).

The third theory is death. Death is an event when the soul is taken away from the body. Based on Ross’s statement, death is the final stage in development of human being (1975 : 11). It means that the death also can be called as the ending of life. It happens to all animate creatures. There is no one who can avoid it. Furthermore, death happens eternally. When someone dies, he/she cannot return to life. It is rather difficult to be understood by living men. The reason is because they have never experienced it before. Therefore, every people have their own opinion and image about death which different from the others.

The last theory is meaning. Meaning is divided in two classes. They are denotative meaning and connotative meaning. According to Kennedy, denotation is a meaning as defined in a dictionary (1966: 476). The statement means that denotative meaning is meaning which is similar with dictionary meaning. This kind of meaning is easier to be understood because the words do not have different or additional meaning. Meanwhile, connotative meaning is harder to understand because it has implied meaning. Kennedy says that connotative is overtones or suggestion of additional meaning that it gains from all the context in which we have meet in the past (1966 : 476). Connotative is additional meaning of word that is gotten from several contexts. To understand it, we have to pay attention with the condition or situation when the word is uttered.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The method which is used to finish this research is descriptive method. Punch states that “Descriptive method is setting out to collect, organize, and summarize information about the matter being studied” (2000:38). It means that the researcher has to do some steps in order to finish the research. Descriptive method is applied because this research has aim to classify the imagery and reveal the meaning. These problems can be solved using descriptive method in which it has some steps such as finding, making list, classifying and explaining the meaning of the data.

The library research is applied to collect the data. Djajasudarma states that “Library research involves the relationship between a research and books as sources of data” (1993 : 3–4). It means the data must be in the written form. The data source of this research is in the written form. They are poems written by Algernon Charles Swinburne entitled “In Memory of Walter Savage Landor” and “The Garden of Proserpine”. The imageries dealing with death in these poems become the data of this research. Both of poems are included in *Poems and Ballads* which publish in 1866. However, the researcher got the text of poems from Poetry Foundation (<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/>).

Some approach is used to help the researcher solves the problems in the research. The approach that is used is structural approach and formalistic approach. This research uses poem as the data. Poem itself is related to word construction. Structural approach is suitable to use because it is very effective for analyzing a poem which has poetic meaning of the word. Wilbur

states that “The aim of structural approach is used to analyze the word constituent. The appreciation and evaluation will be clear and easy to understand, so will discover the truth” (1962:83). It means that that structural approach is used to analyze word construction and to get the detail meaning. The second approach is formalistic approach or formalist criticism. “In formalist criticism, a poem or story is not primary a social, historical, or biographical document. A literary work can be understood only by reference to its intrinsic literary features and elements found in the text itself. {“9 Critical Approaches to Literature”, P.2, (<http://www2.sdfi.edu.cn/netclass/jiaoran/englit/critism.htm>), accessed on Saturday, June 25th, 2016}. It means, formalism refers to critical approaches that analyze, interpret, or evaluate the literary devices such as meter, style, color, shape, rhyme, rhythm, figurative language, imagery and etcetera. This approach does not have correlation with the poet or author’s background such as her/his experience and daily life.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Imagery Dealing with Death in Algernon Swinburne’s “In Memory of Walter Savage Landor” and “The Garden of Proserpine”.

3.1.1 The Imagery Dealing with Death in Algernon Charles Swinburne’s “In Memory of Walter Savage Landor”.

The poem tells about the death of the famous litterateur from British named Walter Savage Landor. Imagery dealing with death which can be found in this poem is used to describe what the condition of Mr. Landor when he is dead. Furthermore, it illustrates what the death is like. In this poem, the kinds of imagery which are used to illustrate the death are visual and organic imagery.

3.1.1.1 Visual Imagery

Visual imagery is kind of imagery which relates to our sight. The object can be known when humans use their eyes to see it. The examples are thing, color, shape, quantity, face’s expression and etcetera.

