Digital or Sad Poetry: The Enthusiasm over Sadness on Wattpad

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Abstract - Despite indicating the development of literature in a modern world, Wattpad allows any type of influence to enter its platform. Many people are under the age of adulthood, but they are writing popular poems. Wattpad's poetry itself has many images related to sadness. This research aims to study enthusiasm over sadness in Wattpad's poetry. The method was based on a qualitative-quantitative mixed method. It is found that the images of sadness revolve around guilt, depression, loneliness, trauma, and betrayal. Based on the qualitative approach, findings show that depression's image gets portrayed more than the rest. This article proposes to conduct a study of Wattpad literature based on popular works and also to use a qualitative approach to investigate the content of the platform itself. The neutrality of Wattpad's comments is considered non-canonical from a quantitative sentiment analysis point of view and, therefore, requires greater attention for future research.

Keywords: poetry, sadness, semiotics, sentiment analysis, Wattpad

Abstrak – Meskipun menunjukkan adanya suatu perkembangan dari karya sastra di dunia modern, Wattpad memungkinkan segala jenis pengaruh untuk memasuki platformnya. Sebaliknya, terdapat banyak orang yang berusia di bawah dewasa, akan tetapi mereka dapat menulis puisi yang populer. Puisi yang ditawarkan oleh Wattpad sendiri memiliki banyak gambar yang terkait dengan kesedihan. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mempelajari antusiasme atas kesedihan dalam puisi Wattpad. Metode yang kami gunakan berbasis dari metode campuran kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Penelitian menemukan gambaran kesedihan berkisar pada rasa bersalah, depresi, kesepian, trauma, dan rasa terkhianati. Berdasarkan pendekatan kualitatif, temuan kami menunjukkan bahwa gambaran depresi muncul lebih banyak daripada yang lain. Artikel penelitian ini mengusulkan untuk melakukan penelitian sastra di Wattpad berdasarkan karya-karya populer mereka, serta mendorong pendekatan kualitatif untuk menyelidiki konten dalam platform itu sendiri. Netralitas komentar Wattpad dianggap non-kanonik dari sudut pandang analisis sentimen kuantitatif dan karenanya memerlukan perhatian yang lebih besar untuk penelitian di masa mendatang.

Kata Kunci: analisis sentimen, kesedihan, puisi, semiotika, Wattpad

INTRODUCTION

Despite the interests in adapting a novel to a film, the structure of literature can be preserved by digital platforms. Therefore, the term about digital literature exists, reviving the interests of many people, especially from the post-modern era. To think that there are at least 30 million books ignored (Pianzola et al., 2020, p. 1); this gives an opportunity not only to experienced writers but also to the beginners and young-generation writers. They have even written many themes and genres for platforms such as Webtoon, Wattpad, and even Haiku, which is a digital platform for Japanese-style poems. Before the appearance of digital platforms, literary works that are related to electronic devices can be traced back to the early days of computers. However, the question about the meaning of digital literature was already been asked. People at the time knew that is now widely accepted by scholars. Digital literature is any type of literary writing which are computer-generated. So, it does not have anything to do with printed literature made available on digital platforms such as e-books (Bluijs, 2021). In other words, writers are meant to make their writings through or by the use of electronic devices in order for their works to be considered as digital literature.

Wattpad is one of the platforms on which a lot of writers can "generate" their works. It ranges from various types of literature, consisting of prose and poems, language, and genres. Wattpad has existed since 2006, which makes it younger than Webtoon. Moreover, literature has come to the point where it is considered a means to look at the real world (Afdholy et al., 2024). However, readers might reconsider when they find the contents that Wattpad has compared to what the other does, such as Webtoon. Wattpad is considered to have achieved approximately 90 million readers monthly, but this is not the case. Turkey, for example, banned the platform for unknown reasons.

