

A HOPE AS REFLECTED IN SARA TEASDALE'S "SPRING RAIN" : A SEMIOTIC APPROACH

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to describe the intrinsic elements of the Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem, the hopes of the main character as reflected in Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem and the moral values in the Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem. The subject of the research is the Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem and the object of the research is the hopes of the main character as reflected in Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem. The research includes library research. The researcher uses the technique of library study, critical reading and documentation. These data are analyzed by using the descriptive qualitative method.

After conducting the research, the researcher comes to the conclusion that categorized into three points first, the intrinsic element of the Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem. Second, the hopes of the main character in dealing with his life problems are divided into three points: (1) having the goal to realize her hopes (2) thinking of strategies to realize her hopes (3) carrying out strategies to realize her hopes. Third, there are six moral values of poem.

Keywords : hope, Sara Teasdale, poem, semiotic approach.

1. INTRODUCTION

Every human being has a hope in his life. For them hope is a good aura or a positive impulse that is in his feelings to achieve a goal in life. Besides, the hope is created because of the environmental influences in his life. "Expectations as emotions directed by cognition and influenced by environmental conditions (Lopez, 2008: 487)." Hope makes people pay more attention to their lives. In a hope, humans can have the encouragement or motivation to change their lives to become a better person in the future. The motivation makes one's life go in the good direction and have a purpose.

Snyder (1991: 820) states :

"hope can be measured as a cross-situational construct that correlates positively with self-esteem, perceived problem solving capabilities, perceptions of control, optimism, positive affectivity, and positive outcome expectancies."

From the Snyder's statement, it can be concluded that hope is a measurement in the ability to solve problems or optimism in living a life as in the story of Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem.

Many people always feel hopeless after having bad experiences or sad stories. The past always brings its own story. Many of them assume that after having a bad experience, life will feel surrender. Maybe they think this has indeed become a destiny in life. However, please note that every human being has the right to have a happy life. Making experience as learning for life.

When humans feel surrender, that's when hope will play a role. Hope is not always about bad things. But, hope is as an intermediary to lead a better life in the future. When people get a bad experience in their past and they try to have a hope that they get back from a bad experience in their past.

A hope can motivate life to become a better person in the future. Encourage life to always be optimistic and teach life not to give up easily and believe in a better life in the future. Like the story illustrated in the Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem.

After Teasdale got the sad story he tried to stay strong. In her poem described a plot of how he must remember the sad memories with her partner. Because of hope, Teasdale tried to remain strong even though memories of her past were recalled. Hope that is full of positive things is always applied in Teasdale's life so that she can have a better life in the future and assume the past then let it pass.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The data analysis method in this research is a descriptive qualitative method. The method focused on the statement quotations, descriptions, or explanations. It give a clear description of the qualitative research by choosing, considering, defending, and arranging the fixed data. The type of the research is categorized into a library research. This research employs all theories and sources from the libraries collection. The sources of this research are categorized into primary source that is the Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem which is also the subject of the research and secondary source that is other references such as theory books, electronic data, e-book, journal, etc that have any relation to the topic of the research.

The data collecting method used three techniques namely library study, critical reading and documentation. In collecting data, the researcher firstly visited the libraries and then looked for the books which contained the data used in this research. Second, the researcher reads the poem carefully and repeatedly in critical reading to get more comprehension about the story that is going on to be analyzed. Third, the

researcher writes down the data needed to complete or support the researcher's statements related to the topic.

3. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

3.1 Intrinsic Elements of Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem

According to Frederik (1988: 17 - 79), there are seven of the intrinsic elements of the Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem. There are words, imagery, theme and subject, sound, alliteration, rhyme and rhythm.

SPRING RAIN

By. Sara Teasdale

I thought I had forgotten,
But it all came back again
To-night with the first spring thunder
In a rush of rain.

I remembered a darkened doorway
Where we stood while the storm swept by,
Thunder gripping the earth
And lightning scrawled on the sky.

The passing motor busses swayed,
For the street was a river of rain,
Lashed into little golden waves
In the lamp light's stain.

With the wild spring rain and thunder
My heart was wild and gay;
Your eyes said more to me that night
Than your lips would ever say. . . .

I thought I had forgotten,
But it all came back again
To-night with the first spring thunder
In a rush of rain.

3.1.1 Words

In the *Spring Rain* poem by Sara Teasdale, it is composed of several words so that poem is created. The selected word is a word that means beautiful that can be accepted by the reader. Creating the poems works must have an expertise in choosing words. A beautiful poem is a poem that uses words with a deep meaning to touch the feelings of the author or the reader.

