CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1. 1 The Background of Study

Literature is the mirror of human life that portrays the human feeling, thought, imagination, and perception can be viewed base on personal judgment. Taylor (1997: 15) says that “literature, like other arts, is essentially an imaginative act of the writer’s imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life experiences”. Wellek (1972: 3) says that “literature is a creative act and an art”. So generally literature is a creative expression of human imagination or wishes, which is hardly ever reflected in our actual life.

Roberts and Jacobs (1995: 2) stated that literature is classified into four categories of genre: 1. Prose Fiction, 2. Poetry, 3. Drama, and 4. Nonfiction Prose. Prose Fiction, Poetry, and Drama are classed as imaginative literature. From the various types of imaginative literature, poetry is the shortest category of literature than other categories. Poetry is a form of literary art in which language is used for its aesthetic and evocative qualities in addition to, or in lieu of, its apparent meaning. By reading a poem, the intention of a poet can be understood.

The Lucy Poems are a series of five poems written and arranged by English Romantic Poet William Wordsworth between 1798 and 1801. He has written 447 poems along his life. He is the second of five brothers that was born on 7 April 1770 in Wordsworth House in Cockermouth, Cumberland part of the scenic region in Northwest England, the Lake District. His father is John
Wordsworth and his mother is Ann Cookson. He died by re aggravating a case of pleurisy on 23 April 1850, and was buried at St. Oswald’s church in Grasmere. All his poems were first published during 1800 in the second edition of Lyrical Ballads, collaboration between William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge that was both Wordsworth’s first major publication and a milestone in the early English Romantic movement. In the series, William Wordsworth sought to write unaffected English verse infused with abstract ideals of beauty, nature, love, longing, and death.

The Lucy Poems consist of five poems: “Strange Fits of Passion Have I Known”, “She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways”, “I Travelled Among Unknown Men”, “Three Years She Grew in Sun and Shower”, and “A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal”. The poems were written during a short period while the poet lived in Germany. Although they individually deal with a variety of themes, as a series they focus on the poet's longing for the company of his friend Coleridge, who had stayed in England, and on his increasing impatience with his sister Dorothy, who had traveled with him abroad. Wordsworth channeled his frustrations into an examination of unrequited love for the idealized character of Lucy, an English girl who died at a young age. The idea of her death weighs heavily on the poet throughout the series, imbuing it with a melancholic, elegiac tone. Whether Lucy was based on a real woman or was a figment of the poet's imagination has long been a matter of debate among scholars. Generally reticent about the poems, Wordsworth never revealed the details of her origin or identity. Some scholars speculate that Lucy is based on his
sister Dorothy, while others see her as a fictitious or hybrid character. Most critics agree that she is essentially a literary device upon whom he could project, meditate and reflect.

The two Lucy Poems “A Slumber Did My Spirit Seal” and “She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways” are the two shortest of Lucy Poems. There are so many aspects can be analyzed in a poem. The writer chose to analyze the two Lucy Poems using the theory of L.G. Alexander (1932) through the Meaning, Structural Devices, Sense Devices, Sound Devices, and the Types of the two Lucy Poems, then described the analysis results and in order to made the conclusion about the two Lucy Poems. The analysis is a description analysis.

1.2 The Problem of Study

The problem of the study is what in the two Lucy Poems contained the elements or the devices that is relevant with the theory of L.G. Alexander (1932) those are the Meaning, Structural Devices, Sense Devices, Sound Devices, and the Types.

1.3 The Scope of Study

The writer analyzes the two Lucy Poems using the theory of L.G. Alexander (1932) through the Meaning, Structural Devices, Sense Devices, Sound Devices, and the Types.
1.4 The Purpose of Study

The purpose of the study is to describe and conclude the analysis results from the two Lucy Poems using the theory of L.G. Alexander (1932) through the Meaning, Structural Devices, Sense Devices, Sound Devices, and the Types and as one of the requirements to get the Diploma III certificate from English Study Program Faculty of Culture Studies, University of Sumatera Utara.

1.5 The Method of Study

This paper is written using one of the researching methods which is library research. The writer read and collected some literary books especially books that are relevant to the topic that can support the analysis and as the reference in finishing this paper. The writer searched and collected data from the internet to enrich an accurate data. Finally, the writer described the analysis results from the data and made the conclusion.