Previously, there has been a lot of criticism regarding the content on Wattpad, especially about its adult-dominated theme (Putra, 2020). We will conduct research based on the contents of Wattpad. There have been studies shown to have proven the good and bad influence of Wattpad's contents, although these are mostly based on prose or plot-based writings. These works are written by people of various ages, from teenagers to adults. Individuals will have to practice language to communicate and interact (Nuraini et al., 2024). This is also true for writing literature. However, many of Wattpad's literary products tell a very interesting plot that can be analysed and studied. This makes most study of from the digital platform emphasised in terms of prose works. The majority of their readers are youngsters who love the discourse of narrative, which is also supported by the platform's preference for young and teen writers (Falguera-Garcia & Selfa-Sastre, 2021). Therefore, the focus of this paper is on the poem works which can be found on Wattpad, related to the portrayal of sad poems.

In addition, the writing of poems requires a different type of knowledge from storytelling or a prose production. The poem can be considered the product of poetry in the world of literature. It is called art in itself because of its written and oral performance as well as the unique features of verse composition (Rosario, 2009). After looking at the notion towards poems or poetry, there appears more attention and curiosity placed upon the approach of Wattpad young writers. They might be able to make as well as provide a breakthrough or information on how contemporary works of literature have developed or vice versa, thus making the study of Wattpad's poetry important. Before going further in looking at the portrayal of sadness from Wattpad's poetry, there is a set of features of this concept that is worth mentioning. The poetry made from Wattpad introduces the impression of sadness on either its tag, title, or even both. Sadness describes the emotion of the writers from their literary works. However, identifying and unveiling it through metaphors, word choices, and other semiotic features is not a simple task. Scholars are even confused about or not able to substantiate the function of this emotion (Fridja in Karnaze & Levine, 2018, p. 45). So, people always think of sadness as passiveness, pessimism, and depression. Causes of sadness themselves can be brought by both external and internal factors. The external factors of sadness that we sense consist of social experience. This is also true for other emotions, such as fear. For example, someone will be afraid if they are threatened by someone else. In the case of sadness, it could be induced externally by broken romantic relationships, social exclusion, and separation from loved ones (Karnaze & Levine, 2018, p. 46). Internally, someone would feel sad if they perceive negatively about themselves. However, emotions do not stop there; a person only feels and forgets. In short, they can also affect the change of behaviour and habits. These could even last long by the induction of undisappearing trauma.

Studies done on the platform of Wattpad are mostly based on its works of prose written by the users. In other words, there are only a few which are done to poetry. But we have found an article that researched the issues on the platform itself, criticising its contents. The research was done by Setiawan et al. (2020. They studied the taboo of digital storytelling in the platform of Wattpad. However, it is done by looking at the interactions occurring in that online platform. Therefore, the contents of Wattpad not only include the works of literature written by its users but also include the comments from its consumers (Setiawan et al., 2021)which are analysed by the authors using the theory of digital media. Their study showed that Wattpad is a digital platform for writers, and its audience, within the minimum age of 13, can access its vast contents without limits. This platform especially supports the existence of LGBT, which is taboo in Indonesia, by the presence of local writers and of a specific username of @LGBTIna. Thus, making this platform consumption by users become questionable. The research is the inspiration for analyzing the phenomena of Wattpad. However, we aim to analyse the contents of Wattpad, especially its poetry works and how the image of sadness is emitted to many of its contents. Furthermore, there is a study that can support the points of digital platforms being used as a medium of expression.

The second study was conducted by Tokhoz-Sahoglu. The author agreed with the platform of digital storytelling being influential (Tokgoz-Sahoglu, 2019). She studied these phenomena and accumulated several platforms as the basis of data sources. These involve the analysis of case studies regarding digital literature and sexual trauma. Moreover, data taken by the author were based on story-telling writings and personal social media. Meanwhile, the researchers of this paper want to expand on the discussion of how sadness is portrayed specifically in Wattpad's contents of poetry and the response of the audience. The way to look into comments is also suggested as a mixed method by Pianzola et al. in "Wattpad as a resource for literary studies. Quantitative and qualitative examples of the importance of digital social reading and readers' comments for data processing".

