Article

Human Existence as Individual Creature Based on Robert Frost's Poems, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" and "The Road Not Taken", Through Stylistic View

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Abstract

This article deals with human existence as individual creature in the world based on Robert Frost's poem "Stopping By Woods on A Snowy Evening" and "The Road Not Taken". In doing research, the writer used method of collecting and analyzing data. Observation through document study was used to collect data. While descriptive qualitative method was used to analayze the data. The result shows that both pooems, through poetic device and figurative language used, tell the readers about the responsibilities of human life to do before he os she dies. These may be reponsibilities of any duties and choices in human life. Through the first poem, Robert Frost reminds human being for having forgotten his or her duties in life. Then through the second poem, the poet emphasizes the importaance of making choices and its consequences of the choices.

Keywords: human existence; creature; life; choice; duty

1. Introduction

The choice of poetry in writing this article is based on the consideration that this type of literary work is presented in a concise, condensed, and meaningful writing. The use of language with the selection of beautiful and meaningful vocabulary makes poetry interesting to analyze. In reality, even ordinary man often unconsciously make a poem when he is in a state of joy, miserable or in love, and so on. Pradopo (1987: 3)[1] states that poetry can be studied based on its structure and elements, such as visual appearance, sound or musical aspects, choice of words or diction, language style or figurative language. Elements with one another have a related role and cannot be separated from each other in understanding a poem.

Language style plays a role in poetry. In addition to generating aesthetic impact as well as an effective tool for understanding the meaning of a poem. That is why in this article, the author wants to analyze by Robert Frost's poems "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening"(Frost, 1949: 275)[2] and "The Road Not Taken" (Frost, 1949: 131)[2], through a stylistic view. The selection of these two poems written by Robert Frost is based on the writer's curiosity about the poet's attitude and actions when face various choices in life. Furthermore, to analyze Robert Frost's poems above, the writer uses stylistic theories which include elements of diction, imagery, and language style to get the meaning, ideas, and messages contained in the poems.

2. Method

This research on human existence as individual creature based on Robert Frost's poem, "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening" and "The Road Not Taken", through stylistic view uses a qualitative method with descriptive approach. According to Sugiyono (2013: 24)[3] qualitative method ise used if the research problem is unclear, still dimly lit. The qualitative

researcher will go directly to the object, do the exploration, so the problem will be found clearly. The researcher will immediately observe the object, explore, so the problem will be found clearly. According to Sulistyo-Basuki (2006: 78 - 81)[4], qualitative research is research that aims to obtain a full picture of a matter in the view of the person being studied. To get data, the writer directly observed the primer documents and supporting ones. The Primer documents were taken form the book *Complete Poems of Robert Frost* (Frost, 1949: 131, 275)[2], and the supporting ones were taken literary books. Furthermore the research category in this study is a case study. Thus, data collection is done through document observation and related sources. Then the data are analyzed based on the theoritical framework having been determined to find out human existence as individual creature based on the poems mentioned above.

3. Theoretical Framework
3.1 Intrinsic Approach
The intrinsic approach in the study of Robert Frost's poetry is focused on diction and imagery. This is intended to support the discussion of stylistic elements related to the style of language contained in these poems.

3.1.1 Diction
Poets, in writing a poem, have the freedom to choose words that are the media to devote and show their feelings and thoughts. This is according to Perrine that the main distinction between the pragmatic use of language and the literary use is that in literature, especially in poems: a full use is made of individual choice of words (1969: 38) [5]. The primary difference between the use of poetic language and the use of literary language lies in the vocabulary subjectivity. Personal Vocabularies are used because the poet wants to get satisfaction in expressing his ideas.

