

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Nowadays, song lyrics have been widely analyzed. There are two main focuses of analysis. They are the representation of issue within lyrics (Setiawan, 2007; Prasetyo, 2009; Prayitno, 2009; Wigati, 2009) and the representation of the song's writer (Laela, 2008; Somantri, 2006). Most of those studies analyzed identity, representation and ideology underlying the lyrics by using Critical Discourse Analysis as its analytical framework.

Some of the research (Prasetyo, 2009; Prayitno, 2009) investigated the intention of the writer in writing her/his song by using seven criteria of textually theory formulated by Robert de Beaugrande (1980). Another research (Wigati, 2009) analyzed ideational meaning in lyrics by using transitivity system of CDA. Another one investigated the representation of social issue and ideology within lyrics by using systemic functional grammar (Setiawan, 2007). Moreover, the others research (Laela, 2008; Somantri, 2006) analyzed identity construction and a representation of self-identity on lyrics by using Hallidayan's Functional Grammar and Van Dijk's Macro-microstructure of CDA.

By examining the representation of social issue in song lyrics, it could be revealed the writer's intention or message conveyed in the lyrics. However, the representation of the song's writer could be the center in expressing the issue and emerging the ideology on lyrics.

The representation of song's writer is closely related with the identity. It is dealing with the way how the song's writer represents themselves in the lyrics. By writing the lyrics, the song's writer is not only entertaining people but also expressing their feeling, conveying a message, and building a character.

Dealing with consideration above, the present study employed different approach in analyzing identity. Fairclough's three-dimensional stage analysis is used as analytical framework in analyzing identity in song lyrics. The study examined modality, evaluation and personal pronoun aspects in lyrics to identify the song writer's identity and commitment through what he or she had written.

In the present study, the writer chose to analyze song lyrics written by Rocket Rockers. Rocket Rockers is a band who has big influence and contribution in the development of *indie* movement in the country. Furthermore, this is interesting to take a close reading on Rocket Rockers' song lyrics to find how they build their identity. Identity is important aspect of them as they stated that:

We always write songs that come from our heart and try our best to describe us (as a band) in our original way. And we think it's important to keep it simple so that more and more people can understand on what we stand for. (Rocket Rockers on www.myspace.com/rocketrockers).

1.2 Statement of Problems

In the present study, the research problems are formulated in the following questions:

- How is the identity constructed as evidenced in the lyrics?

1.3 Aims of Study

In view of the background and problems above, the writer would like:

- To construct the identity as evidenced in the lyrics.

1.4 Research Method

The present study employed Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) as the framework of the study. CDA, as Fairclough (2003:9) defines, is “a framework for studying connection between language, power and ideology”. CDA might also observe issues like ethnicity, gender, ideology, identity, and cultural differences, and the ways these things are reflected in particular texts (Pennycook, 1997 cited in Paltridge 2003).

The three-dimensional stage and Halliday’s (1994) Functional Grammar will be applied as the main tool of analysis to analyze the text. It is hoped that by using the systematic functional grammar in analyzing Rocket Rockers song lyrics, it can give better point of view in perceiving and understanding how the song lyrics construct the identity of Rocket Rockers.

In this study, it is important to collect all song lyrics written by Rocket Rockers from the first album until the third album. All of the song lyrics are directly quoted from each album cover. Further, the next step is choosing nine lyrics needed for study. The writer chooses three lyrics from each album. The lyrics were classified by two main concerns which are the representation of

personal issue and representation of social issue. All of the lyrics collected from the three albums are written in English.

To figure out the identity construction in Rocket Rockers song lyrics, the three-dimensional stages is applied as the basic tool of analysis to analyze the text and Halliday's (2004) Functional Grammar will be used as the tools of analysis. The study examined the aspects of modality, evaluation and personal pronoun. On the first step the writer took a close reading on the lyrics to find the issue. Then it began with a description of the text which analyzed aspects of modality, evaluation and personal pronoun, continued with an interpretation of the text, and ended with explanation.

1.5 Organization of Paper

The paper will be presented into five chapters. **Chapter I (Introduction)** include the background of the research, reason for choosing the topic, scope of the study, research question, aims of the study, research procedures, data collection and data analysis. **Chapter II (Theoretical Foundation)** elaborates theoretical accounts that base the structure of the present study. There are number of features to be discussed, namely description and theories related to Discourse, Discourse Analysis (DA), Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA), Fairclough's Theoretical Framework, Song Lyrics as Discourse, and Identity Construction that consist of Polarity, Modality, Evaluation and Personal Pronoun. Furthermore, it also presents the meaning of ideology and previous studies on CDA.

Next is **Chapter III (Methodology)** which explains the research methodology, research questions, and subject of the research, research procedure, technique of data collection and technique of how the data would be analyzed. **Chapter IV (Findings and Discussions)** explains the result of the research which consists of findings (data presentation and the result of the identity construction and also the ideology beyond it. **Chapter V (Suggestions and Conclusions)** presents the conclusions of the research findings and the suggestions for further research.