

SYMBOLS IN WILLIAM BLAKE'S POETRY *SONG OF EXPERIENCE*

Rosmaidar¹, Rezky Fitraturrahmahi²

Dosen Universitas Bina Darma¹, Mahasiswa Universitas Bina Darma²

Jalan Ahmad Yani No.3, Palembang

Sur-el: rosmaidar@mail.binadarma.ac.id¹, rezky@mail.binadarma.ac.id²

Abstract: *This study is entitled Symbols in William Blake's Poetry Song of Experience. In this study, the writers are interested to know what the symbols that appears and the meaning of those symbols. The writers investigated 20 poetry from William Blake in the episode of Song of Experience. In this study, the writers used a qualitative method and descriptive approach. The result of the analysis shows that there are 42 symbols in 20 poems from Song of Experience. Most of the symbols appear are contextual symbols and the others are conventional symbols. 23 contextual symbols (54,8%) appear in 17 poems and 19 conventional symbols (45,2%) appear in 12 poems from 20 poetry. Each symbol in each poem in Song of Experience has different meaning. There are symbols that mostly occur in different poems, such as rose and tree, but they give different meaning. The meanings of those symbols are influenced by the context of the poems.*

Keywords: *Symbols, William Blake, and Song of Experience.*

Abstrak: *Penelitian ini berjudul Symbols in William Blake's Poetry Song of Experience. Pada penelitian ini, penulis tertarik untuk mengetahui apa saja simbol yang muncul dan arti dari setiap simbol. Penulis meneliti 20 puisi dari William Blake pada Song of Experience. Pada penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan metodologi kualitatif dan pendekatan deskriptif. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 42 simbol dari Song of Experience. Simbol yang paling banyak ditemukan adalah kontekstual simbol dan yang lain adalah konvensional simbol. 23 kontekstual symbols (54,8%) ditemukan pada 17 puisi dan 19 conventional symbols (45,2%) ditemukan pada 12 puisi dari 20 puisi. Setiap simbol di setiap puisi di Song of Experience memiliki perbedaan makna. Banyak simbol yang sering muncul di puisi berbeda, seperti mawar dan pohon. Makna dari tiap simbol dipengaruhi oleh konteks dari tiap puisi.*

Kata kunci: *Simbol, William Blake, dan Song of Experience.*

1. INTRODUCTION

All living things have their own way to communicate with their environment and their society. It is also human beings who have their own way to communicate. Language is one of the media used by people to communicate and socialize among them. Language has existed since the ancient time but the language used today is the result of language development over time. According to Keraf (2001:1), language is a system of symbol in the form of sound produced by human and used by a speech community in order to cooperate, to communicate, and to identify. We must be aware and realize that the interaction and

all sorts of activities in the community will be stalled without language. Language will be a bridge to the creation of the socialization process between individuals or communities. According to Keraf (2001:3), there are four functions of language. Firstly, it functions as a tool for cooperating and communicating in the life of human society. When we communicate, we also can use other means, such as gestures, pictures or symbols of certain other codes. Secondly, it is used by people for socializing with their environment. Language is needed by people to adapt with the environment around them, for example, through the language of a member of the public, we will learn about all the customs and

manners in a society. Thirdly, language is used as an attempt to influence the behavior and activities of others. We can capture the point of someone's talk through the language. Another example is a leader who lost his authority when he used wrong language to convey instructions for his subordinates or people. The last function of a language is as a way in expressing our expression. When we talk about the function of language as one of the ways to express our expression, we can say that language functions as a media. We can find its function in literature. According to Guralnik (2001:826), literature is all kinds of writing that has the imaginative power and in an exceptional form. There are many different types of literary works, such as drama, prose or poetry. Poetry is a media to express our expression. Hornby (1995:890) states that poetry is often associated with music and religious traditions. Poetry is one of literary works that have special characteristics. It is one of the media to show of feelings, thoughts and even criticism of an object or an event. In this case, poetry is a written work which is composed from words to words into meaningful sentence and sometimes quite difficult to understand. Elements of poetry are for examples, theme, symbols, rhyme, rhythm, and figurative language. One of the elements that is needed to know what the poetry tells about is symbol. Meyer (1999:2144) states that symbol is abstract things in the form of an event, person, or a word that can provide additional description of a literary work. There are two kinds of symbol. They are conventional symbol and contextual symbol. We can find out what the poem tells about from the symbol. Some poets who used symbols in their literary works are Egdar Allan

Poe, William Shakespears, Robert Frost and William Blake. Among those poets, one who uses more symbols in his poems is William Blake. He became one of the poets who criticized the government through his literary works. William Blake was born on November 28, 1757 in London. He was a painter and an engraver as well as a poet, often combining all his arts in the production of a piece. As symbol provides meanings to the poems, the writers were interested in conducting a study on symbol used in William Blakes' Poetry "*Song of Exprience*".