Finally, the third research was done by Novita and Purbani in 2023. They studied the interest of readers on Wattpad. This ranged from the contexts of accessibility, the use of diction, genres (which were not the same as types of literature like prose, poetry, and drama), characterisation, and the story's similarities. In one of their findings, readers said that Wattpad tends to have literary works that are similar from one writer to the others, either by their use of language, plot, or characterisation as the result of its open access (Novita & Purbani, 2018, p. 252). This is the reason why the researchers of this paper intended to choose reliable literary works, one of which was based on reputation. The works that had been chosen were also from a popular or rather dominating theme in terms of

Wattpad poetry, namely sadness.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methods being used to conduct this research were a qualitative-quantitative mixed method within the approach of semiotics and relational analysis. Firstly, we compiled data from various poem works of Wattpad from the "hot" sad poems. Then, we analysed the two chosen poems from a poetry book of three distinct authors by a semiotics approach to identify images of sadness. Finally, the data concluded from the analysis of the poetry were connected to the response of their readers by relational analysis. So, we would provide the images based on the sadness theme and their enthusiasm through readers' comments. The semiotics approach was used to analyse language in poetry to identify its conveyed expression. Michael Riffaterre offered this semiotics method to find meaning through the heuristics and hermeneutics stages (Riffaterre, 1978, p. 5). Heuristics is the temporary interpretation of the text or word's references. Meanwhile, hermeneutics reading involves advanced review and re-reading for structural decoding. Riffaterre claimed that the meanings of poetry could not be direct. In other words, researchers needed to find the "unity" of meaning delivered from the indirect use of signs and expression (Culler, 2005, p. 89). So, we decided to apply this to the analysis of the portrayal from Wattpad's selected sad poems. These poems would show different types of sadness, which led the researchers to collect this word's concept through Karnaze and Levine's (2018) notions. But, discussions on the findings could expand on these notions.

After identifying images from chosen poems, we analysed the enthusiasm over those findings through the comments. In this step, the readers' comments were taken into account for relational analysis. Relational analysis was part of content analysis. This was done to discuss readers' sentiments towards certain images (Drew, 2023), which was either positive, negative, or neutral. For example, readers might be enthusiastic over the image of sexual trauma, domestic violence, and heartbreak. It would be a useful method for this research to conclude both findings as the image of sadness and response from readers became the focus of this paper. To collect the quantitative data, we filtered comments on each of the poems. After filtering the comments from the reader's username, profile, and comment features, we provided these to a sentiment analysis machine, namely nocodefunctions.com. The data were divided for each poem by the time of these processes. Finally, the results would be processed and concised through Excel. Nocodefunctions.com acted as a website for automatic numeric data analysis. Thus, it suited research for quantitative data such as this one. However, data needed to be filtered first, as we did previously. We took comments from each poem and placed them in MS Word. These mutated data would, on the other hand, include the profile picture of the users, their replies, and read more features, usernames, and time. The researchers of this paper had to manually pick the comments that also have emojis before placing them into the sentiment analysis machine and processing them. Nevertheless, the website was a free and no-registration platform for non-coder researchers. It adopted the working-mechanism of Umigon, a Twitter sentiment analysis machine, which was written in article format and published by the Association for Computational Linguistics (Espinoza, 2022). They found that the sentiments aspects were based on lexicon, which included positive tone, negative tone, sentiment intensity, negations, and global heuristics (Levallois, 2013). Therefore, the website would be one of the many breakthroughs for the development of science.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This section provides the findings and discussion of both presented issues related to the platform of Wattpad. The first sub-section is the analysis of how sadness is portrayed in Wattpad poetry. The data taken for this theme were collected from two poems of three poem books which were based on the criteria that have been mentioned. Aside from this type of literature being dominated by sad images, they are also reputation of their number of readers and their hot or rather top ranking. This process would make data reliable. The second sub-section is about the response of the works' readers or audience, which is taken from the comments of each poem, to conduct a discussion about their enthusiasm by relational analysis. The division of this chapter facilitates the organisation of our paper and the convenience of reading.

