**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents background of the study, research problem of the study, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, definition of key terms, and organization of the study.

1. **Background of the Study**

There are many languages which people use in the world. Each country has different languages with other countries. Keraf (1980:1), explains that language is signaling system which operates with symboling vocal sounds, and it is used by a group of people for the purpose of communication. As a means of communication, language absolutely has a very important role in human life.

Languages have more function for us, not only to communicate verbally, but also to express our thoughts or feelings, through for example writing. Sometimes people express their feeling and ideas about spirit and give a predetermined form to all its symbolic expression. Aminuddin (2008: 25) says that, literature as one form of artistic creations using language as media presentation. However, different form of the language used in daily life, language in literature has its own uniqueness. Languages in literature are the result of processing and the expression of individual authors.

Jones (1968:1), defined literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination. Literature, in the broadest sense, includes all written materials. Into this general grouping fall history books, philosophical works, novels, poems, plays, scientific articles, dictionaries, magazine, and school textbooks. Moreover, he states that, literature can be included into two different groups. In one group it can place those writings that mainly present information. In the other, it can place those that mainly entertain. Literature springs from our inborn love of telling story, of arranging words in pleasing patterns, of expressing in words some special aspect of our human experience.

There are a number of different branches of literary works such as drama, novel, short story, and poetry. All these are works of the imagination or the capacity for invention. The primary aim of literature is to give pleasure, to entertain those who voluntarily attend to it, (Moody, 1968:2).

Poetry is a special type of English which is written in different ways. It deserves study as much as they do, perhaps more, since poetry is the type of English which touches our personal feelings most closely. Maley and Moulding (1985:1), states that poetry can also help us assimilate the typical rhythms of a language.

As the interpretive dramatization of experience in metrical language, poetry is an imaginative statement of feeling that feeling is created or imagined. This can stimulate readers to express thoughts that raise feelings which stimulate the imagination of the five senses in the context of rhythmic.

Most people find difficulties when studying or reading poetry. Any difficult vocabulary in the poems is either explained or given special

attention. Poetry is full of meaning and symbol. It is very important to understand about poetry when someone reads poetry. When readers read poetry, they will find message and theme of poetry. To read a poetry, it is important to know and find the figurative language used in the poetry. Figurative language is not to make poetry confusing, but to make it clear.

According to Pradopo (2000:61), figurative language is a language to describe the comparison, equation, and imagery. Figurative language is crucial to get the poetic meaning of poem. There are figuratives language make poem more interesting, more beautiful, more life, and make clear of imagine. There are various kinds of figurative language, but although they are diverse they have something (characteristic) common, namely figurative language that connects things by plugging in something else. The types of figurative language are simile, metaphor, personification, allegory, metonymy, etc.

The writer used Robert Frost’s poems since the writer of the thesis has read some of his literary works. He was an American poet. He was born in [San Francisco, California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Francisco%2C_California) on March 26, 1874 – January 29, 1963. He is one of the great poets in America. In fact, poems deal with social human life and nature. Most of his poems have deep meaning and the figurative language gives poetic sense to his poem. This study, deals with figurative language, as they are used in Robert Frost’s poems. That is why; to analyze the figurative language used in those poems are interesting.

To provide the originality of this research the writer wants to present the previous studies that deal with, especially, figurative language in general. The previous research is done by Eni Anawati (2010) in *“An Analysis on Figurative Language Used in Selected Poem of Emily Dickinson”*. Her study focuses on figure of speech used in that poem. Besides, her study also focuses on the meaning and the message of figurative language used in those poems.

The previous studies above only focused on figurative, meaning, and message of the poems. Actually, poetry has several aspects that can be analyzed. In analyzing poetry, we can not only find the meaning and message used in the poem but also we can to know the theme used in the poem. So we will know clearly the purpose of the poem. On the basis of the previous studies, in this study, the writer intends to analyze the poems by focusing on existence of figurative language, meaning, message, and theme of the poems. Meanwhile, the objects of the poems to be studied are different, those of the previous studies.

