

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of study, research questions, objective of research, and the benefit of research.

A. Background of Research

Talking about song, some of people mostly likes to listen to a song. They has some favorite songs. Of course some people liked a song not only because of its music or tones, but also from the meaning that contained in a song. A song, especially the song lyric is included as a language. It is a written form of language, because language can be spoken and also can be read as a written form. It is to deliver some meaning and value, the point and message that wants to be delivered by the songwriter to the listener of the songs. As a written form of language, song lyric contains word, phrase, clause, and sentence.

In a song, every linguistic unit that contained in the song lyric of course has a meaning. According to Ogden and Richards (1923), “meaning is the other words annexed to a word in the dictionary, and meaning is the connotation of a word.” Talking about meaning, it divided into two different meaning, conceptual and connotative meaning. Conceptual meaning different with connotative meaning, because conceptual meaning is the meaning that based on the dictionary and it is different with connotative meaning that more wide and refers to something over and above its purely conceptual content (Leech, 1985:12). And talking about these two different meaning, of course conceptual and connotative meaning are contained in every of song lyrics.

Because of there are two different meaning, the writer wants to find out and investigate more about connotative meaning in a song. Because usually a song just

being listened, but now in this research the writer make a song as an object to be researched. And also because the writer is curious about how the meaning that more wide and can be interpreted are existed in a song.

Everyone certainly enjoys listening to a song. Every people has favorite songs that has distinct impression on their heart. Studies on a song involves about meaning, because surely every people liked a song certainly not just because of the beautiful tones or music, but certainly the meanings that has impression based on what every people feels. Thus, the writer was interested in investigating the terms of the denotation and connotation meaning. Because if every people read a lyric more specifically, will be found some of words and sentences that not just an ordinary meaning, but it also has other meaning that more wider than ordinary meaning. So that is connotative meaning that became part in the study of semantics.

Connotative meaning is the communicative value and expression of what refers to, over and above its purely content (Leech, 1986:40-41). It means connotative meaning is a meaning which can express and deliver something indirectly but can be interpreted, and also express emotional values like happiness, sadness, and something that hidden behind a word meaning. Connotative meaning is the main thing in this research. The writer takes study about connotative meaning because there is a unique thing which can be created by connotative word. Connotative meaning is called unique because it can create the feeling reflected by something.

In this research, the writer chooses song lyrics as the object of the study. Lyric is an expression of direct personal feeling for signing an expression of strong emotion in an imaginative way, and the word of song (Oxford Dictionary, 2011:264). It means song lyric is the expression of someone about something and has a message

of its song. The writer chooses nine lyrics from selected Michael Jackson's songs. They are *Heal the World*, *Man in the Mirror*, *Black or White*, *Stranger in Moscow*, *Earth Song*, *There Must Be More to Life Than This*, *We are the World*, *Beat It*, and *Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'*. The writer chooses that songs because it has same meaning and message about human life and to analyze it will be interesting.

There are four relevant previous studies, by Mamduh Abidarda (2010) that entitled *A Connotative Meaning Analysis on the Word Child in Five Lyrics of Song*. This research discussed about connotative meaning of word child in five lyrics of songs. The data research are taken from five lyrics of the songs released in the year between 1980's to early 1990's, which was the time when the cold war still happening. To analyze connotative meaning of word child, the writer used the connotative semiotics theory of Roland Barthes. From these lyrics his found the different connotative meaning of word child from each lyric. In this study the authors analyzed only the word child in five lyrics above using Roland Barthes theory. This study equation with the writer research is in analyzing the connotative meaning, it's just in this study he does not analyze another words of connotative meaning in the song lyrics and this study also uses the theory about semiotics by Roland Barthes from his book that entitled *Element of Semiology*.

Next is by Fatkurrohman (2014) that entitled *An Analysis on the Denotative and Connotive Meaning of Creed's Song Lyrics* this research discussed about denotative and connotative meaning from Creed's song lyrics, especially this research focus on the connotative meaning that has three categories, there are positive, neutral, or negative connotation. This study equation with the writer research in analyzing about connotative meaning. But the difference is, the writer not

analyze the denotative meaning and replace it with the explanation of what message that can be interpreted from song lyrics.

The third is by Dedeh Rahmawati Sudirman (2015) that entitled *Connotative Meaning in Song Lyrics in Christina Perri's "Head or Heart" Album*, this research discussed about connotative meaning in three categories, such as: negative, positive, and neutral connotative. She categorize the connotative word in song lyrics into that three category and she also present the interpretation about connotative meaning according to some people by making questionnaire and after that she make a conclusion about the interpretation of connotative meaning. This research same with the writer research in analyzing about connotative meaning, but the writer will not categorize the connotative meaning. The writer will explain the connotative meaning by personal interpretation and continue with the message that can be interpreted after understand the conceptual and connotative meaning in the song lyrics.

The fourth is by Metalia Meli (2012) that entitled *The Study of Figurative Language in Michael Jackson's Album Bad and HIStory*, this previous study related with the writer's research that the object is about Michael Jackson. On this research she found that the use of figurative language in Michael Jackson's songs like personification, hyperbole, metaphor, and simile has an important role to create some information and make more interesting meaning than the song which are not use the figurative language.

So, from the background that say semantics is the study about meaning and to analyze about connotative meaning in a song is related in the study of semantics, the writer decide to do a research entitled *Connotative Meaning in Selected Michael Jackson's Songs* using some of connotative meaning theory by Leech, Finch, Kreidler and Cruse.

B. Research Questions

Based on the description above, the writer is going to show that there are some problems related with this study, the problems are as follows:

1. What are the connotative meaning of words, phrase, and sentences which are found on the lyrics of Michael Jackson's songs?
2. What are the moral messages that can be interpreted from the lyrics of Michael Jackson's songs?

C. Objective of Research

This research is aimed at investigating the mentioned problems. To be more specifics, this study is intended to:

1. To find out the connotative meaning shown on lyrics of Michael Jackson's songs.
2. To find out the moral message that interpreted from the whole Michael Jackson's song lyrics based on conceptual and connotative meaning.

D. Significance of Research

All of the writer had learn in the English Literature department these related and suitable with what the writer will be investigate, as the lyrics of song can be analyzed by semantics theory that have learned in lecturing and connotative meaning as an very interesting object to be investigated.

By conducting this research, there are some benefits expected from this study, such as:

1. Theoretically, this research can be useful to apply the knowledge that have been learned in English Literature department.
2. Practically, the benefits that the writer can get is to understand more deeper about semantics study. Because in analyzing songs by semantics theory, it can be find out connotative meaning words that has a message to be interpreted, and it is an

interesting activities because normally songs are just listened, but now the writer will do a research and analyze about the meaning from the songs. It would be interesting for the writer.

