

CHAPTER III

CONCLUSIONS & SUGGESTIONS

3.1 Conclusions

In answering the three research questions using two elements to find the significance of a poem; both unidirectional expression and heuristic & hermeneutic (retroactive) reading, based on Semiotics-Structuralism theory, the writer found that: *first*, in terms of unidirectional expression, Holy Grail has displacing of meaning. It can be seen from the use of metaphor which is dominant in the poem. In 60 verses, there are 27 verses used metaphor (16.2 %) and the rest, 83.8 %, are divided into 33 verses of others eight types of figures of speech. According to Riffaterre, displacing of meaning can be found in the use of simile, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, and *metaphor* in a poem (Pradopo, 2005: 281).

Second, Holy Grail in *The Cross and the Grail* represents a concept of ‘salvation,’ means preservation or deliverance from difficulty or evil; deliverance from sin; redemption (*The Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 1997 Dictionary*).

Third, the concept of ‘salvation’ occurs from two events, the Last Supper and the crucifixion of The Christ. The Grail is ‘a cup’ used by Jesus Christ in the Last Supper and also used by Joseph of Arimathea to collect the crucified Christ’s blood. In blessing the unleavened bread and wine during the Passover services, he called the bread his body and the wine his “blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins” (Matthew

26:27). According to tradition, the Grail was preserved by Joseph of Arimathea, who collected in it the blood from the body of the crucified Christ. The vessel was then conveyed to Britain, where it was transmitted from generation to generation of Joseph's descendants. Later it piously sought by the knights of the legendary King Arthur (*The Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 1997*).

3.2 Suggestions

The significance of a poem is more than its literal meaning. The reader needs a good knowledge in language terms and sensitivity in reading a poem. *The Cross and the Grail* is a poem related to Arthurian Legend and Christianity. The significance or message in the poem has a very close relation with those two contexts. Therefore, to analyze a poem in order to find its meaning, the reader also has to be familiar with the context which supports or relates to the poem.