

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Representing or describing something or someone is the aim of portraying, so it can be understood by the people. Portray is representing or describing someone or something in painting, film, book, or other artistic work (Cambridge Advance Learner's Dictionary – Third Edition). The artist could be using many kinds of media such as lyric, poem, film, drama, or novel to expressing the ideas of artistic works. Lyric and poetry are employing the verbal language, often using characteristic effective that can influence to the people and sometimes using stylistic devices, to tell the tales (in the ballad tradition), to propose the ideas about life and the world, sometimes to illustrate the limits of language in negotiation between 'subject' and 'world' (Eckstein, 2010: 10).

The lyrics and poetry are having the similarity in using of verbal words that written in the poetical way and also expressing the lyricist's feelings and emotions. The song lyrics are containing the themes such as romance, social and politic, life and death, and also depression. The portraying of song lyrics is aiming in the words that include in the song lyrics are described or represented, so the people could be easily what does the meaning of the song lyrics. The lyricist also expressing their feelings and emotion through the lyric, some of them are using figurative language. The objective of the lyricist is to establish the emotional responses in the listener, and

where the music that focused on underscore the telling of the story of the song and reinforce the emotions its writer was attempting to articulate (Wall, 2003: 23). The lyricist are hoping the listeners of the songs would understand what the lyricist feel by communicating their feelings and emotions through their lyrics. The one feeling and emotion that could be represented in the song lyrics is depression.

Depression is a mood disorder which prevents individuals from leading a normal life, at work socially or within their family. Depression as the ‘common cold’ of psychiatry because of its frequency of diagnosis, as been stated by Seligman (1973). It is usually quite easy to see when someone is depressed. According to *World Health Organization* (WHO), depression is a common mental disorder, characterized by sadness, loss of interest or pleasure, feelings of guilt or low self-worth, disturbed sleep or appetite, feelings of tiredness and poor concentration.

Depression is either endogenous (melancholic) considering a biological condition, or reactive (neurotic) a reaction to a stressful events that caused by a chemical. Freud (1917) states that melancholia could result from mourning for an objective loss, such as the loss of valued relationship through death or a romantic break-up, results in subjective loss as well, the depressed individual has identified with the object of affection through an unconscious, narcissistic process called the *libidinal cathexis* of the ego. Freud also argued that some cases of depression could be linked to loss or rejection by a parent, depression is like a grief that often occurs as a reaction to the loss of an important relationship. Many people describe depression as “living in a black hole”, or having a feeling of impending doom. However, some

depressed people don't feel sad at all, they feel lifeless, empty, and apathetic, or men in particular may even feel angry, aggressive, and restless.

Several researches about depression in music and song lyric have been conducted by some researchers all over the world. One of those researchers is a research conducted by Angga Pradipta (2009) from Semarang State University, his research entitled "*Hyperbolic Expressions As Revealing Sense Of Depression In Song Lyrics Of Evanescences Album Fallen*". This research focused on the whole songs that related hyperbolic expressions and sense of depressions in the *Fallen* album by Evanescences. Each songs in this album has various meanings, but some of them have similiar meaning to each other. Although, each songs in this album has various and different meanings, but it has similiar themes and reveal sense of depression through hyperbolic expressions to strengthen the meanings of song. The songs in this album reveal, we can see that depression is one of common psychological symptoms that someone experiences when they are feels desperate and sometimes depression can lead one to more severe symptoms such as getting insane or frustation.

The second reasearch is conducted by Adit Iskandar, Jessica Abraham, Karishma Khanna and Rahul Dubey (2015) from Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute, Mumbai, India. Their research entitled "*Emotion Analysis of Songs Based On Lyrical And Audio Features*". A method of this research is proposed to detect the emotion of a song based on the lyrical and audio features. Lyrical features are generated by segmentation of lyrics during the process of data extraction. In this research, songs are classified into emotion categories based on a weighted

combination of extracted lyrical and audio features. This combination is achieved by using numerous statistical experiments that led to an eventual convergence to desired weights for each feature.

Based on the discussion above, the differences between this study and both previous studies is this study only analyse Metallica's song lyrics focused on depression. There are many bands representing the song lyrics dealing with depression, which are Opeth, Judas Priest, Megadeth, Pantera, Slayer, Metallica, etc. Among the band that represent the depression in their lyrics, Metallica is one of the band that write their song lyrics dealing with depression. Their lyric is written by vocalist/guitaris James Hetfield based on his childhood experience, war, social and politic. Their song lyrics are very beautiful, poetic, inspirational and James Hetfield wrote the lyrics about depression deeply than the other metal bands. Because of that, Metallica being an influence for the other metal bands.

Metallica is American Thrash Metal band formed in Los Angeles, California. Metallica formed in 1981 James Hetfield as vocalist/guitarist and Lars Ulrich as drummer. The band's current line up is James Hetfield as a vocalist/guitarist, Robert Trujillo as bassist, Kirk Hammett as guitarist, and Lars Ulrich as drummer. Now, the band has nine studio album.

This study will analyse the portrayal of depression that portrayed in Metallica's song lyrics which were written by the member of this band by using the semiotic analysis. Semiotic is the study of the sign, which is the way of thinking about visual and text meaning (Chandler, 2002). In this study, the writer will use the

semiotic models by Roland Barthes. This study analyse five songs that taken randomly from each Metallica's album. The song that will be analyse entitled *One*, *Fade to Black*, *Welcome Home (Sanitarium)*, *Dyers Eve*, and *Low Man's Lyric*.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background above, the research question of this study is “How do Metallica's song lyrics portray depression?”

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to reveal the portrayal of depression in Metallica's song lyrics.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study will focuses on analysing the portrayal of depression based on the Metallica's song lyrics in total 5 songs by using Aaron Beck's theory of depression.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this study is advantageous for those who want to study about depression, especially the portrayal of depression in the song lyrics. Moreover, the writer intends to enrich the references of the reader, especially for English Department's students who want to take the further issues related to song lyrics.