2. METHODOLOGY

The function of language is not only focused as a communication tools, but also as a media to express someone's feelings. It functions as one media to express thoughts, ideas, feelings and experience. One of media that people use to express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings is through literature. Guralnik (2001: 826) states that literature is all kinds of writing that has the imaginative power and in exceptional form. It is different from the scientific literature or writing news reporting, etc. The scope of literature, not only about the imaginations and the thoughts of an author, but through the literature, an author will try to describe human and the life around them with the language as the media. Robert and Jacobs (2001:1) state that literature is a form of writing that tells a story with dramatic situations and emotional expression. Literature also means a design to unite the emotions of readers and writers of literary works. We will not be able to feel the meaning of a literary work easily. It is because

language or word that used in a literary work is a beautiful language and it has a very deep meaning. There are some branches of literature. They are novel, short story and poetry. There is a difference between prose and poem. Robert and Jacobs (2001:2) state that prose is a literary work that emphasizes the number of words to tell a story. It is different from the poem that tells a story briefly. It offers us high points of emotion, reflection, thought, and feeling. Literature functions as a media to tell a story with dramatic situations and emotional expression. We can find its function in poetry. According to Guralnik (2001:1099), poetry refer to the poems of writer. Guralnik also states that poem is the form of written or spoken language that has a rhythm and rhyme composition to express ideas, experiences, emotions in a more concrete, imaginative and powerful compared to ordinary speech or prose. McDonnell (1979:58) says that a poem can make its readers laugh, cry, and sing. It means that a poem has its own power to bring us into the story of the poem deeply. Some poems can make us think, reflect, and instruct us. Other poems arouse our emotion and make us laugh or cry and inspire us. Many poems become lifelong friends, and we always visit them again and again for insight. We know that there are some elements that make a poem more meaningful. They are theme, diction, rhyme, rhythm, figurative language, imagery and symbol.

A symbol is one of the intrinsic elements that exist in a literary work. For example in the novel, we can see the symbol of the story. Whereas in poetry, we can examine the symbol of the theme or even choice of words. Sometimes the author makes the title of his work as a symbol.

Meyer (1999:215) says that symbol is a person, object, image, word, or event that evokes a range of additional meaning beyond and usually more abstract than its literal significance. Symbols are educational devices for evoking ideas without having to resort to painstaking explanations that would make a story more like an essay than an experience. According to Barnet, et. al (1993: 469), symbol refers to something or someone that describe or direct poem's story. Symbol is one important element in poetry. Barnet also explains that symbol is something that is hidden. The language of poetry is very beautiful and make it difficult for the readers to understand what the poems tells about. Symbol is one of important elements in poem. Bain (1973:113) states that one of main elements for connecting the thought and the view between the writer and the reader is the symbol. For example, in a poem the author is usually preferred to use words in a figurative sense and we, as the readers should try to explore the true meaning of poems to get a symbol that represents the content of the story in the poems. Based on Meyer (1999:215), there are two types of symbol. Conventional symbol is a symbol which is accepted by a society and culture. These symbols are not directly indeed has spread into a common symbol. Such of poetry that has the symbol *a cross*. It describes about a Christian in Western. Another example is a rose is a symbol of love in general, the readers do not see what it's red, white, or black roses. It depends on the culture of reader. The heart, for example, is a conventional symbol of love. Contextual symbol relates to the setting, characters, action, object, name, or anything that could describe a literary work. This is more specific than conventional but

