

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background description, which deals with the issue, research problem, research objective, the significance of this study, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Research

In this modern era, entertainment can be found anywhere even at the edge of the world. Music is one of the most popular entertainment medias that has been around since ancient times, acting as a crucial part of human culture evolution. In music, there are many songs that includes lyrics that can be read and enjoyed by the listener.

There are many symbols hidden in song lyrics, starting from the musician's message to the hearers or even a phenomenon explained through the complexity of the lyrics. One of the symbols hidden in a song is a symbol of mental stress, which explained by the usage of gloomy or saddening words in the lyrics.

Mental stress, on the other hand, is defined as a psychological and physiological response to a real or imagined threat that necessitates some sort of action or resolution. It is a response that occurs on cognitive, behavioral, and bodily levels and has major negative health consequences when it is persistent and chronic (Linden, 2005)

Semiotic studies can be used to better understand the symbol hidden in song lyrics. The idea that language is a system of signs and that each sign is made up of two components, the signifier and the signified, is the main topic of debate in Ferdinand de Saussure's most significant theory. The sign is the union of a marker's (signifier's) physical form and an idea or sign (signified). Signifiers are hence the tangible components of language, such as what is said or heard as well as what is written or read. The signified, meanwhile, is a mental representation, idea, or notion (Sobur, 2013).

This research intends to find out the symbol of mental stress in the lyrics of the songs "*Pressure*" and "*Home*" by Draper, and "*In My Blood*" by Shawn Mendes.

The writer found that the lyrics of the songs described about the mind of someone who suffered disparity and difficulty towards their social environment. The lyrics of the song used many metaphorical and ambiguous utterances leading to various misunderstanding for listeners.

The writer believes that mental stress itself is very uncommon to be found in song lyrics, which acted as the object of this research, therefore makes people think that mental stress itself is not much of a big deal. In general, the writer assumes that the symbol of mental stress can be found in the lyrics of the song so that the writer can identify the problems.

Several other researchers have discussed studies on symbol analysis of song lyrics. The first research was conducted by Nurindahsari (2019) with the title “*Semiotic Analysis of the Meaning of Motivation in the Lyrics of “Comfort Zone” by Fourtwnty*”. She focused on how Saussure’s semiotic study is used to analyze the meaning of motivation in song lyrics. There was one question conducted for this research, about how does the meaning of motivation in the lyrics of the song “*Comfort Zone*” by Fourtwnty. This research found that the song “*Comfort Zone*” by Fourtwnty is intended to raise awareness of the fact that music can be a media for inspiring someone to make decisions in life.

The second research was conducted by Jabbar (2020) with the title “*Charles Sanders Pierce Semiotic Analysis of the Message of Da’wah in the Lyrics of the song “Rapuh” by Opick*”. He focused on how Pierce’s semiotic study is used to analyze the message of da’wah in song lyrics. There was one question conducted for this research, about what is the message of da’wah in the lyrics of the song “*Rapuh*” by Opick. This research found that this song contains a da'wah message that can be instilled in our hearts so that we always worship Allah.

The third research was conducted by Al Habib (2020) with the title “*Representation of the Meaning of Broken Heart through the Lyrics of the Song “Pamer Bojo” by Didi Kempot (Roland Barthes Semiotic Analysis)*”. He focused on how Barthes’ semiotic study is used to analyze the representation of the meaning of broken heart in song lyrics. There was one question conducted for this research, about how is the meaning of heartbreak represented in the lyrics of the song “*Pamer*

Bojo" by Didi Kempot. This research found that the representation of a broken heart in the song is heartache caused by the behavior of a loved one and deep sadness.

The fourth research was conducted by Waro (2021) with the title "*Semiotic Analysis of the Lyrics of the Song "Ma'assalamah" Popularized by Hamzah Namira*". She focused on how Pierce's semiotic study is used to analyze the translation and moral code in song lyrics. There were three questions conducted for this research, about how is the translation of the lyrics, what are the semiotic elements, and what is the moral message of the song "*Ma`assalamah*". This research found that the lyrics of the song can be translated into Bahasa Indonesia, there are some symbolic elements related to Pierce's semiotic theory, and the moral of the song is to follow the flow of life in the world while carrying out God's commandments and staying away from the prohibitions.

Based on these previous studies, the writer finds out that the four previous researches have implemented song lyrics as the object to analyze using semiotic studies. The implementation of Saussure's, Barthes' and Pierce's semiotic study can be found throughout the previous studies, but the difference is that Waro also analyzed not only the meaning, but the translation and possible semiotic elements in her research.

The similarities of the three studies examined the meaning of the lyrics of the song using semiotic theories. The main difference between the writer's research and the four studies above is that the writer uses signifier and signified, and conducts research on the uncommon element in song lyrics: mental stress.

1.2 Statements of Problem

Based on the background of problem, the problem proposed in this research is mental stress symbols found in the lyrics of the songs "***Pressure***" and "***Home***" by Draper, and "***In My Blood***" by Shawn Mendes. Song lyrics are usually abstract that the actual meaning of the song is well-hidden. From this statement, the writer will analyze the symbol of mental stress in the lyrics of the songs "***Pressure***" and "***Home***" by Draper, and "***In My Blood***" by Shawn Mendes. The research problem can be formulated into the research questions as follows:

1. What signifiers are in the symbols of mental stress in the lyrics of the songs "***Pressure***" and "***Home***" by Draper, and "***In My Blood***" by Shawn Mendes?
2. How are the signifieds and the meaning of the symbols of mental stress in the lyrics of the songs "***Pressure***" and "***Home***" by Draper, and "***In My Blood***" by Shawn Mendes

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the statements of problem above, the objectives of this research as follows:

1. To find out signifiers in the symbols of mental stress in the lyrics of the songs "***Pressure***" and "***Home***" by Draper, and "***In My Blood***" by Shawn Mendes.

2. To analyze the signifieds and the meaning of the symbols of mental stress found in the lyrics of the songs “*Pressure*” and “*Home*” by Draper, and “*In My Blood*” by Shawn Mendes.

1.4 Research Significances

This research provides benefits for both practically and theoretically.

a. Theoretically

This research can prove an accurate representation about the usage of signifier and signified from Ferdinand de Saussure’s semiotics analysis. Therefore, the writer expected theoretical benefits in understanding and using this semiotics analysis for readers.

b. Practically

This research may prove beneficially for psychologists who wants to conduct research on mental health conditions. By analyzing the symbols of the lyrics, psychologists may find phrases that relates to mental stress, which can be used in their research.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

To minimize ambiguity in this research, it is important to define and explain the key terms in this research. The definition is as below:

1. *Symbol* is something that is used to represent a quality or idea.
2. *Mental Stress* refers to a person's interaction with the environment that they regard as important to their well-being, and in which the demands drain or

surpass their coping capabilities. Individuals and their surroundings are thought to be in a relationship when it comes to stress.

3. *Song* is a single work of music that often stands alone and is intended to be sung by a human voice with distinct tones and patterns.
4. *Coping Mechanism* refers to making an effort to control or handle stress. Successfully managing stress may necessitate the use of several approaches.

