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The controlling idea of a poem is the idea continuously developed throughout the poem by sets of key words that identify the poet's subject and his attitude or feeling about it. It may also be suggested by the title of a poem or by segment of the poem. It is rarely stated explicitly by the poet, but it can be stated by the reader and it can be stated in different ways. The controlling idea is an idea, not a moral; it is a major idea, not a minor supporting idea or detail; and it controls or dominates the poem as a whole (Tripod Online, 2015).

Based on the statement above, it can be concluded that the theme is the description of the soul of a poem. It is clear that in a poem a poet wants to express something to readers. The poet wants to describe his feelings, his thoughts, with a view or experience the events and write it into words.

#### 2.1.5 Historical criticism

Historical criticism views literature as not only the product of one artist's urge to say something but also a product of its historical time, shaped by the norms, hopes, fears, biases, attitudes, and limitation of the day (Gillespie 33). Therefore, the thesis writer as the reader of the literary work that wants to analyze, must focus to its historical context and pay attention to what contemporary issues it reflects at the era in which it was written.

Historical criticism main emphasis is to understand a literary work relying on the culture, intellectual, and social context that produced it. Moreover, Rachid

Merzouki on his book entitled *Literary Criticism* gives statement that the author's life and biography is considered to be the first step to analyze the literary work (03). Therefore a historical approach depends on the author and his world. In the historical view, it is important to understand the author and his world in order to understand his intention and to make sense of his work. In this view, the work is informed by the author's beliefs, prejudices, time, and history, and to fully understand the work, the thesis writer must understand the author and his age.

There are many advantages to analyze a literary work uses historical approach. The reader and the writer can understand some histories era includeing the history of the author when he writes the literary work and the history that the author writes on the text. Meanwhile, Tim Gillespie also argues that without historical context the reader and the writer are just flat out incomprehensible (38). Thus, the literary work or play located in a specific period is likely to be more meaningful if the reader and the writer knows something about its historical context. For example, the reader will likely have a richer reading experience if the reader knows about ancient Rome when the reader read some literary work telling about the ancient Rome.

To point out, the writer concludes these statements above that historical criticism has some ways to limited analysis. But the writer focuses in one way is uses historical approach that author of the literary work as context.



writer will be faced on the author that has a different mind, his literary work that will be analyzed by the thesis writer also contains the natural imitation, it mean that what the author reflects in his work, it can be said it is the something real. It is some problem that ever happens in the beginning nineteenth century when the time is still full evidence and the time is the history time. So, the thesis writer also analyzes the author life that has relating with something he wrote. Secondly, the thesis writer is not only influence with the some event in nineteenth century but some event in the past time especially the time that the author focuses the time his work.

According to the Broadview Presssays that the historicist approaches of some others twentieth century literary critics, however took the historical context (71). Historical criticism is the literary critics that it can be flexible critic. While the previous paragraph someone argues that the historical criticism is dominant in the beginning of nineteenth century, but in this case Broadview argues that another literary works in the twentieth century such as the new critical literary they can be related by the historical criticism, depend on the content that has the historical context.

To point out, while the thesis writer is analyzing a literary work uses historical approach of author as the context, the work will be following some steps; they are objective interpretation, determinateness of textual meaning and verification trough to his work.

### 2.1.7 Objective interpretation

E. D. Hirsch, Jr says in his book *Permission of the Modern Language Association of America* that objective interpretation is to make the search for the author's meaning once again the main business of literary study and to provide for that study a closely argued rationale that will allow it to stand as "a corporate enterprise and a progressive discipline" (463). In this matter, based on his statement above, Hirsch also makes some criteria for giving some meanings in literary work; it must be coherent and it is not only has an absolutely quality but also has a validity for the invoked interpretation.

### 2.1.8 Determinateness of textual meaning

In this section, the thesis writer will understand literary work related to the textual meaning. It can understand over interpretative of the text will based on appeal to logical necessity and not to actual practice (Hoy 16). So, the writer who will interpret the text as the first step, it is getting the different meaning. Because, the text that might represent several structures of meaning does not imply that it does in fact represent all the meanings which a particular word sequence can legally convey. It almost cannot directly solve the interpreter's problem. It is to say that a text represents the determinate meaning of an author, but it is quite another to find what that meaning is. Therefore, the very same text could represent many different meaning performances. That's way of this steps will be explained by the thesis writer on the verification steps.



### 2.1.9 Verification

Verification is the last step to get available meaning in analyzing a literary work using historical approach. While the previous step still get the problem in interpretation, in this section, the thesis writer can never be certain that what is read is correct. The thesis writer will find out the particular meaning which is specified by particular kinds of subjective act on the part of the author, and that these acts, such as remain unavailable.

Based on the method of this study, the verification is the process of the truthfulness or the meaning being asserted in the study. Lisa M. Given also says this process is a confirmability. She says that the confirmability is an accurate means through which to verify the two basic goals of qualitative study:

1. To understand a phenomena from the perspective of the study.
2. To understand the meaning of the author gives to his experiences.

Confirmability is concerned with providing evidence that the writer's interpretation is root in the data analysis and the resulting findings and conclusions can be verified as reflective of and grounded in the perceptions (112). Furthermore, verification step can be expressed as the degree to which the result of the study is based on the study purpose.

## 2.2 Previous study

To broaden this study the thesis writer takes several previous studies as a comparative study that have relevant point in order to get some important matters to help this study, those study are:

The first writer is Kent Ljungquist, he is from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and he is analyzing *The Coliseum* by Edgar Allan Poe focuses on dialogues. His work entitled *The Coliseum: a Dialogue of Ruins* because of it, he analyzes all dialogue between the speaker and the ruin. He also analyze some intonations, spelling and then he connect his work depend on the other author to get some meanings. He does not use a literary approach but he uses theoretical of linguistic to help his work solve the problem.

The second writer is Hussain, he is thirteen years old when he writes his work. He writes on his site and says that he still seven grade. He analyze *The Coliseum* by Edgar Allan Poe does not same with previous writer, not only some language approach that he uses in his analyze but also some literature and historical background that he also analyze. But he does not applicant his work with the theoretical approach. Moreover, he can analyze a literary work completely related to his knowledge.