also can be universally accepted by everyone. Indeed most of the literature using conventional symbols, but it can also be regarded as contextual symbols. For example in a poem that tells of an animal. We can only say that the poem is a symbol of the animal, but we must also see it more in context. We can make these animals to represent the story in the poem. William Blake was born on November 28, 1757 in London. He was a painter and an engraver as well as a poet, often combining all his arts in the production of a piece. William Blake (1757–1827) is famous for his unique poetic and artistic vision, was not recognised during his own lifetime. His incredibly rich and imaginative poetry expresses a romantic and mystical view of the world, and, though he loved the Bible, an extreme hostility to established religion. He was influenced by the revolutions in France. The *Songs of Innocence* were published in 1789, and *Songs of Experience* in 1794. The following year a combined edition was published with the full title *Songs of Innocence and Experience showing the Two Contrary States of the Human Soul*. This collection of poetry and engravings is the most accessible of Blake's work. The *Songs of Innocence and Experience* are based on Blake's belief that these were “the two contrary states of the human soul,” and both essential for life. The poems in *Songs of Innocence* either express a child's point of view or are about children. Many of them have a matching poem in *Songs of Experience*, giving a very different and darker perspective. Though Blake believed children needed to become experienced, he blamed social exploitation, such as child labour, and dogmatic religion for their loss of innocence,

rather than through their own exploration of the world around them.

The object of the study was William Blake's Poetry *Song of Experience* (1794). William Blake is regarded as a poet who began writing poetry about the state government and the people there during French Revolution. He wrote extensively about the situation after the revolution. He published a book of Blake's poems and drawings called *Songs of Innocence* (1789), *Songs of Experience* (1794), followed by *Milton* (1804-1808), and *Jerusalem* (1804-1820). *Song of Experience* appeared five years after the French revolution. There are 28 poetry in *Song of Experience*. They are (1) Introduction (Experience); (2) Earth's Answer; (3) My Pretty Rose Tree; (4) A Poison Tree; (5) The Sick Rose; (6) Infant Sorrow; (7) The Lily; (8) The Chimney Sweeper (Experience); (9) Holy Thursday; (10) London; (11) Ah! Sunflower; (12) The Fly; (13) The Clod and the Pebble; (14) The Garden of Love; (15) The Voice of the Ancient Bard; (16) A Divine Image; (17) The Little Vagabond; (18) A Cradle Song; (19) Nurse's Song; (20) The Angel; (21) The Little Girl Lost; (22) The Little Girl Found; (23) Human Abstrack; (24) The School Boy; (25) A Little Girl Lost; (26) To Tirzah; (27) The Tiger; (28) A Little Boy Lost.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The writers found 42 symbols in 20 poetry of William Blake *Song of Experience*. The types of symbols was divided into two, conventional symbol and contextual symbol. The occurrency of contextual symbol was 54,8 percent or 22 symbols

of 17 poetry. The occurrence of conventional symbol was 45,2 percent or 19 symbols of conventional in 12 poems from 20 poetry. The occurrence of symbols in William Blake's Poetry *Song of Experience* is presented graph 1 followed by the description of symbols found in each poem. The occurrence of contextual symbols is higher than conventional symbols. We can classify kinds of those symbols from the general meaning and the meaning of those symbols based on context of each poetry. They are called conventional symbols because the general meaning of those symbols is same with the meaning of them in the poetry, for example, "rose" is conventional symbol of a woman's beauty. When we come to the context of poem, "rose" is symbolize a beautiful woman with their own characteristic actually. Another example is "black gowns". We know that black is symbols of death or sorrow and in the poem, "black gowns" is symbolize the death and misery that is created by the priests who claimed his is deputy of God. Contextual symbols appeared because the meaning of those symbols in the poetry is contrast with the meaning of symbols generally, for example, "Heaven" symbolizes the joy and peace. Generally, heaven is symbol of a beautiful place that became the dream of all people in life after death. In this poem, it has different meaning. It is only about a sadness for the children are busy working in Christmas Day, which should be every child celebrate it with their family. Another example is "an angel". The general meaning of angle is a kind woman from heaven that always tries other people. In this poem, the meaning of "an angle" 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. It become a sadness for the queen.

3.1 Conventional Symbol

There were 19 conventional symbols in William Blake's Poetry *Song of Experience*. They were (1) a flower, (2) rose, (3) thorn, (4) rose, (5) the lily, (6) clothes of the death, (7) eternal winter, (8) sunflower, (9) clod, (10) pebble, (11) rose, (12) worm, (13) infant sorrow, (14) blast of winter, (15) nurse, (16) black gowns, (17) briers, (18) holy place, (19) tangled roots. There were 12 poems in *Song of Experience* that contains conventional symbol. They were (1) My Pretty Rose Tree, (2) The Lily, (3) The Chimney Sweeper, (4) Holy Thursday, (5) The Clod and the Pebble, (6) The Sick Rose, (7) Infant Sorrow, (8) The Schoolboy, (9) Nurse's Song, (10) The Garden of Love, (11) a Little Boy Lost, (12) The Voice of the Ancient Bard. The conventional symbols found in each poem are described in the following.

