# LEKSIKON: Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa, Sastra, & Budaya



Volume 1, Number 2, October 2023 E-ISSN 3025-1516 | P-ISSN 3025-1249

Website: https://ejurnal-unisap.ac.id/index.php/leksikon/index

Email: ejurnal.leksikon@gmail.com

# A BIOGRAPHICAL ANALYSIS OF WILLIAM BLAKE'S POEMS

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### **Article Info**

# **ABSTRACT**

## **Article History:**

#### Received:

August 01, 2023

Accepted:

August 20, 2023

**Published:** 

October 02, 2023

#### **Keywords:**

Analysis; Poems;

William Blake;

This research aims to find out whether the life of William Blake was reflected in his poems. The reason the author wants to analyze the poems and the biography of William Blake because the author found an interesting fact that Blake was said to be unschooled but he could make so many literary works. This is a descriptive qualitative research using a biographical approach and hermeneutic theory. Data sources are taken from 10 poems written by Blake, namely A Poison Tree, The Tyger, The Angel, London, The Little Boy Lost, The Lamb, The Little Boy Found, The Chimney Sweeper, The Land of Dreams, The Little Black Boy. The author collects data by applying documentary techniques with the following steps namely, First, the author finds or identifies the poems of William Blake. Second, the author selected the poems of William Blake in form random. Third, after the author selected the poem in form random, the author reads and understands the outline that these selected poems describes of William Blake's biography and to analyze the data, the author uses three steps namely: data reduction, display and conclusion drawing. The result of the analysis found that the ten poems written by William Blake reflect his life. All ten poems describe his anger at his enemies, his love for children and animals, his family, his home and his literary works. Thus, the author can conclude that in William Blake's life there are joys and sorrows, struggles, glory days, and getting his first vision in his biography.

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### INTRODUCTION

Literature is the mirror of society, "Literature teaches us to analyze a character, allows us to reach inside his or her mind so we see what drives a character, what shapes his or her beliefs and how one relates to others." (Ismail, 2008). Literature is the study of human nature. We see human nature through tragedy and romance, joy and sorrow, in epiphanies and denial, in moments of heroism and in moments of cowardice, (Farooqi in Ismal, 2008). Literature is a beautiful study that can be enjoyed by everyone. In essence, literary works are a resulting beauty through the elements of aesthetics such as aesthetic values, composition balance between the elements that have been reflected through the totality of the works used as a rejecting the measure of a beauty. The development of the times causes literary theory it has their own characteristics. Characteristics are the main element in determining the type of flow in a literary works, (Naibaho et al, 2022). Literature is a means of flashes or thoughts about life and social words using beautiful words.

Poem is part of literary works. Talking about poetry means speaking language in poem. According to Meiliana (2020), a poem is a collection of spoken or written words that expresses ideas or emotions in a powerfully vivid and imaginative style. According to Ainul (2022), each author writes a poem based other feeling expression so that the language used can be interpreted differently. Every poem made by the poet certainly has meaning and meaning in it which is unknown implicitly. The poem expresses thinking evokes feelings and stimulate the imagination of the five senses in the arrangement of the rhythmic ones. According to Thabroni (2022), the poem is arranged writing such away using

aesthetic arrangements and can produce a multiwatering meaning and drive the reader's heart in the form of messages, mandate or shape of the mood solely. This statement is also accordance with the opinion of Kosasih (2012) in Thabroni (2022), stating that poetry is a form of literary works using beautiful and rich words will of meaning. Literature is an overview of a person's life communicated through the media of writing. The representation of life is called biodata or biography. Most examples of biographies are written like a hero, politicians, actors and athletes.

Biography this word may have no stranger among students because biography is one of the Indonesia language and literature materials. The word of a biography is a detailed description or account someone's life. A biography is more than a list of impersonal facts (education, work, relathionsips and death), it also portrays the subject's experience of those events, unlike a profile or curriculum viate, a biography presents the subject's story, highlighting various aspects of his or her life, including intimate details of experiences, and may include an analysis of the subject's personality. According to Toyidin (2013) in Salmaa (2021), biography is a person's curiculum or characters are written by others. Biography is made not just for a personal gain but also for the general benefits, namely we can add knowledge, conveying infromation. Biography is not made different states between a scientist, a statement, a noble, and a jobless person. The biography discussed in this research was the biography of William Blake, a famous poet from England. This research was conducted on the reason that the author found the attractive fact from William Blake.

The reason the author wants to analyze the poems and the biography of William Blake because the author found an interesting fact from William Blake that Blake was said to be unschooled but he could make so many literary works . In addition, the author thinks that in studying William Blake's biography, without us knowing that by reading their biography we can find out his life. Based on the above background context, this research focused on biography analysis of the ten poems written by William Blake. Based on the background and the focus of research, the author formulate the problem is: How is William Blake's life reflected in his selected poems? Based on the problem of research, the objective of research is: to analyze the life of William Blake were reflected in the chosen poems.

