

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. It contains background of research, statement of problem, research objectives, research significance, definition of key terms, and organization of writing.

1.1 Background of Study

Everyone use language as a tool of communication. The language has functions as an expression of what a man minds. People sometimes deliver their intention through figurative language in speaking or sign in the written form as at usual in work of literature such as poem, short story, and novel. Some critics often explain them as something that refers as to another in short, it is called symbol. Sign and symbol can be found everywhere, whole part of our body, when people talk, smile; people find the sign in our mouth, look; people find the sign in our eyes.

The knowledge of symbol is developed to be an independent course; it is known as semiotics. According to Sutadi Wiryaatmadja (Santosa,1993:3), semiotics is the science that studies about signs in its meaning of a broad in the society, including literal and figurative meaning, and which uses language or non-language.

Semiotics derive from the Greek word *semeion* which means “sign” or “symbol”. The term *semeion* seems to derive from hippocratic medicine or asklepiadik. The semiotics pays attention to symptomatology and inferential diagnostics (Sobur: 95) The symbol of the time still means something which shows

to something else. Semiotically, semiotics is a branch of science dealing with the study of symbols and all things related to signs, such as sign systems and processes that apply to symbols (Zoest: 146) Semiotics is the study of objects, events, all language as a symbol. Lyrics and poetry is language of expression raised by writers, therefore in lyrics and poetry there are symbols which can be analyzed through semiotic.

As time goes by, poetry or lyric is constantly evolving with more modern modifications, namely in the form of a song. The songwriters continue to grow with the times. There are many musicians who continue earning to create songs with lyrics that are growing and have fairly deep meaning in the lyrics of their songs. Each song has a theme and implicit message in the lyrics, there is the talk of religion, love, culture, social, and so on. The songwriter begins to notice the language or diction used in the delivery of these meanings. Figurative language and metaphorical symbols have been written in lyrics, make the song into a beautiful lyric and in need special attention to understand a song to find out the meaning of what is in the song. Words or diction are most often used as a symbol in a text of a song or poem is commonly found in some songs.

In the development of the times, this form of literature continues to grow and continues being modified. The song became one of the more modern form of poetry. Among the lyrics there is one we can say as a form of poetry. According to Schmitt and Viala (1982: 115) lyrics is “a text with lines and stanzas or rhythmic prose and art in making the array and also a special quality of work on all the things that touch, dazzle, and awaken the mind.” Therefore, the lyrics can be regarded as

a form of poetry, because the lyrics of song are a text with rhythmic lines and stanzas which are also built by an art (music), and had meaning, content touching, and charming or emotion.

Depression is considered to be one of the basic human emotions and it's a natural response to situations involving psychological, emotion, and physical pain. Depression feelings often quickly appear after individuals have been upsetting experience. Depression is one of stage of sadness.

Kübler- Ross (in Hangu 2015: 26) identifies and discusses that “there are two distinct types of depression: Reactive depression and preparatory depression. Reactive depression refers to the natural sadness we experience when something bad take place. Preparatory depression, on the other hand, refers to the emotions one experiences while preparing for the loss of everything he or she loves”.

Based on the explanation about depression, it can be concluded that depression is one of expression of sadness; and the song in its essence can be a way to express feeling including depression. Therefore, between lyrics and depression there is relation to each other.

Each songwriter has its own feature and characteristics. Feature and characteristics that are owned as a differentiator and also to create interest listeners. Like Adele, she was born in north London, England, on May 5th, 1988. She became singer in the beginning of 3 years old. She attended the BRIT School, a free school for the performing arts. Her first three albums, 19, 21, and 25, earned her critical success and a high level of commercial viability with The Beatles and Bob Marley.

Adele is a songwriter who has own characteristics, her songs are known to make anyone a heart bawl. The researcher chooses “Adele” song because her songs is very interesting to be examined and researched in more detail. Besides, the researcher has some reason to analyze this research. First of all, this song tells about love story. And then, the researcher takes eleven songs in “25” album. The eleven songs are about love story that have same story with society in the daily fact. The second, researcher chooses the song Adele in the album “25” because the album is achieved a success. Several awards are also received, such as number two on its “*The 50 Best Album of 2015*” by Rolling Stone Magazine, “*British Album of the years*” at 2016 BRIT Awards, “*Album of the years*” on 59th Grammy Awards, and many more.