The researcher finds some visual imageries dealing with death in the poem entitled “In Memory of Walter Savage Landor”. Those lines aim to draw the condition or characteristics of dead man or corpse. The example is the corpse cannot control its body part like human that is still alive. One of the lines states as follows:

One face shall never turn to me (15)

The line belongs to visual imagery because it has relation to sense of sight. In this case, thing which is seen by the readers is the corpse. The line gives vision to the readers about the corpse which cannot move its body part such as head, neck, and eyelid. The readers can catch the picture of the dead body by seeing it through the line as mediator. The line gives the readers an experience of seeing a dead man although they had never seen it before. The readers are invited to see the story written by the poet. Therefore, it is categorized as visual imagery.

‘One face’ is meant as the dead man’s face. In this case, it refers to Mr. Landor’s face. The word ‘me’ refers to the speaker or generally me also means the man who is still alive. ‘Shall never turn’ illustrates the interaction. Thus, the line means that Mr. Landor who has become a corpse cannot look toward the speaker anymore. Moreover, they are not able to interact with each other.

The reason why Mr. Landor’s corpse cannot do it is he has been left by the soul as the controller of human’s body. It shows that the dead man’s has lost ability to move his/ her body. Furthermore, the dead man cannot use his/her eyes to see something anymore because the eyes are closed forever. Moreover, the eye nerve is dead and cannot work anymore.

Additionally, 'turn to me' is meant as attention and affection. After Mr. Landor dies, the speaker does not get affection and attention from him anymore. Furthermore, Mr. Landor cannot solace and help the speaker to solve his/her pain and trouble. Now, the speaker has to overcome his problems without Mr. Landor's advice and help. He/she has been left alone and become steadfast by his/her own self.

3.1.1.2 Organic Imagery

Organic imagery is kind of imagery which deals with human's internal feeling. The examples are sadness, happiness, and the like. It refers to abstract thing because feeling does not have shape. It only can be felt by someone.

The first organic imagery which is found in the "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" is drawn from the line below:

All things come back to her, being free; (7)

It belongs to organic imagery because word free related to human feeling which means release from burden. The word things may means abiotic or biotic. However, all things which are mentioned only refer to biotic thing. It is because death is event when soul leaves the body and does not come back anymore. Therefore, it only happens to animate creature such as humans, animal, and vegetation. Meanwhile, inanimate creatures encounter the death because they do not have soul inside them from the beginning. Based on the poem's story, its meaning is specified as human. In conclusion, all things here refer to all humans.

Literally, come back can be defined to return to somewhere. In this case, come back means the death itself. Death is an event when humans go back to their 'real' home as wayfarers who go home from their journey. The journey connotes humans' life. Then, home as place to return is hereafter. It may refer to heaven or hell. According to the line, humans will return to 'her'. Her is possessive form of she. However, it does not refer to a person. It refers to place. Her means heaven. It uses her instead of it because the line wants to emphasize that the 'real' home of humans is a lovely and beautiful place like a woman. The place is also full of grace. Instead of hell, the description is more suitable to illustrate heaven.

Humans have experienced many things and events during their life such as ease, happiness, sorrow, and trouble. However, the death can set them free from the life's agitation. Thus, the whole line means after death, the dead will be back to the heaven and released from worldly matters. Dead men do not need to worry about all of life problems. They just need to forget and leave it behind. Then, they move to beautiful and peaceful place called heaven.

3.1.2 The Imagery Dealing with Death in Algernon Charles Swinburne's "The Garden of Proserpine".

Death is a thing which difficult to be understood by humans who still alive. It is because they never experience it. To understand the death, "The Garden of Proserpine" uses imagery. The reason is imagery is describing something by using humans' sense. Therefore, the readers can understand the meaning easier because imagery invites them to feel the event which happens in the poem as if they really experience it. In relation to the poem, some imageries are use to illustrate what and how the death is. The kinds of imagery which deals with death are visual and organic.

3.1.2.1 Visual Imagery

The researcher finds some visual imageries in "The Garden of Proserpine". The first imagery declares that when humans die, they will always die. They cannot wake up and live anymore. Moreover, it explains about the dead men' body which always sleep. It cannot do something else. The line which proves the statement states as follow:

That dead men rise up never (86)

The line belongs to visual imagery. The reason is the readers are able to realize that they are dead men by analyzing the condition. The examples are the readers see humans who are motionless and their skin is pale. Moreover, the line mentions that the dead men cannot rise up anymore. It means that the readers can know that they are dead men because they do not awaken eternally. They see the dead men as things which only sleep and never wake up.