# **RESEARCH METHODS**

According to Setyosari (2010) in Wihapsari et al (2022) descriptive research is: "The research that aims to explain or describe a situation, an event is a person, or everything related to the variables that can be explained either with numbers or words. Basically, descriptive research is a study that seeks to describe and interpret something, for example situations and conditions with the existing relationship, developing opinions, consequences or effects that occur and so on (Rusandi & Rusli). According to Nazir, (2014 in Putri et al, 2021), descriptive research is researching human group status, the object, condition, the thought system or current events with the aim of making descriptive systematically, factual, and accurate regarding the fact studied. Descriptive research is research that aims to find the big picture and consequences of events, situations, behaviors, problem and phenomena in society. The purpose of this research is to answer questions that are relevant to the problem under study.

#### RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### Research result

The findings of this research were taken from the poems of William Blake, namely: "A Poison Tree", "The Tyger", "The Angel", "London", "The Little Boy Lost", "The Lamb", "The Little Boy Found", "The Chimney Sweeper", "The Land of Dreams", "The Little Black Boy". The detail explanation is presented below.

### Analysis of the poem "A Poison Tree"

A Poison Tree is a poem written in 1794 by the poet William Blake as a part of his collection of poems, Songs of Experience. Although it is one of Blake's less known poems, it is full of meaning and

is sometimes considered to be one of his finest poems, (Rosmaidar & Rezky, 2012). Blake wrote this poem to reveal the deep truth about human's wrath and the ability to harbor wrath and fester desires to an incredible extent, (Amrina et al, 2017). This poem have 4 stanzas and 16 lines. Now, the author want to analyze the poem by interpreting each stanza of the poem:

First stanza:

I was angry with my friend;

I told my wrath, my wrath did end.

I was angry with my foe;

I told it not, my wrath did grow.

In the first stanza, the poet says that he was angry with his friend many times and finally his anger ended by itself. Then in the poet's mind it turns out that he was angry with his enemy, but he did not say it directly to his enemy. So over time his anger turned into a feeling of hatred that grew in his heart.

Second stanza:

And I waterd it in fears,

*Night & morning with my tears;* 

And I sunned it with smiles,

And with soft deceitful wiles.

In the second stanza, the poet intends to tell that he is watering his anger and fear with his tears. The meaning here is that the poet tries to cover his anger and fear with tears. Then the poet returns to show his enemy so that his anger and fear are not seen and the smile is his trick.

Third stanza:

And it grew both day and night

Till it bore an apple bright--

And my foe beheld it shine.

And he knew that it was mine,

In the third stanza, the poet says that the tree that grows in the day and night produces good apples so that the enemy of the poet sees the good apples, even though he knows that the good apples are mine.

Fourth stanza:

And into my garden stole,

When the night had veild the pole.

In the morning glad I see

My foe outstretched beneath the tree.

In the fourth stanza, the poet says that his enemy entered his garden and stole. It was dark, the next day the poet was very happy because he had seen his enemy lying under the apple tree.

In poem A Poison Tree, the first stanza, explains that the poet is angry with his enemy. But the anger at his enemy is not said directly. Instead, the anger is growing in his heart. In the second stanza, the poet tries to cover his anger and fear with tears. But in front of his enemy the poet shows the anger with a smile. This means that the smile is a ruse. In the third stanza, the poet says that the tree produced good apples that belonged to the poet. In the fourth stanza, the poet says that the enemy had entered his garden and stolen during the night. The next morning, the poet returned to his garden and saw his enemy lying under a tree with his tongue sticking out. So it was said that the enemy had eaten the bright apple. The meaning of this poem is not to keep anger between our neighbors. Because that anger will bring us bad luck. So this poem reflects biography William Blake, when he goes to Felpham, Sussex for took a job from his friend, William Hailey to illustrate the works. While Blake in Sussex, except his made the works, Blake have a garden. In the garden there is the apple tree. When Blake comes to his garden, he saw the soldier is relaxed in his garden. Blake had tried to expel it, but the soldier still neglects the fugitive Blake. Finally, Blake decided to pull his hands and get out of the garden. The soldier was dissatisfied with the treatment of Blake, then the soldier said that he would carry Blake with a

prosecution. Blake was held but his friend, William Hailey come with collateral and Blake was free of the tune. Blake returned to Sussex with furious feeling in his heart, shortly then the soldier come back to Blake's garden and saw the bright apples and took it. The soldier is also dead because it has eaten Blake's apples. The soldier died in a state of the tongue that was sticking out and lay under the apple tree.

# Analysis of the poem "The Tyger"

The Tyger is a poem by the English poet William Blake published in 1794 as part of the Songs of Experience collection. The Cambridge Companion to William Blake says it is "the most anthologized poem in English. The Tyger consists of 6 stanzas and 25 lines. The Tyger is the symbol of God's power in creation, it can be related to Satan or devil, (Tarihoran, 2016). The "Tyger" from the "Songs of Experience" is considered to be the famous and greatest song among "Songs of Experience". It is a symbolic poem; it refers to the fearful power of worldly experience, (Hussain, 2005). Now, the author want to analyze the poem by interpreting each stanza of the poem:

First stanza:

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright,

In the forests of the night,

What immortal hand or eye

Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In the first stanza, the poet says that the shining tiger burns brightly in the forest at night. in addition, the poet says that what kind of hands or eyes are capable of restricting this tiger is feared.

Second stanza:

In what distant deeps or skies

Burnt the fire of thine eyes?

On what wings dare he aspire?

What the hand, dare sieze the fire?