Sadness Images in Wattpad Poetry

When intending to read from Wattpad but new to this platform, we will naturally look at the option of "browse" from the top bar. This would reveal the products they can offer, which is also true for option "search". If the word of poetry or poem was chosen or searched, the platform would show a list of works by different authors. However, the theme of sadness can be found dominating the results, at least until this research paper. The poems that have

been selected are from three books, with each taking two poems. The firsts can emphasise the impression about what readers will be reading. The first poem book is written by the writer with the name of Johnschorwinson. His book is entitled *Midnight Thoughts* in 2017. The second book is written by Darkpoetess and is entitled *Bleeding Poetry*. This book was published in 2017 and is still on-going until this paper. Finally, the third book is entitled *Sowed* and was written by WriterBells. These poems have hundreds of thousands of readers, one of which has four million. In addition, there are so many poems, but sadness dominates the ranks of categories with so many readers such as poem, poetry, poems, poetrycollection, and a blatant one called sadpoems.

1. *Midnight Thoughts*

Johnschorwinson's first three poems in Midnight Thoughts include the titles of "Blackhole" and also "Dead". We conducted our analysis based on heuristics reading before continuing to the hermeneutics. From the reading of heuristics, researchers identify the linguistic signs that are referential and create a temporal understanding of them. However, hermeneutics reading tries to expand on this representation by looking for the deeper and meet-the-end meaning from words until sentences. Unity is the name for that end which defines that everything in a poem or rather poetry, for example meanings, comes from one word or sentence (Culler, 2005, p. 89). The verses from inside the selected poems are bracketed. This poem book has achieved four million readers.

1.1 Heuristics and Hermeneutics Reading of "Black Hole"

[1]
I never got a chance to apologize
for taking the light behind your eyes
or for stealing the warmth from your smiles.
[2]
I never got a chance to apologize,
for taking your frowns as my source of smile,
for taking your darkness as my source of light.
[3]
I never got a chance,
because you already left,
and I'm the reason why.
- Schorwinson 2017

In terms of heuristics reading, the first lines of each poem use the word /*got*/ to describe possession. This is interchangeable with the word have, which means that the persona of /*I*/ may not possess, in his origin, the chance to apologise. But since there is an involvement of apologising to someone, this possession is not merely from himself but given. Thus, this is talking about the connection between him and someone else, which is identified as /*you*/. The defining words of /*the light*/ and /*the warmth*/, on the other hand, are used to describe the object's expression, which means their happiness that was taken away by the persona. This is also true for the second and third lines in verse two. Frowns and darkness are the result of his doing, and making them become a positive influence for him. The persona wants to apologise for his action, however, he implies that it is impossible because the object of /*you*/ has already left because of him. Through hermeneutics reading, the first until third verses explain a persona who lost someone that had been wronged by himself. This someone has broken a connection with the person, which can preferably be called a toxic relationship. The toxic relationship has left a "black hole" inside of the persona, meaning pain because of not being able to apologise and regret because of his wrongdoing. The separation of someone is related to sadness too (Karnaze & Levine, 2018, p. 46). This applies to another important person, as has been portrayed by the poem. Thus, not only is the digital platform used for sharing trauma (Tokgoz-Sahoglu, 2019, p. 107); it also contains writers who caused the trauma. The third verse concludes this separation as a cause and effect, which are then followed by the sense of guilt.

1.2 Heuristics and Hermeneutics Reading of "Dead"

[1]
the thing is
no one will
believe you
when you
tell them that
you want to
kill yourself.

[2]
until you
actually kill
yourself.
- Schorwinson 2017

By reading this through heuristics reading, the poem is speaking about another person again with the diction /*you*/. This includes the words you and yourself, which signify the readers. However, this might also be meant for the writer himself as he is speaking on behalf of us with each expression. Thus, the other, or rather the objects here, are the words /*no one*/ and its pronoun /*them*/. A hermeneutics reading would claim this poem to be extremely sad. It involves the feeling of not having the desire to live, which is from unknown reasons and causes being elaborated in the poem. However, the action of killing oneself comes for various reasons, one of which is sadness. The emotion that can drive someone to take their own life is from a low control of themselves because of the intensity of sadness (Karnaze & Levine, 2018, p. 46). This is why many people would sometimes mention the phrase "lowest point" in life. This is related to expressing sadness, which has become very intense. Moreover, the poem also includes the word /*believe*/ to stress how much sadder it is that people would not believe if someone were to say that they want to kill themselves until they do. This explains that the person is having every second thought related to this negative action, which is called rumination and is associated with depression. The possibility is that he might have experienced telling someone about killing himself or seen it from someone else who ended up killing themselves. Expanding on this phenomenon of suicide, people who feel and express their sadness can reduce their self destructive behaviour (Zhan et al., 2018, p. 9). However, it relies on how the individual can process their fear.