The condition of the dead men which is shown by the line (86) is caused by the emptiness of their body. It means the body has been left by the soul. The soul itself has a role as the main controller of human being. Without soul humans cannot be called as humans but they are only inanimate things which are not able to rise up. The separation of the soul and body is permanent. In other words, it is for evermore. The soul and the body stay in different world. The soul goes to the place called hereafter. However, the body lies down in the earth. They cannot unite anymore. Therefore, the body or the corpse will never rise up.

3.1.2.2 Organic Imagery

Organic imagery is type of imagery which has correlation with human feeling such as anger, hunger, happiness, sadness, and etcetera. The researcher finds some organic imagery dealing with death in the “The Garden of Proserpine”. They explain about death which can sets humans free.

The first imagery says that when humans die they will not go to the hell or heaven. Those lines state as below.

Nor wake with wings in heaven, (43)

Nor weep for pains in hell; (44)

Those lines means that after humans are dead, their soul will not go to heaven or hell. They will go to “The Garden of Proserpine”. Proserpine’s garden is not heaven and hell. It is a picture of purgatory. The *wings* in the first line refer to angel or in this case it can be defined as sanctity and honor. The *wings* will be gotten if the death man becomes a good person in his/her life. Furthermore, it is right to interpret it as peace and happiness. The reason is angel is depicted as the bearer of glad tidings and peace. Meanwhile, the *pains* in the second line refer to misery. It will be given to whoever that becomes bad person when he/she is alive. Therefore, weep for pain can be meant as sadness, lamentation, and regret.

The conclusion is those lines (43) and (44) belong to organic imagery because they implicitly discuss about inner feeling such as happiness and sadness. Furthermore, they explain that after humans die, they will not fly to the heaven enjoys the happiness or be dumped hell to bear misery and sorrow. They will end in the other place named The Garden of Proserpine.

3.2 Death’s image in Algernon Charles Swinburne’s “In Memory of Walter Savage Landor” and “The Garden of Proserpine”.

Swinburne’s poems entitled “In Memory of Walter Savage Landor” and “The Garden of Proserpine” tell about death. Not only the definition, the poem also talk about what may come and happen after human die.

3.2.1 Death as Eternity

Humans have several characteristics. They need to breathe, eat, and drink. Furthermore, they grow, thrive, etc. However, the main characteristic is they have a soul inside their body. Without soul, humans cannot be called as animate creature. The soul does not stay inside the body forever. One day, it will leave the body. Then, the empty body is dead. It is usually called as corpse. Time when human’s soul leaves the body, it is called as death. Furthermore, the soul cannot be back to the body. It will go to another place. Human’s body is a mortal thing.

Meanwhile, the soul has higher level than a mortal thing. Human's body will be rotten time by time. However, the soul does not disappear as the body. It is still alive but their place is not on this earth anymore. They have their own place named hereafter. After the soul arrives there, they will always be there and does not return into mortality. Therefore, the bodies of the dead men are not able to wake up and live. Forever, they will become inanimate thing.

The researcher finds a line in the poem entitled "The Garden of Proserpine" which tells that dead men are never able to live anymore. The line states as follow:

That dead men rise up never; (86)

Dead men refer to humans that have already died. In other words, they are not animate creatures anymore. As the line says, humans that have died cannot wake up and live. It happens present, future, and forever. Therefore, death is event which is eternal.

The researcher also finds a line which shows the eternity of death in "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor". It says as follow:

One face shall never turn to me (15)

The meaning of the line is that the living man cannot meet the dead man anymore. One face refers to dead man's face. The word turn to me here means see face to face. Then, the word never is the key word which shows that the death is an eternity. Never means no occasion. It explains that there is no way for the dead man and living people to meet each other in the future. The reason is the death happens forever and eternal.

3.2.2 Death as Freedom

When someone lives, he/she has his/her own problems. In this phase, humans experience some difficulty and happiness. Disappointment, regret, agony, hope, and love are also felt by them during life. They have to struggle in order to survive. However, all of struggle will end when the death comes.

