1.1 Background of the Analysis

As sound is the medium of music and color the medium of painting, language is the medium of literature. The only purpose of language is to communicate something—anything from one person to another. Throughout the centuries the various literary forms—poem, essay, short story have been invented by writers to serve their needs.

Poetry is the art of saying something that can hardly be said in any other way. Poetic language is not a substitute for some other language with which the poet could make things clearer were he less obstinate and aesthetic. Poetic language exists simply because no other language has been found to communicate our attitudes and feeling toward certain kinds of experience. Good talk about poetry is nevertheless rare, and even the best of it will rest lightly on fallow ground until we ourselves have learned how to penetrate the inner life of a few poems. We can not be talked into enjoying the pleasures of poetry, but we can bring ourselves to such pleasures by learning to understand individual poems.

“General Preliminaries” implies that each type of literature has a structure of its own. If we wish to understand the structure of a poem. It seems sensible to begin by examining one. We shall learn much about poetry in general if we can discover exactly what Frost has done and how he has done it.

Robert Lee Frost is one of America’s leading 20th century pastoral poets. He is mostly associated with rural New England. The poetry of time pulitzer
prize winner is both traditional and experimental, regional and universal. Robert Frost writes of ordinary life situations in his work, these basic situations are used to portray a deeper meaning. The simple or ordinary aspects of life that Frost illustrates in his poetry are associated with the extraordinary features of human life. Frost’s poetry makes this connection between the regular and the irregular through the use of many poetic. In Frost’s poem, “After Apple Picking”, the simple daily ritual of picking an apple from a tree is described. However this poem delves deeper than simply picking an apple, it explores the life and death of a man, his goals, achievements and failures. Robert Frost is well known for his many symbolic poems. “After Apple-Picking” is very symbolic poems of quest. Frost uses symbols and his writing style to emphasize his idea of the complexities of life and the necessity of finding ways to manage life’s ambiguities. The quest for knowledge is one of the most important expeditions in life. Death is also a quest interpreted by Robert Frost. These two quests are used by Frost to articulate ways in which all people can rise above problems in life.

1.2 Objectives of Analysis

I would like to analyze the poems based on the meaning of the poems. The aim is to make the readers know and understand about life and death based on Robert Frost poems.

1.3 Significance of the Analysis

I would like to find out the poet’s perception on death and life in five of Robert Frost’s poems.
1.4 Scope of the Analysis

I focus my analysis on Robert Frost’s four poems written during the year 1924 to 1960 to look for the perception of death and life in them. The poems which will be discussed are:

1. “Nothing Gold Can Stay”
2. “Meeting and Passing”
3. “After Apple Picking”
4. “Home Burial”

1.5 Method of the Analysis

As we read Frost’s poems for the first time, a certain kind of sense comes through to us almost immediately. This sense we will call the poem plain sense. Sometimes it is called literal sense or literal meaning. Let us note before we proceed that paraphrasing the poems helped to raise the questions about the poem’s fullest meaning. If the poem Unless the plain sense is clearly understood before further analysis of a poem begins. The reader is likely to misconstrue the total meaning of the poem.

A little closer reading of the poems shows us that Frost is depending on our ability to see and hear imaginative. If a poem means the sum of everything in the poem: we must be aware of all its parts as they work together to make the total meaning of the poem. If the poem is a good one, and this is surely one test every element in it contributes to its meaning.

We have learned further that a poem has at least two levels of meaning. The literal level and the figurative symbolic level. We have seen that a poem suggests much more than it says literally: like lover’s conversation, a poem gives out hints of
extensive meaning along the way. Students often refers to the figurative meaning as the hidden meaning, as if the poet had set out to hide his meaning in order to make the poem difficult. Ordinarily poets have outgrown the game of hide and seek, but they do write figuratively for such reasons as Frost has already demonstrated.

**Review of Related Literature**

1) **Lewis Thomas (1913 – 1993)**

   **On Natural Death**

   Lewis Thomas was a doctor, a medical researcher, and a professor of medicine whose specialty was pathology in 1971, he began contributing a column and published a book with the title “Notes of Biology Watcher”. In this book Lewis Thomas explained about how people face the death and how people dying in death. In this book help me in find out the meaning of death and there are some of people experiences in dying and closed in death, To the new England journal of medicine. Some of this essays were collected and publish in 1914 as the lives of cell. You could be led to believe that we are the only creatures capable of the awareness of death, that when all the rest of nature is being cycled through dying, one generation after another, it is different kind of process, done automatically and trivially, more “nature” as we say.

2) **Elisabeth Kubler – Ross (1924 – 1998)**

   **On the Fear of Death**

When we look back in time and study old cultures and people, we are impressed that death has always been distasteful to man and will probably always be. From a psychiatrist’s point of view this is very understandable and can perhaps best be explained by our basic knowledge that, in our unconscious, death is never possible in regard to ourselves. It is inconceivable for our unconscious to imagine an actual ending of our own life here on earth, and if this life of ours has to end, then ending is always attributed to a malicious intervention from the outside by someone else. In simple term, in our unconscious mind we can only be killed, it is inconceivable to die of a natural cause or of old age. Therefore death in itself is associated with a bad act, a frightening happening, something that in itself calls for retribution and punishment.

2) Donald J. Greiner

From The Indispensable Robert Frost

“Home Burial” was first published in North of Boston (1914). It is best of the renowned dialog poems not only because it movingly details a falling marriage but also because of its dazzling combination of sentence sounds and black verse. Lawrance Thomson reports that Frost recalled writing the poem in 1912 or 1913 and that his inspiration was the marital estrangement between Nathaniel and Leona Harvey following the death of Frost and Elinor’s own first born child, Elliot, in 1900 at age four. Mrs. Frost could not ease her grief following Elliot’s death and Frost later reported that she knew then that the world was evil. Amy in “home Burial” makes the same observation.
Further evidence that the poem may be partly autobiographical is Thomson’s recollection of Frost’s once telling him that he could never read “Home Burial” in public because it was too sad.

3) Richard Rolle (c. 1300 – c. 1349).

Literature of Mysticism in Western Tradition.

In this book is explain about perception of western tradition about teaching on mystical experience and how the western tradition view about death. Because Robert Frost is come from western country. The great mystical authors have produced a literature maintaining the dialectic between a culture’s articulate framework of reasoned enquiry, and vision that continues to outstrip it. Some such combination of effects can be seen especially to characterise the Incendium Amoris of the English visionary. The Incendium Amoris, with the Melos Amoris, contains most clearly Rolle’s teachings on mystical experience. We must turn our heads in faith towards God, and away from things of the world which are means, at best, to bring us supernatural end.

5. Teresa of Avila (1515 – 82)

Interior castle, sixth mansion, IX, 9

In this book Teresa of Avila explained about death. She said that death is not about enter into heaven or hell. In this book about a man who enter into an house or as go through an hole or Casement, into unknown place. In this book is explain about what Heaven is, it is about the turning in of the will into the love of God. Wheresover to findest God manifesting himself in love. There to findest Heaven, without travelling for it so much as one foot. And in this book also axplaned about what Hell
is and what it is. This book is about the turning in of the will into the warth of God.

This book is related to Robert Frost’s poem which the title is “Home Burial”.