

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This study explains about **Voices and movements of minorities depicted in the “Self-Titled” album by Rage Against the Machine**. This chapter consists of background, statement of problem, research objective and research significance, conceptual framework, and previous studies.

#### 1.1 Research background

The struggles carried out by minorities from time to time are often written down in history and literary works. This is evidence that literary works cannot be separated from the environment and events behind the author. Literary works will always be affected by events in the author’s environment.

Talking about literature and the struggles of minorities, there are always interesting things that we must explore more deeply. Writers of literary works who carry the narrative of minorities always describe the injustices that must be fought for. This kind of literary works will demand people to open their eyes more to what is happening around them.

Literature and resistance with minority narratives are always related to events related to history and social movements that were taking place at the time the work was written, such as works written by American Afrikaners according to Winda Setiasari (2008) in cultural sciences journals, American black literature has been around since long time ago offers literary readers a phenomenon about oppressed minorities. African American writers also show a rejection of white culture in their literary works. Besides that, they are also identified with the theme of the black race's struggle to survive in the dominant white culture.

The movement of minorities from time to time is always changes based on their beliefs and the term of social and political issues, and of course, the movements caused an impact on the literature in the time when the movements come, the important for us to dig deeper from those literary works is to learn what happens in the time when history is being written.

According to Britannica (1950–91), the minority is the culturally, ethnically, or racially distinct group that coexists with but is subordinate to a more dominant group. As the term is used in the social sciences, this subordinacy is the chief defining characteristic of a minority group. As such, minority status does not necessarily correlate to population. In some cases, one or more so-called minority groups may have a population many times the size of the dominating group, as was the case in South Africa under apartheid. In some cases, the minority lacks power from one group to another. It just became unfair for humanity, the minority group like the case of South Africa under apartheid, the indigenous has no power against the colonialism under apartheid.

According to Charles Wagley and Marvin Harris (1958), a minority group is distinguished by five characteristics: the first is unequal treatment and less power over their lives, secondly, distinguishing physical or cultural traits like skin colour or language, and then, involuntary membership in the group, the next is awareness of subordination, and the last is the high rate of in-group marriage.

Minority voices are the voice of the people who were struggling in society. Sociologist Louis Wirth (1945) defined a *minority group* as “any group of people who, because of their physical or cultural characteristics, are singled out from the others in the society in which they live for differential and unequal treatment, and who therefore regard themselves as objects of collective discrimination.” The term minority connotes discrimination, and in its sociological use, the term subordinate can be used interchangeably with the term minority, while the term dominant is often substituted for the group in the majority.

These definitions correlate to the concept that the dominant group holds the most power in a given society, while subordinate groups lack power compared to the dominant group. Moreover, sometimes the larger group is considered the minority because of the lack of power in the society. Is the lack of power the predominant characteristic of a minority or subordinate group? For example, consider apartheid in South Africa, in which a numerical majority (the black inhabitants of the country) were exploited and oppressed by the white minority.

Literary works that represent the struggles of minorities today are increasingly developing with various innovations and creativity carried out by literary activists, and one of them is music with lyrics or lyrics that carry the narrative of minority struggles, according to Wellek & Warren (1977). This ambiguity and full expression cause literary language to influence, persuade and ultimately change readers' attitudes. The relationship between elements of music and elements of lyrics or song lyrics is a form of mass communication of songs formed and songs by communicators to communicants in large numbers through the mass media, which functions as a delivery medium. Through song lyrics in the form of messages or spoken words and sentences function to create an atmosphere and imaginary images and create various meanings. The function of the song as a medium of communication is like sympathizing with reality and imaginative stories.

Based on the above opinion, in this study, the researcher will analyze an album entitled *Rage Against The Machine* from the band *Rage Against The Machine* to analyze the lyrics contained in the album. This album is the debut work of the band *Rage Against The Machine* in 1992, contains many minority narratives, and tells of minority resistance from time to time, and this album managed to become a very successful debut for *Rage Against The Machine*, especially in the underground music scene.

The reason why researchers chose to research this album is that this album has many minority narratives in the lyrics contained in the song, tells the various

social problems that occur, and then makes these social problems the background for every lyric they write, making this album have a unique side itself that can be explored deeper to make it a lesson and study history. This statement is in line with Nurholis (2019 p. 255-256) "Literary work is a social phenomenon and product so that what is involved in literary works is a moving community entity, both related to structural patterns of function, as well as activities and socio-cultural conditions as the background of people's lives at the time the literary work was created. These social problems are the responses of literary writers to the phenomena of problems that surround them."

The importance of this research is that this album contains so much relevancy of the situation of these days, and interestingly this album was written back then in the '90s. All of the lyrics from this album have a grand narrative for resistance and especially when it comes to the minority group.

Then, to dig deeper into the understanding of the lyrics they write about social problems, the researchers will use two theories: the sociology literature and hegemony theory. These two theories are compatible with the researchers' theme to analyze. As we can see, to breakdown the meaning from lyrics in this album, researchers need the sociology literature perspective and to find out what kind of voices and movements of minorities researchers will use the hegemony theory.

Departing from this understanding, literary works in the form of song lyrics have a meaning that must be explored deeper and also have a very close to social background because writers of literary works cannot be separated from their social conditions.

As mentioned above, exploring the meaning and looking for the social background of work is very important because the theory of sociology literature can add insight to readers and writers. According to Wellek & Warren (1977), literary criticism can be linked to various social fields, such as politics, defence, economics, socio-culture, history, music, art, and philosophy.