In the second stanza, the poet asks how deep or far the fire burns or burns in the tiger's eyes. The poet again asks what wings the tiger is afraid of and whose hands dare to put out the fire.

Third stanza:

And what shoulder, & what art,

Could twist the sinews of thy heart?

And when thy heart began to beat,

What dread hand? & what dread feet?

In the third stanza, the poet asks about the shoulder and what art can turn the tiger's heart and when the tiger's heart starts functioning, what hands and feet to fear.

Fourth stanza:

What the hammer? what the chain?

In what furnace was thy brain?

What the anvil? what dread grasp

Dare its deadly terrors clasp?

In the fourth stanza, The poet again asks about the hammer and chain that are in the tiger's brain. and what is the basis of the hammer and chain.

Fifth stanza:

When the stars threw down their spears,

And water'd heaven with their tears.

Did he smile his work to see?

Did he who made the Lamb make thee?

In the fifth stanza, The poet describes that the stars threw down their spears and watered the heavens with their tears. and the poet asks if God was pleased to see his creation and if it was also God who created the lamb that God created the tiger.

Sixth stanza:

Tyger! Tyger! burning bright In the forests of the night, What immortal hand or eye Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

In the sixth stanza, In the sixth stanza, the poet repeats the conversation about the tiger shining in the middle of the forest and asks about the immortal hands and eyes that dare to restrict the tiger. With a lack of belief in the power of the tiger and God, but after seeing the evidence, he again asks if only God can create the beast.

In poem The Tyger, the first stanza, the poet says the tiger is in the forest burning like a yellow fire at midnight. This burning light reflects the bright yellow color of the tiger which makes it appear fierce. The poet's question about the eternal hand or eye refers to the Creator who created the animal with a fearsome structure. In the second stanza, the poet talks about the tiger's eyes burning inside his eyes. The fire referred to is the divine fire that comes from the creator that makes the tiger's eyes very fierce. Then the poet again talks about what wings and hands dare to catch the divine fire. In the third stanza, the poet again talks about the tiger's heart. Here the poet praises the extraordinary power and art of God who created the tiger's heart. In the fourth stanza, the poet praises the tiger's brain. The poet repeatedly asks about the tools used by the Creator. The tools here mean the divine tools used to create the brain of this deadly animal. In the fifth stanza, the poet tries to compare the ferocious tiger with the gentle sheep. When God created the tiger, the demons were frightened by the sight of the tiger so they accepted their defeat and threw down their weapons in tears. The poet thus asks, was God happy with his creation to scare the demons. So is God also the one who created an innocent lamb while a ferocious tiger is enough to scare the demons. In the sixth stanza, the poet repeats the conversation about the tiger with a lack of belief in the power of the tiger and God but after seeing the evidence, he again asks if only God could have created the beast. The meaning of this poem is the poem discusses the questions that arise in the human mind about God's creation. The poem is also about wildness and beauty. The meaning of this poem is that we should continue to seek answers to the big questions of life. So this poem reflects biography William Blake, because blake loves children and animals. And this poem is created with children rhyme.

# Analysis of the Poem "The Angel"

William Blake published The Angel in the second part of his two-part volume, Songs of Innocence and Experience, which were published by Blake himself in 1789 (Songs of Innocence) and 1794 (Songs of Experience). They were later republished as a single volume - Songs of Innocence and Experience Showing the Two Contrary States of the Human Soul. The poem consists of 4 stanzas and sixteen lines. It is one of popular poem of William Blake which shows the spiritual symbol. The angel is the symbol of the messenger of God or the divinity creature of God. In this poem the speaker tells through the frame of an angel that appears in his dream, (Tarihoran, 2016). Now, the author want to analyze the poem by interpreting each stanza of the poem:

First stanza:

I dreamt a dream!

What can it mean?

And that I was a maiden Queen Guarded by an Angel mild:

Witless woe was ne'er beguiled!

In the first stanza, the poet says that she dreams of being a maiden or queen guarded by the light of angels. Then woe betide us if we believe it.

Second stanza:

And I wept both night and day,

And he wiped my tears away;

And I wept both day and night,

And hid from him my heart's delight.

In the second stanza, The poet says that I cried every day and night and the angels wiped away my tears. but she kept crying all day by hiding the feelings of joy in my heart from the angels.

Third stanza:

So he took his wings, and fled;

Then the morn blushed rosy red.

I dried my tears, and armed my fears

With ten-thousand shields and spears.

In the third stanza, The poet said that the angel flew away and left him and returned the next morning with a blushing face and immediately the angel wiped away my tears and then the angel showed his strength with so many weapons.

Four stanza:

Soon my Angel came again;

I was armed, he came in vain;

For the time of youth was fled,

And grey hairs were on my head.

In the four stanza, The poet says that the angel came again with his weapon, but the angel came in vain. because the angel came when I was old with gray hair on my head.