Dictation contains two important elements. These elements are denotations and connotations. Denotation is the literal meaning of a dictionary word or meaning. while connotation is an additional meaning that arises from denotation meaning associations. As stated by Perrine (1988: 539)[6] denotation means the dictionary meanings of words. The connotation means more because it suggests beyond what it expresses. More complete Perrine gives examples of denotations and connotations as follows: The word home, for instances, by denotation means just where one lives, but by connotation it suggests security, love, comfort, and family. *Childlike* suggests meekness, innocence, and wide-eyed wonder, while *childish* suggests pettiness, willfulness, and temper tantrums (1988: 539) [6]

The word *house* has the meaning of denotation as a place to live, but the word has connotation meaning which includes feeling safe, affection, and warmth of the family. Furthermore, the words *like child* and *childish* refer to the traits of the child. However, the word *like a child* contains more connotations of tenderness, pure clean, innocent, and so on. The word *childish* consists of connotations of short-sightedness, at will, and is irritable.

3.1.2 Imagery
Imagery is the delivery of sensory experience through language, because images of dreams convey touch the senses of the readers, so that the readers seems to be able to participate in seeing, hearing or feeling the imagery presented by the poet (Perrine, 1969: 54) [5]. The five senses are eyes to see, ears to hear, nose to smell, tongue to taste, and skin to feel. The process of enjoying poetry by the senses of connoisseurs is referred to as imagery, and the results of this imagery are images or images. Literary works including poetry are inseparable from human life, especially life experiences that are directly or indirectly experienced. These experiences are easily understood through the five senses. The experience of spring days, for instance, seeing the blue sky and white clouds, seeing leaf shoots and lilies, hearing robins chirping in the morning, smelling wet soil and hyacinth flowers, and feeling fresh gusts of wind on the cheeks (Perrine, 1988 : 552)[6]. All of those, of course, involve the five senses when the readers enjoy a poem.

According to Holman (1985: 223) [7], imagery is a literal and concrete sensory experience of an object that is known by one or more of the senses. Imagery are a real representation of experience by

one or more of our senses. Meanwhile according to Brown & Olmsted (1962: 179) [8], imagery is an ingredient of all creative writing, because it is simply any fragment of virtual life which involves the reader's senses (sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste, et cetera). Thus, imagery can be interpreted as an overview of the experience of sensing the reader through language, both the senses of vision, hearing, touch, smell, taste, and so forth.

3.2 Stylistic Approach

Stylistics is the science of language style, how things are expressed in a certain way, so that the intended purpose can be achieved optimally. The word is translated from *trope* (Latin), figure of speech (English), that means equality or figure of speech. There are several types of figurative language, such as hyperbole, paradox, sarcasm and so on. Ratna (2003: 232-233) [9] mentions that the style of language is the whole way of using language by an author. Stylistics is a science that deals with talking about language style. Furthermore, Harsono (1999: 51)[10] affirms that stylistics examines the function of poetic language, with one step of the research to analyze aspects of the language.

3.2.1 Language style

There are many definitions of language style. First, according to Perrine, figure of speech is a way of saying one thing and the meaning is another. Language style is a way of expressing things with different intentions. Second, according to Keraf (2000: 113)[11], language style is a way of expressing thoughts through language that specifically shows the soul and personality of the language users. Third, according to Holman (1985: 185)[7], language style (figure of speech) is the variety of language different from customary construction, order, or significance in order to achieve special effects or meaning. Fourth, according to Ratna (2008: 164-165)[9], figure of speech is a choice of certain words in accordance with the intention to convey or to obtain aspects of beauty.

Based on the four opinions above, it can be understood that the style of language is the exploitation of language to get a deeper and more beautiful meaning than the use of language in a straightforward way. Also, the use of language styles can create certain effects in the emotions of the reader, such as anger, hatred, admiration, or pity.

3.2.2 Types of Language Style

According to Holman (1985: 185)[7], the style of language or figure of speech in general is grouped into two types, namely the style of rhetorical language and the style of figurative language. Rhetorical language of speech is a style of figure of speech by using the shift from the use of everyday standard language to get special effects without changing the basic meaning of the words used. Two major kinds of speech, that are rhetorical figures, which are departures from customary or standard uses of language meaning of the words; and tropes, in terms of changes in the meaning of words occurring.

