

JURNAL PEMBELAJARAN SASTRA

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UNVEILING DEEPER LAYERS: EXPLORING EDGAR ALLAN POE'S "ALONE" THROUGH BIOGRAPHICAL AND SYMBOLIC APPROACH

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Hery Yanto The



Himpunan Sarjana
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Komisariat Malang

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PENGANTAR EDITOR

Mundi Rahayu

Puji Syukur, Jurnal Pembelajaran Sastra Edisi 6 Nomor 1 tersaji tahun 2024 telah sampai ke hadapan para pembaca. Edisi ini menampilkan lima artikel dari empat institusi yang berbeda, tiga dari institusi dalam negeri (UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, Universitas Negeri Malang, dan SMA N 10 Malang) dan satu artikel dari Zhejiang Yuexiu University of Foreign Languages, China.

Kelima artikel yang tersaji dalam edisi kali ini menampilkan tema yang menunjukkan keterkaitan erat antara sastra dan pengalaman dunia nyata melalui berbagai kajian akademis. Dalam puisi Edgar Allan Poe yang berjudul "Alone," analisis biografis dan simbolistik mengungkap bagaimana Poe menggunakan narasi "I" untuk mencerminkan masa kecilnya yang penuh tantangan. Puisi ini terbagi dalam tiga fase: tahun-tahun awal Poe dengan ibu kandungnya, kehidupannya bersama keluarga Allan, dan dampak emosional kehilangan ibu angkatnya. Melalui simbol-simbol seperti badai, sinar matahari, dan setan, Poe menggambarkan emosinya yang penuh gejolak dan pengalamannya. Refleksi pribadi ini menunjukkan bagaimana sastra sering kali mencerminkan dunia batin penciptanya, menggunakan representasi simbolik untuk mengomunikasikan makna yang lebih dalam tentang kehidupan, perjuangan, dan kehilangan.

Serupa dengan bagaimana pengalaman hidup Poe memengaruhi karya sastranya, novel "The Wall" karya John Lanchester mencerminkan kekhawatiran global kontemporer tentang isu-isu lingkungan. Dengan menggunakan pendekatan ekokritik, studi tentang novel ini menunjukkan bagaimana narasi sastra dapat menggambarkan dampak perubahan iklim, polusi, dan krisis lingkungan lainnya. Novel ini menekankan pentingnya kesadaran dan tindakan terhadap degradasi lingkungan, menjadikan sastra sebagai alat yang kuat untuk advokasi lingkungan. Karya Poe dan Lanchester sama-sama menunjukkan bagaimana sastra dapat menjadi media untuk membahas isu-isu pribadi dan global, mengaitkan narasi individu dengan kepedulian masyarakat yang lebih luas.

Menerjemahkan karya sastra ke dalam berbagai bahasa dapat memperkuat tema dan pesan ini, seperti yang ditunjukkan dalam studi tentang terjemahan "Qasidah Burdah" oleh Ibnu Abroh. Penelitian ini berfokus pada keakuratan terjemahan dan bagaimana berbagai teknik, seperti terjemahan harfiah dan idiomatik, mempengaruhi makna yang disampaikan. Studi ini menemukan bahwa 84,66% terjemahan tergolong akurat, tetapi juga menyoroti tantangan dalam mempertahankan esensi karya asli dalam bahasa yang berbeda. Proses terjemahan tidak hanya melibatkan keakuratan linguistik tetapi juga sensitivitas budaya untuk mempertahankan makna penting karya tersebut, mirip dengan bagaimana narasi Poe dan Lanchester memerlukan interpretasi yang cermat agar dapat dipahami dan dihargai sepenuhnya.

Eksplorasi tentang bagaimana karya sastra dianalisis juga diperluas ke esai-esai sosiologis, seperti yang disoroti dalam analisis esai-esai sosiologis Arief Budiman. Berbeda dengan kritikus yang bertujuan mengevaluasi keberhasilan atau kegagalan suatu karya sastra, esais berinteraksi dengan teks sebagai pemikir, menawarkan refleksi dan interpretasi baru. Hal ini ditunjukkan dalam esai kritis Ignas Kleden, yang mengkaji simbolisme tubuh dalam puisi-puisi Joko Pinurbo. Dengan beralih dari simbolisme tradisional yang berasal dari alam ke simbolisme yang berpusat pada tubuh, esai ini menyajikan perspektif baru tentang bagaimana sastra dapat mencerminkan dimensi masyarakat dan budaya. Analisis mendalam semacam ini menekankan hubungan dinamis antara sastra dan refleksi sosial, menunjukkan bagaimana berbagai perspektif dapat memperkaya pemahaman kita tentang teks.

Akhirnya, penerapan praktis dari analisis sastra dan bercerita terlihat dalam studi kasus Departemen Bahasa Indonesia di Universitas Bahasa Asing Zhejiang Yuexiu. Di sini, bercerita digunakan sebagai alat instruksional untuk meningkatkan keterampilan mendengarkan siswa dan kesadaran budaya. Studi ini menekankan pentingnya desain instruksional dalam melibatkan siswa secara efektif, menunjukkan bahwa mengintegrasikan cerita dengan tujuan pembelajaran dapat mendorong perolehan bahasa yang lebih baik dan pemahaman budaya. Temuan ini sejalan

dengan tema yang lebih luas bahwa sastra, baik dianalisis untuk isinya yang simbolik, biografis, atau sosiokultural, dapat menjadi media yang kuat untuk pendidikan dan refleksi tentang isu-isu pribadi, sosial, dan lingkungan.