In poem The Angel, in the first stanza, the poet says that she wants to be a queen where she is guarded or accompanied by angels, so it is destroyed if anyone who does not know will be deceived. In the second stanza, the poet talks about angels who wash or wipe my tears every day. But these tears are feelings of joy. In the third stanza, the poet says that the angel flaps his wings and leaves but returns again blushing but the angel tries to show his strength by carrying so many weapons. In the fourth stanza, the poet says that the angel came back but in vain because when the angel left I was young, but when the angel came I was old and gray hair had grown. The meaning of this poem is don't waste your chance or time with the people closest to you. Because we don't know when the time will be over. So this poem reflects biography William Blake, when Blake was growing up, he was considered "different" for having eyesight. It was during this time that Blake claimed to have his first vision a tree full of angels. At the age of 8 or 10, Blake reported seeing angels and stars to his parents but his parents did not believe him, but it was a world where having visions was not unusual. One of the important traumatic events in Blake's life was the death of his beloved 24 year old brother Robert, from tuberculosis in 1787. During the two weeks Blake stayed with his deceased brother, Blake saw the released spirit ascend to heaven through the manifest ceiling, clapping its hands with joy.

### Analysis of the Poem "London"

London is another Blake's poems in the songs of experience. It is written in 1794. Based on the line and appearance this poem has close structure, and it consists of four quatrains with rhyming scheme ABAB. "London" is one of the most famous Blake's poems in his songs of experience. It is a depiction about suffering and unhappiness of London people. The man lack of freedom and the causes of this lack is "the mind forg'd manacles"; attitude which take away of thought and action, (Mulyati, 2018). In this poem, Blake draws from his personal observations and gives a comprehensive picture of the many miseries, physical and spiritual, in the English capital London. He paints a picture of the dirty, miserable

streets of London and describes the wretched people at the bottom of the society: the chimney-sweepers, soldiers, and harlots. The entire poem centers on the wails of these people from their pain and the injustices done to them, and exposes the gap between those in power and the misery of poor people. The poem is representative of English economic problems of the time, condemning many powerful institutions such as the church, royalty, the new industries, and the military. The main subject and theme of this poem is man's lack of freedom and the causes of this lack. It is a relatively unique poem, in that it takes such a negative and critical view of London, when at the time the city represented the pinnacle of technology, and was considered the center of western culture and Brutish Empire, (Zhan, 2013). Now, the author want to analyze the poem by interpreting each stanza of the poem:

First stanza:

I wander thro' each charter'd street,

Near where the charter'd Thames does flow.

And mark in every face I meet

Marks of weakness, marks of woe.

In the first stanza, The poet said that he walked along the charter road where the charter flowed, along the road the poet found and saw faces marked with fatigue and the misfortune of being oppressed.

Second stanza:

In every cry of every Man,

In every Infants cry of fear,

In every voice: in every ban,

The mind-forg'd manacles I hear

In the second stanza, The poet says that he hears the screams or shouts of every man and the cries of babies who are frightened by the sound of every prohibition or order and handcuffs heard in the poet's mind.

Third stanza:

How the Chimney-sweepers cry

Every blackning Church appalls,

And the hapless Soldiers sigh

Runs in blood down Palace walls

In third stanza, The poet asks how come the chimney sweeps are weeping and in every church the black is electrifying and the poor soldiers are screaming running around with blood splattered on the palace walls.

Four stanza:

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 four stanza, The poet said that he listened more to young prostitutes giving birth, the loud cries of newborn babies in the middle of the night and the plague of marriage.

In poem London, the first stanza, the poet describes the many things he encounters along the chartered streets of London where there are many charters. Along the way he sees very tired faces where there are signs of misfortune. In the Second stanza, the poet hears the cries of every man and baby, a child who has not even learned to speak has delivered this message of oppression. It is as if everything is held in bondage with every prohibition or order with handcuffs in hand. In the third stanza, the poet mentions that there are two institutions associated with wealth and grandeur, the palace and the church. The chimney sweeps of the church are small children abused through their work, many children also die of illness and injury from doing this work and the unfortunate fate of the soldiers sent to fight the war spilling their blood running down the walls of the palace. In the fourth stanza, the poet listens more

to the loud cries in the middle of the streets of London at night by a young mother who is also a prostitute and the cries of a newborn baby cursing her newborn baby's cries with the plague of the wedding hearse. It seems to mean that the unwanted child of the young unmarried mother and the misery of the mother and baby are the final nail or decision in the coffin. The meaning of this poem is we must be generous and unselfish and think of others. We must try to help others who are not as experienced as we are. Main message: the tragedy of industrialization and how it negatively affects people. So this poem reflects biography William Blake, because London is his hometown. In the city of London there are chimney sweepers, young prostitutes, but the soldiers who lost war so that the blood poured out on the church wall. Blake saw the city of London full of misery and dirty.

## Analysis of the Poem "The Little Boy Lost"

The Little Boy Lost and The Little Boy Found are William Blake's poem written in 1789. These poems are 13th and 14th poem in Songs of Innocence and these poems were written as a couple of poem. These poems have correlation each other, which tell about a little boy who is seeking his father that never found. Finally he is rescued by God to find his affection, (Indratwuri, 2013). Now, the author want to analyze the poem by interpreting each stanza of the poem:

First Stanza:

Father, father, where are you going?

Oh do not walk so fast!

Speak, father, speak to your little boy,

Or else I shall be lost.

In the first stanza, the poet tells the story of a little boy who was looking for his father, his father was walking so fast that the boy could not find his father's footsteps. The father of the boy did not listen to his voice. The boy was afraid that he would get lost.

