COMPROMISING DILEMMA AS REFLECTED IN POEM “STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING” BY ROBERT FROST

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Abstract

Every human have problems in his/her life. Sometimes those are easy and difficult ones, then they feel confused to decide which one they should take because those are good for their future life. But willy-nilly, they have to choose one of them. The condition as experienced by Frost reflected in his poem entitled Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening, in which he experience difficult something in taking decision in order to make him into dilemma. Two problem formulations which were discussed in this final project are 1) What choices does Frost face as portrayed in Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening?, 2) How does Frost compromise with his dilemma as reflected in selected poem? In doing the analysis, the writer utilized structural and psychological approach. The type of this research are descriptive qualitative. So that it can support the analysis by making the description of the selected quotation, sentence, phrase, and narration that appropriate the statement problems. The results of the study are 1) Frost has two problems, namely, want to enjoy the beautiful scenery at the middle of the woods, and the duties and responsibilities that he has to do in his life, 2) After deep consideration about positive and negative effect in the future life. Finally, in compromising his dilemma he decides to give priority to do his duties and responsibilities and put aside his desire to keep enjoying the woods. The suggestion that could be submitted was every people certainly have ever experienced a dilemma in his/her life, and every decision that is taken has two sides in his/her life, they are positive and negative sides. So, you must think twice and consider it carefully before you are taking decision when you are facing by two options in your life. Besides, we should not be selfish or egoist person in the world because we cannot stand alone in the world, but in our life we always needs the other people helping in our life.

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INTRODUCTION

People usually express their thoughts or feelings through literature, for example novel, prose, short story, drama, song lyric, and poetry. Literature consists of creative writing and other works of human imagination that uses language as the media. Literature provides an objective based on knowledge and understanding, because it links us with the cultural, philosophic, and religious world of which we are a part of.

Literature has four categories or genres. They are prose fiction, drama, non-fiction prose, and poetry (Jacobs 1998:2). Poetry is defined as the delineation of the deeper and more secret workings of human emotion. It is interesting only to those whom it recalls what they have felt, or whose imagination stirs up to conceive what they could feel, or what they might have been able to feel (Freederick 1988:15). On the other hand, Frederick (1988:15) states that poetry is a feeling of confessing itself to itself, in moments of solitude, and embodying it in symbols which are representations of the feeling in the exact shape in which it exists in the poet mind.

There are some famous poets based on their period. In colonial period (1776) the readers know Robert Beverley, Anne Bradstreet, and Jupiter Hammon. The characteristic of colonial period was puritan, where the people who live at that era still keep religion regulation. Their works were The Sotweed Factor by Robert Beverley, To My Dear and Loving Husband by Anne Bradstreet, and an Address to The Negroes of The Statue of New York by Jupiter Hammon. In America revolution during the period 1776-1820, they were Philip Freneau, Phillis Wheatley, and Mercy Otis Warren. The characteristic of American period were an emphasis on rationality rather than tradition, scientific inquiry instead of unquestioning religious dogma, and enlightenment thinkers and writers were devoted to deals of justice, liberty, and equality as the natural rights of man. Their works were The Virtue of Tobacco by Philip Freneau, A Young African Painter by Phillis Wheatley, and History of the Rise by Mercy Otis Warren.

During 1820-1860 was known as romantic period, there were Ralph Waldo Emerson, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson. Their works were Brahma by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Crossing Brooklyn Ferry by Walt Whitman, and I’m Nobody! Who Are You by Emily Dickinson. Furthermore, in modernism period (1860-1911) the readers know Ezra Pound, T.S. Eliot, and also Robert Frost. The characteristic of modernism period were modern life seemed radically different from traditional life, more scientific, more technological, faster, and more mechanized. Their works were In Station of the Metro by Ezra Pound, Journey of the magi by T.S. Elliot, and Stopping by Woods on Snowy on Evening by Robert Frost.

