



INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN “LONDON” BY WILLIAM BLAKE

A FINAL PROJECT

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this final project by herself and without taking any result from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3 and diploma degree of any university. In addition, she ascertains that she does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography.

Semarang, 24 April 2016

Issabel Mustika Ajeng Rianto

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all”. – *Aristotle*

“The essentials to happiness are something to love, something to do and something to hope for”. – *William Blake*

“Do good, and good will come to you”. – *Unknown*

This final project is dedicated to
my beloved family and
to everyone who helped me accomplish this paper.

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I realize that this final project is still far from perfect. I therefore will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this final project better. I expect that this final project will be useful to the reader who wishes to learn something about imagery and metaphor.

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Issabel Mustika Ajeng Rianto

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ABSTRACT

This research deals with the situations and conditions happened in England at the end of the seventeenth century. Based on the fact that there is a relation between history and literature, the writer analyzes the history of industrial revolution in England. The aim of this research is to understand the poem of William Blake entitled "London". The writer also tries to figure out social problems happened in England reflected in the poem. The writer uses library research as the method of data collection and sociological approach in analyzing the data. By using the library research method, the writer gets many references to write this final project. By using the sociological approach the writer could understand the social context of the poem. The result of this final project shows that Blake tends to show the impact of industrial revolution and the social condition happened in England through the figurative languages in his poetry.

Keywords: Industrial Revolution, Imagery, Metaphor

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature cannot be separated from the society in the world. In other words, the existence of the literature is influenced by the condition and the phenomena in society, both in individual life and social life of human. As expressed by Wellek and Austin Warren (1973: 12) literary work is not only influenced by the society conditions but also as the reflection of society.

Poetry is a form of literary work. The language in the poetry can deploy the author's idea about the social or individual life in a certain time. As Perrine said in *The Element of Poetry*, "poetry might be defined as a kind of language that says more successful at appreciating poetry than at defining it" (1988: 3).

"London" is a poem which William Blake wrote in the eighteenth century during industrial revolution era. Blake has been regarded as a great English poet. The poem is rich with imagery to depict how the condition of England society during industrial revolution. So, the writer is interested in analyzing the intrinsic and the extrinsic elements in the poem to reveal the condition of society during industrial revolution.

1.2 Research Problems

In this paper, the writer would like to discuss the research problems as follows:

1. How does the intrinsic elements composed in the poem?

2. How does the intrinsic elements relate to the extrinsic elements in the poem?
3. How is the condition of industrial revolution reflected in the poem?

1.3 Method of Research

In this final project, the writer uses library research in collecting data.

As Wellek and Austin Warren said that "since the majority of student can find their source materials in libraries, a knowledge of the most important libraries, familiarity with catalogue as well as other references books, is undoubtedly, in many ways, an important equipment of almost every student of literature" (1962: 58).

The writer sought information about industrial revolution from books, articles or audiovisual tools such as internet, television and other electronic sources to analyze the data. In analyzing the poem, the writer uses intrinsic and extrinsic approach. The writer analyzes the imagery and metaphor as the intrinsic aspect in the poem. Besides analyzing the intrinsic approach, the writer also figures out the industrial revolution issue as the extrinsic aspect in the poem.

2. LITERARY REVIEW

2.1 Imagery

Imagery may be defined as the representation through language of sense experience. "The word image, perhaps most often suggest a mental picture, something seen in the mind's eye and *visual imagery* is the most frequently occurring kind of imagery in poetry. But an image may also represent a sound" (Perrine, 1969: 54).

Based on the definition above, it can be said that imagery is one of the important aspects in poetry. By understanding imagery, the readers may build an image in their mind about the real situation that appears in poetry. There are kinds of imagery. Those are visual imagery (an image that appears from eyesight), kinesthetic imagery (an image that appears from the movement), auditory imagery (an image that appears from the senses of hearing), and organic imagery (an image that appears from thought or consideration. It relates with sense inside of the body, such as angry, thirsty, tired, sad, hungry, etc.), olfactory imagery (an image that appears from the sense of the smell), tactile imagery (an image that can be felt by skin to feel the hardness, softness, cold, warm, etc.), and the last one is Gustatory Imagery (an image that relates with what our tongue taste). However, in this paper the writer focuses on the visual and auditory imagery.

Visual imagery is an image which appears from eyesight. For instance it can be seen in Andrew Marvel's "The Garden" (adopted from the book *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* – volume 1).

No White Nor Red was ever seen
So amorous as this lovely green

From the example above, the visual imagery can be seen through the words "white", "red" and "green". Those words refer to the kind of colour. Those words will lead the reader to imagine the colour. It can be categorized into visual imagery since the reader can distinguish one colour from another by using their sense of sight.

