CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

National Institute Mental Health of USA noted that depression (major depressive disorder or clinical depression) is a common but serious mood disorder. It causes severe symptoms that affect how you feel, think, and handle daily activities, such as sleeping, eating, or working. A person can be diagnosed as having a depression when the symptoms present for at least two weeks. Several factors can play a role in depression such as biochemistry, genetics, personality, and environmental factors as stated by American Psychiatric Association.

Further, Beck (2009), explains that the term depression is often used to designate a complex pattern of deviations in feelings, cognition, and behavior that is not represented as a discrete psychiatric disorder. In such instances it is regarded as a syndrome, or symptom-complex. The cluster of signs and symptoms is sometimes conceptualized as a psychopathological dimension ranging in intensity (or in degree of abnormality) from mild to severe. Because the disturbed feelings are generally a striking feature of depression, it has become customary to regard this condition as a ''primary mood disorder'' or as an ''affective disorder.' Depression can appear on a song lyric as a theme.

In 2017, we lost two famous musicians in the world. They are the vocalist of Linkin Park band, Chester Bennington, and a member of Korean boy band's SHINEE, Kim Jonghyun. They both have suffered from the depression and committed suicide to end their life. People almost all over the world were shaken after knowing about the death of Linkin Park's band vocalist, Chester Bennington. This is very surprising because the rock band has just released the album a few days before the vocalist decided to end his life. In July 2017 they had just toured a concert in various states of North America.

The band has had seven studio albums since the first time out and *One More Light* album is the last album released by Linkin Park with the vocalist before he died. Everyone who heard the song was surprised because the lyrics on the album contained signs of depression that one of them belonged to Chester Bennington. Almost in all the lyrics contain the meaning of depression in it and it has been recognized by the band members in various interviews. According to an interview with *mirror.co.uk*, Chester Bennington has been said that their latest album had helped him to come out of his 'darkest time' of his life, adding that it was the point that he "chose to fight for I wanted", he also revealed that *One More Light* album is to be a very personal piece of work and had been very therapeutic for them to write. The lyrics they wrote also have meaning related to the theme of this album, which is a struggle of life including depression experienced by Chester himself. The depression experienced by Chester has been going on for a long time since he was a teenager and he has struggled to live since then until the end of his life.

Linkin Park is one of the most famous bands in the world. Linkin Park, the band that has a rock music genre, began to be famous at around 2000 with an album called *Hybrid Theory*. After that, the popularity of Linkin Park has increasing with its songs which were always ranked on the *Billboard* charts, there are "In the End" from *Hybrid Theory* album in 2002, "Numb" *Meteora* album in 2004, "What I've Done" in 2007, "New Divide" in 2009, and "Shadow of the Day" in 2008. Linkin Park has established themselves as one of the biggest and most influential rock bands of the 21st century by having seven studio albums and a collaboration EP with the famous rapper, *JAY-Z*. They have sold 27.8 million albums in the U.S., according to Nielsen Music. (billboard.com)

Song lyrics are usually written by a composer or the singers themselves or the members of the band itself. Everyone who writes the lyrics can use their own experiences or others experiences as their references. Song lyrics become one medium used to express the writers' ideas and feelings. They can express their ideas and feelings through the lyrics of a song about something they have seen, heard or experienced. Therefore, in writing the lyrics, the songwriter can raise an issue or theme to a song or an entire album. They can use an everyday situation that people experienced as their issues or themes. The issues or themes that they usually raise are about relationship, identity, mental health problem, or even politics. This study attempts to reveal an issue that is commonly shown in song lyrics, which is mental health problem that called depression.

In expressing their ideas and feelings, the composer performs words and languages to create appeal and uniqueness to their lyrics. Language is the medium

that mediates us in making meaning, which is producing and changing meaning. Language can do that thing because the language operates as a representational system. Meaning depends on how we represent it. Language is a system of meaning- a semiotic system (Halliday, 2003). In language, we must have used some words to make a sentence and communicate what we will talk about. Language must have a meaning; either it is a spoken or written form. According to Kenney (1996: 60), the words have two main kinds of meaning, denotation and connotation. Semiotics recognizes language as the most fundamental and important sign system (Tyson, 2006). The sign is the whole that results from the association of the signifier with the signified (Chandler, 2002). The relationship between the signifier and the signified is referred to as 'signification'.