Tabik.

UNVEILING DEEPER LAYERS: EXPLORING EDGAR ALLAN POE'S "ALONE" THROUGH BIOGRAPHICAL AND SYMBOLIC APPROACH

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Abstrak

Artikel ini membahas puisi "Alone" yang ditulis oleh Edgar Allan Poe pada tahun 1829, dengan menggunakan pendekatan Biografis dan Simbolis untuk mengeksplorasi tokoh "Aku" yang menceritakan masa kecilnya yang sulit. Analisis mengungkapkan bahwa tokoh "Aku" mewakili Poe sendiri. Puisi ini menggambarkan tiga fase kehidupan Poe: pertama, masa kecilnya saat tinggal dengan ibu kandungnya, Elizabeth Poe; kedua, hidupnya setelah diadopsi oleh keluarga Allan dan bergabung dengan dinas militer; dan terakhir, ketika Poe kehilangan ibu angkat yang dicintainya, Frances Allan. Berbagai unsur alam dalam puisi, seperti badai, air bah, tebing merah gunung, matahari, petir, dan guntur, menjadi symbol dari masa kecil Poe yang penuh liku-liku. Simbol musim semi dan musim gugur menunjukkan peralihan masa kecil Poe, saat ia hampir berusia tiga tahun dan tumbuh menjadi dewasa. Poe menggambarkan figur ibu sebagai malaikat surga, sementara figur ayah, John Allan, diibaratkan sebagai setan.

Kata Kunci: Masa Kecil, Edgar Allan Poe, Pendekatan Biografis, Simbolisme

Abstract

This article delves into Edgar Allan Poe's 1829 poem "Alone," employing both a Biographical and Symbolistic approach to explore the character "I" who narrates a challenging childhood. The analysis reveals that the character "I" represents Poe himself. The poem unfolds in three phases, portraying Poe's early years with his biological mother, Elizabeth Poe; his life after adoption by the Allan family and military service; and the emotional impact of losing his beloved adoptive mother, Frances Allan. Various natural elements, including storms, torrents, a red cliff, the sun, lightening and thunder, serve as symbolic representations of Poe's tumultuous childhood. The symbols of spring and autumn signify the transitions in Poe's upbringing, marking his progression from early childhood to adulthood. Additionally, Poe depicts the maternal figure as angelic beings in heaven, contrasting with John Allan, the paternal figure, who is symbolized as demon.

Keywords: Childhood, Edgar Allan Poe, Biographical Approach, Symbolism

INTRODUCTION

A profound connection exists between authors and their literary creation. Whether it is short stories, poetry, prose, or novels, these forms serve as channels through which authors articulate their inner tumult of their souls, desires, memories, imagination, and life experiences. This inherent link frequently results in literary works being reflections of the lived experiences of their creators.

Edgar Allan Poe, a renowned American poet, is celebrated for his distinctive writing style. While poets typically employ beautiful, vivid language and symbols to express their ideas and emotions, Poe deviates from this norm. He articulates his thoughts and feelings through uncommon and unconventional symbols, often leaning towards themes of darkness, fear, death, bitterness, and loneliness. This distinctive choice of expression prompts readers and literature enthusiasts to ponder the factors influencing Poe's inclinations to write in such a manner.

At the age of 20, Edgar Allan Poe penned the poem known as "Alone," initially without a title. Its discovery revealed that, prior to its publication in Schribner's Monthly in 1875, only a select few had laid eyes on it. The poem had been held in the private collection of Lucy Holmes Balderston before being passed on to her daughter, Mrs. Dawson of Baltimore. Eugene L. Didier stumbled upon the poem during Mrs. Dawson's possession and, assigning the conjectural date "Baltimore, March 17, 1829," affixed the title "Alone" to it. Comprising a single extended stanza with 22 lines, the poem features enjambments (-) strategically placed within middle and end phrases to serve as connections between lines. As noted by Ritcher on the Oregon State University website, the use of enjambment in a poem like this can quicken the tempo, engender a sense of urgency, tension, or escalating emotion, as readers are seamlessly led from one line to the next. Notably, "Alone" stands out as the briefest among Poe's various poetic compositions.

"Alone" serves as a poetic encapsulation of the protagonist's personal reflections on life experiences, particularly the pervasive sense of loneliness stemming from feeling distinct from others since childhood. The central character, referred to as "I," underwent a challenging upbringing, setting them apart from their peers and fostering a preference for solitude. Edgar Allan Poe employs distinctive symbols in this poem, such as "storm," "lightening," and "demon," to enhance and express the emotions of the character "I" in a unique manner. This distinctive use of symbols contributes to the singular nature of Poe's literary works, characterized by dark, fearful, deathly, and solitary themes.