Auditory imagery is an image that appears from the sense of hearing. For example:

River smell, and hear the breeze
Sobbing in the little tress

This auditory imagery above is quoted from *The Old Vicarage Grant Chester* by Rupert Brooke. It offers the readers the sound of the breeze or wind. In these lines, the wind does not sound as usual. The wind is not blowing, but it is sobbing. The sobbing breeze can be heard through the little trees.

2.2 Metaphor

Based on *Glossary of Literary Term*, Metaphor is “a word or expression that in literal usage denotes one kind of thing is applied to a distinctly different kind of thing, without asserting a comparison” (Abrams, 1999: 97). The statement above clearly explains that the comparison in metaphor is implied rather than stated outright. There are no words such as “like” or “as” to indicate that a comparison is being made. The example can be seen from Lord Alfred Tenyson’s “The Eagle”

He claps the crag with crooked hands,

From the example above, Tenyson uses metaphor “crooked hand” to replace the claws.

2.3 The History of Industrial Revolution

In *Oxford Advance Learners Dictionary*, industrial Revolution is “a rapid development in industry which took place in England in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, chiefly owing to the introduction of new or improved machinery and large-scale production methods” (2010: 766). Between 1760 and 1850 was the transition time from agriculture-based economy to a manufacturing-based economy. This transition leads to a massive migration from the rural areas

to the urban areas. It was ultimately leads to the swelling population in several cities in England.

Industrialization had led to the development of the cities and the new community centers, since the industrialization promising a better life. It caused many farmers from rural area interested in a better job in the town. This effort resulted in the waiver of agriculture. Due to increasing urbanization in the cities, the number of labor was increasingly abundant. Meanwhile, many factories that used engine power result into the low wage labor.

Foster in his book *Class Struggle and Social Structure*, states that “the condition above leads the families choose alternative forms of impoverishment to avoid the worst results of low wages and malnutrition by economizing on living standards, sending mothers and children out to work, and forming combined households with relatives” (1974: 92).

The condition experienced by labor’s families made many entrepreneurs preferred to choose women and children as their labor because their wages were cheaper. In this era there were so many women trapped in prostitution since there were no jobs they could get (1974: 287). In the industrialization era, there were two groups in the society. Those are the group of workers (labor) and the groups of employers (capitalist). It led into a gap of social classes in which the capitalists had such a luxury life in the contrary while the labor had to live in poverty.

3. ANALYSIS

3.1 Imagery

3.1.1 Visual Imagery

Stanza 1 line 1

I wander through each chartered street,

In this line, Blake uses visual imagery to make the reader imagine the chartered street that he passed. Blake gives the readers idea that the street may be restricted or under control by something or someone.

Stanza 1 line 2

Near where the chartered Thames does flow.

The visual imagery can be seen in this line, Blake uses visual imagery when he sees Thames River flowing near the chartered street. The reader will build an image of Thames River in their mind when they read this line.

Stanza 1 line 3

And mark in every face I meet

In this line, Blake uses visual imagery when he saw the object, “face”. This could be a visual imagery because there is an object that can be seen by someone.

Stanza 3 line 2

Every blackening Church appalls,

In this line, Blake use visual imagery to describe blackening church. Blake use visual imagery to emphasize the atmosphere inside the poem. The word “blackening” that is only reference to a color giving an idea to the reader that the church that supposed to be a place of purity and a place for security is being blackened.

Stanza 3 line 4

Runs in blood down Palace walls

Blake uses visual imagery to represent blood that could be seen in the Palace walls. This visual imagery helps the readers to imagine something more detail.

Stanza 4 line 4

Blasts the new-born Infants tear

Visual imagery in this line can be seen in the new-born Infants tear. Blake gives idea to the reader about new baby born who tears, it can create atmosphere of fear and scary in London at that time.

3.1.2 Auditory Imagery

Stanza 1 line 2

Near where the chartered Thames does flow.

From the line above it can be seen auditory imagery through the word “flow”. The word “flow” means that people can hear the sound of water flow. For example, the water flows in Thames River. People can hear how the water in the river flows.

Stanza 2

In every cry of every Man,
In every Infants cry of fear,
In every voice: in every ban,
The mind-forged manacles I hear

In stanza 2, it can be seen through the word “cry” repeated in every line. It is auditory imagery because “cry” can be heard by anyone. Cry means people who express their sad feeling with screaming, yelling or weeping as loud as they can.

Stanza 3 line 1

How the Chimney-sweepers cry

In stanza three line one there is sentence “the Chimney-sweepers cry”. This sentence has a meaning that the chimney-sweeper is expressing his sad and sorrow toward his duty as a chimney-sweeper. It was an auditory imagery because people can hear how the chimney-sweeper cries.