2. *Bleeding Poetry*

The book of poems entitled *Bleeding Poetry* has the two first poems entitled "Bleeding Poetry" and "On Your Own" written by Darkpoetesss. The poem book has achieved two hundred thousands of readers until this research.

2.1 Heuristics and Hermeneutics Reading of "Bleeding Poetry"

[1]
*I **bleed** the **words** I can not speak*
*The **thoughts** that **choke my heart***
*The **emotions** that **I keep** up to myself*
*I bleed the **words** that my mouth **fail to say***
*and people call it **poetry**.*
- Darkpoetesss 2017

From heuristic reading, there is an obvious style of writing the poem that has been done by Darkpoetess. The writer deliberately highlights some words and phrases in this poem. The first line of the poem is related to the persona with phrases such as /***bleed** the **words***/ and /***can not speak***/. This is indicating they are speaking the words they cannot speak as /***words***/ cannot bleed. The second line involves /***thoughts***/ and /***choke my heart***/. This explains the anxiety and overthinking, which are choking the heart instead of the neck. Overall, these highlights explain and open the opportunity to connect words and phrases. One word that is also necessary to mention is /***poetry***/, which is loved by people. This indicates that bleeding words, choking thoughts, repressed emotion, and self-oppression are considered as an art through hermeneutics reading, which is usually for something being liked and normalised. However, this is not fully bad because the poetry acts as an expression that is beneficial for the sad persona (Karnaze & Levine, 2018, p. 52), and even for the readers. The image of sadness proven by this poem's presentation, on the other hand, goes back to the word depression as it typically revolves around the words speaking and mouth. The symptoms of depression are evident if the goals of these mouth and speaking embodiments become disengaging. An example can be seen in the word /*bleed*/. Instead of bleeding from taking his own life, the persona bleeds words. This is another good example of how someone reduces self-destruction by expressing their sadness through poetry.

2.2 Heuristics and Hermeneutics Reading of "On Your Own"

[1]

Stop chasing people, for affection, love or friendship. Stop saying sorry when it is not even your fault. Stop pleading people to stay. They don't deserve you. Work on yourself instead, chase yourself, your dreams. Work on bettering yourself everyday more. Walk on the beautiful journey of self-love, choose yourself over people who wouldn't even care to pick you up if you fall. Choose yourself and keep following the path that leads you to your dreams and on

the way you'll find genuine people, who will support your goals, support your motives. You won't need to chase them, or plead them to stay, because they will. When you start working on yourself and start being kind to yourself and everyone else, you'll find yourself attracting positive people. For the first time in a really long time, you'll understand the true beauty in being on your own.

- Darkpoetesss 2017

Through heuristic reading, this poem is almost like a type of poetry. There is a starting point until the resolution. However, it is delivered by the repetition of words and sentences, which are poetic elements. The writer chooses to start with the words /*stop*/ to indicate that the readers and even he or herself are currently doing exactly what is halted. The other important thing is the word /*yourself*/ to separate the self and the "Other". From a regular person's perspective, this poem might seem very motivating. It tells the readers, and possibly the writer as well, about life choices. However, from hermeneutics reading, it indicates loneliness as the tone for this message is related to becoming and focusing on oneself. Anger or fear can be co-occurring with sadness (Price in Karnaze and Levine 2018, 51), especially when it is correlated to "Other" people. There is nothing wrong with focusing on working on oneself. But the issue is that when we know that the opposite is being done, for example, trying to please others, which the poem is telling us to stop, such as /*stop chasing people for affection, love or friendship*/ indicates that this action, of chasing people, comes from a lonely being. These would be the reasons or purpose, in hermeneutics, the unity, why this specific poem was written. The poetry promotes goodness in being different from others. This is because sadness comes also from the feeling or experience of being different (Arias et al., 2020). Further specified, these differences come from cultures, gender, and social and structural factors, which have been contextualised and analysed since the first sentence of "On Your Own" poetry.