Second Stanza:

The night was dark, no father was there,

The child was wet with dew;

The mire was deep, and the child did weep,

And away the vapour flew.

In the second stanza, The poet describes that in that dark night there was no father of the boy. The boy was covered by a thick fog so that the boy was wet and there was deep mud in the forest. The boy cried with steam coming out of his mouth.

In poem The Little Boy Lost, the first stanza, the poet plays the role of a little boy. The boy asks his father where his father has gone, but his father is walking so fast that he does not hear the boy's call. His father ignores him. He says that he will be lost if his father does not reply to his call. In the Second stanza, the poet says, in the dark night there is no father there. The child was misted by thick dew and deep mud, the boy cried with steam coming out of his mouth. This poem tells the story of a little boy lost in the forest looking for his father. In this search, the boy's "father" becomes more and more distant from him, and the boy cannot hear or see him. The meaning of this poem is don't waste our time with those closest to us. Because we don't know when the time will be over. So this poem reflects biography William Blake, his father had died when Blake was still small. But Blake was not discouraged because Blake always gaped that God is always on his side. Alhough their family is famous for the chruch dissidents.

# Analysis of the poem "The Lamb"

The lamb is Blake's poem in the song of innocence. It is written in 1789. Based on the line and appearance this poem has close structure. It is a meditation poem; means about a physical object; an

animal, but it addresses to God grander and his creation. It has peaceful style, (Mulyati, 2018). Now, the author want to analyze the poem by interpreting each stanza of the poem:

First Stanza:

A Little Lamb, who made thee?

Dost thou know who made thee?

Gave thee life, and bid thee feed,

By the stream and o'er the mead;

Gave thee clothing of delight,

Softest clothing, woolly, bright;

Gave thee such a tender voice,

Making all the vales rejoice?

Little Lamb, who made thee?

Dost thou know who made thee?

In the first stanza, The poet talks about the little lamb who has made or created the lamb, here the question again arises to the lamb that who made you, gave life, gave food, gave a place by the river above the meadow, gave soft clothes, smooth and clean light, a soft voice, so that the valley all rejoiced.

Second Stanza:

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee,

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee.

He is called by thy name,

For He calls Himself a Lamb.

He is meek, and He is mild;

He became a little child.

I a child, and thou a lamb,

We are called by His name.

Little Lamb, God bless thee!

LittleLamb,God bless thee

In the second stanza, the poet said that he would tell the lamb about who made him. the poet said that the one who made him is the same as him. the one who made you is gentle and delicate. he became a little child and you are a lamb and God bless the little lamb.

In the poem The Lamb, in the first stanza, the poet talks about how someone has created the lamb by giving it life, shelter, clothing and a voice. in the second stanza, the poet says that he will tell the lamb that it was created by someone. this someone is also the same as you. The meaning of this poem is that the one who creates living things in this world is God. so is this lamb. So this poem reflect biography William Blake, because blake loves children and animals. Blake asked God about this soft work or creation.

## Analysis of the poem "The Little Boy Found"

The Little Boy Found appeared in William Blake's 1789 volume Songs of Experience, where it follows the companion-poem 'The Little Boy Lost', (Tearle, 2019). This poem contain 2 stanzas and have 8 lines. Now, the author want to analyze the poem by interpreting each stanza of the poem:

First stanza;

The little boy lost in the lonely fen,

Led by the wandering light,

Began to cry, but God, ever nigh,

Appeared like his father, in white.

In the first stanza, the poet talks about a little boy at the edge of a lonely swamp where only light appears. The little boy searched and cried but only God was always near. The Light appeared to look like his father white clothes.

Second stanza;

He kissed the child, and by the hand led,

And to his mother brought,

Who in sorrow pale, through the lonely dale,

The little boy weeping sought.

In the second stanza, the poet says that he kissed the child, here referring to the light that looked like his father. The father kissed the boy, and the father took his hand and led him back to his mother. The boy looked for his father pale and sad and walke alone in the lonely valley.

In the poem The Little Boy Found, in the first stanza, the poet tells the story of a boy who is looking for his father in a lonely swamp. But, I the swamp there was only a searching light. The light looks like his white father. In the second stanza, the light that reembles is father kisses him. Then, the light leads him back to his mother. The child is pale and sad because he is looking for his father in a lonely swamp. It means that we as human's don't need to be afraid of being alone. Because, there is someone who always looks after us without us knowing. So this poem reflects biography William Blake, because even though Blake himself in the world. And Blake was always convinced and believes that God exists with him and was with every move.

## Analysis of the poem "The Chimney Sweeper"

The Chimney Sweeper was published in 1789. The poem examnies the duties that children have to society as a whole. While there is an overriding sense of an allegiance to duty in the poem, the poem's situational irony complicates the relationship between children and responsibility. The final line of The Chimney Sweeper best demonstrates this complicated relationship, (Wardani, 2020). Now, the author want to analyze the poem by interpreting each stanza of the poem:

First stanza;

A little black thing among the snow,

Crying weep, weep, in notes of woe!

Where are thy father & mother? Say?

They are both gone up to the church to pray.