1) My Pretty Rose Tree

It is a poem written by the English poet William Blake. It was published as part of his collection *Songs of Experience* in 1794. It is one of poems that was created by William Blake in modern times. "My Pretty Rose Tree" is a simply constructed poem of two heroic quatrains.

A flower was offered to me, (F, S1, L1)

*Such a flower as May never bore;
But I said, "I've a pretty rose-tree",
And I passed the sweet flower o'er.*

A **flower**, **rose**, and **thorn** in the poetry “My Pretty Rose Tree” are conventional symbols. A **flower** (F, S1, L1) symbolizes beauty. In the context of this poem, a flower symbolizes a woman who tried to persuade the speaker to replace that man’s wife at home. The beautiful woman said that the man will not feel bored with her, but the man ignores her. It indicated from the third line of the poem “*I’ve a pretty rose-tree*”.

*Then I went to my pretty **rose-tree**, (Ro I, S2, L1)*

To tend her by day and by night;

*But my **rose** turned away with jealousy,*

*And her **thorns** were my only delight. (Th, S2, L4)*

Rose (Ro I, S2, L1) symbolizes the beauty. In this poem, rose symbolizes a woman (the speaker’s wife) who had been accompanying her husband at home. Her husband always keep her everyday. He is always be honest with her, including when there is another woman who seduce him. She is the special one in her husband’s life. **Thorn** (Th, S2, L4) symbolizes jealousy and hatred of the wife who feels her husband has betrayed her. The wife felt that she was the only woman who should be loved by her husband.

2) **The Lily**

This four-line poem states simply that the lily is the superior flower, in that it offers no harm or defense of itself to one who would love it. The rose is given as a contrast with its thorns, and the sheep’s defensive horns are also cited.

*The modest **rose** puts forth a thorn, (Ro II, S1, L1)*

The humble sheep a threat'ning horn:

*While **the lily** white shall in love delight, (Li, S1, L3)*

Nor a thorn nor a threat stain her beauty bright.

As we know, rose is the conventional symbol of beauty, but in this poem, it has different meaning based on the context of the poem. In this poem, **Rose** (Ro II, S1, L1) symbolizes a beautiful woman who has a love with all its artificiality. The love that is given is a beautiful love but also hurt. It draws with a word “a thorn”. This woman can manipulate all her appearances and feelings for someone. She can also hurt the people who loved and admired her. She always casts a wile to get attention and love from others.

The Lily is the conventional symbol of innocence and plainness. In this poem, **The lily** (Li, S1, L3) symbolizes a form of children’s love in their innocence and honestly. It does not have harmful thorns like a rose. It also doesn’t have dangerous horns like a sheep. It will not harm the people who love it. It offers itself as it is pure and vulnerable.

3) **The Chimney Sweeper**

“The Chimney Sweeper” is the title of two poems by William Blake, published in *Songs of Innocence* in 1789 and *Songs of Experience* in 1794. The poem “The Chimney Sweeper” is set against the dark background of child labor that was well known in England in the late 18th and 19th century. At the age of four and five, boys were sold to clean chimneys, due to their small size.

Because I was happy upon the heath,

And smiled among the winter's snow,

They clothed me in the clothes of death, (Cd, S3,
L4)

And taught me to sing the notes of woe.

The clothes of death is the conventional symbol of grief and threats. In this poem, **the clothes of death** (Cd, S3, L4) symbolizes grief and death are given by their parents. It can arise from the diseases cause by the soot. The children regard their parents as the beginning of their suffering. The children were forced to work to help their family finances.

4) Holy Thursday

“Holy Thursday” is a poem by William Blake, first published in *Songs of Innocence and Experience* in 1794. This poem, unlike its companion poem in “Songs of Innocence“ (1789), focuses more on society as a whole than the Holy Thursday ceremony.

*And their sun does never shine,
And their fields are bleak & bare,
And their ways are fill'd with thorns;
It is eternal winter there.* (Ew, S3, L4)

Eternal winter is one of symbols as conventional symbols of poverty and misery. **Eternal winter** (Ew, S3, L4) symbolize misery and gloomy that have experienced the children since they were born. They do not have decent clothing. They are also hungry. We can see in the sentences “*And their sun does never shine, And their fields are bleak & bare, And their ways are fill'd with thorns.* It is because the government and the clergy did not pay attention to the condition of their living in poverty.