3.1.2 Imagery

Some verses of poem above are the evidence of the existence of imagery in poem. The imagery in the *Spring Rain* poem by Sara Teasdale illustrates the story or the experience that happens at that time. Sara Teasdale writes the imagery as a description of the situation for the readers to dissolve in the story.

3.1.3 Theme and Subject

The theme is also formed because it is based on the author's experience. After the theme is formed, the author also compiles the title for the poem so that the *Spring Rain* poem is created by Sara Teasdale which tells the story of a hope to be better in the future.

The preparation of the title must also be related to the theme because if it is not appropriate so the poem will not attract the reader. Thus, the first step in a poetry making that should be done is the preparation of the theme. That is because the theme becomes the most important part.

3.1.4 Sound

It has become a common thing if a poem is delivered by reading and hearing. A beautiful poem is an interesting poem if it is read and heard. The *Spring Rain* poem is very beautiful if it is delivered by reading and hearing.

3.1.5 Alliteration

The first and fifth stanzas are alliterations in which the words are arranged in the first verse is repeated and is placed in the fifth or last stanza of *Spring Rain* poem.

Second, the word *Spring* is on the first stanza and third row, the fourth stanza and first row, and the fifth stanza and third row. The *Spring* word in the poem is a repetition of the poem's title, namely *Spring Rain*.

Third, the word *Rain* is on the first stanza and fourth row, the third stanza and second row, the fourth stanza and first row, and the fifth stanza and fourth row. The word *Rain* in the poem is a repetition of the poem's title, namely *Spring Rain*.

Fourth, the word *Thunder* is on the first stanza and third row, the second stanza and third row, the fourth stanza and first row, and the fifth stanza and third row.

Fifth, there is pronoun that is repeated in the *Spring Rain's* poem including *I* which is on the first stanza and first row, the second stanza and first row, and the fifth stanza and first row. Then the word *Your* which is on the fourth stanza

and third row, the fourth stanza, and the fourth row.

Besides, there is a conjunction that is repeated in the *Spring Rain* poem including *and* which is on the second stanza and fourth row, the fourth stanza and first row, and the fourth stanza and second row.

3.1.6 Rhyme

In the *Spring Rain* poem, there is a rhyme that has been repeated and found at the end of each sentence. Most of the poem used in the poem of *Spring Rain* is to use the sound of the "e" and "ei" letters.

3.1.7 Rhythm

In the *Spring Rain* poem by Sara Teasdale, the rhythm uses a soft tone. Reading the *Spring Rain* poem with a soft tone will be more interesting because this poem tells about a sad story or tells a memory that the author has gone through.

3.2 The Hope of the Main Character as Reflected in Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* Poem

3.2.1 According to Synder (1995: 149), the components in hope theory are:

3.2.1.1 Goal

A hope exists in the *Spring Rain's* poem by Sara Teasdale. The hope that the main character has is in the form of good hope. There is a temple that is in the first part of the stanza and the last stanza which show a hope for a better person in the future, even though some of the past moments have been repeated in her life.

The moment has formed a beautiful thing in her life, so that as if the author had been reminded back at that time when the moment in the past was repeated. However, with the hope that the author feels at the moment is only a moment that becomes a memory, and the author has a better hope for her future.

In the first and last stanza, the first line contains a sentence "*I thought I had forgotten,*" which indicates that there is an expectation to be a better person in the future or a good hope so she will not repeat a bad moment based on the life experience.

The author also has the purpose in *Spring Rain's* poem. The author wants the reader to understand the various tastes of feeling that have existed

in life. The author invites the readers to have good hopes in the future because the hope encourages us to have the good life goals.

3.2.1.2 Pathway Thinking

The hope that the author has is a good hope that she does not want to go back to the past even though she remembers her past memories. The memories written in the verse of the *Spring Rain's* poem are bad memories for her. The event or atmosphere that grips the reader as if the poem is a poem that tells sadness. This is because the poem mentions the word storm, heavy rain, and the atmosphere that is drawn at night. However, the poem contains a hope that the author hopes for even though there is a gripping atmosphere.

The author wants that incident not to happen again but she wants to change her life for the better after having a bad experience in her past. There is a scene or sentence where someone looks into her eyes and wants to express something more serious to the author, as if the expression exceeds the words normally spoken by someone's. Therefore, the author has good hopes of being able to make those memories a beautiful memory and can be a boost for a better life in the future.

3.2.1.3 Agency Thinking

The agency thinking is found in Sara's Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem. The author gets the motivation for her hopes from the experience or past life stories. The memories she has are motivations to become a better person. Surely she always applies a good hope in her life.

