

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Society has its own story which is sometimes hard to understand for people. In different countries or places or even small environments like cities, schools, or even families their interaction can build a story that sometimes is not always good or lively. There might be different perceptions or ideologies that can cause conflict between them. These conflicts appear in one group to another group that has a different perspective or beliefs that sparked a dispute between them. These days, people easily gain some information about one issue from other places through news or articles in the paper that spread rapidly through the internet.

Furthermore, not only those things on the internet could deliver issues or conflicts around the world. We can easily find other arts, videos, movies, drawings, or even music that people made to express their feelings, told a story, deliver an ideology, or probably just fulfil their satisfaction. They use the internet to share these kinds of works because it's easier to gain more audiences in the arts. When attention is gained, this work will do its job as a "message deliverer". However, although those things exist on the internet people seem to be closer to music since almost all social media allows music to be featured in their apps. When a singer or a songwriter wants to share their thoughts, feelings, or criticisms with society, they can easily use social media to creatively create some hype for the music.

Kramer, (1984 as cited in Allis, 2017) suggests that "*a song...is a reading, in the critical as well as the performative sense of the term,*" It is one of the ancient

literatures which remains popular today. The song could be a medium that represents anything. It could express an emotion of heartbreak, a grateful life, disappointment, etc. The song can be used as a medium that conveys a message, ideology, or even critics for an issue or phenomenon, so people could enjoy the music while the lyrics made by the songwriter hint at some information about social issues or conflicts in their environment at that time.

The conflict might be related to other people on the other side of the world. Social conflicts or issues are always identical to social class, discrimination, politics, or women's rights, but these days, social conflicts develop into many aspects of the environment. These issues remain and become the main factor. Besides those things, conflicts are growing uncontrollably. Bullying, sexual harassment, and exploitation of humans are examples of some issues in society that appear these days because of a group's thoughts that they have more power than the other. The impact of these incidents on victims is that they will feel inferior which can also result in bad actions themselves.

Karl Marx and Ralf Dahrendorf become pioneers of the sociological tradition called the "conflict" perspective (Guclu, 2014). Karl Marx as the classic theorist of sociology has influenced Ralf Dahrendorf in his perspective towards conflict. American sociologist, Lewis Coser (1957), quotes Karl Marx that said conflict not only leads to relations that are always changing, but it affects the total social system transformed through conflict. Coser believes that conflict has functions in society as the process of social change (Coser, 1957). While Karl Marx said society is divided into two groups class (Bourgeois and Proletariat), Coser

suggests that there are two concepts of social conflict, there are realistic and non-realistic concepts of conflict. Realistic and Non-realistic conflict.

Realistic conflict arises when the relationship presents specific demands that result in disappointment with those demands. This conflict can also arise when a person or a group wants something that cannot happen between individuals or groups. In this theory, there are two elements of conflict; hostile feelings and hostile behavior, based on Coser's theory adapted from Simmel. Whereas non-realistic conflict refers more to revenge. This conflict still involves two or more people but the concept that occurs is different from realistic conflict. Non-realistic conflict occurs not because of the antagonists and their goals, but from the desire to release tension and not be oriented toward certain results. Social conflict appears because there is an imbalance of roles in social interactions, such as from economic inequality, and sometimes religion becomes the main problem, so it does not come naturally (Muzaki, 2018, as cited in Fauzi, et al, 2019).

In the text, both literary and non-literary, conflict can be found through linguistics using an in-depth analysis of its function. According to Halliday's theory of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL), language has three metafunctions, there are Ideational metafunction, Textual metafunction, and Interpersonal metafunction. Ideational metafunction is when language construes human experience and categorizes them. The differences in languages make the categories construed in the language (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013). Language is not only to express or give a representation through processes but also enact. Language should be enacting the

personal life and social relationships with other people to make an interaction, and this is called Interpersonal metafunction (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013).