Related to the description above, the writer studies figurative language used in selected poem of Robert Frost. The writer intends to find some kinds of figurative language used. She also studies the meaning and message of figurative language used in selected poem of Robert Frost, and the theme of selected poem.

1. **Research Problem of the Study**

Based on the description of the background stated in the previous sub-chapter, the writer would like to present the formulation of the study as follows:

1. What are the kinds of figurative language used in the selected poems of Robert Frost’s poem?
2. What is the general meaning and detail meaning of the poem containing figurative language used in the selected poems of Robert Frost’s poem?
3. What is the theme carried by the poem of Robert Frost’s selected poems?
4. What messages are found the poems through understanding figurative language used in the selected poems of Robert Frost’s poem?
5. **Objective of the Study**

In relation to the formulation of the problems state above, the purposes of the study are:

1. To identify the figurative language used in the selected poem of Robert Frost’s poem
2. To know the general meaning and detail meaning of the poem containing figurative language used in the selected poem of Robert frost poem
3. To know the theme carried by the poems of Robert Frost’s poems
4. To understand the message of the poems through understanding figurative language used in the selected poems of Robert Frost’s poem
5. **Significance of the Study**

The study is expected to give worthy contribution for English teacher, English learner and future researcher. For English teacher, the result of the study is hopefully able to be used as references in teaching and learning English. Meanwhile, for English learners, the research findings are expected to enrich their knowledge about figurative language used in poems. Finally, for future researcher, the research findings are expected can be used as references in conducting further studies about figurative language used in different poems by different poets.

1. **Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study is limited in analyzing figurative language in Robert Frost’ selected poems. There are more than four hundred poems created by Robert Frost. However, in this study, the writer limits the subjects of the study only on four of his selected poems. They are “*The Road Not Taken*”, “*My November Guest*”, “*Tree at My Window*”, and “[*Stopping*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_of_Boston) *by Woods on a Snowy Evening*”. This study also focuses on the meaning and the message of figurative language used in Robert Frost’s selected poems, and the theme carried in Robert Frost’s selected poems.

1. **Definition of Key Terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding of some terms used in this study, they need to be defined as follows:

1. Analyze poem is the process of investigating a poem’s form, content, and history in an informed way, with the aim of heightening one’s own and others understanding and appreciation of the work, (Wikipedia: 2011).
2. Figurative language is a word or phrase that departs from everyday literal language for the sake of comparison, emphasis, clarity, or freshness. [Metaphor](http://fictionwriting.about.com/od/glossary/g/metaphor.htm) and [simile](http://fictionwriting.about.com/od/glossary/g/simile.htm) are the two most commonly used figures of speech, but things like [hyperbole](http://fictionwriting.about.com/od/glossary/g/hyperbole.htm), [synecdoche](http://fictionwriting.about.com/od/glossary/g/synecdoche.htm), [puns](http://fictionwriting.about.com/od/glossary/g/puns.htm), and [personification](http://fictionwriting.about.com/od/glossary/g/personification.htm) are also figures of speech, (Fictionwriting.com).
3. Meaning is the relationship between language with external language agreed by the language user in order to understand each other, (Susilo Adi Setyawan Online: 2009).
4. Theme is a subject or topic on which a person writes or speaks; a proposition for discussion or argument; a text, (Brainy Quote Online: 2008).
5. Message is a communication containing information, news, advice, request from written or spoken communication, (Dictionary Online: 2011).
6. **Organization of the Study**

The organization of the thesis covers the following chapters:

1. Chapter I: Introduction

It covers the background of the study, research problem of the study, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, definition of key terms, and organization of the study.

1. Chapter II: Review of related literature

 It is to review of the related literature; it includes the discussion of literature, poetry, figurative language, meaning, message, and theme.

1. Chapter III: Research methodology

It consists of reseach design, data and data source, data collection, and data analysis.

1. Chapter IV: Research finding

It presents the data presentation and the findings.

1. Chapter V: Discussion

It presents the discussion of the findings of the study.

1. Chapter VI: Conclusion and suggestion

It presents of the conclusion and suggestion.