

I INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

There are two testaments in the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Beside that, there are also many versions of the Bible. Some of them are: King James Version (KJV), New International Version (NIV), and New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

Many people think that the contents of the Old Testament of the Bible mostly is poetry, especially the Psalms. According to Metzger's opinion (1993: 598) close to one-third of Old Testament is poetry. Another expert, Capps (1971: 158), also wrote that when the early English translator labored with ancient Bible transcripts, they did not suspect that much of the book was poetry.

According to Compton's Interactive Bible NIV at Expert Introduction to Psalms' page, the psalms are the production of various authors. Only a portion of the Book of Psalms claims David as the author.

Other inspired poets in successive generations added now one another contribution to the sacred collection, and thus in the wisdom of Providence it more completely reflects every phase of human emotion and circumstances than it otherwise could. But it is specially to David and his contemporaries that we owe this precious book.

According to The NIV Study Bible, the names "Psalms" and "Psalter" come from the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament), where they originally referred to stringed instruments (such as harp, lyre and lute), then to songs sung with their accompaniment.

According to Elwell (1988: 1794) Psalms are poems sung to musical accompaniment, originally the harp. Imagery and figurative language are some of the aspects of poetry, and they are conveyed in the Psalms. Elwell (1988: 1729) also gave his opinion, furthermore he said,

"In the former are found passages of elevated poetry, studded with brilliant gems of imagery. The movement is rhythmical, with meter, parallelism, and strophic arrangement, as in the poetry books. ...The Hebrew language was an ideal instrument for expressing poetic speech. Its simplicity of form combined intensity of feeling and pictorial power and allowed great play of imagination, figures, metaphors and hyperboles are extremely common. In its powerful imagery the genius of Hebrew poetry comes to finest expression."

The writer of this study is challenged to study the poetry in the Bible, in this case Psalms, because it is the root of the American and English Poetry. The writer is curious about the imagery and figurative language of King David's psalms.

In this case, the writer focusses only the New International Version.

The purpose of this study is to analyze and translate the imagery and figurative language to find the meaning of the book of Psalms written by King David in New International Version. Hopefully, the result of this study can help the readers to understand more about the Psalms of David. If the readers can understand it, automatically they can feel the beauty and poetic spirit of this book.

1.2 The Statement of the Problems

Since the study is concerned with the comparison, imagery and figurative language in King David's psalms between King James Version and New International Version, the questions surrounding the study that need to be answered are:

1. What words of imagery are found in David's psalms in New International Version?
2. What figurative language is found in David's psalms in New International Version?
3. What meaning does the figurative language use in David's Psalms convey?

1.2 The Objective of the Study

Regarding to the questions outlined above, which are the words of imagery, the figurative language that can be found in David's psalms in New International Version.

The writer attempts to figure out the words of imagery and figurative language in David's psalms, therefore the writer can make an analysis study of the imagery and figurative language in New International Version. The writer also wants to analyze the meaning of the figurative language in David's psalms.

1.3 The Significance of the Study

The writer collected the data through the books which have correlation with this study as mentioned in the Bibliography.

The writer hopes that the result of the study and the way the study is conducted would give a motivation to the readers to read and understand more about the psalms written by King David in New International Version, so that the readers can feel the beauty and the poetic spirit from the book of Psalms.

1.4 The Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study will include the discussion about King's David's psalms only in three chapters. After reading those three chapters for several times, the writer chooses some verses because they mostly contain imagery and figurative language based on the theories of imagery and figurative language, they are chapters 27: 7-12, 108:1-5, and 119:38-42

The writer also limits the version of the Bible. She chooses the New International Version because this version is the most common version read by the readers.

1.5 Definition of the Key Terms

To clarify the meanings of the key terms concerning the study, the writer used the meanings from her own knowledge and from a dictionary, then adjusted the

meanings to fit with the Psalms that the writer intend to convey in this study.

Psalm.

According to the Oxford Dictionary (1989:1007) Psalm is sacred song or hymn especially one of those in the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament.

New International Version.

According to The NIV Study Bible, 10th Anniversary Edition by Zondervan Publishing House(1995), The NIV is completely new translation of the Holy Bible made by over a hundred scholars working directly from the best available Hebrew, Aramic and Greek texts.

Poetry

The idea that poetry displays that almost indefinable quality of emotional and imaginative impact is expressed by Little (1963:158).

Imagery

Use of figurative language to produce pictures in the minds of readers (Oxford,1989:619).

Figurative Language

According to Perrine (1969:65) a figure of speech is a way of saying something other than the ordinary way.

1.6 The Organization of the Study

The study is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is the Introduction which

consists of the background knowledge, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, clarification of the key term, and the organization of the study. Chapter II is the Review of the Related Literature for instance: imagery, figurative language, and related study.

Chapter III explains the Research Method; Analytical method is used in this study (content analysis). Chapter IV is the Analysis of the Study, and the last is chapter V presents the Conclusion.