Chapter II

Theoretical Framework

Concept of Poetry

Poetry can be many things. Poetry can be philosophical, or emotional, or sentimental. It can paint pictures, in a descriptive mode, or tell stories, in a narrative one. Poetry can also be satirical, or funny, or political, or just informative. Yet none of these activities is specific to poetry, or reveals how poetry differs from other kinds of writing or speaking. A definition that underscores what makes poetry distinctive might be: poetry is language in which every component element—word and word order, sound and pause, image and echo—is significant, significant it that every element points toward or stand for further relationships among and beyond themselves. Poetry is language that always means more, Wolosky (2001, p.3).

Poetry is any kind of verbal or written language that is structured rhythmically and is meant to tell a story or express any kind of emotion, idea, or state of being. Poetry is used to achieve this artistic expression in several ways. There are certain forms and patterns that poets follow in the composition process of their work. Beside that, poetry is the express of author feeling and thought based on her/his mood experiences and imaginative and use spontaneous expression. This statement has supported by Wordsworth “poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling,
expression of emotion and it is always concerned with ordinary human concerns, with
the daily matters of one’s life (in Ansik 2007, p.8)”.

According to Clive Sansom (available on www.What is Poetry 50 definitions
and counting _ Poet in the City.htm) “Poetry is a rhythmical form of words which
express an imaginative-emotional-intellectual experience of the writer’s, in such a
way that it creates a similar experience in the mind of his reader or listener”.
Wirdjosoedarmo stated that poetry is a bounded piece of writing. It is bounded by:
(1) number of lines in every stanza, (2) number of words in every line (3) number of
syllables in every line, (4) rhyme, (5) rhythm (in Pradopo, 2005 p.309). Sutton (2005,
p.15) also state that poetry is a matter of fashion as well as an elevated art form.

From some definition of experts above, I conclude that poetry is a media that
human use to express their idea, feeling and experiences. Poets project their emotion,
thoughts, and ideas to their readers and poetry also in an arrangement of words
expresses someone’s feeling and happiness or sadness spontaneously. In other words
poetry is usually expressed based on author imagination. The important thing is that
the image an instrument that a poet uses to express his/her intention or feeling.
Kinds of Poetry

According to Aristotle, kinds of poetry consist of three main types there are; the first genre is lyric poetry. Originally comprised brief poems that were meant to be sung or chanted to the accompaniment of a lyre. Today we still use the word “lyrics” in a specialized sense when referring to the words of a song, but lyric poetry has become such a large category that it includes virtually all poems that are primarily about a subject and contain little narrative content. The subject of a lyric poem may be the poet’s emotions, an abstract idea, a satirical insight, or a description of a person or place. The person in a lyric is usually closely identified with the poet himself or herself; because we tend to identify the essence of poetry with personal, subjective expression of feelings or ideas, lyric poetry remains the largest genre, with a number of subtypes. Among them are the epigram, a short, satirical lyric usually aimed at a specific person; the elegy, a lyric on the occasion of a death; and the ode, a long lyric in elevated language on a serious theme. Second genre, the epic has been expanded to include all types of narrative poetry, that is, poetry whose main function is to tell a story. Like prose fiction, a narrative poem has a plot, characters, a setting, and a point of view, and may be discussed in the same terms as, say, a short story. The epic is long narrative poem about the exploits of a hero. The last genre is dramatic poetry, because it has perhaps as much in common with the separate genre of drama as with lyric and narrative poetry. In general, the person in a dramatic poem is an invented character not to be identified with the poet. The poem is presented as a
speech or dialogue that might be acted out like a soliloquy or a scene from a play.

Dramatic poetry can also take the form of dialogue poetry, (in Gwynn 2002, p.9-11).

Based on the explanation above, about kinds of poetry that consist of three types, it can be concluded that Anne Bradstreet’s poems included in lyric poems. Which she wrote poems based on her experiences or her emotions.