Robert Frost is an American poet writer. He won four times Pulitzer Prize American poet. Frost started his career as an American poem writer at nineteenth-century as American poet in modernism period. Robert Frost is known as writer who used nature as his works characteristics. He always included natural elements in his poem such as The Mountain, The Flower Boat, Leaves Compared with Flowers, Once by the Pacific, and Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.

In Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening, Frost narrated his confusion in his life. He was confused by two choices and those two bring him into a dilemma. First, he has hard desire to keep enjoying the woods and second, he has duties and responsibilities that must be done. Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening shows how Frost was confused in deciding between the choices. Generally, when people should decide between two important things, they would definitely put themselves into a dilemma.

RELATED LITERATURE
Psychological Approach in Literature

Psychology in literature is a literature study which views works as psychological activity. As the author will use idea, feeling, and work in their creation, and for reader, when they appreciate works, they will also undetach of their psychological. Moreover, like in sociological reflection, psychological in literature also know that literary works as psychic reflection. The author catches spirit indication then processed into text and completed with his or her psychic. Projection self experience and life experience surrounding the author, will projection imaginary into literature text (Endraswara, 2003:96).

Roekhan as quoted by Endraswara (2003:97-98) explains that basically, psychology in literature has three approaches all at once. At the first, textual approaches, which explain psychology aspect of character in literary works. Second, receptive-pragmatic approaches, which explain psychology aspect of reader as lover literary works which were influenced by works which he/she read, and process reader reception in enjoying this literary work. Third, expressive approaches which explain psychology aspect the author when he does creative process portrayed through his/her works, neither the author or vice of his/her citizen.

Based on the statement above, the writer can conclude that psychology in literature is a study view works as psychology activity. Because the author will use idea, feel, and work in his creation, and for reader, when they appreciate works will also undetach of their psychological. Psychology in literature has tree approaches; they are textual approaches, receptive-pragmatic approaches, and expressive approaches.

Literary work can be viewed as psychological phenomenon because it shows psychological aspects through characters if actually text is drama or prose. But, if it is poem, certain it will through lines and specific diction. Jatman as quoted by Endraswara (2003:97) explains that literature and psychology have strong indirectly and functional correlation. It correlates indirectly, because literature and psychology have the same object that is human life. Psychology and literature also have functional correlation because they both study the psychological situation of citizen, real condition is applied in psychology and imaginative situation is applied in literature criticism.

Based on the statement above, the writer can conclude that literature and psychology have strong correlation, because they both study the same object that is human life and psychological aspects. Therefore, the writer wants to apply psychological approach in selected literature. Psychological theory developed in the late 19th and 20th centuries by Australian neurologist Sigmund Freud, the youngest Doctor from Wina. He gives an explaining that conscious is small part of mental life, whereas the large part is unconscious. Unconscious can sublimiate into process the author creative. When the author creates character, sometimes “dream” becomes reality.

He explains that there are three kinds of psychics; they are id, ego, and super ego. Id is human personality system which is most basic. Atmaja as quoted by Endraswara (2003:101) stated that id is the important reference to understand why the author be creative. Through id the author can create specific symbols in their works. On the other hand, ego is implementative personality that is contact with the outside. And the last, super ego is personality system contain values or regulation which have evaluative characteristic.

Milner as quoted by Endraswara (2003:101) says that literature and psychoanalysis have two correlations, the first correlation is similarity between hidden desires on human which cause appearance
literary work which can touch our feeling, because the literary work give solution to secret desires. Second, similarity between dream and literature, in this case we correlated the elaboration literary work with process dream elaboration, who by Freud called it as dream activity. So, literary work expresses the author psychological which describes emotion and his/ her thought.

Psychology approach in literature doesn’t appear as a method to critic literature but as an idea or concept which stated by literary critics. For Freud, literature and psychological give the unresolved conflicts that give rise to any neurosis as the stuff of literature. A work of literature, he believes, is the external expression of the author’s unconscious mind. Accordingly, the literary work must be treated like a dream, applying psychoanalytic techniques to the text to uncover the author’s hidden motivations and repressed desires.

