

## ROMANTIC MEANING OF KHALIL GIBRAN'S POETRY (HERMENEUTICAL APPROACH)

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### ABSTRACT

This study explores the Kahlil Gibran's poetry using the hermeneutical approach. This study aims (1) to examine the intrinsic elements of his poetry and (2) to explain the romantic meaning in his poetry. The scope of this study covers seven poems of Khalil Gibran. All romantic words and meanings could be used as the data. The hermeneutic approach requires interpretation. The meaning of the poetry is influenced by each reader's perceptions of knowledge and experience, environment factor, the perspective or dimension of their interest, and other extrinsic factors. The first to the seventh poem shows that Khalil Gibran often uses the word love related to the romantic meaning. It is also based on Khalil Gibran's biography of his life. It tells about his love, live and life.

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### INTRODUCTION

In a literary study, poetry is one of the oldest genres in literary history. Poetry is one type of literature that is tied to rhythm, rhyme, stanza, array and marked with a dense language. Poetry is also a written work of art which uses Language as its aesthetic quality or beauty. Each author writes poetry based on the expression of his feelings so that the language used can be interpreted differently.

The one who write poetry is called as poet. The word poet in the ancient Greek tradition means one who creates through

his imagination, one who is almost like a god or who is very fond of the gods. He is a shrewd person, a saint, a philosopher, a statesman, a teacher, a person who can guess the hidden truth. By the elimination of time, the word “poet” get the degradation meaning which leads to writer of the poetry. Every poetry made by a poet must have meaning and meaning in it that is not known implicitly. Poetry is a form of literature that expresses the poet's mind and feel imaginatively by using the language of choice. It expresses thought-provoking thoughts and stimulates the imagination of the senses in a rhythmic arrangement. (Peter, 2005)

One of literary work from Kahlil Gibran that really impressive is Broken Wings. Poetry of the Broken Wings is the birth of the reality of his passionate romance. His love anchored to a girl her little playmate named Selma Karamy. It is very difficult to find Kahlil Gibran's love form for Selma. More than an everlasting love, a love of purity, an intrinsic love, a blind love, a sacred love, a sincere love of a young man and all the love that exists in the world. But the power of love he experiences and feels is to be the birth breath of his works. Although the love that is felt is not up to the expected, but the spirit of love that is felt at that time remains clearly caught by everyone. (Dian, 2009: 142)

This research is going to use hermeneutical approach. Hermeneutics in literary explanation is needed in interpreting an event related to the meaning of the text, as well as language. So with hermeneutics, will get a deep meaning. The importance for writers is that a writer will be able to explore the past with his inner strength. Deeper meaningfulness can be used by using sources that are appropriate to the life experience of the poet. In other words, hermeneutics is the right theory to reveal the romantic context contained in Khalil Gibran's poetry. The hermeneutical theory will use the theory of sechleirmacher which has a romantic point of view in expressing a meaning.

Based on the explanation above, this research is study about the meaning of Khalil Gibran poetries especially in romantic words which use hermeneutical approach to clear and finish this

research. So the title of this research is “Romantic Meaning of Khalil Gibran’s Poetry {A Hermeneutical Approach}”.

## **METHOD**

This study is design to obtain the answer about Romantic Meaning of Khalil Gibran’s Poetries (Hermeneutical Approach). Therefore, the design of this study is descriptive method with the form qualitative research. Qualitative research is a loosely defined category of research design or models, all of which elicit verbal, visual, tactile, olfactory and gustatory data in the form of descriptive narrative like field notes, recordings, or other transcription from audio and videotapes and other written records and pictures and films (Cresswell, 1998:24).

This method really need to give some structure steps to analyze this research. Data analyzing is a process in organizing the data into a categorical pattern and unit of basic analysis. This kind of method is to understand a comprehend the literary work with the approaches. In this research uses the hermeneutical approach and intrinsic elements of poetry to analyze and finish. To analyze the data this research uses some following steps, those are:

1. Choosing. This step is referring to choose the Khalil Gibran’s Poetry that are used in this research.
2. Reduction. This research must have some sorting data that is mentioned on data collection. In this step need those data to reduction some context on Khalil Gibran’s poetry in order focus on romantic meaning only.
3. Close reading. After two step on above, this research need to analyzing by used close reading in order to get the meaning clearer on Khalil Gibran’s Poetry especially in the romantic meaning.
4. Interpreting text (intrinsic element). After those step above, this time to analyzing the text on Khalil Gibran’s Poetry. In this step become the analysis process to find and describes lexical–thematic dimension, visual dimension and rhythmic–acoustic dimension on Khalil Gibran’s Poetry, intrinsic elements from Mario klarer.
5. Interpreting context. In last step is describing the context of the Khalil Gibran’s Poetry. After the intrinsic element have been found, this research could interpret the context of Khalil Gibran poetry

