

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research design used in conducting this research. More specifically, it describes the research problem, research design, data collection, and data analysis.

3.1. Research Problem

The purposes of the study are to find out the Themes used and the most frequent Topical Themes in Dream Theater lyrics. Therefore, the present study is intended to investigate the 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"?

3.2. Research Design

Qualitative approach was 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 research 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. Alwasilah (2008) stated that descriptive quantification is used to support the quality of descriptions and to make better understanding of the study.

Based on the definition above, the research methodology employed in this research was descriptive qualitative method since the data were indirectly measurable and in the form of words. The study has applied with the purpose of investigating the discourse features that were found in the selected song lyrics. The data has analyzed using Halliday Theme and Rheme analytical framework to find out the textual meaning of the selected songs' lyrics.

3.3. Data Collection

The data for this study are in the form of song lyrics of the Dream Theater. The lyrics were downloaded from *dreamtheater.net* on 16th of June 2012. The song lyrics that were analyzed were chosen purposely, that is, by defining the song lyrics that are most relevant to the present study. As Maxwell (1996:69) states that one of the goals in purposeful sampling is to capture the heterogeneity in the population, in this case are Dream Theater's song lyrics. In addition, the lyrics that were selected were merely the lyrics that were written by the Dream Theater members. The aims in sampling are to gain information that will be the basic of the theory. That is why qualitative research does not employ random sampling that is the most effective technique of sampling in quantitative research. Qualitative research tends to employ purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is

able to gain the completeness and the depth of information in facing the reality (Sutopo, 2002 cited in Wulan 2008).

In taking sample, the study employed purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling is a non-random technique of drawing sample based on certain criteria conformed to the research purpose. Sample of this research were the lyrics by Dream Theater which was composed in the 1999. The lyrics that had been taken were as follows; Through My Words, Through Her Eyes, and The Spirit Carries On. These three lyrics were composed by John Petrucci and Jordan Rudess (1999), while “Through My Words” and “The Spirit Carries On” were composed by both of them (1999) and “Through Her Eyes” was composed by Jordan Rudess (1999).

3.4. Data Analysis

The collected data are analyzed using Theme and Rheme analytical framework proposed by Halliday (2004). In analyzing the lyrics, the study applied several steps: first, the song lyrics were divided into clauses. The second step was carried out to identify the Topical Themes using the Hallidayan Theme and Rheme analytical framework (2004) which is developed among others by Eggins (2004). A string of words are considered a Topical Theme if appear in the beginning of the clause and occupy one transitivity functions as exemplified below.

<i>Where</i>	did we come from?
Topical Theme	Rheme

example 3.1

In the above example, the question word ‘where’ is a Topical Theme because question word ‘where’ function as circumstance and it appears in the beginning of the clause and also occupy one transitivity functions. As mentioned by Eggins (2004), question words which initiate questions will function as Topical Themes.

<i>If</i>	I	die tomorrow
textual	topical	
THEME		RHEME

example 3.2

In the above example, the conjunction ‘if’ is a Textual Theme because conjunction ‘if’ function as conjunctive adjunct. As mentioned by Eggins (2004), conjunctive adjunct is textual Theme element.

<i>Don`t</i>	weep	at my grave
interpersonal	topical	
THEME		RHEME

example 3.3

In the example above, the Interpersonal Theme is finite ‘don’t’. The finite is the primary auxiliary ‘do’ combined with negative polarity. As mentioned by Eggins (2004), primary auxiliaries are included as finite, and finite is one of the Interpersonal Theme elements.

The third step was carried out to see the tendency in the use of Theme. In the fourth step, the analysis focuses on Topical Theme in order to see the most frequent Topical Themes appear in the lyrics. Here is an example of the Topical Theme analysis.

Table 3.1 Sample of Realization of Topical Theme in the First Lyrics

No.	Types of Topical Theme	Realization	Song 3	
			f	%
1.	Noun Phrase	My questioning mind	1	2.7%
		Victoria	1	2.7%
		Life	1	2.7%
		The spirit	1	2.7%
2.	Pronoun	We	1	2.7%
		That	2	5.4%
		You	1	2.7%
		I	17	45.95%
		It	1	2.7%
		What	3	8.11%
		They	1	2.7%
6.	Question words	Where	2	5.4%
		Why	1	2.7%
7.	Process	Move	1	2.7%
		Be	1	2.7%
		Weep	1	2.7%
		Let	1	2.7%
TOTAL			37	100%

The last step was carried out to interpret the messages from the song lyrics based on the distribution of Topical Theme supported by distribution of Textual and Interpersonal Themes.