And to breakdown the voice and movement of minority in this album researchers will use the hegemony theory from Antonio Gramsci, Gramsci's theory of hegemony is a theory that completes Marx's class which has not succeeded in formulating an adequate political theory. The things that distinguish Gramsci's theory of hegemony from the previous use of similar terms are; First, Gramsci applies this concept more broadly to the supremacy of one or more groups over another in every social relationship, whereas the previous use of this term only refers to the relationship between the proletariat and other groups. Second, Gramsci also characterizes hegemony in terms of 'cultural influence,' not only 'political leadership in an alliance system' as understood by previous generations of Marxists.

The focus of this research will explore the meaning of the song lyrics contained in this album. Then the researcher will try to find the voice and movement of minority narratives as the social background in this album.

Based on the explanation that the researcher has conveyed above, the researcher chooses the title "Voices and movement of minorities depicted in the "self-titled" album by Rage Against the Machine" as the research that the researcher will examine. In this study, the researcher will analyze the lyric in the album and look for how the social minorities' voices and movements as a background. The reason why researchers will use the title above is because this research will be focused on the resistance from the minorities depicted in this album.

The object study in this research, which is the rage against the machine album, is related to theories and the theme that researchers will try to analyze because the object contains gripping narratives about resistance, especially when it comes to minorities group.

## 1.2 Previous Study

This research was previously inspired by several previous studies, including Muhammad Qushoy (2010) with the title “A Social Criticism On Eminem’s song Lyric “Mosh” In this study, Qushoy described the social literature criticism through the lyric and also described the figure of speech from the Eminem’s song Mosh. Qushoy try to analyze the meaning and the connection between the social aspects through social criticism and figure of speech. Therefore, researchers are trying to analyze it and find out how easy it is to understand it.

The second is Hafid Muhadi with the title “Social Criticism Of Bob Dylan’s Song Lyric a Sociological Study Of Literature” In this study Muhadi aimed to show a visible image of Bob Dylan’s song lyrics which are analyzed by using the sociology of literature. The objective of the research is to be analyzed the lyrics based on the structural element and to analyze the lyrics based on the sociology of literature by identifying from the relationship between the social historical background of the United States in The Middle of the Twentieth Century. This research paper belongs to qualitative research. Data of the research is the text from and it has taken based on the theme, thereabout consisting fifteen lyrics thematically.

The third research is Achmad Rifai with the title “The Analysis of Figure of Speech In Rage Against the Machine songs (Bullet In The Head and No Shelter), in this study Achmad Rifai used the qualitative with descriptive analysis as the method of the research. The writer analyzes the lyrics by reading the intensively and giving attention to each line. After that the writer tries to explicate the lyrics. The aim of this research is to find out what kind of figure of speech and their meaning in two songs by Rage against the machine. The writer analyzes song titled Bullet In The Head and No Shelter.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the above research background, in this study the formulation of the problem is as follows:

1. What kind of minorities' voices and movement contained in the self-titled album by Rage Against the Machine.
2. How are the voices and movements of minorities depicted in the self-titled album by Rage Against the Machine.

### **1.4 Research objective**

Based on the formulation of the problem that has been determined, the purpose of this study is:

3. To find out what kind of minority voices and movement contained in the self-titled album by rage against the machine.
4. To find out how the minority voices and movement depicted to the society in the self-titled album by rage against the machine.

### **1.5 Research significance**

#### **1. Theoretically**

This research is expected to increase the reader's wealth of knowledge about literature research, especially on meaning analysis. In addition, it can be used as material for further research to increase the ability to appreciate literary works.

#### **2. Practically**

The results of this study can add benefits for readers to appreciate a literary work as well as provide new experiences about various things around and how to react to them.

## 1.6 Conceptual framework

In this study, researchers used several literary approaches in analyzing the objects in this study. The literary criticism method is very important in conducting literary research. Therefore there must be an approach in criticizing literary works. According to Wellek & Warren (1977, p. 39), someone cannot write literary theory without critical literature or literary history, literature without literary criticism and literary theory, and literary criticism without literary theory and literary history. Literary theory can only be prepared based on direct literary studies, and there cannot be literary criticism or literary history without questions, systems of thought, and references.

The researchers also will be using the expressive and objective theory of literary criticism. Expressive theory of literature is more attached to the author of literary work. Quoting Leo Tolstoy, "literature is a human activity, consisting in this, that one person consciously, by certain external signs, conveys to others feelings he has experienced, and other people are affected by these feelings and live them over in themselves." And then, the objective theory itself impacts researchers to understand literary works in more detail by connecting the two intrinsic and extrinsic elements that exist in a literary work.

Expressive criticism treats a literary work primarily concerning the author. It defines *poetry* as an expression, or overflow, or utterance of feeling, or product of the poet's feelings. Rene Wellek and Austin Warren (1972: 92) state that the social allegiance, attitude, and ideology of the writer can be studied not only in his writing but also, frequently, in supplementary biographical documents. Other conceptions of



sociology of the author by Lucien Goldman (in Swingewood and Laurensen, 1972: 20) state that the case of a great writer is the purely sociological condition are surmounted and transcended so that the meaning within the text is unrelated to the market condition of authorships.

And then, the researcher will also be seeking the powerful voice through hegemony theory as an objective approach to see the minority voices and minority movement and its contradiction. According to Britannica, hegemony is the dominance of one group over another, often supported by legitimating norms and ideas. The term hegemony is often used today as shorthand to describe the relatively dominant position of a particular set of ideas and their associated tendency to become commonsensical and intuitive, thereby inhibiting the dissemination or even the articulation of alternative ideas. The associated term hegemon is used to identify the actor, group, class, or state that exercises hegemonic power or is responsible for disseminating hegemonic ideas. The object study in this research, which is the rage against the machine album, is related to theories and the theme that researchers will try to analyze because the object contains gripping narratives about resistance, especially when it comes to minorities group.