**Dilemma**

Dilemma is a difficult situation in which a person should choose one of two different things. Sometimes, when people are faced by a dilemma they will confuse to decide one important option between two difficult options.

In another word, dilemma is also called as confusion. People who experience dilemma must decide one important alternative between two difficult choices. When someone is faced by a dilemma, that case will influence their psychology aspect. Psychology describes how people have desire to do pleasure and get confuse at almost same time.

People experience a dilemma when they are facing two objects with different goal, object, or course of action. Besides, in this situation they experience conflict in their desire and they experiences a psychology conflict within the individual’s mind because the war is between desire and conscience. According to Davidoff (1976:373-375) psychological science distinguishes conflict into four kinds; they are approach-approach conflicts, approach-avoidance conflicts, avoidance- avoidance conflicts, and double approach-avoidance conflict. Approach-approach conflicts is when a person is equally attracted to two goals, objects, or courses of action and carrying out one means abandoning the other. For example when someone must chose to attend a party or go to a movie at the same time. Approach-avoidance conflicts is when a person is simultaneously attracted to and repelled by the same goal, object, or course of action for example when the girl has desire to eat a bittersweet, besides if she give a loose to eat bittersweet she will be a fat girl. Avoidance-avoidance conflicts are when a person is simultaneously repelled by two goals, object, or courses of action, and one must be selected. For example a student who does not like to study must face studying or flunking. Double approach-avoidance conflict is when people confront conflicts between two goals, each of which has both good and bad points. For example when a young woman is torn between desires to work and attend college

From conclusion above, the writer can conclude that Frost experience avoidance-avoidance conflicts in his life, because he faces by two difficult options that he should choose one of it.

In *Stopping by Woods on a Snowy by Evening*, the writer catches a problem that experienced by Frost. He is identified experiencing a psychological conflict within the individual’s mind caused by conflict between his desire to keep enjoying the woods and his desire and conscience that remember him about his responsibilities and duties that he must be done.

**METHODS**

The research design of the project is descriptive qualitative study. The writer uses descriptive qualitative method because the data are in the form of words, phrases,
clauses, and sentences are used as data. Moelong in Arikunto (2010:22) stated that the sources descriptive qualitative research is display that contains oral or written is accurate by the researcher, and the objects are observed detail so that can catch the implicit meaning in a document or the object. In qualitative research consist of two technique sampling, they are internal sampling and time sampling.

Borg and Gall as quoted by Sugiyono (2008: 5) state that qualitative research is much more difficult to do well than quantitative research because the data collected are usually subjective and the main measurement tool for collecting data is the investigator himself. Qualitative research refers to naturalistic research because the research conducts on natural setting. This means that qualitative researches study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them. This research described the facts from the poem Stopping by Woods on Snowy by Evening by analyzing the intrinsic elements of the poem by using the structural approach and finding out how the author expresses his confusion in life using psychological approach.

In this research, the writer use some procedure or steeps to analysis this poem. They are reading, interpreting the data, triangulating the data, identifying the data, and categorizing the data. The study applies two approaches to analyze the data: they are structural approach and psychological approach. Firstly, the poem was analyzed using structural approach to gain the first objective of the study. By using the structural approach, the writer analyzes the intrinsic elements in Stopping by Woods on Snowy by Evening poem that consisted of the theme, words, and tone. Through those elements, writer found out how the main character involves and reflects the poem story. Secondly, the poem was analyzed using psychological approach to know how the character’s dilemma is related with the psychology as expressed in Stopping by Woods on Snowy by Evening.

DISCUSSION

Description of Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening

In “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”, he describes in the first line and second of stanza one “Whose woods these are I think I know”, “His house is in the village though” he describes that the character who seems concerned about who owns the woods and the character seems to be sure that the owner can’t see him when he stop for a moment in the woods. In the third line of stanza one “He will not see me stopping here”, he describes that the wonderful scenery of the woods with stillness and quietness really attracts him. It, then motivates him to stop his journey suddenly when he watches the woods. In the fourth line of stanza one, he describes that at the moment the woods are filled up with snow “to watch his woods fill up with snow”.