The last metafunction is Textual metafunction. From the name, textual, this function is related to the construction of the text. Interpersonal and ideational metafunction is facilitated or enabled by textual metafunction because it can arrange the discourse, organize the discursive flow, and build up continuity and cohesion (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013). In this study, the writer wants to explain and discuss how the conflict in the literary text, especially in songs, is found through ideational metafunction.

Transitivity is a way to elaborate a clause of the text and explain the components of the clause. The components are participants, process, and circumstances. The participants will be involved as the subject or object for any process in the experiences (material, mental, verbal, behavioural, existential, and relational) then circumstances appear as the addition for time, space, cause, manner, or others (Halliday & Matthiessen, 2013). Transitivity can reveal the participants, process, and circumstances of a clause and then shows what participants, process, or circumstances are used in the text.

There are a lot of studies that use transitivity for analysing both literary and non-literary texts. Some previous studies have already used transitivity to interpret the clauses in text or songs to show the use of the type of process in it. Siahaan, (2021) wrote about the use of transitivity in Bon Jovi's selected song lyrics. He found that most of Bon Jovi's song lyrics are using a material process which

indicates that the songwriter is related to the physical activity or process of doing. He was not referring to the meaning or problems of the song.

Another study was conducted by Song (2013) who analysed William Faulkner's famous short story, *A Rose for Emily* titled "Transitivity Analysis of *A Rose for Emily*". This study discussed how transitivity shows the tragedy in the story and illustrates the theme well. The interpretation of the story like what and who the subject of the process (what we called participants in transitivity) also gives the analysis of what is behind *A Rose for Emily*. Almost the same purpose as Song, Ngunyen (2012) in her paper "Transitivity Analysis of *Heroic Mother* by Hoa Pham" also analyses and observes the character's personality through linguistics. It discussed how transitivity works with observation giving the results of representation of the main character in the short story. In the end, this study shows how literary text can be analysed and interpreted using linguistic analysis.

The other study has different findings of transitivity analysis. Amber, et al. (2014) in their article "Transitivity Analysis: Representation of Love in Wilde's *The Nightingale* and *The Rose*" found a connection between the transitivity processes that occur in the short story. It founds that there are three major processes that appear in the story, material process, relational process, and verbal process. When the actor does the action, they also reveal the state through a verbal process. Then the relational process links the actors with the attributes that are associated with them. This shows how transitivity, and the process types can explain the actions performed through the material and the other processes that connected one to the other.

The other study uses Transitivity to analyse dialogue in movies. Sihura (2019) wrote 'Transitivity Process in Frozen Movie: A Study of Systemic Functional Grammar' as her study. She explains how the dialogue, based on the transcript of the movie, is portraying the process and explains what children's movie, especially 'Frozen' released in 2013, most used the process in their movie. This study uses J. R. Martin, Christian M. I. M. Matthiessen, and Clare Painter's theories and L. R. Gay, G.E. Mils, and P.W. Airasian's method to analyze the data. For the results, she found all the processes of transitivity in the Frozen movie, but the dominant process is a material process, the mental process, the third is a relational process, the fourth is the behavioural process, and the last is the existential process.

Not only the literature text but transitivity could also be used in non-literary texts like Hutabarat, et.al (2020) wrote a study titled 'An Analysis of Ideational Metafunction on News Jakarta Post about Some Good Covid-19 Related News'. This study elaborates on the components of transitivity (participants, process, circumstances) and shows the dominant participants, process, and circumstances that occurred in the news.

This study will discuss the social conflict in the songs through the transitivity process, especially in selected songs on Melanie Martinez's album "K-12". The writer uses the songs of Melanie Martinez because she delivers the issues uniquely. She brings the social conflict with the school theme. The words, the title of each song, and the tune give the impression of a cheerful children's song. Martinez also made a short movie about this album, which provides a pastel classic

theme fantasy story that combines all her songs in this album to be a story that took place in a school dormitory.