According to Keraf (2000: 129)[11], rhetorical language style is merely a deviation from ordinary construction to achieve certain effects. Several types of rhetorical language styles include alliteration, assonance, and so on. As for the style of advanced language (figurative language) is the transfer of the uses of meaning, construction, arrangement of words to obtain the freshness and strength of expression, creating an imaging effect, describing it through analogy, finding or getting similarities or vice versa. Examples of this figurative language are antithesis, apostrophe, climax, hyperbole, irony, metaphor, metonymy, personification, simile, synechdoch, paradox, symbol, etc.

In general, symbols can be defined as something that means more than what they are. "The Road Not Taken", for example, concerns the choice made between two roads by people walking out in the woods. It can be interpreted that the choice of road is a symbol for every choice in life between emerging alternatives (Perrine, 1988: 585)[6]. Meyer states that symbols have deeper meaning than their literal meaning. A symbol is something that represents something else. An object, person, place, event, or action can suggest more than its literal meaning (1995: 581) [12].

3.3 Themes

Themes are central ideas or ideas developed in poetry. The theme becomes the basic idea conveyed by a poet. Reaske, (1966: 42)[13] states that theme is the central concept developed in a poem. Furthermore Perrine (1969: 149) [5] states that theme is the idea in a poem as a part of the total experience to communicate. The ideas in poetry are part of the overall experience that a poet wishes to convey; therefore, poetry lovers are expected to be able to understand these things. Thus, they can capture the themes contained in poetry as a means to enrich their understanding of life. It can be said that theme is the main idea that becomes the soul of a literary work. The author in creating his work is not just describing his ideas, but he also wants to convey the problems of life or the view of life from life based on his experience and knowledge.

4. Poetry Analysis
4.1 The Elements of Diction in "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening"

In this poem "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening", Frost emphasizes the lyrics and inner feelings, so he takes into account the use of diction. For example, to develop wood which is the main word in poetry, Frost strengthens with the words *snowy evening*, *darkest evening*, *frozen lake*, *without a farm house*, and *queer*. In othe words, the forest seems to be very quiet and isolated, the air temperature is really cold when it was approaching that evening. This is to make the I Character's horse wonders. The loneliness of the forest is still reinforced by only *easy wind* and *downy flake*. Maybe for humans it is rather difficult to appreciate what Frost meant, because the situation occurs in cold snowy places.

In the last verse of the poem "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening", Frost stresses that two dictionaries have many interpretations. These words *are miles and promises* (stanza 4). This is deliberately used so that each reader can find the best interpretation. Furthermore, the word *miles* in this poem can be interpreted as the journey of life for many years the I Character must pass before death comes. Even though someone can die at any time, but normally human life can reach the age of 65 years or more. Meanwhile the word *promises* can be interpreted as a duty and obligation that the I Character must do throughout his journey his oflife

4.2 The Elements of Imagery in "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening"

Through the title "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening", the reader has got a clear imagery of the forest where the I Character stops, which is dark at the same time is very cold. This impression is further strengthened by the words *the frozen lake and the darkest evening*, (line 7 and 8). The state of the forest is also still explained again lovely words, *dark* and *deep* (line 13).

Being in a cold, dark and quiet situation like this is really the I Character realizes. There is no sound other than *the sweep of easy wind and down flake* (line 11 and 12). He did not know why he felt fit in that place. Then, he was awakened by the clatter of the sound of the horse clothes that accompanied him, *his harness bell a shake* (line 9). The horse certainly felt strange about his master's behavior, the I Character, and tried to remind him. In the end, the I Character realized that there are still many duties and obligations that he had to carry out on his long journey, *miles to go before I sleep* (line fifteen).

4.3 The Elements of Language Style in "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening"

The Language Style Elements that most appear in the poem "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening" is a symbol. Although words that are used are simple but contain deep meanings. Words that have symbols in this poem are *woods, snow, harness bells, promises, miles and sleep*.

