

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

In literature, one's experiences, feelings, relationship, human and social situations motivate people to express realities through the genres of literature such as prose or poetry. Through literature, especially poetry, the poet tries to convey the message about a truth, a criticism of life; all of these are for arousing the readers' or listeners' sense of moral consciousness. The way one delivers poems could be through many ways to arouse the readers' and listeners' emotion, such as acclamation, performance with music and gesture, and even songs.

A poem, or in a song term called "lyric", is made by an author or songwriter in some ways to deliver their sense of art through music as a whole. Elliot and Arnold (cited in Music Theory Online) stated that a sung lyric or in prosodic terms called music of speech, is spoken language which has features that, through the quality or character of the voice, can convey emotional or intentional cues distinct from the lexical and grammatical aspects of language (www.dolmetsch.com/musictheory32.htm).

Author, in creating a literary work, is often influenced by the atmosphere of the time when the literary works were produced. It is supported by Semi (1989) as cited by Saleha (2003), literary works are often represented based on the life of the society that live at the time they are created, and individuals may eventually learn how a society who live at a particular time and place. For example, dramatic

events occurred in history acknowledged by the author, which in this research paper is the context of the Pacific invasion during the World War II.

By the time World War II happened, Okinawa was the largest amphibious invasion of the Pacific campaign and the last major campaign of the Pacific War. In that battle, the largest invasion was shown from its artillery and forces invading the island. The Battle of Okinawa was an allied victory and the largest water invasion of the Asian-Pacific war. It was also one of the longest running land-sea-air battles in history beginning in late March 1945 and finally commencing in June of that same year. More ships were used, more troops put ashore, more supplies transported, more bombs dropped, more naval guns fired against shore targets than any other operation in the Pacific.

As a result, there were not only more ships, troops and supplies utilized during this war, but the loss of human life was enormous, especially for the Japanese. More people died during the Battle of Okinawa than all those killed during the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. History records show that American casualties totaled more than 38,000 wounded and 12,000 killed or missing, more than 107,000 Japanese and Okinawan conscript were killed and perhaps 100,000 Okinawan civilians perished in the battle.

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/facility/okinawa-battle.htm>

However, the history of this event was somehow unrecognized. On the morning of August 6, 1945, five months after the end of the battle, an Atomic Bomb exploded over Hiroshima. Three days later, Nagasaki suffered a similar fate. Japan finally bowed under the weight of this new technology and in Tokyo Bay, aboard the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945, the Second World. Then the

Battle of Okinawa lost its place in history because the history that was being made in 1945 was itself so monumental.

Presently, Okinawa that remains as the Ryukyu's Kingdom has its way in memorizing that monumental event. Stories and songs were created to reflect on what had happened during the invasion, which after World War II, Okinawan people sang their traditional songs, called *Shimauta* or in English "The Island's Song", and healed their sadness and souls. They have also created more *shimauta* again and tried to pass the culture of Okinawan music down the generations.

Okinawa's *shimauta* seems to keep on changing, however a Japanese musician, wrote a song entitled *Shimauta* (Island's Song) to raise the issue on the stage of the bloodiest battle of 1945 in Okinawa in purpose to make people remember and learned enough from those tragic lessons. This is cited in site news:

"In 1945, that island, belonging to the Ryukyu's, South of Japan, was the stage for the bloodiest battle of World War II. Most of the victims -said Miyazawa- were civilians, but many people don't talk about that. He stated that many Japanese "have not learned enough those tragic lessons, so I decided to write the song. "Shimauta" describes the story of a couple of lovers separated by the war, according to Miyazawa." (<http://www.cubaxp.com/modules/news/print.php?storyid=3058>)

Aforementioned, Miyazawa tries to deliver the message and raise the issue on what had happened during the World War II in the Okinawa context through lyric that he created. In other words, how the American army treated the Okinawan as victims of war. Related to poem, lyric is a poem, such as a sonnet or an ode, which expresses the thoughts and feelings of the poet. A lyric poem may resemble a song in form or style. Additionally, the lyric as a literary work has a *licentia poetica* or the poetic license, which allows authors to manipulate or modify the language and other elements in the song lyric, and this license is made

available in order to express the author's poetic experiences or messages (Atmazaki 1991).