In the first and second line in stanza two “My little horse must think it queer”; “To stop without a farmhouse house near”, he describes that the horse could not possibly understand the man’s unpractical reason for stopping. He (the horse) is accustomed to stops for food and rest at a farmhouse, but not here, in the middle of the woods. Here, the horse is said to think but the reader know that the horse’s thoughts are really the speaker’s. In the line three and four line in stanza two “Between the woods and frozen lake”; “The darkest evening of the year”, he describes that the wonderful scenery of the woods with stillness and quietness really attracts him. It, then make him think to stop his journey suddenly when he watches the woods and he wants to enjoy the stillness and quietness of the night in the woods lonely.

In the line one, two, three, and four in stanza three “He gives his harness bells a shake”; “To ask if there is some mistake” ; “The only other sound’s the sweep” ; “Of easy wind and
downy flake”, he describes that he seems to enjoy the stillness of the night and takes pleasure in the “easy wind” and the “downy flake”, he also seems to have some some doubt about what he must do in the future life.

In the line one, two, three, and four in stanza four “The Woods are lovely, dark, and deep”; “But I have promises to keep”; “And miles to go before I sleep”; “And miles to go before I sleep”, he describes that he has duties and responsibilities that must be done. When he really enjoys the beautiful and quietness of the woods, he feels happiness and fresh by looking at it as if he does not has problems in his life and thinks that he will enjoy the woods continuously for a long time (in the line one and two). But, suddenly he is conscious and remembers that he has the duties and responsibilities in his life before he death (in line three and four). Therefore, he willing to do something useful for the society is really hard and there is no doubtful again in his heart to take the decision. This situation, finally, bring him into a difficult dilemma. In one hand, he must keep to continue his journey to fulfill his duties and responsibilities. Besides, he feels hard to leave the woods, because in the wood he feels happy, comfort, and can find his own life there.

It seems that it is not only because of the beautiful and wonderful scenery of the woods with its stillness and quietness which attracts him but also the effect of them. We can imagine when we have a lot of works and businesses in our daily life, it will make us bored, under pressure, and stress in our mind. And sometimes makes us angry without reason if we cannot control ourselves. So we need entertainment to relax our mind, one of them is by looking at the beautiful scenery. All we must know that when we look at the beautiful scenery, our mind will be fresh again after working hard for a long time. Moreover, it also can make us forget all the problems and pressures which have tied our life for a long time.

Above all are the effects which we may get when we feel happy and comfort when we see the beautiful scenery. It is what the author experienced. The beautiful scenery of the woods makes him forget all the problems and pressures which have tied his thought and his life for a long time. Meanwhile, the stillness and quietness of the woods have helped him to find his own life. Someone commonly needs a time and a place when and where he/she can contemplate about his/her own life, what he/she has done, and what he/she will do in his/her future life without being interfered by other people. A time and a place where no other people will disturb him when he wants to be alone thinking about his life. For the character himself, he thinks that in the world he can get his own life.

The second choice, he has duties and responsibilities that must be done. When he really enjoys the woods and feels happiness, suddenly he is conscious and remembers that he has the duties and responsibilities in his life that he must do to give something valuable and benefit for his society. Finally, it lead him into a hard dilemma. In one hand, he wants to keep enjoying the beautiful and wonderful scenery the woods and here he feels hard to leave the woods, because in the woods he feels happy,
pleasant, and can find his own life in the woods. On the other hand, he must do his duties and responsibilities. Because at that time he has promised to do something such as taught his student in his college and wrote some literary works especially write a poem.

**Process Choices in Taking Decision in Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening**

Life is a choice, so everyone in the world must have choices in his/her life. Sometimes he/she has easy or difficult choices, then the choices drive somebody get stress and confused, so he/she feels dilemma with the choices because he/she thinks that the choices are good for his/her life or not. However, he/she must choose one of them that he/she thinks the best one for his/her future life. The choices are also experienced by Frost as portrayed in his poem entitled "Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening".