In "The Garden of Proserpine", there are some lines that describe death as freedom. It is stated as follow:

From too much love of living, (81)

From hope and fear set free, (82)

Too much love of living above can be meant as humans' happiness in the world. It can be wealth, pride, dominion, or honor which make humans love their live too much and afraid of death because life is too beautiful to be left. This paradigm actually leads humans to the ambition, even greed. However, greed is not good and according the line, death will save human from greed which belongs to deathly sin. Then, the following line wants to tell us that death also can set humans free from suffering life. Hope means something which uncertainty thing. It will be happen or not is unknown. The word fear in second line shows us how frightening hope is. Having hopes makes humans live in an uncertain condition. This uncertainty is the seed of the human's fear. It is good that hope comes true but when hope just becomes hope it will hurt. When humans are scared and hurt, the death will be seen as liberator. In conclusion, death will release humans from worldliness.

The other line which tells that death is a freedom is found in "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor."

Man's death set free (32)

The line tells clearly that death release humans. Humans bear a lot of burden in their life. The burden makes humans' life become bound. Moreover, humans' life is colored with problem. Nobody has not problem. Small or big, the problem always gives pain for the sufferers. Furthermore, the pain is like permanent tattoo. It carves irremovable mark. All of them will be

disappear when humans die. After they die, they do not have responsibility to think about worldly trouble. Death comes to liberate humans. It gives freedom for dead man.

3.2.3 Death as Certainty.

Death is a definite thing. No one in this world can avoid it. It definitely comes to all of human beings. There is no immortal thing in this world. "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" also tells that death is something which definitely happens and comes to humans. It is stated by the line below:

All things come back to her, being free (7)

The line emphasizes that death is a fact. All humans will go back to The Creator. There is no exception. The soul will not stay inside their body forever. It is like a loan thing. It will be taken when the time is up. Every one has different time period to return the loan but at last it has to be returned. In other word, whenever it happens, the death is going to come for all humans being.

The other line which shows that death is a certainty can be found in "The Garden of Proserpine". The line says as follow:

That no life lives for ever; (85)

This line mentions the certainty of death clearly. It says that every life has an ending. It is impossible to run away from this fact. There is no animate creatures can be immortal. All of them will die. Although they try hard to keep their life, it will be taken away. There is no way to live forever. It is possible to life for long time but in the end, death will come and happen to animate creatures without exception.

In conclusion, death is definite event that will happen to humans without exception. It cannot be avoided. Life is something which is not immortal. Whether life is short or long, humans do not know. However, the end of someone's life is a certainty. No one can live forever. Humans are tied with death. Death is real and its coming cannot be doubted. Wherever the soul will go is not important. The point which has to get attention is that all things including human will come back or die. Life is a trip. When the time is up, human as traveler has to go home. The return of human from a journey named life is called the death itself. All humans will experience it and cannot avoid it.

4. CONCLUSION

This research discusses about imagery dealing with death in Algernon Charles Swinburne's "In Memory of Walter Savage Landor" and "The Garden of Proserpine". There are two major problems. They are what kinds of imagery dealing with death found is selected poems and how the death is based on Swinburne's description. The researcher uses four theories. They are imagery, kinds of imagery, death, and meaning. The researcher uses two approaches. They are structural and formalistic approaches.

The researcher finds visual and organic imagery dealing with death in the selected poems. They are used to describe the condition of dead man (physically). Moreover, they are used to explain what the death is. The death's images which can be found in poems are three. They are death as eternity, freedom, and certainty. Death as eternity means when humans die, they cannot wake up anymore. They will sleep forever. Death as freedom means it sets the dead men free from all life's burdens. It liberates humans from fear and pains. It also stops humans to do bad thing. The last, death is certainty means it definitely comes to humans. No one can run away from the reality of the death.

Finally, the researcher gets some new knowledge about the topic, after finishing this research. It is that the death is not always scary but sometimes it gives happiness. The reason is it liberates humans from their life's burden. It is not always about badness but also the goodness.

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