

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Women's music refers to music which is made for, by, and about women. The movement for second-wave feminism, as well as the labor, civil rights, and peace movements, gave rise to the genre (Dibben, 1999). Women's music also refers to the larger field of women's music, which includes female festival directors, promoters, distributors, cover artists, technicians, sound engineers, producers, and studio musicians in addition to the performing artists. The topics covered in women's music include diversity in the workplace, violence against women, sexual orientation, motherhood, and childbirth. Women's music seeks to counteract how women are portrayed in mainstream music (Schilt, 2003). This is due to some songs relate stories about beating up women to demonstrate the inferiority or use insulting names for them to demonstrate the superiority of men.

According to Ward et al (2010), liberal feminism is one of the earliest forms of feminism is liberal feminism, which asserts that women's secondary status in society is caused by men's segregation and unequal opportunities (Ward et al., 2010). This branch of feminism focuses on reducing gender inequality and emerged in the United States as a result of the abolitionist and women's movements. It is one main branch of feminism and is also known as mainstream feminism. It is characterized by its emphasis on achieving gender equality through

political and legal reform. It is based on a human rights perspective and is contained within the framework of liberal democracy.

Freedom is one of the core principles of liberal feminism (Baehr, 2021). Here, the phrase “freedom” refers to both political and personal freedom for each individual. One part of the liberal feminist is personal autonomy, or the freedom to choose one’s own path in life and it is present in Dua Lipa and Billie Eilish’s songs. Women are logical beings blessed by God with the same senses and minds as men, so they are free to do or believe whatever they want. Some of the songs chosen by Dua Lipa and Billie Eilish contain the value of personal autonomy and freedom, where women can assess what they want to do in life based on their own preference and also being free from all social standards that harm women. The same thing was said by Ford, who stated that women and men alike were given the opportunity to make life decisions. Women do not want to be restricted or remain subject to the other party’s pressure. This leads to the concept of liberal feminism as the political term towards the notion.

Dua Lipa and Billie Eilish are two women who play a major role in music and create women’s music. Dua Lipa, for instance, makes a place of women as she fabricates a safe space for them. The singer looked into how women are affected by how male and female artists differ. She explains that women need to find a way to treat each other with kindness rather than tearing each other down (Firidy, 2021). She shows a lot of passion for teaching confidence, valuing self-expression, and fighting for her community’s fundamental human rights. Billie Eilish keeps pushing feminist concepts in contemporary pop music (Walker,

2020). Eilish has always used her powerful creativity and strong voice to indirectly advocate for marginalized people and feminist themes.

In their songs, both Dua Lipa and Billie Eilish convey women's rights and address how women are viewed as powerless and manhandled, particularly in connections. Dua Lipa's songs particularly have subjects of women's rights and address the developing agonies young women experience, expecting to grow up quicker than young men (Firdy, 2021). She denounces the ideas that society tend to consider women as less worthy and less essential. Similarly, Billie Eilish's songs on her album "WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?", talks mostly about the writer's imagination and personal experiences in relationships and friendships discusses that has social and feminist issues (Panjaitan et. al, 2020). She shows tendency to refusing to conform who rejects letting other people define who she is which can be seen on how she handle how media and people objectifies her body through a viral photo of her (Jackson, 2021). She is beloved by millions of other singers who also have similar aims. In this way, Eilish plays out not only her own life's highs and lows but also those of a generation.

The researcher chose Dua Lipa and Billie Eilish's selected songs about women's experiences in personal relationship and, especially the value of egalitarian-liberal feminists, as the object of the study. According to egalitarian-liberal feminism, social and institutional arrangements that frequently do not respect women's individual autonomy and other factors in women's prosperity, which are necessary for women to exercise their individual autonomy (Baehr,

2021). If one supports women's personal and political autonomy, egalitarian-liberal feminists believe that much can and should be done. In liberal societies like the United States, it is also to achieve equality through democratic self-governance. Egalitarian-liberal feminists believe that the state can and should be an ally of the women's movement in promoting women's autonomy because, from an egalitarian perspective, protecting the autonomy of citizens is an appropriate role.

Further, egalitarian-liberal feminists argue that women's needs and interests are not adequately represented in democratic self-governance processes, which means that the fundamental regulations that maintain these conditions are not legitimate (Donner, 1998). Egalitarian-liberal feminists believe that the "gender system," or inherited patriarchal traditions and institutions, is to blame for autonomy issues like these, and that the women's movement should work to acknowledge these issues. The idea of egalitarianism states that everyone should be treated equally and has the right to the same opportunities and rights. The fundamental difference between egalitarianism and other subfields of feminism is the belief that discrimination must be eradicated in order for egalitarianism to achieve its full potential.

Therefore, this study aims to examine the representation of egalitarian-liberal feminist values in the lyrics of selected songs from Dua Lipa and Billie Eilish using the theory of egalitarian-liberal feminism. The author chose five songs from Dua Lipa, which are *New Rules*, *IDGAF*, *Don't Start Now*, *Future Nostalgia*, and *Not My Problem*. In addition, the researcher also chose five songs

from Billie Eilish, which are *you should see me in a crown*, *Therefore I Am*, *OverHeated*, *Not My Responsibility*, and *my future*. The selected songs lyrics from Dua Lipa and Billie Eilish are assumed to have a portrayal of egalitarian-liberal feminism in it. Therefore, the study strives to focus on the value of egalitarian-liberal feminism in Billie Eilish and Dua Lipa's selected song lyrics.

1.2 Research Question

1. How Billie Eilish and Dua Lipa selected song lyrics represent the value of liberal feminism?

1.3 Purpose of The Study

This study aims to analyze:

1. The representation of liberal feminism value in Billie Eilish and Dua Lipa's selected song lyrics based on egalitarian-liberal feminism theory.

1.4 Scope of The Study

This study focuses on ten songs released by Dua Lipa and Billie Eilish. The songs are *New Rules*, *Not My Problem*, *Future Nostalgia*, *IDGAF*, and *Don't Start Now* by Dua Lipa, and *you should see me in a crown*, *Therefore I Am*, *OverHeated*, *Not My Responsibility*, and *my future* by Billie Eilish.

1.5 Significances of The Study

The writer hopes this study would be useful to be a reference study related to popular culture, specifically in feminism discourse. This study also expected will complement the knowledge about pop music and feminism impact on society and raise the readers' awareness of issues/messages of feminism that Billie Eilish and Dua Lipa want to convey through their songs.