In his poem, he feels dilemma with his choices. In one hand, he feels happy and enjoy when he looks at the beautiful scenery in the woods. It offers the natural phenomenon that is so beautiful and stillness, so of course, it can hypnotize anyone. Moreover, he/she has a lot of problems in his/her life. It is also experienced by the character, he feels very hard to leave it. He really wants to enjoy it for a long time.

Although he feels very hard to leave the woods, he is conscious that enjoying the woods is an improper time for him because he still has to fulfill his duties and responsibilities and also still has to undergo his rest life. The responsibilities are he should teach some students and give suggestions for the society about the real and bright life as well as criticize if any something wrong in the society life through his masterpieces. It is expressed in the second and third line of stanza four: “But I have promises to keep”, “And miles to go before I sleep”. Giving the priority to the duties and responsibilities which life has upon him is morally right; otherwise, ignoring and putting them aside is morally wrong. Because if he follows his desire, he will be selfish person and consequently the society will dislike him. Also, if he neglects them and further, the society will not give him trust anymore. The society will respect him as person having a good responsibilities if he fulfills those duties and responsibilities.

In his poem, he is conscious that he may not be selfish person, because, many people outside really need him and also he needs them too. He cannot live alone without society. It is expressed clearly in the second line of stanza four and in the third and fourth line of stanza four, he says resolutely that he will continuous his life journey and does something useful before he takes a rest forever or death: “And miles to go before I sleep”, And miles to go before I sleep”.

In this poem, it shows that the author is really conscious what he should do in the real life for the society, he should do something valuable and benefit for the society, it is that he wants and does in his rest life before death. The fourth line of stanza four above indicates that his intention or willing to do something useful for the society is really hard and there is no doubtful again in his heart to take the decision.

From the explanation above, it can be drawn as a conclusion that Frost thinks twice about taking decision in his dilemma, he always thinks deeply the impact of his decision not only recently but also in the future life because he does not want to choose something that ultimately makes a big problem in his life. And he is aware that one of them that exist in his life surely there is the best one for his future life. Finally, in compromising his dilemma, namely, finds solution for his problem after conducting consideration deeply and carefully about the positive and negative effects on his future life, he decides to give priority to do his duties and responsibilities and put aside his desire to keep enjoying the woods.

According to the decision that has been taken by Frost in his dilemma, the
writer really supports it, because the nature of human being has to live together with other society. By that, he/she can feel real life or it means that a person can give advantage to the other person and it will look as an interesting life. It can be imagined, if a person lives alone without friend, family or other people, of course the life will not be interesting because there is not any person who asked to joke, share and help him/her when any trouble in his/her life.

CONCLUSION

There are two problems in the study. The first problem, his desire is to keep enjoying the woods. It appears when he is at the middle of the woods, then feels enjoyment and refreshment in his mind. This attracts him to enjoy it for a long time. The second problem, he must fulfill his duties and responsibilities. He should teach some students and give suggestion for the society about the real and bright life as well as criticize the social life through his masterpieces. At one side, Frost enjoys the beautiful scenery and does not want to leave the woods because it offers refreshment in his, however, he has the duties and responsibilities that he must do because it is for his future life and keeps the society trust.

In compromising his dilemma, he must think twice and consider carefully to positive and negative sides before he takes decision. If he chooses to keep enjoying the woods, he will be selfish person and the society will not believe him anymore and respect him. But, if he chooses to do his duties and responsibilities, the society will respect and trust him. By that consideration, he finally takes decision to fulfill his duties and responsibilities to do something useful for the society.

The writer will give some suggestion for the readers: Firstly, if the readers want analysis this poem for his/her research at the future, they had better choose the other theme such beautify, conservation, death, love, happiness, and etc. Secondly, the readers should add one more of Frost Poem’s in his/her research at the future time. Thirdly, if the readers want analysis this poem for his/her research at the future, they be able do comparative analysis of the other poem or with the other literary works (novel, short story, or song lyric) but still in the same theme that is dilemma.

REFERENCES