

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a brief description of the whole research content. It covers Background of Research, Statement of Problem, Purpose of Research, Significance of Research, Definition of Key Terms, and Organization of Writing.

1.1 Background of Research

Literature is derived from the Latin “littera” which means letter. Literature primarily refers to the written or printed words, but later oral traditions can be included. Literature is regarded as a creative art (Welleck, 1997: 3). It means, literature used to known as creative work that using words as the main media, either through written or verbal. Eventhough words is not the only thing, creative works has different diction compare to an ordinary language as we used to know; become more artsy.

Creative work is not easy to understand, the researcher only able to interpret because creative work is very subjective. Creative work has not a single meaning, they always be multi-interpretation, in other word, poetic.

Based on *Literary Theory* (Eagleton, 1996: 2), literature is creative or imaginative writing. The process of writing of literature is known as literary writing. Literary writing is something that used the author’s imagination and not only based the real story. In literary writing absolutely produce literary work. Description of

creative or imaginative writing is a writing that is based on the perception and description of the author on something that happened or might happen. Creative or imaginative writing is also written in aesthetic language and highlighting the subjectivity of the author.

According to Eagleton (1996: 7), there are certain kinds of writing – poems, plays, novels. But in this research, the researcher focuses on poems. One kind of poems is song lyrics, so the researcher will focus to analyze song lyrics as a part of poems.

According to Abrams (1999: 166) “A lyric is any fairly short poem, consisting of the utterance by a single speaker, who expresses a state of mind or a process of perception, thought, and feeling. Many lyric speakers are represented as musing in solitude”. Perception is a response by giving a picture or interpretation of something captured by the senses, both objects and events. Then, thought is a process of finding meaning and effort to reach reasonable decisions based on logic and reason. While feeling is a response that is gained from experience, both in the form of physical and emotional sensations about the surrounding environment. Thus, based on the information above the lyric in some cases has similarities with poems, such as both poems and song lyrics rely on the potent use of language.

Lyric as a part of song, lyric will be communicating some concepts. Some of these concepts bring impression and experiences of its creator. Song used as a media to bring the ideology of the creator. Ideology is a set of ideas that shape beliefs and understandings to realize human ideals. For example, in ideology of

socialism, the main idea is social equality and no recognition of private property rights.

Based on *A Dictionary of Literary Terms* (Cuddon, 1950: 637), song is many poems, even if not set to music, may be called songs, but the term, in its literary sense, usually denotes a poem and its musical setting; a poem for singing or chanting, with or without musical accompaniment. Music and words may be composed together; or the music may be fitted to the words and vice versa.

The song is one of the mass cultures that became one of the studies in the discussion. Mass culture is a popular culture that is produced by industrial mass production and marketed in order to get benefit from a mass consumer. In other words, in mass culture, product orientation is a trend or fashion that is in demand by the market.

In this research, the researcher uses the semiotics or semiology theory of Roland Barthes as the basis of analysis, specifically about denotation, connotation and myth. Denotation is the meaning of the first level which is objective. Denotation is the most obvious meaning of the sign. Whereas connotation is the meaning that can be given to symbols by referring to cultural values. Connotation has a hidden meaning behind denotation, other meanings appear according to conditions. Thus, myth is a form of message or speech that must be believed to be true but cannot be proven. Myth is not a concept or idea but is a way of giving meaning.

According to Barthes (2007: 295) "At first myth is a system of communication, that myth is the message. Such historical baggage which could then

be acceptable in the cultural life of the masses into cultured sandarac stemming from mouth to mouth". Myth as a system of communication, namely a myth as speech that conveys a message. Myth is not a concept or idea but a way of giving meaning, and it is functioned through speech. In terms of history, especially in the context of old mythologies, myths have a meaning of being made by society that is oriented towards the past, or historical formation and is static, eternal. Myth in the old sense is synonymous with history, made by society in their time. This then becomes a hereditary tradition.

Myth presented a variety of moral's issues at this time. It is important to raise awareness about the social reality. Moral issues are important topics related to right and wrong in daily life, also concerning extraordinary events in life.

The song lyric is a field of study that is most relevant to semiotic analysis. Semiotic becomes study area that learns about meaning from a sign or symbol. The signs include a variety of sign system that work well together to achieve the desired effect. In semiotics, denotation and connotation are terms describing the relationship between the signifier and signified. Sign or symbol is an object that physically can be captured by human sense and there is a meaning in it as the basis of analysis.