In addition, poetry and music are related to each other. John Dreyden stated that poetry is articulate music; poetry is not to speak but to sing (Djojuroto 2005). A poem, when set to a song, is particularly sensitive to how the music matches the metre of the words. The text of a poem might convey more than the words on the page, it points to the meaning behind the words.

A Lyric as a form of literary work is formed from texts. According to Chandler (2002), a text is an assemblage of signs (such as words, images, sounds and/or gestures) constructed (and interpreted) with reference to the conventions associated with a genre and in a particular medium of communication. Furthermore, he stated that text usually refers to a message, which has been recorded in some way so that it is physically independent of its sender or receiver. To seek the meaning of texts, which construct the lyric, one should analyze the signs that exist in the lyric.

An approach that concerns signs that have meanings in all literary works is the semiotic approach. Based on it, the meanings are related to the system and society involved in it (Djojuroto 2005). In that case, to understand the message shown in lyrics through the semiotic approach means to analyze both the text as a sign and social life.

Thus, concerning those backgrounds above, the writer would like to analyze the message raised from the song entitled *The Island's Song* and *A Million Tears* lyrics that has translated from its original Japanese famous song entitled *Shima Uta* and *Hyakumantsubu No Namida* written by Kafuzumi

Miyazawa, and how they represent the American army's treatment of Okinawan during the World War II.

1.2 AIMS OF STUDY

The concern of the study is to determine the message of the song through the semiotics approach. The study has three aims:

- a. To describe the issues raised from the song entitled *The Island's Song* and *A Million Tears*.
- b. To discover how is the American Army's treatment of Okinawan represented in *The Island's Song* and *A Million Tears*, and
- c. To explore why it is represented as such.

1.3 STATEMENTS OF THE PROBLEM

In relating to the phenomena above, there are several questions to ask, namely:

1. What issues are raised in *The Island's Song* and *A Million Tears*?
2. How is the American Army's treatment of Okinawans represented semiotically in *The Island's Song* and *A Million Tears*?
3. Why is it represented as such?

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESEARCH

The result of the research can be exposed as recent information about lyric analysis through the semiotic approach. In addition, this research may be used as a tentative model for criticism of literary works and awakening reader's social and political awareness.

1.5 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The writer employed a qualitative approach and a descriptive method to achieve his goals. By using this method, the writer attempted to define and describe the data collected. This method is appropriate to this research because the writer was able to discover, define, and explain issues in the lyrics rather than testing a hypothesis. The method is used in attempt to determine the status of the phenomenon appeared as the case. The descriptive method is conducted through several steps; collecting, classifying, analyzing the data and drawing the conclusion and report (Arikunto 1998).

To analyze the data, the writer decided to use a semiotic approach. According to Umberto Eco broadest definition of semiotics (cited in Chandler, 2002), is everything that can be taken as a sign. Furthermore, Chandler describe that semiotics involves the study not only of what we refer to as 'sign' in everyday speech, but of anything which 'stands for' something else, which take the form of words, images, sounds, gestures and objects. Moreover, it is concerned with meaning-making and representation in many forms, perhaps most obviously in the form of 'text' and 'media'. In this case, it is the song lyric.

In order to know about the representation that the lyrics have toward the American army's treatment of Okinawan, the writer used the song lyrics entitled "The Island's Song" and "A Million Tears" as the data. Then, as the supporting data, the writer quoted the interview statement of the author, articles about the songs and historical background of Okinawa Island, which was online published.

To fulfill the aims of the study, there are some steps to be carried out:

1. Conduct an analysis to the song lyrics.
2. Classify the message described by the structure of the song lyrics
3. Interpret the reflection of the song toward the historical background.
4. Interpret the findings
5. Draw conclusions.
6. Finish the final report.

1.6 ORGANIZATION OF THE PAPER

The paper of the study is organized into five chapters as follows:

CHAPTER I

This chapter contains introduction, which discusses the background of the problem, statement of the problem, the aims of the study, significance of the research, research methodology, and organization of the paper

CHAPTER II

It contains theoretical foundations, which serve as a basis for investigating the research problem.

CHAPTER III

It contains the methodology of the study that discuss the steps and the procedure of the research, the analysis tools, and the reason for choosing its procedure.

CHAPTER IV

This chapter reports the results of the study. This chapter contains also the research findings and discussion.

CHAPTER V

This last chapter contains the interpretation toward the result of the research in a form of conclusion and suggestion in accordance with this research.