The selection of Edgar Allan Poe's poem "Alone" for research is driven by our curiosity, particularly sparked by the word "childhood," which prompts an interest in exploring the background of the character "I." Having thoroughly examined the poem, we are inclined to view "Alone" as a reflection of Edgar Allan Poe's early life and the associated emotions he grappled with during that period. Furthermore, the symbols employed in the poem are believed to carry meanings intertwined with Poe's journey through childhood. The objective of this research is to unravel the circumstances surrounding the creation of "Alone," delving into Edgar Allan Poe's experiences during its composition, with a specific focus on depicting his childhood in the poem and deciphering the significance behind the presented symbols.

Sahlani (2009) analyzed Edgar Allan Poe's poem "Alone," suggesting that Poe's motivation stemmed from childhood disappointment. The symbols employed, such as "spring" representing childhood happiness, "the same tone" and "storm" reflecting Poe's inability to change his circumstances, and "demon" symbolizing evil or opposition to God, depict his personality. Moreover, "demon" captures Poe's atheist perspective, shaped by overcoming challenges and learning to be independent of divine determinations.

Syafitri and Marlinton (2018) conducted an analysis of figurative language in Edgar Allan Poe's poems, including "Alone." They identified 11 lines featuring figurative language, with 10 instances of figurative language found in the specific poem. The detected figurative languages were hyperbole and irony. In line 10, hyperbole is evident with the phrase "Of a most stormy life – was drawn," where "stormy" characterizes the poet's childhood as laden with disasters. Line 8 exhibits irony with the statement "And All I lov'd – I lov'd Alone --," as it contradicts the general preference of not wanting to be alone.

In his 2014 study on Edgar Allan Poe's poems, Budiharto explored the stylistic value of deixis, emphasizing its combination with other language elements to convey messages and aesthetic appeal. Analyzing four poems, including "Alone," he noted the prevalent use of pronouns like "I," "you," "we," "me," and "us," along with possessive adjectives such as "my" and "our." Budiharto argued that the prominent use of person deixis in these poems, particularly evident in "Alone" through repetitive pronouns like "I," "me," and "my," underscores their biographical nature, linking them closely to Poe's life.

Agasta (2015), in the analysis of Edgar Allan Poe's poem "Alone," identified three non-literal meanings, including metaphor, metonymy, and synecdoche. The line "My passion from a common spring" metaphorically compares the author's passion to a common spring, representing the shared passions and heightened interests in his peers during springtime. The expression "From childhood's hour I have not been –" utilizes metonymy to signify the early phase of Poe's life, distinct from his peers' childhoods. The term "hour" implies a small step from the subsequent phase of his life. In line 7, "My heart to joy at the same tone," the metaphorical use of "my heart" extends beyond his physical heart to encompass his entire life. It symbolizes the present sadness in his life from childhood to the time of writing the poem. Thus, "my heart" serves as a non-literal reference to the author himself.

Beecher's (2010) study on shared identity constructs and the cognitive triad in Poe's "Alone" reveals that the initial eight lines depict Poe's personal journey of self-isolation, aiming for self-awareness. The first part of the poem captures emotions of isolation typically associated with teenage angst, intensified by the traumatic experiences Poe endured in his infancy, toddlerhood, and adolescence. These sentiments were further deepened in adulthood with the death of his foster mother. Lines nine to twenty suggest an accentuation of Poe's identity crisis, mirroring the transformative phases of adolescence crucial for maturation. In lines twenty-one and twenty-two, the term "demon" serves as a symbol representing an element Poe is fully conscious of – a flaw or corruption within his "blue sky."

Existing research has predominantly focused on the analysis of numerous poems by Edgar Allan Poe, excluding thorough examinations of the poem "Alone." Moreover, the scrutiny directed towards "Alone" remains limited in comparison to other works by Edgar Allan Poe, such as "The Raven," "A Dream Within A Dream," and "Annabel Lee." The symbols within the poem "Alone" have not been extensively elucidated by previous researchers, leaving numerous aspects unexplored. The belief underlying our research is that a comprehensive exploration of these symbols could shed light on the circumstances surrounding Poe's writing of this particular poem and provide insights into his experiences at that time.

APPROACH

This research adopts a biographical approach to scrutinize the poem titled "Alone." According to Wellek and Warren (1962), biographical models constitute one of the oldest methods in literary analysis. This approach involves examining or discussing literary works in the context of the author's life. To comprehend an author's creations fully, delving into their life through biographical details is crucial. As defined by John Dryden in Abrams (1999), biography is the "history of particular men's lives." Kendal (2023) characterizes biography as a nonfiction literary form primarily focusing on an individual's life. Reaske (1966) describes biography as a comprehensive account of someone's life. In essence, biography is a literary genre centered on an individual's life, encompassing their character, experiences, activities, and environments. To support our investigation, we rely on James A. Harrison's biography of Edgar Allan Poe, titled "Life of Edgar Allan Poe," published in 1902, and a compilation of Poe's letters to John Allan assembled by Howard Ostrom in the book "The Collected Letters of Edgar Allan Poe," Volume 1: 1824 – 1846, 3rd edition, published in 2008. Additionally, we refer to other works about Poe's life to gain a more profound understanding of the events during his lifetime. This biographical approach specifically focuses on analyzing the poem "Alone," composed in 1829, and confines the study to Edgar Allan Poe's life until he reached 20 years old when he wrote this poem.