5) The Sick Rose

“The Sick Rose” is a poem by William Blake. The first publication was in 1794, when it was included in his collection titled *Songs of Experience* as the 39th plate. In keeping with much of the Songs of Experience, this poem is brief, with two stanzas, and deviates from the Innocence rhyme scheme of ABAB CDCD. Here the rhyme scheme of this poem is ABCB DEFE.

O Rose, thou art sick! (Ro III, S1, L1)

The invisible worm(W, S1, L2)

That flies in the night,

In the howling storm,

Rose is conventional symbol from beauty of woman in generally. **Rose** (Ro III, S1, L1), in this poem, symbolize a woman who are sad because of something valuable from her has been lost because of lust and love with a man. She was experiencing pain as a result of her actions. As we know, **worm** is conventional of bad thing. It is symbol of disaster and destruction. **Worm** (W, S1, L2) symbolize death and decay which infects the woman. This is the cause of all suffering and sorrow in her life. She is only enjoying the night life without thinking about the consequences. It is shown in the last sentences “*And his dark secret love does thy life destroy*”.

3.2 Contextual Symbol

There were 22 contextual symbols in William Blake’s Poetry *Song of Experience*. They were (1) tree, (2) apple, (3) sheep, (4) a little black thing, (5) heaven, (6) a holy thing, (7) shrouded

in snow, (8) cunning wiles, (9) the dreadful light, (10) an angle, (11) rosy red, (12) blind hand, (13) crism joy, (14) swaddling bands, (15) school, (16) tender wing, (17) garden of love, (18) cold, (19) ale, (20) fiend, (21) tangled roots, (22) the marriage hearse, (23) tree. There were 12 poems in *Song of Experience* that contains contextual symbol. They were (1) A Poison Tree, (2) The Lily, (3) The Chimney Sweeper, (4) Holy Thursday, (5) Ah! Sunflower, (6) A Cradle Song, (7) The Angle, (8) The Fly, (9) The Sick Rose, (10) Infant Sorrow, (11) The Schoolboy, (12) The Garden of love, (13) The Little Vagabond, (14) A Little Boy Lost, (15) The Voice of the ancient Bard, (16) London, (17) The Human Abstract. The contextual symbols found in each poem are described in the following.

1) 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.

*And it grew both day and night,
Till it bore an **apple** bright, (A, S3, L2)
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine,

And into my garden stole,
When the night had veiled the pole.
In the morning, glad I see
My foe outstretched beneath the **tree**. (Tre I, S4,
L4)*

Tree and **Apple** are contextual symbols in the poem "My Poison Tree". **Tree** is symbol of life and hope. **Tree** (Tre I, S4, L4) symbolizes the feeling of anger that is buried by the speaker to the enemy. He watches it everyday. It indicated from the second stanza "*And I watered it in fears... And I sunned it with smiles...*". That feeling is always covered with a smile, but there are a lot of hatred that is embedded in his heart. **Apple** is symbol of delight. **Apple** (A, S3, L2) symbolizes the result of the hatred that had been growing in the speaker's heart. The apple is the combination of fear and tears that appears to the enemy. He makes it as a trap to kill his enemy. It is shown in the third stanza "*And my foe beheld it shine, And he knew that it was mine... In the morning, glad I see, My foe outstretched beneath the **tree**.*"

2) The Angel

The year was 1794 when William Blake composed his short yet powerful poem entitled "The Angel." Bound in the anthology Songs of Innocence, 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.

*I dreamt a dream! What can it mean?
And that I was a maiden Queen
Guarded by **an Angel** mild: (An, S1, L3)
Witless woe was ne'er beguiled!

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.*

An angel and **rosy red** are the contextual symbols in this poem. **An angel** (An, S1, L3) 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. It indicated from the first line in third stanza "*So he took his wings, and fled.*" The man's actions cause grief to the queen for a long time.

*So he took his wings, and fled;
Then the morn blushed rosy red. (Rr, S3, L2)
I dried my tears, and armed my fears
With ten thousand shields and spears.*

Generally, **Rosy red** is symbol of joy and spirit. In this poem, **Rosy red** (Rr, S3, L2) symbolize the anger of the queen who had been left by the man. Finally, the woman asked for thousand of soldiers to guard her and replace the man (the angel). When he was coming back, but she was not happy. She thought that it was all in vain because she was too old to love and be loved by that man. It is shown in the last 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.*"

3) The Little Vagabond

This four-stanza poem consists of quatrains, most of which are AABB, with two rhyming couplets, in structure. The only exception is the first stanza, which rhymes ABCC.