After the author has those memories, she creates the poem of a beautiful and hopeful memory. The motivation for hope is listed in her poem in the first and last line of the stanzas. The part with the sentence "*I thought I had forgotten,*" which shows the expectation and the sentence is repeated up to twice as if the sentence makes a motivation or agency thinking for the author as an encouragement to always have good hopes even though the memory has occurred gripping. Hope is not always bad, but it is also being able to make an encouragement or motivation to become a better person in the future.

3.2.2 *Spring Rain's* Poem is Interpreted as a Semiotic Approach

Barthes introduces five codes for the reader as follows.

3.2.2.1 The proairetic or narrative code (a code for understanding successive meanings).

In interpreting the meaning of the *Spring Rain* poem by Sara Teasdale, the researcher took one meaning about a hope. Hope consists of several kinds, namely positive and negative expectations. However, the researcher chose to take the meaning of the poem about positive expectations. The stated hope is a better hope based on the experience or the memories where memories are full of gripping situations.

3.2.2.2 The semic code (a code for understanding connotations in relation to characters, setting, or objects).

The character of the writer of this poem is illustrated by the contents of the poem, namely the character possessed by the author is not easily discouraged. Although the memory of the past has been recalled, but Teasdale tried to be able to forget and try to become a better person in the future.

The setting depicted in the poem *Spring Rain* is a memory that occurred at night when Teasdale and her partner stood in front of a dark door in a tense atmosphere with heavy rain falling at the turn of the season from spring to rain.

The object of the poem is a wish illustrated in the poem and implicitly conveyed by the writer. The hope is in the first and fifth stanzas in the first row, in the sentence "*I thought I had forgotten ...*".

3.2.2.3 The hermeneutic code (a code for understanding enigma, an unknown thing, a mystery).

In the *Spring Rain* poem, there is a hermeneutic code which is the first in the sentence "*For the street was a river of rain, ...*" which is located in the third stanza and the second line. In that sentence, it has a meaning which means the situation in the location which is unfolded in poetry is a street filled with rainwater.

The second is in the sentence "*Lashed into little golden waves ...*" which is located in the third stanza and the third row. In that sentence it has a meaning which means a puddle of rain that is passed by the motor busses and is highlighted by the motor busses lamp so that it becomes a burst of water that seems golden because of the spotlight of the motor busses lamp.

The third is in the sentence "*My heart was wild and gay; ...*" which is located in the fourth stanza and the second row. In that sentence, it has a meaning which means the author's heart is in chaos when faced with the situation. So as if his heart is not frivolous in dealing with the problems that befall her.

The fourth is in the sentence "*Your eyes said more to me that night ...*" which is located in the fourth stanza and the third row. In that sentence has a meaning which means the gaze of her partner as if it contains a deeper meaning where he seems to want to say something more important and meaningful to the author. The action seemed different from the words he usually said through his lips.

3.2.2.4 The cultural code (a code for understanding the meaning that is always related or referred by the text).

Making poem usually the author creates the poem based on the situation that is happening. So the desire to pour out his feelings through writing will greatly influence. Usually in a rainy season, it will be more interesting for a writer to pour out their feelings through writing.

3.2.2.5 The symbol code (a code for understanding the meaning that is related to antitheses such as: life and death, men and women, living creatures and dead creatures, old and young; the code is also used for understanding "explosive shock" like a meeting between a young person and an old person, between a girl and boy, a man (woman) and a spirit, etc.).

In the Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem there is a symbol code. The symbol code in lies in the sentence "*Your eyes said more to me that night ...*" in the fourth stanza and the third row. In that sentence, there are the words *eyes* which is the *eyes* is a symbol of the sense of sight. The *eyes* in the *Spring Rain* poem contain deep meaning. Because the *eyes* in this poem seem to be an intermediary to express something that has important meaning for the author.

The second is in the sentence "*Than your lips would ever say ...*" in the fourth stanza and the fourth row. In that sentence, there are the words *lips* which means part of the human senses that are used to convey a speech.

However, the word of *lips* in *Spring Rain* poem story does not play a very important role, but the one who plays an important role is the *eyes* which in the *Spring Rain* poem, according to the author's *eyes*, the partner seems to want to say something so important that it exceeds the usual *lips* to say.

3.3 The Moral Values in the Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* Poem

The story of the poem has several moral values, there are: a sadness will be there and do not be afraid to face the situation, the strengthen her in facing the difficulty of life will be a guideline for having a better life in the future, courage to face obstacles, a hope shows enthusiasm or encouragement in life to be able to achieve it, teaches the reader to keep thinking positively, teaches the reader to have a loyalty.

4. CONCLUSION.

The Sara Teasdale's *Spring Rain* poem says that the search for happiness in a sadness and how she gets happiness is explained in this poem in a gripping situation and hope makes life even well. Even though she has to fight for the spirit of her life.

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