

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is an expression of a person's heart and mind as outlined in writing or orally which contains aesthetic meaning. According to the big dictionary of Indonesian (Purba, 2012: p. 2) literature is a written works which when compared to other ordinary writing, has various characteristics of excellence, authenticity, artistry, beauty, content and expression. Literary work itself is an essay that has the virtue of writing beautiful language full of aesthetics. Literature also provides general knowledge and insights about humans, social, intellect, with a unique style. Literary readers must be able to interpret signs and literary texts in accordance with their experiences and insights, all return to the reader and connoisseurs. In addition, literary work is an abstraction from an experience, thought, feeling both real and imaginary, which is decapitated and reunited with the perceptions and expertise of artists (writers) and presented through a media. The meaning of the signs does not belong to itself, but comes from the context in which it was created, where it is embedded. In general, literary works consist of three parts, namely poetry, prose, and drama.

Poetry is part of a literary work. It is one of the results of art. As a product of art, literary works are human creations that express the athoughts, ideas, understandings, responses, and feelings of the creators

about life with imaginative and emotional language. Poetry itself is the result of one's thoughts and feelings, each person are free to express through poetry, by favoring the language style (diction) in each line or stanza. In poetry, diction or word choice is the essence or the building foundation of poetry writing. Diction can be used as a benchmark of how far a poet has genuine creativity. In using diction, a poet always takes into account the relationship of certain words to the basic ideas to be communicated and the possible effects on the reader. Words are truly chosen so that has the power of pronunciation. Moreover, it may seem brief or concise, it is powerful. The words use rhymes and have connotative meaning or figurative style. All of that are important, which is recorded and is expressed and manifested with interesting and gives the impression. In other words, poetry is the recording of the human experience, and modified in a most memorable.

Within the wider realm of literature, the authors will always give a new twist to their work. Poetry can change according to the taste of evolution or in accordance with the wishes of the author. Alfred, Lord Tennyson was a famous British poet from England. Tennyson seemed to be an embodiment of his age, both for his contemporaries and for modern readers more than any other Victorian era writer. It is a reputation that is rarely shared by other poets in English. Even his most severe critics have always acknowledged his lyrical talent, a gift that may be unrivaled in the history of English poetry. Some of his poetry even came under the spotlight of the British Kingdom during the Victorian queen. They are

“The Lady of Shalott”, “The Eagle”, “Crossing the Bar”, “The Charge of the Light Brigade”, “Ulysses”, “Tithonus”, and others. The Charge of the Light Brigade is the most famous one. It was an accusation of light British cavalry led by Lord Cardigan against Russian troops during the Battle of Balaclava on the 25th of October, 1854, in the Crimean War. It was originally intended to send the Light Brigade to chase the retreating Russian troops, but miscommunication caused them to carry out suicide attacks on different positions and was defended. A few weeks after the news of the attack reached England, Tennyson, the Award-winning English Poet at the time, wrote this poem in memory of the heroism of the Light Brigade for daring to carry out their orders without regard to clear results. The poem has remained very popular ever since and is Tennyson's most famous poem as a Poet Laureate. According to Cuddon (2013: p. 546) the poet laureate is a poet who is appointed by the government and is expected to write poetry for important national events and events. At a more abstract level, the poet, ideally, is a poetic representative of his age spirit.

The language that used in Tennyson's *The Charge of the Light Brigade* is not an arbitrary language, but a language that emphasizes beauty. The language that used in poetry is often a sign, so it is difficult to understand and has multiple meanings (ambiguity). This is a historical poem that tells of how heroic soldiers were. The style of language used is also a language that is encouraging and motivating the reader. So that the reader can feel how the soldiers struggle in war. Tennyson always has

short rhymes filled with thick rhymes in his poetry. Moreover, it is the main attraction of his poetry from others. Based on the uniqueness possessed by Tennyson's poetry makes the poem is interested to research the meanings in the poetry using Riffaterre semiotic theory. Through his book *Semiotics of Poetry* (1978), Riffaterre reveals the method of semiotic interpretation of poetry completely. According to Riffaterre (1978) there are two forms of interpretation, namely interpretation of lexematic and textual. Lexematic is a process of interpretation by linking words that have double marks because it connects two texts simultaneously in poetry. In this case, one single text must be understood in two different ways. Textual is a process of interpretation by linking texts quoted from poetry. The semiotic interpretation that will be carried out on the text of the poem *The Charge of the Light Brigade* is an attempt to interpret the poem. Literature that is rich in interpretation can be interpreted in any way.

Based on that, it was appropriately to apply it to the meaning of poetry, including Tennyson's, which has its own characteristics ranging from language style, sentence formation and background theme of his poetry that is very distinctive. In line with Rokhmansyah (2014: p. 8) states to understand the meaning of poetry can be done using semiotic Riffaterre. Therefore, there is no literary interpretation that can be blamed. What happens is right or not, near the distance, and appropriate or less. The steps for interpretation of poetry that is put forward by Riffaterre are really providing space to be able to reveal the meaning in the poetry "*The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson".