*Dear mother, dear mother, the Church is cold; (C,
S1, L1)*

*But the Alehouse is healthy, and pleasant, and
warm.*

*Besides, I can tell where I am used well;
Such usage in heaven will never do well.*

There are two symbols in the poem "The Little Vagabond". They are **Cold** and **Ale**. **Cold** is symbol of stiffness. **Cold** (C, S1, L1) symbolizes the atmosphere of the church. It is the deviation of religion that was created by the priests. They think of themselves as gods, but they enforce the rules that is contrast with the word god. They create a lot of rigid rules and harsh.

*But, if at the Church they would give us some ale,
(Al, S2, L1)*

*And a pleasant fire our souls to regale,
We'd sing and we'd pray all the livelong day,
Nor ever once wish from the Church to stray.*

Ale is symbol of warmth. **Ale** (Al, S2, L1) symbolizes compassion that should be given by the priests and scholars of religion to all people. It can create happiness and warmth between them. This is a form of desire. They are the government and religion does not apply expert system of government and religion that are near from love and affection, like God. It is indicated from the last stanza "*And God, like a father, rejoicing to see, His children as pleasant and happy as He, Would have no more quarrel with the Devil or the barrel, But kiss him, and give him both drink and apparel.*"

4) The Garden of Love

*I went to the **Garden of Love**, (Gl, S1, L1)*

And saw what I never had seen:

A chapel was built in the midst,

Where I used to play on the green.

Love is symbol of happiness in generally. **Garden of love** (Gl, S1, L1) is not about someone's happiness. It symbolizes the condition of society at that time a lot of changes. There are so many deviations of religion is considered as a room that can not be touched by the ordinary. The minister made the place a holy place, but in fact his, where it is just a form of their authority. It is described in the first line of second stanza "*And the gates of this chapel were shut, And "Thou shalt not" writ over the door;"*"

5) The Schoolboy

*But to go to **school** in a summer morn, (Sc, S2, L1)*

O it drives all joy away!

Under a cruel eye outworn,

The little ones spend the day

In sighing and dismay.

There are two of contextual symbols in the poem "The Schoolboy". Generally, **school** is symbol of education and knowledge. The word **school** (Sc, S2, L1) in this poem has not meaning in real school. School here is not an official educational institution as the place for studying. School symbolize the factory where becomes a place where children were working. It is indicated from the last line in the first stanza "*O what sweet company!"*".

How can the bird that is born for joy

Sit in a cage and sing?

How can a child, when fears annoy,

*But droop his **tender wing**, (Tw, S4, L4)*

And forget his youthful spring!

Tender wing is symbol of kindness and fragility. In this poem, **Tender wing** (Tw, S4, L4) symbolize happiness of childhood that should be obtained by all the children there. It is contrast with their real condition. They think their childhood has been lost because of their obligation to work. They compare their condition with a bird that is born for joy, but it just sit in a cage. It is shown in first line of forth stanza "*How can the bird that is born for joy, Sit in a cage and sing?"*"

4. CONCLUSION

The result of the analysis shows that there are 42 symbols in 20 poems from *Song of Experience*. Most of the symbols appear are contextual symbols and the others are conventional symbols. 23 contextual symbols (54,8%) appear in 17 poems and 19 conventional symbols (45,2%) appear in 12 poems from 20 poetry. Each symbol in each poem in *Song of Experience* has different meaning. There are symbols that mostly occur in different poems, such as rose and tree, but they give different meaning. The meanings of those symbols are influenced by the context of the poems. Rose is the symbol of beauty of woman, but the meaning of "rose" in "My Pretty Rose Tree" is different from "rose" in "The Lily". "Rose" in "My Pretty Rose Tree" symbolizes a woman (the speaker's

wife) who accompanies her husband at home. Her husband always takes care of her everyday. Her husband is always honest to her, even when he was seduced by another woman. "Rose" in "The Lily" symbolizes a beautiful woman who has fake love. The love that is given is a beautiful love but it also hurts. It is indicated by the word "a thorn". This woman can manipulate all her appearances and feelings for someone. She can also hurt the people who love and admire her.

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