In part of this background, the researcher has a plan to analyze the pop song genre. The selected songs are “Hello”, “Send My Love (To Your New Lover)”, “I Miss You”, “When We Were Young”, “Remedy”, “Water Under the Bridge”, “River Lea”, “Love in the Dark”, “Million Years Ago”, “All I Ask”, and “Sweet Devotion” in the album “25 by Adele (2015)”

There are previous studies which show connection with this study. They are: *Symbol of Love in William Shakespeare’s Sonnets* by Hertono Yulianto in the year of 2015. This study examined meaning there can be concluded the symbols in Williams Shakespeare’s sonnet is love to anyone around him. All themes in sonnet about love by Shakespeare. Shakespeare dedicated to his love. Finally, the writer suggested to the readers to improve the discourse of literature especially in semiotic realm about representation and symbol to make better writing. in the study have

similarities in analyzing the symbol but the theory and the object used is different from that used by the Researcher in the thesis *The Symbol of Depression in Adele's "25" Album*.

Makna Simbol dalam Mantra Bugis Dialek Wajo (Telaah Semiotik Sastra Klasik Lisan Bugis) by Afrat Lagosi in the year of 2010. This study examines meaning of symbols in a spell Bugis dialect Wajo. The study has similarities in analyzing symbol in literature but theories and types of literature that is used is different from that used by the Researcher in the thesis *The Symbol of Depression in Adele's "25" Album*.

Analisis Semiotik Dalam Lirik Lagu Shoutul Khilafah (Kajian Charles Sanders Peirce) by Rendra Siswoyo in the year of 2011. This study examines meaning of the symbols in the lyrics Shoutul Khilafah using the theories of Charles Sanders Peirce, as studies have similarities in analyzing the symbol in the lyrics as well as the use of semiotic theory of Peirce but the song is used as the object of research different from that used by the Researcher in the thesis *The Symbol of Depression in Adele's "25" Album*.

According to Peirce (2000), Semiotics is the science of reading a symbol or a sign that there is a text in which a symbol or a sign that has a meaning that can be analyzed using the approach of semiotic, the research for the lyrics of this song, the author uses the theory of semiotic to analyze the symbols contained in the song lyrics Adele's 25 album. At the end, the author decides to choose a title "*The Symbol of Depression in Adele's "25" Album*" (2015).

1.2 Statement of Problem

The main problem of this research is the existence of signs in Adele's lyric that must be analysed to comprehend properly sadness expression. This problem includes the meanings of sadness symbol in the song and how the symbol of sadness is represented in Adele's lyric. To limit this problem, the researcher proposes two question below:

1. How are symbol of depression presented in Adele's lyric?
2. What are the meanings of depression symbols in Adele's lyric?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on these questions, the purpose of this study are as follows:

1. To find out the way of presenting depression symbols in Adele's lyrics.
2. To elaborate the meaning of depression symbols in the Adele's lyrics.

1.4 Research Significance

Besides having the purpose, the researcher intends the results of this research can be beneficial. There are two beneficial significances of these research. As follows:

1. Theoretical benefits:
 - a. This study is intended to be a contribution to the development of the scientific field of English Language and Literature, especially for researcher and readers in general.

- b. This study is intended to be a reference to further study literature and become a reference for the scientific development of the field of English language and literature or literature research further.

2. Practical benefits:

- a. This research is intends to give an idea of how to research the meaning of song. It is studied and understood the interests of ensuring that the understanding in the field of literacy by using semiotic view of literature.
- b. This research can provide an overview of the symbol of depression on semiotic triangle C. S. Pearce theory in Adele Songs which was researched and studied as understanding or learning in accordance with the interests of the understanding of the literary works.

1.5 Definition of key terms

To avoid misunderstanding on the terms used in this research, the clarification stated as follows:

1. Analysis is the process of breaking a complex topic or substance into smaller parts to gain a better understanding of it.
2. Symbol, in the simplest sense, is anything that stands for or represents something else beyond it—usually an idea conventionally associated with it. Objects like flags and crosses can function symbolically; and words are also symbols (Oxford, 2010: 251)
3. Depression is Feeling of severe despondency and dejection.
4. Song is a short poem or other set of words set to music or meant to be sung.

5. Lyric is in the modern sense, any fairly short poem expressing the personal mood, feeling, or meditation of a single speaker (who may sometimes be an invented character, not the poet). In ancient Greece, a lyric was a song for accompaniment (Oxford, 2010: 143)
6. Album is Material (music or sound) is stored on an album in sections termed tracks, normally 11 or 12 tracks. (KBBI,2010)
7. “25” is the third studio album by British singer-songwriter Adele. It was released on 20 November 2015. Titled as a reflection of her life and frame of mind at 25 years old. 25 eventually became the world’s best-selling album of the year for 2015 with 17.4 million copies sold within the year, and has gone on to sell over 21 million copies worldwide, making it one of the best-selling album of all time.