**Elements of Poetry**

According to Situmorang (1981, p.27) said that the elements of poetry are; (1) Title is actually the title in poetry purpose that something idea, as something happened. (2) Meaning of word, the words in every poems has a meaning and message that expressed by words. (3) Imagery is the use of language, which stimulates the reader’s imagination, in other definition is descriptive language used to create word pictures using the sense, in other words Imagery is a description which make us imagine how thing or sound or even smell or feel. Some critics have declared that the writer of imagery distinguish their poetry from prose. It is seemed clear that the poets very often do communicate striking and significant sense of impression. (4) Symbol is anything that stands for or represents something else. (5) Figurative language, according to Pradopo (2005, p.62) kinds of figurative language in poetry are (a) Simile is generally the comparison of two things essentially unlike, on the basis of a resemblance in one aspect. It is figure in which a similarity between two objects directly expressed. Most similes are introduced by as, like. (b) Metaphor
is a method of comparison where the words “like” and “as” are not used. (c)

Personification is giving human characteristics to a non-human subject. (d)

Metonymy (e) Synecdoche is the using expression to explain an important part of one thing or used one thing to explain a part of it, and (f) Allegory. (6) Tone is writer’s attitude toward his/her audience and subject matter. (7) Rhyme, poem are may or may not have a rhyme. Either the last words of the first and second lines would rhyme with each other or the first and the third, second and the fourth and so on. Rhyme is basically similar sounding words like “cat” and “hat”. Free verse poetry though does not follow this system. (8) Rhythm is patterns of beats or stresses in a poem. (9) Theme is the topic, main idea or main thought that expressed in a poem. This is what the poems all about. The theme of the poem is the central idea that the poet wants to convey.

**Concept of Theme**

One of elements of poetry is theme. Theme is the main point in poetry that very important. To get the theme in poetry we should read full more than once and understand deeply what the meaning of the poetry it. As Reaske stated that theme is main idea that developed in poem (in Didipu 2011, p.23). Theme is the central idea of a literary work. It is not the same as a subject, which can be expressed in a word or two. The theme is the idea the author wishes to convey about that subject. It is expressed as a sentence or general statement about life human and nature.
The theme of a work of literature is the central idea or main point that describes the whole story of work itself. Waluyo (2002, p.17) stated that theme as the subject-matter that expressed by poet in his/her poem. In this situation, the theme of poem is reflected to the poet itself. So, the readers have to know about the background of life story of the poet who writes the poem, in order to prevent the misunderstanding and misinterpretation about the theme in the poem. Therefore, theme is usually more specific and objective.

Wiyatmi (2005, p.7) also gives explanation theme as the mental aspect of poem. In this situation, she defines from its part and function. Theme is the implicit part that needs comprehensive understanding in analyzing it. It might be shown by the diction, figurative language, and the life story of the poet.

However, theme is the main content of poem. Like the other structuralism items as rhyme, figurative language, etc. Theme has the important role in building a poem, because theme is describe the whole story of a poem. Theme is the mental aspect in constructing a poem. Theme is the dominant idea explored by a literary work. Theme is the dominant idea that a writer is trying to convey to his readers in a work of literature.

From definition above, I can conclude that the theme is the central idea that expressed in literary work. Fiction, poetry, or drama has themes. Theme refers to the central idea. Theme in literary work could be about life, society, human nature and love. Themes often explore timeless and universal ideas. And also, theme is a thought
or idea the author presents to the reader that may be deep, difficult to understand, or even moralistic.

**Kinds of Theme**

There are kinds of theme in poems. As Waluyo (2002, p. 17) writes the most kinds of theme in his book which is containing in poems are:

1. **Religious theme**

   In this case, this theme described about religious. Pray to the creator continually, think about the power of creator, and proud to the nature that created, it is a kind of theme of a poem that can bring people close to the creature.

   Example in this poem is one of Bradstreet’s poems title is “*for deliverance from a fever*. This is one of poems of Anne Bradstreet that talk about surrender to God. God who always give a motivation and help to the human and should be to obey.

2. **Humanity theme**

   Through his/her work the poet try to give clear picture about the high level of human position in this world. Moreover, people should respect to each other, know about something that belongs to other people and can do the fair thing about anything.

   Example in Hughes (2012, p.66) poem “*Merry – Go – Round*”. Based on the title in this poem Merry – Go – Round is one of rules in America that separate white and black people. This poem tells about some people or black people
want to ride Merry Go Round but they have asking where the Jim crow section for them.

