CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

Literature is usually known as an art of written works. Every literary works has a certain meaning and its own beauty. Based on Klarer's (2005:1) statement, literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the world. He also added that the definitions are usually includes additional adjectives such as "aesthetic" or "artistic" to distinguish literary works. Basically literary works includes poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and drama. In this research, the researcher chooses poetry as the object of research.

Many people love poetry but not all of them can understand the deep meaning of the poem. Compared to other literary works, the languages used in poetry are much denser and it is aesthetically beautiful. According to Perrine in Yuanda (2013 : 1), poetry can be defined as a kind of language that says more and more intensively than the daily languages. Poetry also takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility; the emotion is contemplated till, by a species of reaction, the tranquility gradually disappears, and an emotion, kindred to that which was the subject of contemplation, is gradually produced, and does itself

actually exist in the mind. One of the genius American poets who was capable of communicating his sense through poem was Edgar Allan Poe.

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston on January 19, 1809. Other than being a poet, Poe was also a writer, editor, and literary critic. He was best known of his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of mystery and macabre. In 1836, he married his 13 years old cousin named Virginia Clemm. In January 1845, Poe published his poem "The Raven" to instant success. His wife died of tuberculosis two years after its publication. For years, he had been planning to produce his own journal The Penn (later renamed The Stylus), though he died before it could be produced. Poe died in Baltimore on October 7, 1849; the cause of his death is unknown and has been variously attributed to alcohol, brain congestion, cholera, drugs, heart disease, rabies, suicide, tuberculosis, and other agents.

One of the most famous poem by Edgar Allan Poe was "The Raven". Its publication made Poe widely popular in his lifetime. "The Raven" is a narrative poem that tells about a talking raven's mysterious visit to a distraught lover, tracing the man's slow fall into madness. This poem was popular of its musicality, stylized language, and supernatural atmosphere. The poem also makes use of a number of folk, mythological, religious, and classical references.

However, in analyzing and interpreting the poem should not be done haphazardly. Since, the languages used in the poetry is a sign that deviates from it true meaning and intention. For that reason, an approach is needed in analyzing and interpreting the poem to obtain the deep meaning of the poem. A poem can be analyzed with many kinds of approaches; one of the approaches is semiotics. Michael Riffaterre is one of the experts with a semiotics theory to analyze a poem.

Michael Riffaterre was an influential French literary critic and theorist. He pursued a generally structuralize approach, and he is well known in particular of his book *Semiotics of Poetry*. In analyzing a poem, Riffaterre revealed a specific method of analyzing and interpreting the meaning of a poem. Nevertheless, the meaning cannot be separated from semiotic reading in general, because poem is dialectic between texts and readers. In other words, the readers play an important role in interpreting the meaning of a poem. According to Riffaterre in Ratih (2017:4), there are four theory in analyzing and interpreting a poem semiotically , that is, first, poem is an indirect expression, second, heuristic and hermeneutic readings, third, matrix, model, and variant, and fourth, hypogram.

This research analyze about the significance of "The Raven" poem by Edgar Allan Poe based on Riffaterre's semiotics theory. The word *significance* refers to the deep meaning of the poem. According to Riffaterre in Faruk (2015), in analyzing and interpreting a poem, the result of the analysis and the deep meaning

of the poem is called as the *significance*. The reason why the researcher chooses "The Raven" poem by Edgar Allan Poe is because the researcher is personally interested with the poem, and in order to be able to understand more about the poem, the researcher is aim to reveal out the deep meaning and intention of the poem. For that, the researcher decided to apply the theory of Riffaterre's semiotics in analyzing the poem because languages in poetry is solid and uses unusual diction so it requires an approach that refers to the linguistic analysis of order can be interpreted intact. The most purpose of this research is to let the more people to understand and to know about the poem, and nonetheless is to finish the final paper of the researcher. Therefore, by the reasons above, the researcher entitles the analysis "The Significance of "The Raven" Poem by Edgar Allan Poe: A Study of Riffaterre's Semiotics".

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the identification of the problems are:

1. Semiotics analysis of signs in "The Raven" poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

2. The indirect expressions in semiotics found in "The Raven" poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

3. Heuristic and hermeneutic codes found in "The Raven" poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

4. The matrix, model, and variant found in "The Raven" poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

5. The hypogram found in "The Raven" poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, the problems are limited as following:

1. The heuristic readings in "The Raven" Poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

2. The hermeneutic readings in "The Raven" Poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

3. The indirect expressions in "The Raven" Poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

In line with the identification and limitation of the problem, the formulation of the problem are as below:

1. What are the heuristic readings in "The Raven" Poem by Edgar Allan Poe?

2. What are the hermeneutic readings in "The Raven" Poem by Edgar Allan Poe?

3. What are the indirect expressions found in "The Raven" Poem by Edgar Allan Poe?

1.5. Objective of the Research

From the formulation of the problem above, the objective of the research are as the following:

1. To interpret out the heuristic readings found in "The Raven" Poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

2. To reveal out the hermeneutic readings found in "The Raven" Poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

3. To classify out the indirect expressions found in "The Raven" Poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

1.6. Significance of the Research

The existence of research activities on literary works is expected to be able to bridge the understanding between literary works and readers. Therefore, there are several benefits that can be derived from this research. Theoretically, the major aim of this research is to increase the student knowledge especially for English Literature students. It is hoped that this research can also be a relevant reference for further researchers that are interested in doing poetry research with Riffaterre's theory.

Other than theoretical benefits, this research can also bring advantages in practical way. Practically, this research aims to help other to know and understand the messages and meanings contained in "The Raven" poem by Edgar Allan Poe.

Besides, this research is used as final thesis in order to accomplish the researcher's study in bachelor degree.

1.7. Definition of the Key Terms

Based on what the researcher described in background of the research, the representative key terms that will be commonly encountered by readers are as following:

Significance : In the science of semiotics, language is the first stage of semiotic system that already has meaning. Meanwhile, in the literary work, the meaning of language is increased to meaning (significance). This makes the literary work as the second stage of semiotic system. Significance is the result of the analysis and the deep meaning of the poem.

Poetry : Poetry is "the art of a poet; poems" and defined as pieces of creative writing in verse form, especially the ones that express deep feeling or noble thought in beautiful language, composed with the desire to communicate experience.

Poem : Poem is a piece of writing arranged in lines, usually with a regular rhythm and often with a pattern of rhymes. It is

a piece of writing that expresses the writer's thoughts and feelings in order to set a mood; it can be happy or sad, simple or complex.

Semiotics : Semiotics is a science of signs, which is considered a sign of social or community phenomena as well as culture. The study of literature using semiotic theory is the analysis of literary works that make the literary work as the object of the signs that allow literary works have a certain meaning. The main idea of semiotics is a sign.