There are not some research has been found that uses Riffaterre's theory in interpreting a poem at State University of Medan. The semiotic theory that specifically analyzes poetry is Riffaterre semiotic theory which was developed to further understand the meaning of poetry. This is the basis to continue writing further, so that it can give more insight and knowledge as well as references regarding related research. Moreover, there are some journals that are inspiring and suggesting in developing main ideas of this research. The studies that have been conducted relating to this research are as follows: (1) An Analysis of Semiotic Riffaterre in Walt Whitman Selected Peom by Rusmitha Sipahutar, 2019, (2) Analysis of the Meaning of Mantra Ajian Jaran Goyang by Yanti Sariasih et al., 2018, (3) Langston Hughes' Selected Poems in Riffaterre's Perspective by Nova Munawaratul Riana et al., 2015.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background description above, the focus of the research problem is as follows:

1. What kinds of indirect descriptive expressions are used in the poetry *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson?
2. How are indirect descriptive expressions realized in the poetry *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson?
3. Why are the indirect descriptive expressions realized in the ways they are?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem to be discussed, the study discusses to describe the following:

1. The research is intended to describe the kinds of indirect descriptive expressions used in the poetry *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson.
2. The research is intended to explain the realization of indirect descriptive expressions realized in the poetry *The Charge of the Light Brigade* by Alfred, Lord Tennyson.
3. The research is intended to explain the reason of indirect descriptive expressions realized in the ways they are.

1.4 The Scope of the Study

The determination of the focus of the study aims at interpreting the study of semiotic fields in the poetry. So, in this case the aspect of semiotic studies became the focal point to interpret the meaning of the language of Tennyson's poetry. That is not all the concept of Riffaterre that is used in obtaining the meaning in poetry *The Charge of the Light Brigade*, but that is only the one step of them, namely: indirect descriptive expressions.

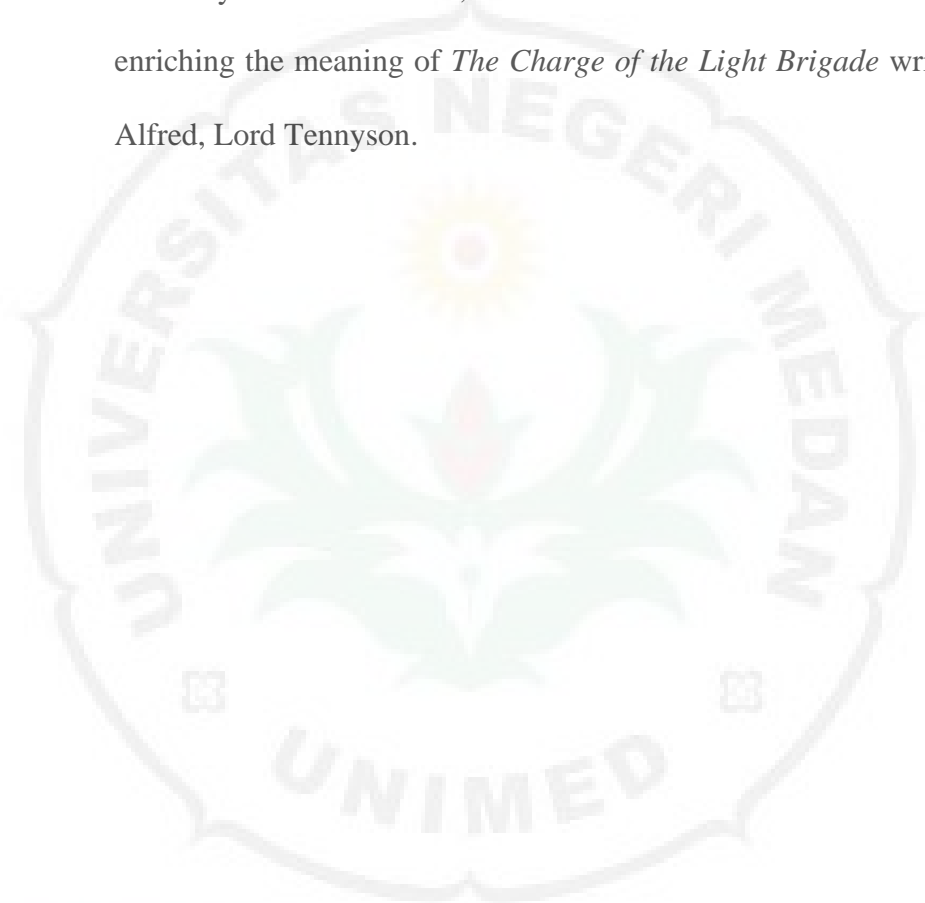
1.5 The Significances of the Study

Findings of the study are expected to offer both theoretical and practical significance:

1. Theoretically the research is expected to be used as a comparison and relevant study material in related research. Moreover, it also increases

student's knowledge of English Literature study program about English literature.

2. Practically the research is expected to introduce poetry to the public as a literary work. Moreover, it also increases alternative references in enriching the meaning of *The Charge of the Light Brigade* written by Alfred, Lord Tennyson.



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