This article will additionally concentrate on and analyze the symbols within the poem "Alone." Symbols play a crucial role in poetry, serving as essential elements that convey meanings beyond the literal words. As explained by Seymour (2023), a symbol in visual language can encompass any object, character, color, or shape that effectively communicates an abstract concept. Poets frequently employ symbols to represent the emotions and sentiments they intend to convey in their poetic works. In the case of this poem, the symbols serve as key components that enable us to explore the profound connections between "Alone" and the life of Edgar Allan Poe.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The poem "Alone," penned by Edgar Allan Poe at the age of 20, recounts the childhood journey of the character "I," bearing striking similarities to the author's own challenging and distinctive childhood experiences, markedly different from those of other children. The character "I" unequivocally represents Edgar Allan Poe himself, who endured a series of hardships from childhood to his later years. Poe's early life was marked by the loss of both parents and separation from siblings, leaving him with no family. He was subsequently taken in by the wealthy Allan family, although the adoption was not formalized, leading to a change in his middle name to "Allan" in 1811. While residing with the Allans, Poe briefly experienced a sense of completeness with a loving and understanding mother figure. However, this happiness proved fleeting as Poe's military service brought about challenges, and he soon faced the heartbreaking loss of beloved foster mother, Frances Allan.

In this poem, Poe delineates his childhood journey into three distinct phases. Initially, it portrays his early years living with his biological mother, Elizabeth Poe. The second phase unfolds when he was adopted by the Allan family, entering military service. The final phase reflects the period when Poe, grieving the loss of his beloved adoptive mother, Frances Allan. Natural object symbols in the poem, such as storm, torrent, red cliff of the mountain, the sun, lightening, and thunder, vividly represent the tumultuous and intricate nature of Poe's challenging childhood. Additionally, symbols of spring and autumn signify the transitions in Poe's upbringing from early childhood to adulthood around the age of three. The poem also utilizes symbols like heaven to represent the angelic mother figure, contrasting with John Allan, symbolized as the demonic father figure.

"From childhood's hour I have not been as others were—I have not seen as others saw—I could not bring my passion from a common spring—". Those lines refer to Poe's childhood journey while living with his biological mother, Elizabeth Poe. The "childhood's hour" refers to Poe's childhood period or short time that he spent with his mother, Elizabeth Poe, because she died when Poe was almost 3 years old from pneumonia. According to Cirlot (1962) spring in general is the symbol of the beginning of any cycle, process or creation. The symbol "spring" refers to the early life stages. Spring is the season when everything starts to live, blooms, and grows after winter. The symbol "spring" is used by Poe to describe his first life, and it refers to his life with Elizabeth Poe. Poe lived with his biological mother Elizabeth Poe and his two siblings, the eldest brother William Henry Leonard Poe and the younger sister Rosalie Mackenzie Poe. Poe lived without a father figure, and his father, David Poe Jr., disappeared and abandoned his family in 1810. The vivid memory that Poe had about his parents makes him feel different from other people, especially other children. When other people have complete parents, Poe becomes an orphan and his father abandons his family. When kids around him see the beauty of colors in their life with people they love, Poe sees his mother sleeping lifelessly in front of his eyes. According to Bonaparte (1949) Poe was certainly struck in the most tragic of ways by the sight of his deceased mother, a sight he would never be rid of. Perhaps from his conscious memory, but certainly not from a deeper, subconscious, unknowable and unreachable memory, which endures despite our wishes and earnest attempts and shapes our future.

"From the same source I have not taken / My sorrow—I could not awaken / My heart to joy at the same tone— / And all I lov'd—I lov'd alone—/." The "source" here refers to "spring" namely Poe's childhood. These lines tell about Poe's inability or absence of more effort to take the

sorrow he experienced in the past while living with his mother Elizabeth Poe and awaken his joy although after being adopted by the Allan family in 1811 it made him choose to love his solitude. Trask (1997) stated that the italics are most frequently used for emphasis or contrast — that is, to attract attention to a certain area of a text. The use of italic on the letter “I” shows that he wants to show that he loves solitude, however there is no evidence that he stated that he loves to be alone in a direct speech. According to Dr. Davis in Harrison (1902) Dr. Thomas (uncle of Dr. Davis) stated that Poe was a quiet, peaceful youngster, and seldom got into difficulty with his schoolmates. He was not at all popular with his schoolmates, being too retiring in disposition and singularly unsociable in manner. Moreover, as stated in Harrison (1920) Sarah Elmira Royster (the neighbour of Mr. Allan) said that Poe was a gentleman, not very talk active, when he did talk his conversation was very pleasant, warm and zealous in any cause he was interested in, being enthusiastic and impulsive also generous. The above shows that Poe has an introverted character. Poe is able to socialize well despite not talking much but, when it comes to the things he likes or people that he comforts with he will turn as passionate and enthusiastic. An introvert, although not socializing much, requires people and a supporting environment. When there is no one who cares and the environment is not supportive, the tendency to be alone or alienate-self from society is much greater than that of someone who receives support from people around them although they are introverted. Thus, it can be concluded that being alone is not what Poe actually wanted but rather the absence of support that Poe received from people surrounding and environment.