3. *Sowed*

Sowed was written by WriterBells in 2018, with the first two poems called "Illuminate" and "Flowers and Weed". The poetry mentions what they are of, such as healing and blind love, but does not specify their images of sadness.

3.1 Heuristics and Hermeneutics Reading of "Illuminate"

[1]
Let your pain
sit out in the sunlight
and let it be engulfed
by the rays of the sun
[2]
for the light needs
to reach your darkest corners
and illuminate them all
one by one.
- WriterBells 2018

Through heuristic reading, the poem has two stanzas. The first stanza has expressive words such as pain, sunlight, engulf, and rays of the sun. The second one, on the other hand, has light, darker corners, and illumination, which are metaphors. The word /*pain*/ cannot be sat out in the sunlight nor be engulfed by the rays of the sun. However, the second verse or stanza clarifies that this pain is darkness, which needs to be enlightened and illuminated one by one. Through hermeneutics reading, the poem's connection to the image of sadness is that of /*pain*/ and /*darkest corners*/. Pain is a common thing. But when it is pronounced and related indirectly by the poem with the phrase darkest corners, it implies the repression of the concepts of pain and going back to trauma. In other words, the pain needs to be /*let out*/. The how is to think or figure it out. However, it is not the same as common thinking as it involves the reparation for the future (Karnaze & Levine, 2018, p. 49) or rather healing. This is why the light and the sun are the subjects over pain and darkest corners. In the end, trauma cannot just wash away by itself but needs some treatment and therapy. Unfortunately, mental issues are considered as something small in the society of Indonesia, even after as a collective shame for the relatives of suicidal doers as the result of their trauma (Velyani et al., 2024, p. 98). At the very least, the existence of this poem and its analysis raise mental awareness in society.

3.2 Heuristics and Hermeneutics Reading of "Flowers And Weeds"

[1]
I watered my gardens
waiting for the flowers to bloom

never even noticing
when you sneaked in here
and planted weeds instead
- WriterBells, 2018

Through heuristic reading, the poem is full of metaphors; it wants to deliver a very specific moral. It has words that are based on the process of keeping something, which means garden. These words are /*watered*/, /*flowers*/, and /*bloom*/. This connection is about growing flowers in gardens and paying attention to them. However, there are also /*sneaked*/ and /*weeds*/, which indicate an antagonist in the process. Through hermeneutics reading, the poem's title indicates beauty and ugliness. However, the points that are delivered in the contents are deeper. The poem is talking about the purity of a person of which he or she has been taking care. The persona has already hoped it would be preserved. But someone else appears in their life not to help but to destroy it. He or she never noticed or rather expected their action against their gardens. These gardens could mean virginity instead of purity as the predicate /*planted weeds*/ refers to immorality. Nevertheless, failures to reach one's goal can trigger the emotion of sadness (Karnaze & Levine, 2018, p. 51), especially when their goal means life. However, the case for persona is that her goal is unexpectedly ruined by someone else. The sadness is, thus, portrayed by the concept of betrayal. Based on the analysis, we might be able to identify that the relationship of the persona is pre-marital. A pre-marital relationship can reach a point where it is seen as a taboo in certain parts of the community. In addition to the context, the persona will have the feeling of alienated and lacking (Esmaeilzadeh et al., 2021, p. 195), especially after the loss of her "gardens".

The Enthusiasm of Wattpad Readers over Sadness

After the findings and the discussion regarding the image of sadness, we decided to analyse how enthusiastic the readers were through the comments section. Comments are based on the poems that have been analysed by the researchers. Relational analysis is done to identify the reaction of someone to something, whether it be good or bad. The meaning of good and bad may vary based on the sentiment analysis. They typically include positive, negative, and neutral results. There are more than one hundred comments for each poem. So, neutrality is considered as comments that are non-directly related to the poems. There are 500 comments for "Black Hole", 622 for "Dead", 287 for "Bleeding Poetry", 723 for "On Your Own", 150 for "Illuminate", and 120 for "Flowers And Weeds" until this article. These counts are also based on the inline comment. We might not be able to see the overall comments of a chapter if there are certain texts deleted by the authors or any other deletion, such as sensitive comments and personal preferences.