Based on the information in the poem stating tthe word *forest* is far from the crowds. The word can be a symbol of a world of dreams enjoyed only by someone who escapes from real life. The words *the dark woods* (line 13) seem to be a symbol of withdrawal from life for the sake of clarification. This escape is of course caused by feeling disappointed or less self-satisfied with what is received and experienced by the I Character's life.

The nature of snow is white and clean, so the word *snow* (line 4) can be a symbol of calmness and beauty. The I Character feels calm and likes to enjoy the beautiful snow in the twilight (*To watch his woods fill up with snow*, on line 4).

The bell is a tool to give attention to people, especially with regard to time or other things so that the person becomes aware. Even the big bells are usually used in ritual rituals in churches. Then the word *bells* (line 9) can be a symbol of a warning addressed to the I Character when he is immersed in the world of his dreams.

In the word *promises* (line 13), is the key to understanding this poem "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening" after the I Character was awared from the world of his dreams. As human being, the I Character realized his existence as a creature of God who lives in the midst of society. The word *promises* can be interpreted as a symbol of human duties and obligations during life in the world. The duties and obligations deal with the existence of humans as individual beings, social beings and God's creatures. So for the warning of the harness bells, the I Character who had been immersed in the world of dreams finally returned to the real world. *miles* (line (line 13 and 15).

5. Poetry Analysis "The Road Not Taken"
5.1 The Elements of Dictation in "The Road Not Taken"

Most of the poems that Robert Frost wrote took vocabularies of natural objects related to agricultural fields, as in this "The Road Not Taken" poem. Robert Frost uses words like wood, grassy, roads, leaves, or undergrowth. This is in accordance with the background of the life of Robert Frost who grew up in an agricultural area of New England, United States. Unpretentious verbs that intentionally use Robert Frost in this poem, such as diverged, traveled, doubted, looked down, bent, kept, stands, shops, etc. In this way, the literal understanding of the poem becomes easier. The verbs are also written in the past form. This shows the events that have occurred and must occur in the I Character.

5.2 The Elements of Imagery in "The Road Not Taken"

In this poem, there are many imageries. These words serve to enliven the atmosphere in poetry and sharpen the reader to find the meaning contained in it. The words *a yellow wood* cause the reader to feel about a small yellowish forest in the morning sun from the eastern horizon. In this first line, it is also emphasized that the road that passes through the forest suddenly branched out, so that the morning the I Character became confused to choose which path he should choose. This statement is reinforced by the words *that morning* (line 11).

The word *undergrowth* (line 5) gives a picture to the reader that the first branch of the road is not straight with overgrown shrubs on either side of the road. Meanwhile the second road looked straight, full of grass and not covered by bushes, so that more people passed the road. This statement is based the words, *as just as fair and it was grassy* (line 6 and 8). During the morning the I Character was the first person to pass one of the branches. However, it does not mean that in the previous days there were no people passing through the road, because people of course passed it. Such a picture can be seen in *that morning equally lay and no step had trodden black* (line 11 and 12).

The word *sigh* (line 13) shows the hesitation and doubt of the I Character which path he will take. He is afraid that the choice would turn out wrong. Nevertheless it is guided that the road has existed since the first and will remain – *Somewhere ages and ages hence* (line seventeen) - and he has to also pass it. Finally, he chooses a path that is not passed by many people. This road - *less traveled by* (line 19)- and makes I Character different from most other people. In this case if the I Character can be associated as the poet himself, the choice he has determinrd is a profession as a poet, a profession that few people choose.

5.3 The Elements of Language Style in "The Road Not Taken"

The symbol is the most important part of a poem to find out the meaning and content of the poem. If in a poem there are repeated words, the words can be considered as a symbol. In the poem "The Road Not Taken", there are several important symbols, including *roads* and *woods* (line 1) and are

repeated in line eighteen of the poem. Forest is a place for various living flora and fauna, and after reaching a certain age level they will die. Thus, a forest can be a symbol of the place of human life, namely this world. Meanwhile the word roads that are in wood are a person's infrastructure to reach the destination. Based on the word *roads*, Frost intentionally puts forward in the plural, so that the word can be interpreted as a symbol of the various ways of life that will be taken by someone to achieve his life goals. Thus, the word *roads* can can symbolyze a variety of choices someone must choose in the course of his life. By choosing one of these paths, it can be interpreted as someone choosing one particular field of profession is based on the choice of conscience, which will then be experienced in his life.

