

**Reflection of Wordsworth's Loving Devotion to the Nature**  
**In *Lines Written in Early Spring* by William Wordsworth**

A Thesis

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For Strata-1 Degree in Literature  
English Department of Diponegoro University

Submitted by

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**PRONOUNCEMENT**

The states truthfully that this thesis is compiled by her without taking the result from other researches in any universities, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and in Diploma. In addition, the writer ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's works except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, July 2010

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#### **MOTTO**

- ? **Do the best!!!**
- ? *“Ya Allah, tiada yang mudah selain yang Kau mudahkan dan Engkau jadikan kesusahan itu mudah jika Engkau menghendakinya jadi mudah.” (H.R. Ibnu Hiban)*
- ? **Hang Peurah Kudu Peurih (Sundanese Proverb).**

## **DEDICATION**

### **This thesis is dedicated to:**

1. My beloved parents: Mama and Mimih,
2. My only one sister, Wulan.

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Praise to be Allah who has given strength and spirit, so the writer is able to accomplish this thesis on “REFLECTION OF WORDSWORTH’S LOVING DEVOTION TO THE NATURE IN *LINES WRITTEN IN EARLY SPRING* BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH” came to completion. On this occasion, the writer would like to thank all people who have contributed to the completion of this research report. It is for:

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### ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini menganalisis salah satu puisi yang ditulis oleh William Wordsworth pada Periode Romantis sekitar tahun 1800-1850 yang berjudul *Lines Written in Early Spring*. Puisi ini menceritakan tentang keindahan alam terutama ketika musim semi tiba dan karakteristik puisi Romantisme yang menonjol. Dalam hal ini penulis menggunakan dua metode pendekatan yaitu intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Dalam pendekatan intrinsik (struktural), penulis menganalisis diksi, gaya bahasa, dan pencitraan. Sedangkan penulis membahas karakteristik puisi romantis dan kecintaan Wordsworth yang begitu besar terhadap alam sebagai metode pendekatan ekstrinsik. Dengan menggunakan kedua pendekatan tersebut, penulis akhirnya dapat menyimpulkan karakter Romantik yang terdapat dalam *Lines Written in Early Spring* dan pesan moral yang terdapat di dalam puisi tersebut.



# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

The word of literature is derived from Latin *littera* which means letter or acquaintance with letters. In *the third edition of Theory of Literature*, Rene Wellek and Austin Warren (1977: 15) explain that “*literature is creative, an art.*” It means that literature is a creative process by imagination, thought, and feeling which contain idea, concept, and emotion afterwards all of them are processed to be writing work. In the social life, literature has many functions. The first is creativity function, its function means that literature can afford entertainment and satisfy for the readers. Literature is also able to give direction or education for the lovers because there are many rightness and kindness values in it. In other words, it is called deductive function. The third is morality function which is a source of knowledge for the readers, so they can get morality message in a literary work. Religion function is the last function. Literature is a tool for extending religion aspect which can be carried out and applied in the daily life by many people. All four functions could be found in poetry.

Perrine (1969: 3) in *the third edition of Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry* says, “*Poetry is as universal as language and almost as ancient.*” In former times many people, both farmers and governments, neither under circles of society nor upper circles of society, had used and processed it. Poetry at the time was very regarded and delighted because it related to man’s existence. So, they can express their feeling easily by poems which contain a unique value and full of

In Wordsworth’s opinion as cited by Donald Hall (1928: vii) in *To Read Poetry* defined “*poetry as the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings*” and said that “*it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility.*” This definition comes from an idea of the poet’s creative process. That creative process begins directly from a personal experience of the poet. When someone has a memorable experience, he sometimes expresses it by writing and it is composed with meaningful and beautiful word. In other words that personal experience could be called as a general idea. From the general idea, a poet actually determines a theme and then seeks episodes and images embody it.

While John Keats’ opinion as cited by Donald Hall (1928: vii) says that “*poetry should surprise by a fine excess, and not by singularity. It should strike the reader as a wording of his own highest thought, and appear almost as remembrance.*” A poet may use certain enjoyable devices such as rhyme, alliteration, meter, diction, figurative language, etc. Therefore, poetry is more perceptively, thoughtfully, and considerately than other literary works.

A poem can talk more than other literary works such as drama and prose because it creates a “speaking picture” of something. It is portrait of mind’s experience represented by great meaningful words. It gives information to the readers and makes sense kind of language inspiration implicitly. Therefore, it is more difficult to understand the truly meaning of poetry. Besides that the distinction between poetry and drama or prose is that poetry is more spontaneous, expressive, and unhampered. Although poetry is more unhampered, it has still special and specific characteristic. The unit is designed to cover the meanings and elements of poetry, alliteration, rhyme, diction, figurative language, imagery, etc.