Melanie Martinez is a singer who started her career as a contestant on The Voice blind audition and sang Toxic by Britney Spears with her style in 2012. She was eliminated in the 6th rank but then, she started her career by releasing her debut, Dollhouse, which became her first EP through Atlantic Records. The first album by her is 'Crybaby' and the second is 'K-12'. She has several EPs and the newest is 'After School'. Her album has continued the theme since 'Crybaby' which describes Melanie as the main character named Crybaby, a baby girl who lived and grew up in her problematic family and environment. Then, 'K-12' describes her as a young girl that lived in a school dormitory with her friend, Angelita (Emma Harvey). In 'K-12', the writer chose five songs to analyze the messages behind them. They are 'Nurse's Office', 'Show & Tell', 'Strawberry Shortcake', 'Orange Juice', and 'The Principal'. These songs are chosen based on the title which is uniquely written as part of the school or 'K-12' itself.

This study was conducted because the writer wants to find out what messages the song wants to deliver through a transitivity analysis approach that could reveal the messages in the lyrics and focuses on each clause in the lyrics. The transitivity theory by Halliday and the social conflict theory by Lewis A. Coser. The transitivity approach was chosen for this study because, through it, the messages of the lyrics can be known by analyzing the process songwriters experienced when they wrote the song. Then, it also use the Appraisal system theory by Martin and White (2005), especially the attitude system, in order to

evaluate the issue in the songs. This analysis conducted in order to elaborate the issue or message that contains in songs.

1.2 Research Question

1. What kind of Transitivity system appear in Melanie Martinez “K-12” album?
2. How do the songs from Melanie Martinez “K-12” album present social conflict?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

1. To find out what kind of transitivity process that mostly used in Melanie Martinez's K-12 album
2. To analyze the social conflict in each song of Melanie Martinez's K-12 album.

1.4 Scope of The Study

This study focuses on five songs released in 2019 in the K-12 Album by Melanie Martinez. The songs are:

1. The Principal
2. Show & Tell
3. Strawberry Shortcake
4. Orange Juice
5. Nurse’s Office

The ‘K-12’ album by Melanie Martinez is chosen because it has a unique concept of delivering the story of each song. The ‘K-12’ means the school grades,

from kindergarten to 12th grade. The first song chosen for this study is 'The Principal'. It talks about "somebody who rules" in this song who is very selfish and arrogant. The second song is 'Show & Tell'. It is about a woman who is treated badly in society even though they have the same rights as humans. The third song is 'Strawberry Shortcake' which talks about how men harassed women which causes insecurity and self-blaming from the women, even though the women just want to wear what they want.

The fourth song is 'Orange Juice' which describes how a person who saw other people always tried to have an ideal body by trying to expel what he eats because of bulimia. The fifth song is 'Nurse's Office' which explains how other people bully a person until they fake everything just to be taken to a safer place. These songs were chosen because they have unique titles and lyrics.

1.5 Significances of the Study

This study is expected to make the readers more paying attention to what they hear in songs and the lyrics contained a lot of backstories that tell the different events. Some of them brought an issue or problems in their surroundings to share with the audience or listeners. This study can be used as a reference related to linguistic study, especially of how meaning is told by the song lyrics using the transitivity and appraisal system.

The transitivity system can help the readers to know what is happening in the song and who are the participants involved in the events. While the previous study only focuses on breaking down the clauses into participant, process, and circumstances parts of process types, this study links the results of transitivity

analysis to the issue or conflict in it. Using Lewis A. Coser's theory of social conflict, helps the readers understand more about how a song can carry a conflict in its body. While the appraisal system can elaborate the evaluation of a message in a song, through attitude explained in the words used (positive and negative).

Songs these days are expanding rapidly through social media apps on a smartphone, which means it is uncontrolled and contains a lot of expression, emotions, events, or issues in them. This study also expected to build an awareness of the readers, especially those who love to hear music and songs, to listen carefully to the lyrics, and try to be more understanding about what happens to the actor in the song and what kind of conflict they experience.