“Then—in my childhood—in the dawn / Of a most stormy life—was drawn / From ev’ry depth of good and ill / The mystery which binds me still— / From the torrent, or the fountain—.” These lines describe the second childhood of Poe that has just begun after being adopted by the Allan family in 1811 and that is where a life full of storms began depicting every good and ill that happened during the stormy life makes Poe shrouded in mystery until he wrote this poem. From a young age, Poe described his childhood as a “torrent” and as a “fountain”, both of which are symbols of water. Water is one of the important essential elements in this world. Water provides life to all living organisms in the world. The water content in the human body is approximately 70 %, which indicates the importance of water. Cirlot (1962) stated that mother sometimes appeared as the image of nature. In addition, Fromm (1957), the figure of the mother represents a natural world because nature gives us everything to fulfill what we need to keep surviving. The words “torrent” and “fountain ” represent life when Poe lived with both of his mothers. Elizabeth Poe and Frances Allan. Torrent is a violent or forceful flow of fluid that refers to Poe’s tough life of childhood when living with his biological mother, Elizabeth Poe. Back then, Poe, his siblings, and his mother were living in poverty, especially when Poe’s father, David Poe Jr., abandoned his family in 1810. Harrison (1902) said that mother, Elizabeth engaged in a life-and-death struggle with poverty and penury, like her gifted son: all their lives mother and son were entangled in the vast disaster. Poe lives in a small rented room with his small family. In addition to Bonaparte (1949), the James River had recently spilled its banks, flooding Main Street just a few doors away from residents. There were many mosquitoes infected with malaria in the area. The only furnishings in the room were a shabby bed with a straw mattress, a blanket, or two donated by Mrs. Philips, one or two rickety old chairs, and, no doubt, a trundle bed for the kids. In addition, Harrison (1902) stated that there was no food in the house. They had no money or fuel and their clothes had been pawned or sold. At that time, Elizabeth Poe’s health was declining, and at the end she died of pneumonia. After the death of his beloved mother, Poe had to part with his two siblings, William Henry Leonard Poe and Rosalie Mackenzie Poe, because at that time Poe and his two siblings were adopted by different families.

On the other hand, a fountain is an ornament that is usually found in a park where the resulting water jets can be arranged and aims to beautify the surrounding atmosphere. According to Jung in Cirlot (2008) the fountain is an image of the soul as the source of inner life and of spiritual energy; however, Vastu Shastra in Joseph (2022), the fountain symbolizes the flow of money, happiness, and love. The word “fountain” here represents Poe's life after he was adopted by the Allan family, which changed his life. Pruette (1920) portrayed Poe as a privileged child, who instead of being raised in an environment of affection and sympathy, was thrown pocket

money by indulgent parents. During Poe's stay and upbringing by the Allan family, Poe was raised by them well. Poe lived in a comfortable family, and everything desired was fulfilled, since the Allan family was rich. Poe also received love from the Allan family, especially from his foster mother Frances Allan. When Poe grew older, the relationship between Poe and John Allan, Poe's foster father, became strained because they were stubborn and had different views.

"From the red cliff of the mountain—/"As a teenager, Poe faced his second storm. In Harrison (1902) 'Ragged Mountain' over an unfrequented by-path, but one well-known to Poe and over which he had often travelled. Their place of retreat was a beautiful dell high up in the mountains, and very inaccessible, being far away from any beaten path, but the spot that was a favorite haunt with Poe. Ragged Mountain is located close to Charlottesville. According to Jolan de Jacobi in Cirlot (1962) stated beside symbolizing the color of blood and fire, red is also a symbol for the surging and tearing emotions. In addition, based on the website Dreams'opedia, red symbolizes struggles and desire to break free and thus "cliff" in the poem symbolizes resentment of monotony. In 1826, Edgar Allan Poe enrolled at the University of Virginia at the age of 17. At the time, campus life was very chaotic, with many children fighting and making trouble. Poe recounted his college life to John Allan in a letter he sent on May 2nd, 1826 and May 25th, 1826 which was collected by Ostrom (2008). In those letters, Poe told John Allan about a situation in the university where many students became rule breakers, and some of them received punishment from the university. In a letter Poe wrote to John Allan in September 21st, 1826

... We have had a great many fights up here lately- The faculty expelled Wickliffe last night for general bad conduct- but- more especially for biting one of the student's arms with whom he was fighting – I saw the whole affair – it took place before my door- ...

It shows that the situation in the university is such a chaos. His stormy life started when Poe was trying his luck to get more money to pay the school bill and fulfill his daily needs by gambling. According to Wertenbaker in Harrison (1902) he estimated Poe indebtedness at \$2.000, and, though it was gaming debts, he was earnest and emphatic in the declaration that he was bound by honor to pay, at the earliest opportunity, every cent of them. Poe, nor John Allan, would pay the debt, and eight months after enrolling, Poe dropped out of the University of Virginia. In the letter that Poe wrote to John Allan on January 3rd, 1830 collected by Ostrom (2008) Poe told John Allan about what he felt and the reason why he gambled.