From the above definitions, we can conclude that poetry is an art which comes from the mind expression and feeling of the writer in attractive and meaningful words composition form. Attractive and meaningful are the key words for the definition of poetry. There are a lot of things can be shown by poetry for instance woman, nature, religion, country, life, death, love or even marriage. These issues are describing of human's life in relation to the world experience, so in other words it is clear that poetry is a part of human's existence.

This thesis will analyze diction, figurative language, and imagery used by William Wordsworth's poem, *Lines Written in Early Spring*. They will be analyzed in this thesis because those elements are the most majority and important parts of that poem. Those intrinsic elements will also help in understanding the poem better and deeper. The writer chooses Wordsworth because he is a great true Romantic Poet who is written many poems which tells about nature. These poems are *I wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, *an Evening Walk*, *Foresight*, *the Green Linnet*, etc. He is one of the Romantic Poets in the Romantic Period because he spends his life in 1770 until 1850. He believes that nature is not only something which is full of the beauty but also a guardian and a guide for human's inner feelings or as a morality source.

The writer assumes this poetry indirectly tells about the beauty of the nature in Romantic Age. It can be seen from that Romantic poems characteristics and that is why the writer explained *Reflection of Wordsworth's Loving Devotion to the Nature in Lines Written in Early Spring* by William Wordsworth.

## **B. Purposes of the Study**

To comprehend and identify the implicit message in poetry, an analysis purposes are very useful for the writer. There are three main purposes of this analysis, namely:

1. to understand and to get deeper analysis of poetic elements such as diction, figurative language, and imagery by applying structural theory.
2. to reveal the characteristics in the Romantic Age. Therefore, after analyzing *Lines Written in Early Spring*, the writer expects that it really reflects the Romantic Age's characteristics especially the notice to the nature.
3. to analyze and appreciate Wordsworth's loving devotion to the nature in the Romantic Era that reflected in *Lines Written in Early Spring*. Therefore, the reader will know that the nature is everything for Wordsworth and they can see how Wordsworth indulges in glorification the nature.

## **C. Scope of the Study**

The intrinsic elements of poetry are diction, theme, figurative language, imagery, rhythm, alliteration, meter, etc. To limit the subject of the study, the writer will analyze the diction, figurative language, and imagery of *Lines Written in Early Spring* written by William Wordsworth. Whereas from extrinsic side, this analysis will discuss how Wordsworth expresses

his loving devotion to the nature.

#### **D. Research Method**

In order to this analysis is going smoothly, so it is needed a good planned of research method too. Based on Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, "*method is way of doing something or quality of being well planned and organized.*" Research method which is used in this analysis is library research. As Wellek and Warren (1977: 58) say that "*since the majority of students can find their source materials in libraries, a knowledge of the most important libraries, and familiarity with their catalogues as well as other reference books, is undoubtedly, in many ways, an important equipment of almost every student in literature.*"

This analysis employs two research approaches, i.e. intrinsic (structural) and extrinsic approach. Rene Wellek and Austin Warren (1977: 141) explain that "*structure is a concept including both content and form so far as they are organized for aesthetic purposes. The work of art is, then considered as a whole system of signs, or structure of signs, serving a specific aesthetic purpose.*" The work of art, in this case is poetry, will be analyzed its poetic elements such as diction, figurative language, and imagery. While the extrinsic element based on Rene Wellek and Austin Warren (1977: 74), is "*among the different cause-governed methods, an explanation of the work of art in terms of the total setting seems preferable.*" The extrinsic element in Wordsworth's *Lines Written in Early Spring* is told about nature and it relates to the Romantic Period.

#### **E. Writing Organization**

This thesis consists of five main chapters, which are divided into several sub-chapters. The writer inserts bibliography for further references. Those five chapters are:

##### **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains background of the study, purposes of the study, scope of the study, methods of the study, and writing organization.

##### **CHAPTER II BIOGRAPHY OF THE POET, POEM, AND TRANSLATION**

This chapter presents the biography of William Wordsworth, his poem *Lines Written in Early Spring*, and its translation. The biography can help the analysis for understanding that poem.

##### **CHAPTER III LITERARY REVIEW**

Literary review discusses of intrinsic and extrinsic approach. Intrinsic approaches

are diction, figurative language, and imagery of *Lines Written in Early Spring*. In the other hands, extrinsic approaches consist of the description about romantic period and the characteristics of romantic period.

## **CHAPTER IV DISCUSSION**

This chapter is the main chapter because the discussion of intrinsic approaches such as diction, figurative language, and imagery in *Lines Written in Early Spring* is explained clearly. The reflection of Wordsworth's loving devotion to the nature as the focus of extrinsic aspect will be presented too.

## **CHAPTER V CONCLUSION**

Chapter V is the last chapter that contains the summary of main points in Chapter IV, which answer the problems explained in Chapter I.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## **CHAPTER II**

### **BIOGRAPHY OF THE POET, POEM AND PARAPHRASING**

#### **A. Biography of William Wordsworth**

The writer takes William Wordsworth's biography from the book which is written by Martin Steinmann, *the second edition of Literature for Writing An Athology of Major British and American Authors* and <http://www.incompetech.com/authors/wordsworth/biography.html>.

