

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

This chapter contains introduction which discusses background of the study, statement of the problems, proposes of the study, research methodology, and organization of the paper.

1.1. Background of the Study

Human beings communicate in a host of complex ways. Of all the forms of communication, music's unique approach to connecting people seems to effortlessly unite generations, faiths and cultures. Over the years, music has been both evolutionary and revolutionary, evoking the same timeless emotions.

Generally, music consists of two elements, sounds as the primary and lyrics as the secondary (Dallin 1994). Lyrics have significant contributions to the music itself although as the second element of the music. Lyrics give the audience deep understanding about the message contained in the song; in other words, lyrics clarify the message contained in the song.

According to Dallin (1994), "lyrics are written as a form of interaction between the writer and the listeners. Most of the times, they carry a message (whatever that might be) with the purpose of motivating the listeners, at least, to think about it. Such a purpose and form of interaction are embedded in the cultural context of these people, according to their musical preferences, time, etc". Every song has its message. The appeal and effectiveness of the song to the

listener is dependent on the lyrics. The message contained in a song lyric can be delivered depending on how the writer put the words in the lyrics (Bertoli-Dutra and Bissaco, 2006: 1053).

Lyrics have been researched from several points of view. For example, lyrics have been studied in intercultural communication by Fock (2010) who find that micro music and world music have a relation with multicultural discourse. In general linguistics, Cespedes (2005) has studied the meaning and communication in popular music. Another study was conducted by Bertoli-Dutra and Bissaco (2006) who studied the Theme in the U2 songs. They find that the most frequent Theme is 'I', followed by 'you' and 'the' which implies the desire of the author for a conversation.

Their study focuses on Themes used in the song lyrics, different with the present study. This present study more specifically seeks to examine Topical Themes used in the song lyrics.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

This study is conducted to answer these following questions:

1. What Themes are realized in Dream Theater lyrics?
2. How are Topical Themes realized in Dream Theater lyrics?
3. How are the messages constructed in selected song lyrics from Dream Theater's "Scenes From A Memory"?

1.3. Purposes of the Study

Based on the questions formulated above, the purposes of the study are:

1. to examine the Themes used in the Dream Theater lyrics.
2. to find how the Topical Themes are realized in Dream Theater lyrics.
3. to find how the messages are constructed in selected song lyrics from Dream Theater's "Scenes From A Memory."

1.4. Research Methodology

Qualitative approach is used in this study. Fraenkel and Wallen (1990: 10) state that "qualitative approach is employed when a researcher wants to acquire a holistic depiction of what actually happens in particular circumstances or situation. Further this study also employed descriptive method. According to Arikunto (1996:234), it has no intention to prove any hypothesis, but to examine and describe the representation of social events that are found in the data sources. Descriptive quantification is also employed in this study. As Alwasilah (2008) stated, descriptive quantification is used to support the quality of descriptions and to make better understanding of the study.

The data for this study are in the form of song lyrics of Dream Theater's Scene From A Memory album (1999). There are three lyrics for this study downloaded from *dreamtheater.net* on 16th of June 2012. The data are analyzed in terms of their Theme and rheme using Halliday Theme and Rheme analytical framework (2004) which was then developed among others by Eggins (2004). Finally the results hopefully can answer the research questions.

1.5. Organization of the Paper

This paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. It contains introduction which discusses background of the problem, statement of the problem, aims of the study, research design, and organization of the paper. Next chapter is the theoretical foundation. This chapter contains theoretical foundations, which serve as a basis for investigating the research problem and other related literatures. After that, the third chapter is the methodology. This chapter explains the methodology of the study that focuses on objectives of the study, data sources, data collection, and framework of data analysis. The next chapter is the fourth chapter which discusses findings and discussion. This chapter reports the results of the study. And the last chapter contains conclusion and recommendations.