3. Love theme

Generally love theme can be described by the relationship between two people, man and woman. But in this theme love story in the relationship not only about happiness, but also about sadness.

Example: Mukherjee (in Wordsworth 2000, p.270) Poem title is “She was a phantom of delight”. In this poem the author described her wife like a phantom who always scared him, to him she is perfect girl and he loves her so much. This poem include in love theme because it is talk about love that he has to his wife.

4. Nature theme

Through his/her poems the poets want the readers concern about environment around the world. Poet as the subject who writes poems can bring people back to the nature; feel about the condition of animals and plants, how they survive in their life.

Example: Mukherjee (in Wordsworth 2000, p.98-101) poem is “Tintern Abbey”. He has shown how his love of nature was developed and the various stages through which it passed.

5. Social critics theme
Social critics theme displays by the poems that asks justice for the leader or proletariat. This kind of theme also is known as social criticize because it tells about the unempirical in a society.

Example in Bradstreet’s poem is “Prologue”. Based on the explanation of social critics theme, the author demonstrates how society criticized women’s accomplishments and that she should be doing other things such as writing poetry.

6. Nationalism theme

Nationalism theme usually shown in poems that wants free with faithful, braveness, changing, etc. Politics also include in this theme. Through the poems, the poet asks the readers to follow what the heroes did for their nation.

Example in Maya Angelou’s poem “Still I Rise”. She would like to tell everyone that whatever anyone said about us, we must have the spirit to be better as we want in our life.

7. Friendship theme

This is one kinds of theme that delivers by the poet in order the readers understand about the true of a relation in friendship.

Example in Allie Whitehead’s poem title is 10 years. In this poem she tells about friendship.
How to Investigate Theme in Poem

There are some clues to identify theme in poem. Following strategies to help you fully understand and appreciate each poem you read according to (Beverly et al., 2000, p.22-23):

1. Listen, read a poem aloud, listening to the way it sounds, read without stopping until you come to a punctuation mark or nature pause.

2. Imagine, conjure up the sights, sounds, smells, tastes, and tactile sensations the poem describes or evokes.

3. Respond, while you are reading, respond to the poem, think about how the poem affects you and what it means to you.

4. Question, ask yourself question to help you understand and interpret the poem.

5. Clarify, put the poem into your own words, then summarize the poem, and think about what it might mean on a deeper level.

6. Interpret, read the poem several times, focusing on interpreting its overall meaning.

From the strategies above, I formulate a simple steps to identify theme in poetry, there are:

1. Read the poem slowly more than once.

2. Looking up the difficult words in dictionary.

3. Try to understand the diction that use in every stanza.
4. Try to understand the meaning that contain in poem’s lines.

5. Pay attention to what the poetry mean

6. Paraphrase and find what the theme in poetry.

Anne Bradstreet

Anne Bradstreet was the first poet in America. Her first volume of poetry was The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung up in America, published in 1650. It was met with a positive respond from societies.

She was born in Northampton, England, 1612. The daughter of Thomas Dudley and Dorothy Yorke. In her life she never attends in the school. Even thought, she did not attend school, she received an excellent education from eight tutors and from her father itself, who was always teach her something new. She spends her time to study and read the books. At the age of sixteen she married with Simon Bradstreet. After all, in 1630 Bradstreet immigrated to the new world with her husband and parents.

Actually, Bradstreet created her poems focused to her experiences and daily activities. Her poems categories in her love for her children and husband, the beautiful New England landscape, the small pleasure of life and domesticity. Religion was dominant theme in her work, including her religious doubts. A feminine consciousness can also found in her work. Finally, Anne Bradstreet died on September 16, 1672 in North Andover, Massachusetts, at the age of 60.
Previous Study

I found the relevance that same with my research there is in Imelda research in titled “A Descriptive Study On Students’ Ability In Identifying Theme In Lord Byron’s poems”. The objective of her research is to know the students ability to identify theme in Lord Byron’s poems in other words she was focused to the students.

Based on the explanation above, it shows clearly that this research and Imelda’s research is actually different even have a similar topic. The difference of this research and the previous research is the object of research which made the way to collect and to analyze the data was different too.