

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Emerged from the city of Wuhan, Hubei, China, in December 2019, the novel coronavirus disease 2019, also known as COVID-19, is spreading rapidly and causing global devastation. Some of the earliest affected people were connected to the city's seafood market. The disease fast developed into a global pandemic and was declared as a serious public health emergency. This disease spread very quickly in parts of the world, including countries in Southeast Asia. This disease spread very quickly in parts of the world, including countries in Southeast Asia. Based on WHO data as of May 21, 2020, the top three Southeast Asian nations with the highest recorded COVID-19 infections as of May 21, 2020, are Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines. Cambodia, Laos, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam did not suffer any casualties, while Brunei suffered one fatality. The greatest case fatality rates are 99.43% each in Indonesia and the Philippines. Despite having a high infection rate, Singapore has the lowest 0.068% (as cited in JHR, 2020).

COVID-19 has disrupted the functioning of the health sector, education, culture and religion, transportation, sports and entertainment, food security and agriculture, business and entrepreneurship, and the world's economy. People are urged to remain at home, work and study from there, wear masks constantly, wash their hands as many times as possible, and keep their distance from other people in social situations. The social and economic lives of people have radically

changed during the lockdown. COVID-19 affects literary works as well. This effect of working from home is evident in the prevalence of digital versions of literary works. They read and write while they were occupied.

One can comprehend and communicate their sentiments in a language that is understandable to themselves and others by reading and writing (Pennebaker & Evans, 2014). Its practice of reading or producing poetry serves as therapy, offering clarity and understanding (Mazza cited in Munslow, 2017). According to Bowra (1965), poetry originates from the poet's belief that he speaks for a large group of individuals who share his worldview and interests. Olilla and Jantas (2006) reveal that poetry is a kind of verbal or written language that is structured rhythmically and it is meant to tell a story or express any kind of emotion, idea, or state of being. Pedersen (2015) defined poetry as a genre in literature symbolizing the human experience.

The types of poetry namely: The ballad, epic, metrical romance, miscellaneous narrative, lyric poetry, sonnet, elegiac poetry, epigram, idyll, satire, vers de societe and humorous verse, and last is didactic, descriptive, and informal verse (Jacob Zeitlin, and Clarissa Rinaker, 1926). As the statements of the experts above, it can be concluded that Poetry is a literary work that is fiction which is used as a channel of expression, emotion, and feeling that uses diction to beautify the value of the sentence. The process of reading and creating poetry is particularly rich and expressive because it draws into both conscious and unconscious experiences of a traumatic occurrence (Matalon, 2018). McNichols and Witt (2018) contend that retelling traumatic situations in the form of poetry

aids in bringing new views to these events and the response to them because some traumatic occurrences disturb mental equilibrium and sanity.

The outbreak of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 in December 2019 and the subsequent pandemic have inspired poets all over the world to write poems that comment on the effects of the current health crisis. Poems are being written by people to process their troubled lives and thoughts. Reading and producing poetry can help one understand the strong, terrible emotions that people experience in the wake of disasters in their lives. Elegies were employed by Lee and Toren (2020) to feel the consolation of lyrical writing, providing them the ability to comprehend and absorb the devastating event of a family member's death. Bowman (2020) used poetry, song lyrics, and contemplative writing to help him cope with his grandson's overdose death and get through his grief process over the years.

During the first months of 2020, when the virus spread from China to the rest of the world, professional and amateur poets alike shared their poetry en masse. The reading of poetry is principally a “lived experience” (Rubin, 2007). Poetry does something to people, either in a positive or negative sense, and is thus by definition something more than a merely inward-looking genre (Simecek & Rumbold, 2016). The attention that has been given to poetry during the corona crisis makes this very clear. For example, from Senegal to Japan, people are writing poems about the pandemic. In addition, there are signals that during the worldwide lockdowns in the first half of 2020, more poetry was sold than might normally be expected (Wood, 2020).