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

## 1. Hermeneutical Approach

### a. Biography of the Poet

Khalil Gibran (1883–1931), an American–Lebanon writer. This author has big role in the development of the romantic flow in the literary world that emphasizes the imagination and emotions and forces of nature, he is also known as The Bond of the Pen. The prophet (1923) he wrote in English is a collection of aphorisms and philosophical reflection that have been proved popular among young readers. He was born in middle-class family in the Bsharri village of Lebanon.

Gibran immigrated to the United States in 1894 and originally settled in Boston. In 1897 he had returned to Lebanon to continue his studies. After several trips with various purposes, he returned to Boston in 1903, one year after he lost his sister, brother and mother caused tuberculosis.

This young Lebanon is assisted by Boston people residents, and the most prominent is Mary Haskell, a school teacher who later became the main donor. In

1912 the Gibran moved to New York City, and there he published some of his famous works and had a powerful influence. Gibran is an admirer of nature in his poetic figure, making it difficult to sort out the details of his career, but his influence has certainly proven to be immense.

Prior to 1918, Gibran was ready to launch his first work in English, the madman, his parables and poems. A very close friendship with Mary is depicted in *The Madman*. After that *Twenty Drawing*, 1919; *The Forerunner*, 1920; and *The*

*Prophet* of 1923, all his work is the way for him to understand the world as an adult.

Before the launch of *The Prophet*, the close relationship between Mary and Gibran began to be unclear. Mary is proposed by Florance Minis, a wealthy businessman from Georgia. Although Mary and Gibran's relationship was initially colored by various considerations and discussions about their marriage, but basically Mary's principles have been many different from Gibran's.

On April 10th, 1931, at 11:00 pm, Gibran passed away. Her body has been suffering from hepatic and tuberculous cirrhosis, but all this time he refused to be taken care to the hospital. The next day Marianna sent a telegram to Mary in Savannah and Mary mourned Gibran. Gibran's body was buried on August 21st at Mar Sarkis, a Carmelite monastery where Gibran had ever worshiped. After the death of Gibran, Barbara Young, the owner of a studio store found a piece of paper that was written; "In my heart there is little desire to help the east, because it has helped me so much." (Ellyati, 2009).

## 2. Analyzing

The hermeneutic approach requires interpretation, so that the meaning of poetry is definitely influenced by the perceptions of knowledge and experience of each reader, the reader environment factor, the perspective or dimension of the reader's interest, and other things derived from the extrinsic factor. And also the perspective on text and authors is essential in hermeneutic research.

### 1. ON PAIN

On the first poetry, the diction gotten that is about the sadness and lonely. It has been proven on analyzing of the intrinsic element. "On Pain" tells about the sadness and lonely of the writer. Khalil Gibran wants to tell the reader that his sadness and lonely so much deep. It also has been proven how he imagine the breaking of the shell as his sadness and lonely. "stone of the fruit" means gravel also could be broken to imagine his sadness. No one could make the writer be better. He constantly stays in his sadness with his pain. It is written on line ten.

On his journey of life, he take so may problem and losing. From the first he loses his parents. Which means he must live alone along his life without a family. That pain and losing also exist in this poetry. Which means there is nothing could make him better over the year. Need much long time to forget about that.

This poetry also give suggest to the reader about the "self-chosen" which means when someone get losing and pain. It depends on themselves how he coloured his life. Khalil gibran continue his life even without his famiy. It shows how strong the author's heart.

### 2. SONG OF THE RAIN

This poetry wants to tell the expression of the author which means "Song of the Rain" could be interprete as the born of the

Khalil Gibran that like “silver” which means as the life of Khalil Gibran that so simple. As the biography above, tell that Khalil Gibran live simple with his family. But he has purpose to make his life better that is written “Nature then takes me, to adorn Her fields and valleys.” Which means he wants to color and complete his life.

On the third stanza tell about how Khalil Gibran face his life with underestimated. It is proven with each line that show the expression of Khalil Gibran. “When I cry the hills laugh; When I humble myself the flowers rejoice; When I bow, all things are elated.” From that time, after the underestimated, he begins to learn about nature and his situation.

On the six stanza express how the Khalil Gibran make his work. He believe that someday his work would be approved. It is certainly written clearly “I touch gently at the windows with my Soft fingers, and my announcement is a Welcome song. All can hear, but only The sensitive can understand.” He also tells that not all people could know how his life, just the only the sensitive one.