Stanza 4

But most thro' midnight streets I hear
How the youthful Harlots curse
Blasts the new-born Infants tear
And blights with plagues the Marriage hearse.

In the stanza four, line one, there is a sentence “most thro’ midnight streets I hear”. It means that a man or in this context, the speaker, is walking through the midnight alone. In the silence, he heard an odd voice along the street. This sentence is an auditory imagery. It can be seen in the sentence “I hear”. It shows that the speaker hears something when he walks alone in the street at the middle of the night. Otherwise, people also can hear the sound of the speaker’s feet when he was walking. In the third line of the stanza, the sentence “blasts the new-born infants tear” shows an auditory imagery. This sentence shows how the new-born baby cries when the first time he a come to the world. He cries loudly and people can hear the sound.

3.2 Metaphor

After reading the poem, it is clear that William Blake uses metaphor in several parts of the poetry to express emotional meaning in “London”.

Stanza 1, line 1 and 2

I wandered through each chartered street,
Near where the chartered Thames does flow,

In these lines, the word “chartered” explains something that does not belong to the speaker. The speaker does not have anything. The word “Thames” refers to the river which becomes a symbol of London. “Street” and “Thames” describe places to which everyone has right and privileges, but the “chartered street” and “Thames” are the kind of metaphor that everything is owned by the powerful people in London. It causes the society could not have freedom about those places. Also, all of the places in London are under control of some capitalist people.

Stanza 2 line 4

The mind forged manacles I hear.

The line above describes the situation that happened to the people who could not help themselves. “The mind forged manacles” is a metaphor of restraint or powerlessness to fight their right. They cannot do anything because they are under control of capitalist. The word “I hear” also gives symbol of something that clearly and really happens when it is linked to “the mind forged manacles” because it is impossible that something in the mind can be heard.

Stanza 3 line 2

Every blackening church appalls

“Blackening church”, the metaphor of the situation in church which is considered as a holy place does not mean anything for the people: It cannot help the suffering of the people at the time. The church is being “appalls” the word appalls means a fright and loss of belief.

Stanza 3, line 4 and 5

And the hapless soldier's sigh
Runs in blood down palace walls.

Through the fourth and the fifth line of third stanza above, the writer figures out the metaphor which show that the soldiers are drafted into war and they have no other choice, since it was their duty to serve their country. The soldiers at that time were doing what they had to do and were dying for their country in battles while the crown ignored the blood being spilt in its name.

Stanza 4, line 1 and 2

But most, through midnight streets I hear
How the youthful harlot's curse

"Midnight streets" is the metaphor used by William Blake to replace the existence of prostitutes who usually went out in the midnight. "Harlot's curse" is the metaphor of prostitutes who got a disease because of the sexual intercourse she did. The "curse" in this case, means the disease transmitted by the prostitutes or free sex.

Stanza 4, line 3 and 4

Blast the new born infant's tear,
And blights with plagues the marriage hearse

The prostitutes transmit the disease to their child which can be understood through the metaphor the "infant tear". At that time, this curse has no cure, so that becomes a fear for the people. The "marriage hearse" is the metaphor of the ending. The marriage means the beginning of the new life as a family. However in this poem, it is an ending of the life because it is carried by the hearse. It is linked to the "harlot's curse" or the disease that brought by the harlot to the marriage.

3.3 The Condition during Industrial Revolution Reflected in William Blake's

“London”

I wander through each chartered street,
Near where the chartered Thames does flow.
And mark in every face I meet
Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In the first stanza of the poetry, Blake suggests that there were nothing free in London. The word “chartered” shows that everything in London was under the control of the powerful people. This first stanza shows the reader about the real condition of industrial revolution period in which several powerful people was controlling the society in London. The capitalist mostly controlled the economic system at that time. However, their control only brought advantages for themselves. On the other hand, another group of people who was known as labor had to take the sorrow and pain from this condition. The suffering of the most society in London can be seen through the word weakness and woe. Their suffering is caused by the poverty and the suppression which still existed at that time.

In every cry of every Man,
In every Infants cry of fear,
In every voice: in every ban,
The mind-forged manacles I hear

The word “cry” which appears in every line in the second stanza shows to the reader about the sadness. This sadness can be found in every part of London. Not only the adult who can feel the condition of the industrial revolution, but also the innocent infants that had to take this sorrow because their parents were trapped in poverty. Poverty rate was very high in industrial revolution period. It is

because the salary of the labor was very low. The labors were forced by capitalist to work hard but they just got a small salary. The condition was getting worse because the labors could not counter the capitalist. Though they were suffering from this condition, they could not do anything, because their life always depended on the capitalist people. The dependency of the labor is caused by the massive immigration from rural area to London. Because of this condition the number of labor was very abundant, so the capitalist just gave a low salary for them in order to keep production cost low.