Representation is the act of presenting or representing something good person, event, or object through something other than itself, usually in the form of sign or symbols. This representation is not necessarily real but could also show the fantasy world, fantasy, and abstract ideas (Hall, 1997: 28). The fantasy world is a world created based on imagination to describe the reality of the world, although from

certain things it is not entirely similar. Therefore, fantasy itself is a process of creating an image or shadow based on imagination in the mind. Thus, abstract ideas are ideas that convey universal things.

Language becomes a special medium through which a meaning is produced. Language operates as a symbol that defines or represents the meaning to be communicated by the culprit, or in Stuart Hall's terms to state this, the function of language as a sign. Signs interpret or represent concepts, ideas or feelings in a way that allows someone to 'read', decode or interpret their meanings.

Bob Marley's song lyrics are a lot that touch on social problems and are used as a tool to convey moral messages and the spirit of resistance, especially those concerning social justice. Therefore, the study of semiotics and representation is relevant for the basis of analysis.

The analysis about denotation, connotation and represented is not new issue, there are many researcher has take the same issue. Abdulrahman Fauzi from English Department of Faculty Adab and Humanities Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University Bandung (1211503002) took the same issue but different object *The Representation of The Social Condition in The S.I.G.I.T's Song Lyrics*. Another researcher is Heri Nurjaya from English Department of Adab and Humanities Faculty Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University Bandung (1209503072) *Representation of the Power of Love in Chris Buck's Frozen*.

The song lyric of Bob Marley appears the social condition in his era. Song lyric is one of popular literary work. The song is songs were the most popular songs

and its affective to social justice. In this research, the researcher chooses literary works like songs. Song is any poem even there is an attention of it being set to music. In this research, the researcher chooses the literary problem “*Social Justice Representation in Bob Marley’s Selected Song Lyrics*”.

Bob Marley’s Song Lyrics appears something happen in the human life and the imagination through certain signs, that is why the researcher felt increasingly keen to further dissect the song lyrics with semiotic studies.

1.2 Question of Problem

Language operates as a symbol that defines or represents the meaning to be communicated by the culprit, the function of language of a sign. Signs interpret or represents concepts, ideas or feelings in a way that allows somebody to ‘read’, decode or interpret their meanings. Therefore, the problem is formulated into following questions:

1. What are the denotative and connotative meanings in the lyrics of Bob Marley’s selected song lyrics?
2. How is social justice represented in the lyrics of Bob Marley’s selected song lyrics?

1.3 Research Objective

The purposes of this research are:

1. To find denotative and connotative meanings conveyed in Bob Marley's selected song lyrics about social injustice.
2. To define the representation of social justice in Bob Marley's selected song lyrics.

1.4 Research Significance

Theoretically, this research has significance for the student, especially for English Literature Department. The result of this research will be useful to develop understanding about literature. And then, to give information to the students to the study song lyric as one of popular literary works. And the most important thing is this research can give understanding all about song lyrics. In generally, this research useful for the writer and reader to know and understanding meaning in literary work. And the result of this research has benefit for the reader, especially interested reading literary work. In literary works we can get essence of human life.

1.5 Definition of Key Term

In order to avoiding misunderstanding and misinterpretation of words in this research, the researcher explains essential terms which are related to this research, they are:

Lyric : Any fairly short poem, consisting of the utterance by a single speaker, who expresses a state of mind or a process of perception, thought, and feeling.

- Sign** : Something that represents something else.
- Representation** : The act of presenting or representing something good person, event, or object through something other than itself, usually in the form of signs or symbols.
- Semiotics** : The study of how signs make meaning.

1.6 Organization of Writing

The organization of paper in this research is divided into five chapters as follows.

Chapter one is introduction, consist of background of research, statement of problem, purpose of research, significance of research, definition of key terms, and organization of writing.

Chapter two is theoretical review; it is present the theories that are involved to the research, theory of representation, definition of semiotics, Roland Barthes theory, definition of social justice, definition of poetry and definition of lyric.

Chapter three is research method; it is indicating about the research method and procedure that use in this research. It consists of the research design, the data of research, source of data, technique of collecting data and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter four is discussions; it reports the result of research, which embraces the answer of statement of problem.

Chapter five is conclusion and suggestion of the research.