But, with all struggle and effort that has been done. He meet with love. Which could make his life so colourful. And that will make him so spirit to face his life. All those written on the last stanza of this poetry. And also in his biography tell that Khalil Gibran have serious feeling to Mary.

### 3. A LOVER’S CALL

On this poetry tell about how the lover could find the love. It is looked from the title that is about the lover’s call. In this case, Khalil Gibran want to express how exactly his life to find his love. As the romantic poet, something about this will never be separated. On each stanza existing in poetry often using question tags which means he still confuses about his love.

On the first stanza express how he really miss his love. And the next stanza consist of his searching to finding his love. On his life, Khalil Gibran have

3 loves. The first love is for his mother, the second is to his women, and the last is to his country. But on that poetry tell that

how is the power of love. Love here is refer to the God. Because, so many word existing about devinity. God here is refer to Jesus. In biography also tell that Khalil Gibran is a good prayer. He also want to express the biggest love is certainly belong to the God.

#### 4. SONG OF LOVE

Based on the instinsic element and also the biography of the author, this poetry want to tell how love exactly. Seeing from the author biography, he is certainly poet that follow romantic element. In this poetry, Khalil Gibran want to express his journey about love. Which stated in the first stanza that write "rose". Rose itself express about love and romance.

On this poetry also tell about how the Khalil gibran attitude. In the last stanza stated "And protecting me shall determine my Behavior." It refers that the author will do what everyone done to him. It is also mentioned on the poetry

"Song of the Rain" which show the first time Khalil Gibran underestimated by everyone. But he is believe that he could make it.

#### 5. A TEAR AND A SMILE

This poetry really related about life of Khalil Gibran. Which is so many sadness and lonely, but he also has happines and smile. On his life, Khalil Gibran get many sadness and also happiness. From the first stanza tell that how he face his sorrow and sadness that could not be lose easily. He face his sadness so deep with all the tear he has.

But with all his sadness and happiness, he always think positively. It is proven on the next stanza that tell how khalil gibran make the sadness become the lesson of him and the happiness become the glorification of the gods. It is how the khalil gibran manufacture his sadness and happiness.

On this poetry Khalil Gibran want to show how the life is. How everyone thank God for everything happen. In the last stanza also mention thats everything will return. All this thing, happiness or even sadness will return to God.

#### 6. LOVE IS A MAGIC RAY

As the romantic poet, certainly Khalil Gibran has so many story about love. Not the only with mary. On this poetry "Love is a Magic Ray" tells about the power of love which can make everyone fell life as like beautiful dream. Gibran believe that love could make everyone

know about his life. Without love there is nothing would illuminate the earth.

Gibran wants to invite the reader to recognize the love. Love is not make everyone sorrow or sad but it is the opposite. On his life, Gibran also so much love his country. It is also tell that gibran not only want to express love to someone, but also to his country.

#### 7. JOY AND SORROW

In the last poetry that would be research is about "Joy and Sorrow". In the diction and theme tell that this poetry is about the insprition and sadness. On the poetry exist woman ask about joy and sorrow, and a man answered it. The biography of Khalil Gibran show that he become the school leader of Arabic- American. It shows how he inspire everyone. Eventhough, he begin all of this from the low profil.

On that poetry also express the argumentation of each person in that poetry. Some of you say, "Joy is greater than sorrow," and others say, "Nay, sorrow is the greater." On that line, really want to tell how Khalil Gibran inspires everyone, they certainly have different explanation and argumentation. Everyone have their expression on their condition. No one could understand except themselves. It what Khalil Gibran wants to express.

#### CONCLUSION

The researcher analyzes the romantic meaning exist in Khalil Gibran poetry. All those word and sentences that exist and could become the data would be analyzed. This research is used heremeneutical approach because hermeneutics in literary explanation is needed in interpreting an event related to the meaning of the text, as well as language. So with hermeneutics, will get a deep meaning toward the research that has been done.

The researcher analyzes also used intrinsic element belong to Mario Klarer that could help this research to be better. The finding of romantic meaning exist on 7 Khalil Gibran poetry certainly related toward the life of Khalil Gibran during he become a



poets. It is also proven by the existence of Khalil Gibran Biography. This research also makes the different consideration about the meaning of each poetry exist. Because the changing of meaning always runs dynamic over the time. And that different meaning is based on the perceptions of knowledge and experience of each reader, the reader environment factor, the perspective or dimension of the reader's interest, and other things derived from the extrinsic factor

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