William Wordsworth was a major English Romantic poet who was born on 7 April 1770 in Cockermouth, Cumberland-part of the scenic region in Northwest England, the Lake District. During he lived in that place, he could get many inspirations to make poems because he did not like to live in the smoky or crowded London. His father, John Wordsworth, a lawyer, was very educated and liberal for the time and his mother was Ann Cookson. William Wordsworth was the second of five children and definitely the wild one of the family. Wordsworth children had a pretty happy childhood on the whole but it was only until his mother, Ann, died in 1778. He sent away to Hawkshead Grammar School, where his love of poetry was firmly established and it was believed that he made his first attempts at verse. After graduated from Hawkshead, Wordsworth studied at St. John's College in Cambridge and before his final semester, he set out on a walking tour of Europe, an experience that influenced both his poetry and his political sensibilities. While touring Europe, Wordsworth came into contact with the French Revolution. This experience as well as a subsequent period living in France brought about Wordsworth's interest and sympathy for the life, troubles and speech of the "common man". These issues proved to be of the utmost importance to Wordsworth's work.

In 1795 he met his close friend, Samuel Taylor Coleridge in Somerset and together produced *Lyrical Ballads* in 1798, an important work in the English Romantic movement. The next edition, published in 1800. At the time Wordsworth listed as an author and included a preface to the poems. This preface of *Lyrical Ballads* is considered a central work of Romantic literary theory. In it, he discussed about the definition of poetry and the elements of a new type of poetry. It is based on “real language of men” and he gave his popular definition of poetry as “the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it took its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility”. A final *Lyrical Ballads* was published in 1805.

Wordsworth’s most famous work, *The Prelude* (1850), was considered by many to be the crowning achievement of English Romanticism. The poem, revised numerous times, chronicles the spiritual life of the poet and marks the birth of a new genre of poetry. The other his poems were *I wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, *Evening on Calais Beach*, *the World is too Much with Us*, *Lines Written in early Spring*, *an Evening Walk*, *Foresight*, *the Green Linnet*.

Wordsworth eschews the use of lofty, poetic diction, which in his mind is not related to the language of real life. He sees poetry as acting like Nature, which touches all living things and inspires and delights them. Wordsworth called poetry to be written in the language of the “common man”, and the subjects of the poems should also be accessible to all individuals regardless of class or position.

## **B. Poem**

### *Lines Written in Early Spring*

*By William Wordsworth*

*In heard a thousand blended notes,*  
While in a grove I state reclined,  
In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts  
Bring sad thoughts to the mind.

To her fair works did Nature link

5

*The human soul that through me ran;*  
And much it grieved my heart to think  
What man has made of man.

Through primrose tufts, in that green bower,  
The periwinkle trailed its wreaths; 10

*And 'tis my faith that every flower  
Enjoys the air it breathes.*

The birds around me hopped and played,  
Their thoughts I cannot measure-  
But the least motion which they made, 15

*It seemed a thrill of pleasure.*

The budding twigs spread out their fan,  
To catch the breezy air;  
And I must think, do all I can,  
That there was pleasure there. 20

If this believe from heaven be sent,  
If such be Nature's holy plan,  
Have I not reason to lament  
What man has made of man?

### **C. Paraphrasing**

*Lines Written in Early Spring* is one of the poems which is produced by William Wordsworth in the Romantic Period. Wordsworth writes about nature and strengthens the bond by placing the speaker in the middle of nature, plants and animals around him. Nature in this poem is

everything right as a centre of life. We can see and know about it by images which are reflected in every stanza.

The first stanza describes the nature's characteristic. The speaker worries about the condition of nature because indirectly it relates to human's act. It disturbs his mind, whereas he is enjoying the nature panorama at the time.

In the second stanza, the speaker is describing how mankind, though civilized, has an innate spiritual connection to *Nature* and *her fair works*. The speaker suggests that man can be a part of nature and rational simultaneously, in control of himself, and in control of his surroundings. The speaker is a thoughtful being, a philosopher of sorts, and is certainly reasonable, and yet he is at peace with nature in a way that would likely strike many of his contemporaries as odd.

The majority of *Lines Written in Early Spring* content talks about the natural scenery in early spring. It is reflected in the third, fourth, and fifth stanza. The speaker tells the readers about how life in his area seems so beautiful and satisfies. He goes on to describe what he sees as pleasure as *every flower enjoys the air it breathes*, and *the birds that hopped and played around him were written with every least motion which they made seemed a thrill of pleasure*. These natural creatures have achieved a state of paradise by simply existing as nature had intended free of civilization and in a state of natural grace.

The final stanza describes the main theme of *Lines Written in Early Spring*. The speaker suggests that all of the people can give and take each other to the nature and he condemns to the people who damage it, because their act also can damage their civilization. Here, nature is illustrated as a centre of life.