Row Labels	Count of Sentiment
😵 Neutral	187
😔 Negative	144
😭 Positive	155
Grand Total	**486**

Source: Wattpad.com

Picture 1. Readers' Sentiment over Black Hole's Image of Sadness

Despite the sad image in "Black Hole" from *Midnight Thoughts*, readers are shown to have responded in positive manners more than negative ones. Based on Picture 1, there are a total of 486 comments written in a single poem. The poem itself revolves around the image of guilt. Its comments are dominated by neutral sentiments within several 187. However, the comparison between the three aspects of sentiments is first dominated by neutrality, secondly dominated by positivity with some 155 comments, and lastly by negativity with a total of 144 comments. Most people cannot stand on a certain position about the guilt, which becomes the image of sadness in "Black Hole" and followed by the rank of those who are positive.

Row Labels	Count of Sentiment
😵 Neutral	353
😔 Negative	140
😭 Positive	122
Grand Total	**615**

Source: Wattpad.com

Picture 2. Readers' Sentiment over Dead's Image of Sadness

"Dead" has achieved more comments despite it being the second poem written by John Schorwinson. The poem is found to have portrayed depression. However, 615 people have read the poem. The first rank is owned by neutral sentiment with some 353 comments. Picture 2 also shows that there is a different comparison between positive and negative sentiments. Positive sentiment achieved less than negative sentiment this time. It reaches the number of 122, while negative sentiment reaches 140 people. It means that fewer comments are interested in depression, while most are neutral. These comments are written by people who have the desire or have intended to end their own lives, just like the content of the poem. They are considered neutral as they are not directly connected to the literary work.

Row Labels	Count of Sentiment
☺ Neutral	96
☹ Negative	20
☺ Positive	171
Grand Total	287

Source: Wattpad.com

Picture 3. Readers' Sentiment over Bleeding Poetry's Image of Sadness

Picture 3 is different from the previous ones. It has more positive responses than the neutral and the negative ones combined. There are 287 comments with three sentiments. The positive sentiment reaches some 171 comments. Meanwhile, neutrals are said to be just within 96 comments, while negatives only count to the number of 21. This shows the image of sadness being interested by readers of "Bleeding Poetry". It has portrayed meanings that are related to depression and liked by the majority of readers. In addition, this majority feels connected with how the poem is delivered. So, they almost commented with zero negativity.

Row Labels	Count of Sentiment
☺ Neutral	237
☹ Negative	95
☺ Positive	265
Grand Total	597

Source: Wattpad.com

Picture 4. Readers' Sentiment over On Your Own's Image of Sadness

The comments from a specific poem in Picture 4 are the most in numbers. There are more than 500 responses in total. But again, positivity dominates the table's ranking. It comes with 265 people comments. However, the neutral sentiments are more numerous than the negative ones, with the numbers of 237 and 95. Despite the poem being portrayed as lonely, people are enthusiastic about this image. Many people have a connection between their lives and the poem. On the other hand, this is one of the most commented poems. Whereas, the poem only has eleven thousand readers while the other reaches 100 thousand reads. This means the reader amount is not the same as engagement.

Row Labels	Count of Sentiment
☺ Neutral	24
☹ Negative	1
☺ Positive	124
Grand Total	149

Source: Wattpad.com

Picture 5. Readers' Sentiment over Illuminate's Image of Sadness

"Illuminate" becomes one of the most positive responded poems from this research. It does not only have little negative tones but also neutrality. These comments are within the total of 149. It may not be much, but it provides clear emphasis about the readers being enthusiastic. The positive comments are counted to reach 124 amounts. Meanwhile, negative sentiments are only found to have reached the number of 1. It shows that there is a huge gap between the contrasting positive and negative sentiments of "Illuminate". Neutrality, on the other hand, reaches the number of 24. However, this is much less compared to positive sentiments. This shows about trauma being blatantly interested by readers in Picture 5.