This study will use a qualitative content analysis methodology, this study explores the imagery of a few poems from the COVID-19 Pandemic Poems. Imagery is included in the field of literature. Encarta (2009) defines literature as the use of well-chosen words to tell a story through narrative, involving characters in conflict, or to express an emotion or idea through artfully arranged images. In literature, any technique used to help the author achieve his purpose is called a literary device. Literary devices are tools used by writers to hint at themes, ideas, and larger meanings in a story or writing. The most common literary device are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, imagery, symbolism, allusion, irony, motif, and allegory.

Perrine's Sound and Sense imagery is the representation through language of sense experience (Arp and Johnson 2015). They described imagery as including not only visual imagery but also audio imagery, olfactory imagery, gustatory imagery, tactile imagery (such as wetness, softness, hardness, or cold and heat), organic imagery (such as fatigue, nausea, thirst, or hunger), movement or tension in the muscles or joints, and movement or tension in the air (kinesthetic imagery).

Cox & Dyson (1965) contended that: in poetry, the word imagery has a wide meaning. It encompasses all poetry that helps the reader visualize or "realize" a scene or scenario, as well as all descriptive and evocative poetry. This topic is interesting to analyze because still relate to the state of the world in recent year. The world has not been completely clean from the COVID-19 pandemic phenomenon which greatly impacts all aspects of human life, it also has an impact on literary works.

The source of data for this study is a poetry anthology book entitled COVID-19 Pandemic Poems. The researcher chose this book to research because this book has 1.036 viewers and this book already has a top category. The authors in this book work as lecturers, students, and doctor. They write poetry based on observations of the surrounding environment, and based on their direct experience in dealing with covid. Of the 50 poems in this book, the researcher only chose 10 poems to research, because the researcher focus on researching poems that have the words covid, corona, and pandemic in the title to be more specific according to the title of this research. Therefore, the researcher only chose 10 of the 50 poems available, and not all of them have titles that contain the words covid, corona, and pandemic. The poems that will be researched are: “Corona is the Virus” by Dr. Naushad Khan, “Reason Friendly in Times of Covid-19” by Crescentia N. Ugwuona, “Covid-19:From Carrier to Warrior” by Dr. Ashish K. Gupta, “An Epistle to Corona” by Ananya Ghosh, “Covid Nigeria” by Dr. Iliyasu Biu, “Corona in All Others Out” by Prof Stephen Deepak, “Covid 19” by Dr. Kusumita Mukherjee Debnath, “ Covid 19” by Dr. Oliyath Ali, “Two Shades of Pandemic” by Genalyn P. Lualhati, and “Pandemic needs will to be defeated” by Faheem Ud Din Dar.

The researcher used several previous study research articles for the research, namely The referential function of evocative images in J.P.Shongwe's poetry, On the Poetic Imagery of Smoke in Warlpiri Songs, Anxiety and Imagery in Attilâ İlhan’s poetry, The palm tree and the fist. The use of popular imagery in

the Tunisian protest songs of the 1970s-1980s, and the last are Individual differences in visual imagery determine how event information is remembered.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the introduction, the problems of the study can be formulated as below:

1. What are the types of imagery found in poems?
2. What is the interpretation of imagery found in poems?
3. How is covid-19 represented in the poems?

C. The Objective of the Study

In line with the problems of the study, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find out the types of imagery in poems
2. To find out the interpretation of imagery in poems
3. To find out the covid-19 represented use in the poems

D. The Scope of the Study

This research is focused on researching the types of imagery, interpretation of imagery, also to researching the covid-19 represented in poems.

E. The Significances of the Study

The findings of this study are expected to be significantly relevant theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically, this study is expected to be useful as an additional reference in the field of literary studies. Reading this study can also add insight to readers about COVID-19 which has become a global pandemic and its impact on life.
2. Practically, this study can contribute to literary studies. The results of this study are expected to be useful for lecturers to facilitate the teaching of imagery approach to students, especially Students Majoring in English Literature. This study is also expected to be able to train readers to be able to utilize literature as a medium for expressing emotions through writing and reading poetry into a beautiful work.



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