There are some previous studies about song lyrics. First previous study is a research by Asidiky (2014). He conducted a research with the title *The Interpretation of the Lyric Writers' Concept in Coldplay's Viva La Vida Song Lyrics*. The purposes of this research are to interpret the lyric writers' concept in writing and narrating the Viva La Vida lyrics and to interpret the representation of the first-person narrator used in the lyric. The analysis method of this research is descriptive interpretation. In analyzing the lyrics the writer use the Saussure's dyadic or two-part model of the sign in interpreting the denotative meaning. The results of this study is the lyric of Viva La Vida song is full of narration. The lyrics become a set of meaningful lyrics by using the first-person narration. In the process of the writing lyrics, the lyric writers wrote their own perspective by using

the interpretation of linear analysis. That is the reason why these lyrics contain a lot of meaning and make them interesting to be interpreted by the listeners.

The second previous study is *An Analysis on Connotative Meaning and Message in Linkin Park's Songs in A Thousand Suns Album* in which conducted by Prayitna (2015). This research focuses on analyzing the connotative meaning contained in Linkin Park's song lyrics by using Leech's theory (1990). This research is aimed at showing the interpretation of the connotations found in the song lyrics, the messages of the songs, and the contribution of the connotations to the messages. The problems of the study are (1) what are the expressions containing connotative meanings in the song lyrics of Linkin Park's A Thousand Suns album, (2) what are the messages of the songs in Linkin Park's A Thousand Suns album, and (3) how do the connotations contribute to the messages conveyed in the songs. This research used qualitative approach because the data are in the form of song lyrics. Documentary analysis was applied to find out the connotative meaning contained in the song lyrics, the messages, and the contribution of the connotations to the messages of the songs. The researcher analyzed the data by identifying the connotative meanings, figuring out the messages, and correlating the contribution of the connotations to the messages. The result of the research shows that there are 46 utterances containing connotative meanings in the song lyrics. The connotative meaning found is carried within words, phrases, and also sentences. The messages conveyed in the songs are mostly motivating and persuasive. The connotations used in the song lyrics are to portray images and

build certain atmospheres. The connotations found in the song lyrics play an important role in creating particular senses and delivering the messages.

In 2017, Larasatika conducted a research with the title *Connotative and Denotative Meaning of Emotion Words in Twenty One Pilots' Blurryface Album*. This research is discussing connotative and denotative meaning consisting in emotion words in the lyrics of Twenty One Pilots' songs in Blurryface album. The songs are Heavydirtysoul, Stressed Out, Ride, Fairly Local, Tear in My Heart, Lane Boy, The Judge, Doubt, Polarize, We Don't Believe What's On TV, Message Man, Hometown, Not Today and Goner. The meaning of emotion words in those songs implies the songwriter's background. The emotion words are classified according to Plutchik and Kellerman. Then, those emotion words are analyzed using semantics theory to find the meaning and how the songwriter's background is implied. The method which is used in this research is qualitative method because the research is describing verbal data which is the words in the song lyrics. In the songs of Twenty One Pilots from Blurryface album, seven from eight kinds of emotion words are found. The eight primary kinds of emotion according to Robert Plutchik are anger, fear, joy, sadness, acceptance, disgust, surprise, and anticipation, however the emotion word of disgust is not found in the lyrics. The meaning of those emotion words can be viewed based on what Zoltàn Kövecses characterized. Those words have denotative and connotative meaning which imply the songwriter's background based on his interview. The connotative and denotative meaning of the emotion words consisting in the lyrics imply that the songwriter has insecurity of some things which is represented by a character

he created, Blurryface, and he tries to defeat and compensate with it, which is shown in songs Heavydirtysoul, Lane Boy, The Judge, Polarize, Message Man, Not Today, and Goner.

Based on the discussions above, this study will be different from the previous studies. This study analyzes Linkin Park's song lyrics focusing on the issue that is reflected in the song lyrics the depression. Moreover, this study and the previous studies are using different theory. This study will analyze the portrayal of depression in Linkin Park's song lyrics by using semiotics analysis and the writer will use semiotics theory by Roland Barthes.

1.2. Research Question

How do the Linkin Park's song lyrics portray depression?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

This study aims to analyze the portrayal of depression in Linkin Park's song lyrics.

1.4. Scope of the Study

In this study, the writer focus on analyzing the portrayal of depression based on Linkin Park's selected song lyrics in total 4 songs by using Aaron Beck's

theory of depression. Those four songs are *Nobody Can Save Me, Battle Symphony, Heavy,* and *Halfway Right.*

1.5. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be useful not only for the researcher, but also for the other readers to enrich their knowledge in the related field. The writer also expected that the result of this research will be useful for the readers, especially for the researchers who want to develop this research in the future.