...You would not let me return because bills were presented you for payment which I never wished nor desired you to pay. ...I will boldly say that it was wholly entirely your own mistaken parsimony that caused all the difficulties in which I was involved while at Charlotte[s]ville. The expences of the institution at the lowest estimate were \$350 per annum. You sent me there with \$110. ...I kept it for some time - thinking that if I could obtain more I could yet retrieve my charafter – I applied to James Galt – but he, I believe, from the best motives refused to lend me any – I then become desperate, and gambled – until I finally i[n]volved myself irretrievably.

After dropping out, Poe had a falling out with John Allan and announced his decision to leave home. According to Harrison (1902) in 1827 Poe was enlistment at Boston in the Army of the United States under the assumed name of Edgar A. Perry. When Poe first joined the army, Poe felt that his life was miserable. Poe kept sending John Allan letters. Poe wrote everything that he felt and his condition in the military. Poe told his foster father that he had no money and asked him to forge a discharge letter so that Poe could leave the military, but he ignored it. Ostrom (2008) collected a letter written on December 1st, 1828, wherein Poe expressed his strong desire to leave the army because he was unable to express the passion.

...I have been in the American army as long as suits my ends or my inclination, and it is now time that I should leave it – ... The period of an enlistment is five years – the prime of my life would be wasted – I shall be driven to more decided measures if you refuse to assist me. You need not fear for my future prosperity – I am altered from what you knew me, & am no longer a boy tossing about on the world without aim or consistency –

“From the sun that ‘round me roll’d / In its tint autumn of gold– / “The sun is a celestial body that has important benefits and roles for all creatures on Earth; without the sun, it is certain that all life on Earth will disappear. According to Jung in Cirlot (1962) the Sun is, in truth, a symbol of the source of life and of the ultimate wholeness of man. In life, the sun has a role as a resource whose light can be converted into electricity; sunlight functions in helping photosynthesis for plants, and it could be the source of human and animal food. The sun is a sign of morning-night time changes, and sunlight plays a role in warming the Earth’s temperature after nightfall. The Sun symbolizes strength, happiness, and hope. Colonel Worth in Harrison (1902) stated that Poe was honourably discharged from the service April 15, with this splendid record of silent and devoted service testified to by his army associates. The wayward, spoiled, impulsive boy had in two years turned out to be the conscientious, exemplary soldier – a sergeant-major in his twentieth year. Autumn is the third season after summer and before winter. According to Tearle (2021), autumn is symbolic of plenty, ripening, harvesting, and abundance. However, autumn is also symbolic of decay, decline, old age, and even death, with associations of things past their prime. According to Zohar in Cirlot (1962) correspond to the four elements and to all quaternary forms of the west corresponding to autumn, water, middle-age (adolescence), evening, and the waning moon. This refers to Poe, who had already grown and become a young adult by the time he wrote his poetry. Gold and yellow are colors associated with the autumn season. Gold also symbolizes wealth, old age, and good opportunity or chance. According to Robert Plutchik’s Wheel of Emotions in Morin (2014), gold or yellow symbolizes ecstasy, joy, and serenity, which refers to Poe’s feelings at the time when he obtained the highest Sergeant Major for Artillery, which made Poe find purpose in his life, which consisted, at the time, of pursuing his career in the military.

“From the lightning in the sky / As it pass’d me flying by – / From the thunder and the storm– / And the cloud that took the form /”. Lightning is a frightening natural event that typically precedes the arrival of rain or storms. According to Cirlot (1962) lightning is spring-principle and of the initial stage of every cycle. In this context, lightning is a symbol of the climax and the new stage in Poe’s life, which was the news that Frances Allan, Poe’s beloved mother, passed away on February 28, 1829. The news of Frances Allan’s death resembled a bolt of lightning that suddenly struck in autumn which was full of beauty and happiness. According to Fromm (1957) “... if it (mother’s love) is not there, it is as if all beauty had gone out of life and there is nothing I can do to create it.” When the people we love and love us leave, the world feels like it is collapsing and destroyed. Poe loved Frances Allan with all his heart. It was Frances who supported Poe’s artistic side, since Poe was a child. In the letters addressed to John Allan, Poe always leaves his greetings to the adoptive mother that he loves, Frances Allan. There are two letters that Poe wrote in letter to John Allan in December 1st, 1828 and December 22nd, 1828 collected by Ostrom (2008) which show Poe’s love for Frances Allan, his “Ma” one of whom is:

... I can struggle with any difficulty. My dearest love to Ma – it is only when absent that we can tell the value of such a friend – I hope she will not let my wayward disposition wear away the love she used to have for me.

