CHAPTER III
METHODOLOGY

This section discusses the research methodology used in this study and is divided into four sub-chapters: research design, data source, data collection, and data analysis.

3.1. Research Design

This study is qualitative in nature as it aims to identify and analyze the emotions presented in poetry through its interpretation. Qualitative research is descriptive research where the data are in the form of words or pictures to describe a particular situation (Bogdan, Taylor, & DeVault, 2016). This method involves non-numerical data such as text, picture, audio, or video to understand concepts and produce descriptive data.

Tracy (2013) defines qualitative research as "the collection, analysis, and interpretation of interview, participant observation, and document data in order to understand and describe meanings, relationships, and patterns" (p. 36). This research method seeks to understand the nature, value, and detailed information of the subjects of the study.

To support the previous arguments, according to Creswell (2018), a qualitative research study is defined as:

> A means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem. The process of research involves emerging questions and procedures; collecting data in the participants' setting; analyzing the data inductively, building from particulars to general themes; and making interpretations of the meaning of the data. The final written report has a flexible writing structure (p. 330).

Qualitative research features a text as the main focus of the study because it provides textual data to learn the behavior and problems in society, such as how humans behave, feel, and think about a specific issue in a particular situation. This method studies said experience then produces an interpretation based on the text by providing evidence from within and outside the text. It implies that the researchers

have no wrong or correct interpretation as they state the fact based on their observation.

By using qualitative method, the students' response poems are considered as the medium of this study to seek the answer of how students feel about a certain situation, in this case is the COVID-19 pandemic through O'Meara (2020) poem. Then, the analysis and interpretation of students' response poems are viewed as the reflection to students' lives.

In analyzing the poems, this study focused particularly on these elements: tone, mood, and figurative language. Through these three elements, the emotions contained in the poems were then revealed.

3.2. Data Sources

The data of this study are fifteen response poems written by a group of first-semester university students of the English Language and Literature Program, Department of English Education, Indonesia University of Education. They were invited to respond to the poem "And the People Stayed Home" by Kitty O'Meara (2020) in the form of a poem as well. In writing their response poems, the students were employing reader-response approach. The study focused on the first-semester students' feelings because they had the expectation of studying on campus and meeting new friends. However, because of the pandemic, they had to stay at home and resort to online learning instead.

"And the People Stayed Home" is a poem written at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is about how people begin to do new activities during the situation. The poem is as follows:

> And the people stayed home.
> And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art,
> and played games,
> and learned new ways of being, and were still.
> And listened more deeply.
> Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
> Some met their shadows.
> And the people began to think differently.
> And the people healed.
> And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless,
> and heartless ways,
> the earth began to heal.

> And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again,
> they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new
> images,
> and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully,
> as they had been healed.

People try new activities such as reading books, meditating, and doing other hobbies. However, some people also "meet their shadows", meaning that they find the hidden and dark part of themselves that they do not know or refuse to admit. Dark shadow can be interpreted as the worst of oneself, such as depression and a tendency to manipulate others. However, they begin to change their way of life and their minds as they open themselves to new opportunities and learn from the hardships. Moreover, because people start staying at home, this poem hopes it is the time for the earth to heal since the people who destroy it are at home—like how people do not use cars as much anymore. Then, it seems to be optimistic that this suffering will come to an end so people can socialize like before even though, perhaps, some of them have lost relatives and friends due to COVID-19 or lost their jobs. After it has passed, they have to move on and start over, hopefully for the better.

This heartfelt poem contains optimistic and hopeful messages that center not only on humans' perseverance but also on nature in the face of crisis. It looks at the possibilities of living life in different ways. Other than that, it can provide a discussion about the experience of living during the pandemic.

3.3. Data Collection and Analysis

The data collected were in the form of students' response poems. First, the author asked the fifteen first-semester students from English Language and Literature Study Program to use their poems as the data for this study. The collection of poems was then analyzed in terms of their tone, mood, and figurative language to determine the kinds of emotions conveyed.

In analyzing the data, I followed specific procedure, as outlined by Creswell (2018). Creswell (2018) specifies five steps in analyzing qualitative data. The first step was collecting the data. As data are essential part of any research study, they are collected depending on the required data of the study. This study uses fifteen

first-semester students' response poems to Kitty O'Meara's "And the People Stayed Home" (2020) as the data.

Second, I had to get a sense of what the data contain. In regard to my own study, in unpacking the emotions contained in the students' poems, I had to read and re-read their poems several times to really understand the mood, the tone, and the figurative languages contained within them. I also looked at the 'technical aspects' of the poem to help me build a sense of what the poem was about. This step was repeated several times. As this study focuses on the emotion presented, the mood, tone, and figurative language are the focus of the analysis.

After reading the data, the third step was carried out. I gave the data 'codes', which means categorizing the data into different groups in the form of written words or images. Creating labels for the important parts helps the researcher to connect different parts of the data, hence enabling the researcher to come up with a more comprehensive interpretation. In this study, the data were divided into a table consisting of four columns that would show the analysis of the emotions presented in students' response poems. The first column consists of the student's poem, the second for the tone analysis, the third for the mood analysis, and the fourth for the figurative language used in the poems. The table enabled me to focus on the important aspects of the poem and to construct elaborate interpretation of the selected data.