In the first stanza, The poet says that at that time, the poet saw a boy who was working. the boy in the lyrics is said to be an "object" because at that time human children were forced to work like a tool that could be used. the boy was said to be black because he was working as a chimney sweep, the conditions of the children at that time were very sad, the boy was dirty because he was working in the chimney but with a winter atmosphere, the boy cried in his misery then the poet went to him and asked about the whereabouts of his parents, then, the boy replied that his parents went to church to pray.

Second stanza;

Because I was happy upon the heath,

And smil'd among the winters snow:

They clothed me in the clothes of death,

And taught me to sing the notes of woe.

In the second stanza, the poet listens to the boy's words, that he is very happy over his health meaning that the boy is very tired but he shows his parents that he is fine. even during the winter, the boy remains happy because of the cold snow. but on the one hand, his parents tell him to wear death clothes meaning torn and dirty clothes and teach him to sing notes of woe or misery.

Third stanza:

And because I am happy & dance and sing,

They think they have done me no injury:

And are gone to praise God & his Priest & King

Who make up a heaven of our misery.

In the third stanza, The child told me again, just because the child looked happy, dancing and singing. the parents thought they were doing the right thing, then the child said that the parents went straight back to praise God for their child's happiness, but the child said that the church is where our heaven of is misery.

In the poem The Chimney Sweeper, in the first stanza, the poet is walking around the streets of london and sees a boy at work. the boy is dirty and black because he is forced to work as a chimney sweep in winter. the boy cries, but his parents go to church to pray. in the second stanza, the boy tries to cover up his misery with feelings of happiness while enjoying the cold winter. so that his parents do not know that he is suffering a lot. while he is working, his parents tell him to straighten his dirty and torn clothes and teach him to sing notes of woe or misery. In the third stanza, judging from the happy expression, his parents thought that they had done the right thing. but the child was very disappointed because his parents had told him to work as a church chimney sweep, then with the feeling of seeing the child in a happy state, the parents immediately went to praise God, but from the child's view that the church is a paradise that has filled him with misery, because at that time, poor parents suffered oppression and forced labor, the poor are the lower class. It means Blake didn't like this oppression, this cruelty. So, Blake wanted to protect the children for the sake of the cruelty towards the poor at that time.

# Analysis of the poem "The Land of Dreams"

The poem The Land of Dreams was written in 1800. William Blake was a remarkable poet who showed throughout his texts a desire for liberty emphasizing the individual, (Abella). William Blake's poems The Land of Dreams features many dream images. The poem talks about a boy's dream of this magical place called The Land of Dreams. In his dream, the boy also sees his mother and brother, Thomas. (Olagoke, 2015). Now, the author want to analyze the poem by interpreting each stanza of the poem:

First Stanza:

Awake, awake my little Boy!

Thou wast thy Mother's only joy;

Why dost thou weep in thy gentle sleep?

Awake! thy Father does thee keep.

In the first stanza, begins with a father's call to his son who is fast asleep, the child's sleep was so deep, the father saw and heard that his son was dreaming of his mother who had died sadly. Then the father said to his son that you are your mother's favorite child. But your father is always beside you.

Second stanza:

"O, what land is the Land of Dreams?

What are its mountains, and what are its streams?

O Father, I saw my Mother there,

Among the lillies by waters fair.

In the second stanza, the son starts to wake up from his dream and asks his father. Father what land is called the land of dreams and its mountains and what are its streams? the son said to his father that he saw mother among the flowers and the beautiful shore of the water in his dream.

Third stanza:

Among the lambs clothed in white,

She walked with her Thomas in sweet delight.

I wept for joy, like a dove I mourn;

O when shall I return again?

In the third stanza, meanwhile, the picture in the dream is between a group of sheep and a person wearing white walking with (Thomas) the boy very happily. Thomas said that he was crying happily like a dove but I'm sad when will I come again? here Thomas asked someone in white.

Fourth stanza:

Dear child, I also by pleasant streams

Have wandered all night in the Land of Dreams;

But though calm and warm the waters wide,

I could not get to the other side.

In the fourth stanza, a mother tells her child that she has been by a good river and has been all night long. However, even though the water was calm and warm, I couldn't get through it. This is that the mother just stays silent by the river and cannot go beyond everything that is around the river.

Fifth stanza:

"Father, O Father, what do we here

*In this land of unbelief and fear?* 

The Land of Dreams is better far

Above the light of the Morning Star."

In the fifth stanza, the son asked his father that "father what are we doing in this land of disbelief and fear? The land of dreams is much more pleasant above there is starlight. The land of dreams is a beautiful dreamland that he saw his mother there.

In the poem The Land of Dreams, in the first stanza begins with a father calling out to his son who is fast asleep. The father sees and hears that his son is dreaming of his dead mother. The father tells his son that he is his mother's favorite son. But his father remains with him. In the second stanza, the boy wakes up and asks about the land he dreamed of where there are streams of water, mountains. He also says that he saw his mother among the beautiful flower gardens and streams in his dream. In the fifth stanza, it explains that the image in the dream was a group of sheep and a person wearing white clothes walking with Thomas' brother (his brother). Thomas cried with happiness but on the other hand he was also sad because he did not know when he could come again to this dreamland. In the fourth stanza, the person in white is a mother. The mother tells her son that she is already on the bank of the river, although the river is clean, warm and calm. She could not cross it. The mother just stays by the river without moving. In the fifth stanza, the sleeping child wakes up and asks his father about life in this country. While in the land of dreams it is much more beautiful because in addition to the beautiful scenery, his mother is also there. It means that, The boy lost his innocence and childlike spirit for life. He describes his terrifying world of disbelief and fear. You may not believe your mother is dead and you are filled with fear of what might happen to you. People die, they know that one day their father will die and they will die too. She then reveals that dreamland is much better than death and goes to dreamland with her mother. So this poem reflects biography William Blake, since childhood Blake wants to be a poet and painter.