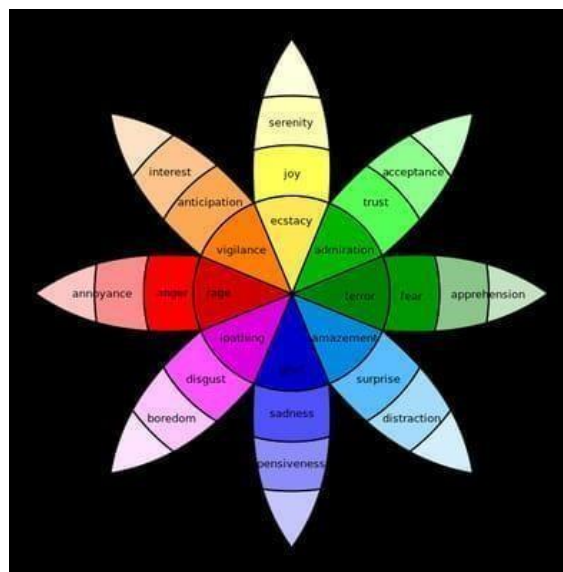
We can see that Poe loved his adoptive mother very much, Poe could overcome all the obstacles that were in front of him but his only weakness was not wanting his “Ma” to hate him. As has been evidenced above, the relationship between Poe and John Allan was not very good and harmonious, which caused Frances’ position as a mother and wife to be quite difficult. In addition, Frances’ health condition was deteriorating and Poe was afraid that if his “Ma” were to find out

that he and John Allan are fighting, it would worsen her health. The death of Frances Allan left John Allan and Poe especially, with deep wounds. In the letter that Poe wrote to John Allan on January 3rd, 1830 which was collected by Ostrom (2008) Poe showed his sadness and regret with the death of Frances Allan.

... I came home, you will remember, the night after the burial - If she had not have died while I was away there would have been nothing for me to regret –

According to Cirlot (1962) a thunderbolt symbolizes chance, destiny and providence-the forces that mould the future. Thunder is also a symbol of an unexpected event. We can liken thunder and storms with the unexpected things that happened in Poe's life during his childhood, the death of Elizabeth Poe, being separated from siblings, adopted by Allan family, gambling and ending up in debt, dropping out from University of Virginia after only being enrolled for eight months, joining the army and having a miserable time, obtaining Sergeant Major Rank, and finally, Poe had to face that his beloved Ma passed away. With the death of his Ma, Frances Allan, Poe had to face and live a tumultuous, stormy life once again. Poe had to go through it all alone without anyone's support, understanding, and love, which he had obtained from Ma. Without someone beside Poe to support him when he experienced difficult things, he had difficulty dealing with many obstacles ahead. The things that happened in Poe's childhood both good and ill made Poe's life shrouded in mysteries that had an impact on the literary works he created which tend to Gothic Literature and mystery in Poe's life until the end of his life.

In line 21 (When the rest Heaven was blue) according to The Free Dictionaries, Heaven is the abode of God, the angels, and the souls of those granted salvation. In addition, Heaven is a symbol of happiness, joy and peace. According to Wilmer in Yewdale (1920), Edgar Allan Poe never wrote a line expressing libidinous thought. The female creations of his fancy are all statues or angels. Furthermore, Fromm (1956) states that angels symbolize virtue. Angels are supernatural beings or spirits that guide people to perform good deeds. They usually live in heaven, where the lives of every creative person are happy and compatible. A mother is a figure who plays a vital role in a child's life. Mothers love their children more than anything in this world, and they sacrifice anything for their children's happiness. Even if the children make a mistake, the mother will forgive and give her children love. According to Robert Plutchik's Wheel of Emotions in Morin (2014), blue symbolizes grief, sadness, and pensiveness. As we can see from the color spectrum by Robert Plutchik, blue and yellow colors are located opposite to each other.



Wheel of Emotions by Robert Plutchik (Source: Morin, 2014)

Thus, we can conclude that Poe's previous feelings of happiness have changed. The blue color here also shows that Heaven was sad. It refers to the sadness of the angels who live there, namely Elizabeth Poe, Mrs. Helen Stannard and Frances Allan. Three of them were considered angels by Poe, and what we know is that mothers are angelic figures who love, protect, and want happiness for their children. With Poe's condition at the time of facing the storm alone, of course, as a mother, she would not have the heart to see her loved child experiencing bad things. According to Bonaparte (1949), Mrs. Allan made her husband swear to avoid indulging in Poe's life. She also pleaded not to be buried before Poe met her for the last time, but her request was ignored. In fact, Poe arrived on March 3rd, 1829, and John Allan had buried Frances' body the day before Poe arrived, on March 2nd, 1829, in Shockoe Cemetery. Of course, this made Frances feel sad even though she was in Heaven. Because of the affection between Frances and her son Poe, they both wanted to meet for the last time, but John Allan did not fulfill it. Still, according to Bonaparte (1949), the legend said that the next day on March 4th, 1829, Poe visited Shockoe Cemetery. With an overwhelming feeling of grief, Poe fell down on a fresh grave and the servants helped him get up because of Poe's weak condition. Losing a mother or woman who Poe loved and loved added more wounds to Poe's heart.