The fourth step was creating a theme and description using the aforementioned codes. In this phase, drawing on the analysis of the tone, mood and the figurative language, I identified the emotions conveyed in each poem and presented the textual evidence.

Then, the last step was interpreting the theme. In this study, the analyzed poems were further interpreted in light of reader-response theory. In each poem analysis, I found some points on what can be inferred about students' lives through their response poems. To preserve each poem in its entirety, I presented the analysis of the poems one by one (see Section 4.1.), starting from the technical elements of it, such as the pattern, rhyme, and other physical attributes, and gradually moving on to my own personal interpretation by constructing the meaning of the poems through the use of figurative language, mood, and tone. I also explained how the

poems might have been affected by the students' own experiences through my analysis of each students' response poems. The following table exemplifies the poem analysis carried out in this study:

Table 1

Sample Data Analysis

"Dusthumia" by Irina	Tone	Mood	Figurative Language(s)
In the dawn of quarantine, It is true that many people laughed, danced till another noon. Many people were over the moon, Simply smiling in the shadows of thinking that it will be over soon.

But later, in the night of quarantine, Those laughters have turned into woeful cries, Because some had looked directly into their eyes, Discovering a dormant devil that has begun to rise.

Some had stayed inside long enough to discover their true passion, Some had stayed inside long enough to get swallowed by their demon. Some had managed to have their mind and heart tamed, | Whimsical, critical, and desperate | Hopeless | Simile:
- I also have seen some *dreamed as bright as thousands of lights.*
- Many people began to *grieve, As naturally as they breathe.*

Personification:
- Some had stayed inside long enough *to get swallowed by their demon.*
- Some had managed to *have their mind and heart tamed,*
- Some had managed to *have their mind and heart tormented.*
- In a *city that never sleeps,*
- Accompanied by *loneliness that kills,*

Symbolism:
- In the *dawn* of quarantine,
- But later, in the *night* of quarantine,
- Discovering a *dormant devil* that has begun to rise.
- Some had stayed inside long enough to get swallowed by their *demon.*
- Truly, no *season or night* lasts forever, |

Some had managed to have their mind and heart tormented.

I have seen some screamed into the darkness of sleepless nights,
I also have seen some dreamed as bright as thousands of lights.
It was very clear some enjoyed the stay,
And the other bunch wanted to go away.

In a city that never sleeps,
Accompanied by loneliness that kills,
Some people began to lose hope,
As death was on the higher side of the slope.

Many people craved for a glimpse of their loved ones,
But all they can do is to weep till tear runs,
Hugging their legs till their body feel numb,
Shoulder to lean on was only wall of the room.

Many people began to grieve,

Hyperbole:
- It is true that *many people laughed, danced till another noon.*
- Discovering *a dormant devil* that has begun to rise
- Some had stayed inside long enough to *get swallowed by their demon.*
- Some had managed to *have their mind and heart tamed*,
- Some had managed to *have their mind and heart tormented.*
- I have seen some *screamed into the darkness of sleepless nights*,
- I also have seen some *dreamed as bright as thousands of lights.*
- Accompanied by *loneliness that kills*,
- But all they can do is to *weep till tear runs*,
- *Hugging their legs till their body feel numb,*
- *Shoulder to lean on was only wall of the room.*
- Many people began to *grieve,*
  As naturally as they breathe.

Irony:
In a *city that never sleeps,*
Accompanied by loneliness that kills,

As naturally as
they breathe.
So, people tried
hard to find ways
to revive,
As they struggled
hard every day to
survive.

Truly, no season or
night lasts forever,
But when will our
misery be actually
over?

"Dusthumia", written by Irene, is a free verse poem consists of 30 lines divided into eight stanzas. Each stanza is made up of four lines, except for the last stanza, which only has two lines. This poem employs several figurative languages: simile, personification, symbolism, hyperbole, and irony. However, hyperbole appears most of all figurative languages. The word choices and figure of speech help shape the poem's tone, which is whimsical, critical, and desperate. The tone of this poem is whimsical when it describes what people do during the beginning of quarantine, such as "laugh", "dance", "smile", and "over the moon". Then, the tone shifts as it shows the heartbreaking reality many people face. In the last part of the poem, the narrator seems to lose all her hope while desperately asking for the end of the pandemic. Therefore, this poem creates a mood of hopelessness.

This particular poem talks about how this quarantine can either make or break people. While it has its positive impact on some, it also has negative effects on others. Some people used this time to their advantage by exploring new things, learning more about themselves, and finding what they really loved and who they really were. However, the others were not as lucky as they fell into despair and lost their loved ones, their hope, and themselves in the process. They could not do anything as crying and begging would never bring their happiness back, even though they seemed to use up all their tears and voice. The world continued as usual as if nothing was out of the ordinary was happening, yet people were still suffering in their solitude and struggling to live.