# Analysis of the poem "The Little Black Boy"

The Little Black Boy that is in his book entitled Songs of Innocence was published in 1879. Poetry is one of the kinds of literary works that can be used by the author to say his or her feeling based on the situation and condition at the time the work is written, (Prapanca, 2015). Now, the author wants to analyze the poem by interpreting each stanza of the poem:

First Stanza:

My mother bore me in the southern wild,

And I am black, but O! my soul is white;

White as an angel is the English child:

But I am black as if bereav'd of light

In the first stanza, the poet tells the story of being born in the southern wilderness. He is black but his heart is pure white. White as an angel who is a child of England. She is dark black.

Second Stanza:

My mother taught me underneath a tree

And sitting down before the heat of day,

She took me on her lap and kissed me,

And pointing to the east began to say.

In the second stanza, the poet says that he and his mother were under a tree since morning. My mother took me into her lap and kissed me. And started to tell a story while pointing towards the east.

Third Stanza:

Look at the rising sun: there god does live

And gives his light, and gives his heat away.

And flowers and trees and beasts and men receive

Comfort in morning joy in the nooday.

In the third stanza, the mother says that the sun rises from the east and that is where God is. So God gives his light and heat. God also gives flowers, trees, animals and people. So that we can enjoy them.

Fourth Stanza:

And we are put on earth a little space,

That we may learn to bear the beams of love,

And these black bodies and this sun-burn face

Is but a cloud, and like a shady grove?

In the fourth stanza, the mother says that we are placed by God on a small earth, so that we can learn to bear the rays of love, black bodies and sunburnt faces. But only clouds and rain are shady.

Fifth Stanza:

For when our souls have learned the heat to bear

The cloud will vanish we'll hear his voice.

Saying: come out from the grove my love & care,

And round my golden tent like lambs rejoice.

In the fifth stanza, The mother says, when the soul has learned to bear the heat, the clouds will disappear and we will hear the voice coming out of the forest of my love and care. Then circle my golden tent like happy lambs.

Sixth Stanza:

Thus did my mother say and kissed me,

And thus I say to tittle English boy.

When I from black and he from white cloud free,

And round the tent of God like lambs we joy:

In the sixth stanza, to end it My mother kissed me. But when I am of black and she is of pure white and surrounds the valley of God like a lamb to our liking.

Seventh Stanza:

I'll shade hir from the heat until he can bear,

To lean in joy upon our fathers knee.

And then I will stand and stroke his silver hair,

And be like him and he will then love me.

In the seventh stanza, his mother said that she would protect him from the heat until he was able to bear the heat. But when we want to lean in joy to the father (God) we must kneel. And then I stood up and stroked his hair and he said be like him and he will love me too.

In the poem The Little Black Boy in the first stanza, the poet says that she was born in nature, has dark black skin but has a pure white heart like an angel. In the second stanza, the two of them have been under the tree since morning and her mother holds her on her lap and kisses her while pointing to the east. In the third stanza, his mother says that God is down there so God gives us light, heat, trees, flowers, animals so that we can enjoy it all. In the fourth stanza, we are placed on this small earth so that we can get sunlight. Only the face and body are sunburnt, but the clouds with rain are not. In stanza five, when we can endure the heat, the clouds will disappear and we can listen to the sound of the forest that attracts me and then surround the golden place like a happy lamb. in stanza six, and to end the conversation, mom kisses me but I am black while she is white like a lamb. In stanza seven, mother will protect me from the heat until she can bear the heat. But when we want to lean on our father, we have to kneel. And then mom stood up and brushed back my silver hair and said be like him and he will love you too. The meaning of this poem is that Blake wanted to abolish slavery that occurred during the industrial revolution. At that time, young black children were miserable because they were forced to work. So this poem reflect biography William Blake, the difference between black and white skin races. This difference between race or skin takes place in the city of London, for young people who are black in forced to work than white people.