The last line of "Of a demon in my view- /", shows that demons are spiritual beings described as terrifying. Demons are symbols of evil or bad people. As discussed above, Poe depicts women as statues or angels, something that Poe admires, loves, and protects. Since childhood, Poe did not have sufficient memories of a man or father figure in his life. David Jr., Poe's biological father, left Poe and his small family in 1810, and John Allan who did not get along well with Poe made the figure of father in Poe's life considered unfavorable. In a letter that Poe wrote from West Point on January 3rd, 1830 to John Allan which was collected by Ostrom (2008) "*Your love is I never valued – but she I believed loved me as her own child.*". This sentence shows that according to Poe, John Allan's "love" is not the real love unlike Frances Allan's.

When Poe was a child, John Allan adored little Poe, but when he grew up, there was a gap in their relationship. Poe and John Allan both had a stubborn streak, so any small action or miscommunication between them could create a serious problem that could affect their relationship. A previous study by Sahlani (2009) stated that the demon in Poe's view, because he is an atheist who overcame many difficulties, taught him how to be independent of God's determination. In contrast, the symbol of the demon here is a symbol of Poe's foster father, John Allan, whether Poe was an atheist or not. After Frances Allan's death, Poe's life was still full of twists and turns. The relationship between Poe and John Allan has grown tenuous. There were many things that happened after Frances Allan's death, where most of the situations that happened were that Poe ended up having no money to fulfill his needs. Poe sent several letters to John Allan about his condition and asked for help to send money. Sometimes John Allan helped Poe, and the letters were ignored. Poe thought that John Allan had not forgiven his past behavior, although Poe apologized. After 1829, Poe's relationship with John Allan had worsened. In a letter Poe wrote to John Allan in West Point, January 3rd 1830 collected by Ostrom (2008) Poe wrote down everything he felt about his adoption, education that he received, gambling, and his military life.

...But the promises of adoption, and the liberal education which you held forth to him in a letter which is now in possession of my family, induced him to resign all care of me into your hands. Under such circumstances, can it be said that I have no right to expect any thing at your hands? ... You may probably urge that you have given me a liberal education. I will leave the decision of that question to those who know how far liberal educations can be obtained in 8 months at the University of Va. ...You would not let me return because bills were presented you for payment which I never wished nor desired you to pay. ...I will boldly say that it was wholly entirely your own mistaken parsimony that caused all the difficulties in which I was involved while at Charlotte[s]ville. The expenses of the institution at the lowest estimate were \$350 per annum. You sent me there with

\$110. ...I kept it for some time - thinking that if I could obtain more I could yet retrieve my character - I applied to James Galt - but he, I believe, from the best motives refused to lend me any - I then become desperate, and gambled - until I finally i[n]volved myself irretrievably. You promise to forgive all - but you soon forgot your promise. You sent me to W. Point l[i]ke a beggar.] The same difficulties are threateni[n]g me as before at [Charlottesville] - and I must resign. As regards Sergt. Graves - I did write him that letter. As to the truth of its contents, I leave it to God, and your own conscience. - The time in which I wrote it was within a half hour after you had embittered every feeling of my heart against you by your abuse of my family, and myself, under your own roof - and at a time when you knew that my heart was almost breaking. I have no energy left, nor health, If it was possible, to put up with the fatigues of this place, and the inconveniences which my absolute want of necessities subject me to, and as I mentioned before it is my intention to resign. ... your refusal would only deprive me of the little pay which is now due as mileage. From the time of writing this I shall neglect my studies and duties at the institution - if I do not receive your answer in two days - I will leave the point without - for otherwise I should subject myself to dismissal.

From the letter above, it can be seen that the bad things and difficult situations that Poe faced occurred due to John Allan's treatment of him since Poe's childhood. Unlike the mother who symbolizes an angel, the father from Poe's point of view here is a portrait of evil or a bad person who mistreated and made Poe's life become miserable. In 1831, John Allan remarried another woman, and in 1834 John Allan died and Poe's name was not in his will. Poe was left in poverty. This shows that everything that had happened in Poe's life since he was a child, the good and the bad things remained a mystery that still bound Poe until the end of his life.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The 1829 poem "Alone" by Edgar Allan Poe delves into challenging childhood experiences of the character "I." The repetition of the word "childhood" in the poem suggests the presence of two distinct types of childhoods. Employing the Biographical Approach by Wellek and Warren from 1962 in our research, we delved into the symbols within the poem as tools for a deeper understanding. This investigation revealed that the poem, narrating the childhood of the character "I," is essentially a reflection of Poe's own early life. Our findings confirm that Edgar Allan Poe underwent two distinct childhoods - one with Elizabeth Poe and another following his adoption by the Allan family in 1811, when Poe was nearly three years old.

We also observed that Poe delineates his childhood experiences into three distinct phases. Firstly, there is his early upbringing with his biological mother, Elizabeth Poe. Secondly, his childhood unfolds after being adopted by the Allan family, leading him into military service. Lastly, Poe faces the loss of his adopted mother, Frances Allan. The symbols in the poem, such as storm, torrent, the red cliff of the mountain, the sun, lightening, and thunder, depict a tumultuous and challenging childhood for Poe right from the beginning - a stark contrast to the experiences of the others in their childhood. Additionally, the symbolism of Heaven, representing the abode of angels, serves as a metaphor for the mother figure, while the demon symbolizes the father figure, particularly embodied by John Allan.

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