

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is the imaginative work that describes human life in society and can be enjoyed, felt, and understood by society. Literature, especially literary works, is the place where humans pour many aspects into it related to reality. The same statement has also been stated by Nurhamidah et al, that on careful observation of any piece of literature, someone can jump to relatively correct assumptions about its author (Nurhamidah et al., 2019). It means that there is a possibility for someone to assume through the content of literary works, especially those related to all aspects of human life.

The aspects of human life include many things that happened in their lives. Humans are creatures who are able to struggle every day to face the destiny of the Almighty Creator to determine the color of his life, design it, navigate it, and bring people to their goals (Arizona et al., 2022). Depending on the statement above, humans can simply survive for their lives by facing all of their problems, but not with their destiny. The death, or mortality, included in destiny is at the hands of God. The term mortality also appears in literary works since it is one of the most important aspects of human life. Mortality creates emotional effects and even twists on the plot of literary works. As stated by Hakola and Kivisto in the book "Death in Literature," they define the use of mortality in literature that while providing fictional encounters with death to its readers, the

stories also use death in their narrations to create emotional effects, plot twists, suspense, and mysteries (Hakola & Kivistö, 2014).

Not directly stated, many literary works choose to use imagery in describing things like death. The imagery of visualization is a form of mental creation that is carried out consciously and deliberately and aims to form the perception of something by forming creative images in one's mind (Festiawan, 2021). That aspect of human life can eventually be found in the poems by John Keats entitled "*On Death*" and "*When I Have Fears*".

Several poets are renowned for their exploration of death in their works, using this theme to reflect on life, mortality, and the human experience. For example, William Wordsworth, a central figure of the Romantic era and an important character of the Romantic era, frequently brought up themes of death in his poetry. In his poem "A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal," he considers the nature of death and the peace that comes after. The poem muses on death's inevitability and the calm it gives, as the speaker depicts a condition of never-ending rest and the beauty of nature that surrounds it. Wordsworth's perspective on mortality is frequently linked with his passion for nature, implying a link between life and death.

Emily Dickinson, another poet, often dealt with the theme of death. Her poetry is profoundly loaded with thoughts on death, which she frequently personifies in various ways. In her poem "Because I could not stop for Death," she depicts death as a gracious character who takes the speaker on a carriage

ride, representing their journey to forever. Dickinson's writing regularly deals with the nuances of death, portraying it as both a friend and a mystery, and she composed over 500 poems on it, demonstrating her lifelong curiosity about mortality.

In “*On Death*” by John Keats, it reflects the universal inevitability of death. The poem begins with the line, “Can death be sleep when life is but a dream?” He questions whether death is merely a form of eternal rest, similar to sleep. He muses on the nature of death and the uncertainty that surrounds it.

Keats suggests that death may be the full end of consciousness and existence by comparing it to a night of forgetfulness. He considers the possibility that passing away can provide relief from the struggles of life, considering it a type of emancipation.

By building upon the foundation of metaphor, this study aims to explore more deeply the imagery of death in John Keats’ poems “*On Death*” and “*When I Have Fears*” by analyzing how these works evoke death imagery in readers. The analysis will be conducted through the application of Perrine’s theory of metaphor, which will serve as the conceptual framework for understanding how these metaphors shape and enhance the reader’s perception of death in the poems.

1.2. Statements of the Problems

This study will discuss several questions related to death in “*On Death*” and “*When I Have Fears*” by John Keats, as stated below:

1. What are the types of imagery and metaphor used by John Keats in his poems "*On Death*" and "*When I Have Fears*"?
2. What are the implied meanings of imagery and metaphor applied in John Keats' depiction of death in "*On Death*" and "*When I Have Fears*"?
3. What is the relation between imagery and metaphor applied in John Keats' depiction of death in "*On Death*" and "*When I Have Fears*"?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

In line with the statement of the study above, the objective of the study can be stated as follows:

1. To find out the types of imagery and metaphor used by John Keats in his poems "*On Death*" and "*When I Have Fears*".
2. To find out the implied meanings of imagery and metaphor applied in John Keats' depiction of death in "*On Death*" and "*When I Have Fears*".
3. To find out the relationship between imagery and metaphor applied in John Keats' depiction of death in "*On Death*" and "*When I Have Fears*".

1.4. Scope of the Study

This study of John Keats' poems entitled "*On Death*" and "*When I Have Fears*" focuses on the intrinsic elements of poems, that is, to find out the types

of imagery and metaphor used, the implied meanings of imagery and metaphor, and the relationship between imagery and metaphor applied in the poems titled "*On Death*" and "*When I Have Fears*".

1.5. Significance of the Study

This study aims to involve the researchers and the readers in the analysis and interpretation of poems as a way to frame discussions from a new perspective and form something relevant. The researcher also hopes that it will help the reader understand the interpretation of the poems.

This study provides a deeper understanding of the poem to increase knowledge about death by using metaphors. The readers can gain a deeper understanding of how to convey complex characters and emotions. The researcher hopes that this research can help the reader understand. This study engages researchers and students to be able to interpret the poem about death in John Keats' poem. It can provide a broad understanding of life and death.

1.6. Approach of the Study

The approach used in this study is a context-oriented approach that focuses on data analysis and processing with special emphasis on the textual content of a text. This approach to literary texts is characterized by the elements of meaning in a text that show the whole in a literary interpretation.

This study analyzes John Keats' poems "*On Death*" and "*When I Have Fears*" from the perspective of metaphor. The research employs a descriptive-

qualitative method, where data are interpreted through Perrine's theory of metaphor and imagery. This approach allows for a detailed examination of how metaphors and imagery related to death are used in the poems.

This study applies some steps, as follows: First, the researcher, as a reader, reads and understands the meaning of the poems "*On Death*" and "*When I Have Fears*" by John Keats. Second, the reader must pay attention to the details of the language, such as imagery and metaphor. Finally, the reader then analyzed the types of imagery used, which include auditory imagery, olfactory imagery, tactile imagery, kinesthetic imagery, visual imagery, and gustatory imagery, and then the types of metaphor used, which include standard metaphor, visual metaphor, implied metaphor, extended metaphor, and mixed metaphor, as well as the implied meanings and the relation between imagery and metaphors in the interpretation of death.

By using the above research methods, this study can provide an overview of the poems and the role played by imagery and metaphor analysis in the implied meanings and the relation between of the imagery and metaphors used to interpretation of death in the poems '*On Death*' and '*When I Have Fears*' by John Keats.

1.7. Organization of the Paper

There are five chapters in this paper. Chapter one of the study consists of the background of the study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study,

scope of the study, significance of the study, approach of the study, and organization of the paper.

Chapter two contains the interpretation of “*On Death*” and “*When I Have Fears*” and the author's biography of John Keats’.

Chapter three presents a theoretical framework that discusses previous studies, literature, poem, intrinsic elements of poem, figurative language and explaining death.

Chapter four is finding and discussion. The results of the analysis will be discussed in this chapter.

Finally, chapter five consists of a conclusion and a suggestion, which summarize the main findings and suggest future actions for further research.