## Discussion

Based on the findings there are several points to discuss. In poem A Poison Tree, the poem illustrate that Blake was angry with his enemy bacause the enemy entered without his knowledge and eats the apple in the garden. The findings from the research (Amrina et al, 2017) the first stanza describes the inner feelings of the speaker. The first and second lines show that the speaker is angry to his friend since he has a problem with him or her. In the poem The Tyger, the poem illustrate that Blake asked about the creator of the tyger and this statement, also found in the research of (Neupane, 2020) that the speaker in the poem is puzzled at the sight of a tyger at night, and he asks it a series of questions about its fierce appearance and about the creator who made it. In addition poem the tyger is a children's rhyme, like statement from (Spacey, 2017) he said that what makes the poems so unique is their nursery rhyme appearance full rhyme and appealing rhythms holding such a wealth of meaning. Blake gave us superb lyric, but combined symbolism and metaphor within which adds a cutting edge. In poem The Angel, the poem illustrate that Blake dream of a protective angel. And the angel comes but when Blake was old. The angel comes as a hero and indicating that blake continues his works, the statement found in the other research of (Rosmaidar & Rezky) that the poem questioned the meaning of a dream where an angel visited the narrator on a number of occasions and finally left the hurt to the Queen. An angel symbolize a man who tried to comfort a young queen. He was wiping tears of the queen who grieve everyday. The man left the woman suddenly, perhaps because he is unaware with the queen"s love. In poem London, the poem illustrate that in that period the London city experienced misery and insult. The children were forced to work as a chimney sweepers, the statement found in the other research of (Mulyati, 2019) this poem tells about London's citizens. Specifically, it is about Blake's anger towards political times throughout Blake's life. Which means it is about unhappiness; atrocities, poverty, and injustice that happened in London. The examples of those who are not free are; the chimney sweep, the soldiers, and prostitute. It is something ironic where the fact the monarchy sits within the palace. In poem little boy lost, illustrate that in that a boy who is losing his father in the middle of the forest. And during the child'd disbursement period there was only light that appeared before him. The light came as if he saved him or not. This poem is about losing human soul, the statement supported by the statement from (Ardhani, 2020), it can be interpreted that this poem is about a human soul who loses his/her way of life when they are in a tough situation of life. They are looking for a figure that can save their lives or help them get out of their cruelties. They feel like their grips of life leave them; however, the truth is they are not left. In poem The lamb, illustrate that in that asked about the creator of the lamb

and these poem are children just like poem the tyger and also this poem are highly iconic and this supported by the statement from (Montalti, 2018) The "The Lamb" and "The Tyger" are two of Blake's most iconic poems for their nursery rhyme feel, in part due to their repetition and rhyme. "The Lamb" poem seems to pair well with its text. Some prominent figures in the illustration are the lambs and the child who feeds the animal. Lamb and child are one in this image, both creations of God, but also representations of God himself. The lamb appears to be gentle, calm, and a part of a flock. In poem The little boy found, illustrate that in that blake sees light that emerges is his father who is looking for all this time. The light appeared like a picture of man and that light later held his hand and took him home to his mother. Blake believes that the light that arises is the picture of God and the statement found in the other research of (Baigy & Bahman, 2014) The Little Boy found also works with environmental consciousness and concerns with the consequences of urbanization on traditionally agricultural societies. Regarding the moral comprehensive concept of the poem, Blake's readers might find the notion of 'God' as an allegory to show His love and care that is objects of God's love and concern. The moral tone of the poem is carried by Blake's scholarly choice of imageries. Here, Blake's readers are directed toward the Christian conception of God while the child 'Began to cry', and God 'ever nigh', 'Appeared like his father, in white'. To Blake, the holly image of 'God' appears in the figure of Jesus Christ. In Christ's heart, the full of everlasting light of God shows the only right way for those who have suffered like the innocent children among the materialistic world. In poem The Chimney sweepers, the poem illustrate that blake sees childreen who are sacrificed by his parents to work as a chimney sweepers and they were forcibly to wear away to dirty and torn clothes, this statement supported by the statement from (Wardani, 2020) Interpretation of The Chimney Sweeper: The poem contains the following contrast: the chimney sweeper is working and covered in soot while mother and father have gone to church to pray. The chimney sweeper symbolizes the plight of England's children (chimney sweeper was a horrible job done by children because they were small enough to fit in the chimney and clean it). Fathers and mothers symbolize those responsible for taking care of children, be it the church, the king, or adults in general. It denounces the hypocrisy of the upper classes for praising God & Priest & King while ruining the lives of children. In poem The land of dreams, the poem illustrate that when childhood blake wants to be a poet and painter. Even though blake was not a school, blake still he learns of his mother's home in addition, he also blake learns to paint his father. Initially Blake tried to paint from the antique statues of daru, since then his father learned his flair and then his father entered the school of painting. This opinion is also found in the research (Triyatun, 2012), namely, Blake had never gone to school. At the beginning of Blake was influenced by the Bible which was the guidelines in his life, but all of the things taught in school he studied at home with his mother, in addition he also practices the painting of his father. The first time Blake painted a patung- antique statue of Greece. Knowing the talent from Bkale, her parents put her to school painting. When 15 years old, Blake apprentice for a sculptor named James Basire in Great Queen Street. At his 21st age, he has managed to become a good painter and a reliable sculptor. In 1778 Blake managed to be one of the students at Royal Academy at Old Somerset House. In the late 1700s Britain had a transition of two periods, at that moment Blake began his career as a writer. In poem The little black boy, the poem illustrate that there is a difference between race or tribe or a white and black and radical situation, this supported by the statement from (Prapanca, 2015) the poem does not only has deep meaning, but also contains issues related to the condition of life, such as racial and religion.

#### **CONCLUSION**

After analyzing William Blake's Poems, the author can conclude that in William Blake's life there are joys and sorrows, struggles, glory days, and getting his first vision in his biography. All ten poems describe his anger at his enemies, his love for children and animals, his family, his home and his literary

works. The reflection of his life with his family and as an English poet, engraver, printmaker and painter, is reflected in his biography. In short it can be said the all poems is reflected the life of William Blake.

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