How the chimney-sweeper's cry
Every blackening church appalls,
And the hapless soldier's sigh
Runs in blood down palace-walls

The third stanza above reflects the slavery that happens in industrial revolution period. The chimney sweepers were treated rudely at that time. Most of the chimney sweepers were the school boys who had to leave school for work, because they had to support their family economy. Just the same as the other labors, the school boys who became the chimney sweepers only got low-wages. It was reflected on how the elites or capitalists took the advantages of the poor. Then, the word “blackening church” reflects the situation in the church which is considered as a holy place but it does not mean anything for the people. It cannot help relieve the suffering of the people at the time. The word “*appalls*” in the second line of the third stanza means a fright and loss of belief. It shows that in industrial revolution, the church lost their purity as the religion place, because there was a lot of money that went into the church while the children were dying from poverty.

The third line and the fourth line of the stanza show that the soldiers died because of the war. At that time, the World War I still existed. They are drafted into war and had no choice but to serve their country. The soldiers at that time were doing what they had to do and dying for their country in the war while the crown ignored their blood being spilt in its name. Because of that situation, many women are widowed, and without someone to support them. Many families starved.

But most, through midnight streets I hear
How the youthful harlot's curse
Blasts the new-born infant's tear
And blights with plagues the marriage-hearse

In the last stanza of the poetry, the reader sees the reflection of night life in London. There were so many prostitutions that exist as the symbol of moral decadency that happened in London. The fourth stanza above shows the woman oppression that happened in that period. Prostitution appears as the result of the meaningless war. Many women became widow who had to safe on their family without any support from their husband anymore. Unfortunately, at that time it was very rare for women to get a respectable job. So, prostitution was the only choice for them. Sexually transmitted diseases appeared as the result of that prostitution.

In summary, William Blake expresses this poem by using a great combination of imagery and metaphor as the figurative language aspects. By using metaphor and imagery in some lines, Blake describes the misery and the sorrow affecting the labor's life in England during industrial revolution period.

Through the language used by Blake in this poem, it is shown that Blake strongly criticized the social condition that was very strict at that time.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, the writer concludes that William Blake expresses his idea in his poem "London" by using a great combination of metaphor and imagery as the figurative language aspects. By using the metaphor and imagery, Blake describes the misery and sorrow of the people who lived in London at that time. Through the language in this poem, the writer figures out that Blake's criticism is against slavery and social class. It can be seen through metaphors in the poem such as "through the chartered street", "Thames", and the "chimney sweepers" which shows the sorrow, sadness and suffering at that time. In addition, Blake shows the clear image of children who were forced to work as slaves, the soldiers who complained about authorities of the state, the authorities of church by the state and the young women who had to work as prostitutes since there were no other works they could do.

Furthermore, when the writer relates the poem with the historical event of industrial revolution, the writer figures out Blake's view point on social issues that occur at that time. The poem clearly presents the lower class life that had to suffer as the impact of the industrial revolution. They suffered from the cruelty and the sadness. The writer believes that through the poem, Blake would like to reassure the public about the importance of equal rights and dignity it was

increasingly aware that it was very difficult to change the situation in the absence of self-awareness of each person.

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APPENDIX

POETRY

LONDON

by William Blake

I wandered through each chartered street
Near where the chartered Thames does flow
A mark in every face I meet
Marks of weakness, marks of woe

In every cry of every man
In every infant's cry of fear
In every voice, in every ban
The mind-forged manacles I hear

How the chimney-sweeper's cry
Every blackening church appalls,
And the hapless soldier's sigh
Runs in blood down palace-walls

But most through midnight streets I hear
How the youthful Harlots curse
Blasts the new-born infant's tear
And blights with plagues the marriage hearse

TRANSLATION

LONDON

Oleh: William Blake

Aku berjalan menyusuri setiap jalanan yang berbayar,
Di dekat tempat-tempat utama sungai Thames mengalir.
Dan dari tanda dalam setiap wajah yang kutemui
Menandai kelemahan, tanda sengsara.

Dalam setiap tangisan manusia,
Dalam setiap tangisan bayi yang ketakutan,
Dalam setiap suara: dalam setiap larangan,
Hanya pikiran-pikiran yang ditempa belunggu kudengar.

Bagaimana seorang penyapu cerobong asap menangis
tiap gereja menghitam mengerikan,
Dan tentara malang pun mendesah
Berjalan dalam darah menuruni dinding istana.

Tetapi melalui jalan-jalan tengah malam sebagian besar saya mendengar
Bagaimana pelacur-pelacur mengutuk
Meledak kan air mata bayi-bayi yang baru lahir
Dan kutukan kematian malapetaka pada pernikahan.