Row Labels ▼	Count of Sentiment
😳 Neutral	41
😔 Negative	19
🤯 Positive	60
Grand Total	**120**

Source: Wattpad.com

Picture 6. Readers' Sentiment over Flowers And Weeds' Image of Sadness

The last poem for this research, "Flowers And Weeds", brings the positive sentiments into the top. However, the neutral sentiment follows in the next line. Picture 6 shows that there are 120 sentiments in total. These sentiments are ranked from the neutral, which consists of 41, the negative sentiments which consist of 19, and the positive sentiments which dominate the rank within many 60 comments. The poem itself portrays the image of bad betrayal, which is one of the images of sadness found in this research. Thus, the majority are interested in this broken relationship or rather betrayal based on this finding.

These findings are very different from the previous study about Wattpad's story. Readers of prose are found to choose four genres. The genres are counted from romance, metro-pop, until teenlit (Novita & Purbani, 2018, p. 248). In addition, they are widely defined. Meanwhile, our research looks for the preferences of readers through the objects themselves, which consist of each poem and its comments. The selected Wattpad poems from this article have many readers that are interested in various images that are specific to sadness, such as guilt, depression, loneliness, trauma, and betrayal. The word themes are preferable to the genre because they come from the type of literature of prose and poetry and their specifying feature such as "romantic prose" and "sad poetry". For example, the theme of Wattpad poems is dominated by sadness, which has various images ranging from guilt to betrayal.

Positive sentiments show that readers are enthusiastic over these many images found regarding sadness. However, since depression appears more than once, unlike the others, there are differences in the numbers that has been shown. One of these images is not as interesting as the other, which indicates that we will find more of this specific image, but not all of it is likeable. Excluding their neutrality sentiment, comparing between positive and negative sentiment becomes important to identify emotional convergence towards the text (Pianzola et al., 2020, p. 7). Thus, despite how good, the readers contribute to the determination of the favourite literature even if it was based on taboo (Setiawan et al., 2021). In similar sense to the previous study done by Setiawan et al. in 2021, the theme of sadness, including guilt, depression, loneliness, and trauma, offers favourite images and becomes readers' interest in digital poetry.

CONCLUSION

Wattpad is one of the potential platforms for the future of literature, and many genres can be accessed. However, accessibility makes the platform prone to plagiarism and taboos. Six poems have been selected for this research because of the plentiful images about sadness. However, they portray different images of the theme. There might have been several more images to be explored about sad poems of Wattpad with the usage of different qualitative methods. Future research has to consider the number of poems present in the platform because these poems, and also for every piece of Wattpad, can be written by anyone. Thus, one thing to suggest about conducting a study on Wattpad's literature is popular works. Another point is about the issue of sentiment analysis as a method. It should be known that sentiments might signify mere frequencies of emotion. This is the reason why we used mixed methods of relational analysis, namely qualitative and quantitative. In short, semiotics reading alongside sentiments become important to keep the focus on the issue of research.

Through quantitative analysis, depression images may be found more in separate poems. Sentiments from the

comments should be considered. Two poems are dominated by neutral sentiment. Others are found to reach more positive sentiments than neutral or negative sentiments. These poems portray three images of sadness, namely depression, trauma, and betrayal. However, instead of negating the data about the neutrality in each of these poems, there is more to explain. Firstly, the comments section is open for every opinion. Readers are even able to swear and insult blatantly. Their comments would have a warning sign that says that they are sensitive. Secondly, they are not always related to the poem. This shows that sentiment analysis opens a wide and separate interpretation for neutral comments. The comments include indirect impressions from poems, such as a person telling about his own story. This implies that he has been reminded about something from himself by the poem, which could either be positive or negative. Nonetheless, it should be mentioned that not every reader would spend time for comments, especially when neutrality of comments in Wattpad can be considered as non-canon.

This research article adds to the idea that digital literary platform is used for sharing trauma, but it is also used by people who regret causing trauma. From the sadness analyses, digital authors are not only writing the sad treatment or incident occurring against themselves but also indicating that they could be someone who had mistaken others, thus giving interesting issues on the multiple perspectives of how victims and the inflictors of trauma are portraying themselves through digital writings. It would create a certain arena between both identities (either who of the victims or inflictors gains more excitement and empathy from the platform), or just to analyse their sad images.

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