6. Theme

Humans as individuals have physical and spiritual elements; physical and psychological elements; elements of body and soul. Someone is said to be an individual if these elements are united in him. The elements contained in the human being cannot be divided, let alone separated. If these elements cannot be integrated, one cannot be called an individual.

As for individuals, humans require various needs, in the form of physiological needs for clothing, food, for instance), which are then referred to as primary needs; security needs; the need for affection, such as the need to establish relationships or intimacy with others; the need for self-esteem; the need to know and understand; the need for self-actualization, et cetera (Sujarwa, 2011: 286)[14]. Humans are basically individual beings, because in general they tend to think of their own needs before thinking about human needs. As From states (1970: 45)[15], man is primarily an isolated human being, whose primary interest is to get optimal satisfaction of his life.

6.1 The theme in "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening"

The journey of a human in the sea life is not always fun. Various factors cause people to feel dissatisfied with the life they experience. Nor does he compensate or satisfy himself in the world of his dreams. This is the case with the I Character in the poem "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening". Once the I Character threw all the burden of life and fled to the dream world in accordance with what he aspired to. With his beloved horse he stopped in a dark, silent and snow forest. There he then drowned in the dream world that he felt was much more fun because no one else was teasing him (stanza 4).

The I Character himself realized that his inherited horse felt strange and is astonished by the cruelty, stopping in the dark with extremely cold weather and no agricultural fields in its. As a pet who is always loyal to his master, then the horse tried to remind him by moving bells (stanza 2).

Even though in dream world dream I, the I Character found his own pleasure, but his daydream was still a daydream. Finally, he regained consciousness, especially after a warning from the sound of the harness bells. He remembered again the duties and obligations as human beings while he was still alive. If nothing got in the way, the trip will still be very long. He will not be able to rest calmly if his main duties and obligations are not done. Surely, these events are related to the duties and responsibilities of humans in life in this world (stanza 4).

6.2 The Theme in "The Road Not Taken"

The main theme of the poem "The Road Not Taken" is the importance of making choices about important possibilities that must be done in human life. Important choices that together determine a person's life style, he will not be able to do at the same time (stanza 1).

It has become a natural law that each activity requires its own time and space. As for humans, they have limited age - time that has passed will never come back again - so that choice will be very decisive. This certainly will make someone think twice before deciding which choice is considered the best. As experienced by the I Character in this poem, he was afraid that he would choose the wrong path and not according to his circumstances and abilities. He observed and pondered deeply about the first path (stanza 1).   Then the I Character compared the second way which looked better and is attracted by many people, whether the road is suitable for him or vice versa (stanza 2).

After long standing, the I Character finally took a decision. With a sense of responsibility, he chose the first path that is more appropriate to him. In this way, he would get more attention from the community (stanza 4). This relates to Frost life that chose to become a poet, a profession that a very few people like to choose.

7. Conclusion

Through the poem "Stopping by Woods on A Snowy Evening", Frost tries to remind fellow humans not to be easy in the world of imaginary dreams due to unsatisfactory real-world conditions. Human life in this world is full of challenges in carrying out the mission of life from the Creator. Humans are required to be able to overcome various obstacles and obstacles that exist.

Through the poem "The Roads Not Taken", Frost shows that human lief is always faced with various kinds of life problems such as choosing a profession, choosing a mate, choosing a place to live and so on. Sometimes people are too difficult to determine which choice is best. This often happens because he has never experienced this in his life.

People who are hesitant in deciding a choice usually run away to other people who they think know better. However, this method is not always effective, because the opinions of others are contrary to him. In addition, the decisions they choose are sometimes personal and very urgent, so they do not allow others to interfere. For this reason, they are forced to make his own choice independently based on his ratio (brain) and inner feeling (heart).

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