CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is an introductory part of the research paper. It includes the background of the study, research questions that cover the problems of the study, aims of the study, scope of study, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1. Background

The Beatles have become a phenomenon and a legend among musicians who started their career in the 1960's. The style of their music and lyrics has given a vast influence on the development of music and culture throughout the world. This statement is supported by Hecl (2006:13) in his research entitled "The Beatles and Their Influence on Culture":

> What makes them so special is their impact on music in general – the influence they have had on bands of various genres all over the world from the sixties up to the present day – and their immense influence on culture and people's thinking.

The Beatles began their career in 1962, and decided to disband in early 1970. During that period, they had recorded 214 songs (www.iamthebeatles.com), released in thirteen studio albums: *Please Please Me*

(UK)/ Introducing The Beatles (US), With The Beatles (UK)/ Meet The Beatles (US), A Hard Day's Night, Beatles For Sale, Help!, Rubber Soul, Revolver, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Magical Mystery Tour, The White Album, Yellow Submarine, Abbey Road, Let It Be, several singles and compilation albums.

Numerous people around the world adore the Beatles and call themselves "Beatlemania". This term firstly appeared in 1964 when the Beatles visited US for the first time to perform in Ed Sullivan's Show and their fans greeted them with a rousing welcome. The Beatles no longer exist, but "Beatlemania" still do until today who not only exist in Europe and US, but also in Asia including Indonesia.

In 1965, the first president of Indonesia, Ir. Soekarno, explicitly prohibited the Beatles' songs to be played in Indonesia for indistinct reasons. He named them *"ngak-ngik-ngok"* band to refer to the music style of the Beatles known as *Rock 'n Roll.* He proved that his prohibition was serious by putting Koes-Plus in jail because they had the same music style as the Beatles.

During the peak of the Beatles' career as a band in 1965, the members started to use a kind of hallucinogen drugs called LSD that stands for *lysergic acid diethylamide*, also known as *d-lysergic acid*, which can create a hallucination in the mind of the user (Olive, 2008: 9). It is widely believed that there was an issue related to the use of LSD in several of their songs. The use of LSD was closely related to the emergence of Hippy communities, the American and British youth

who protested against the Vietnamese War and others controversial issues at that time.

Considering the prevalent social and political situations at that time, besides the issue about LSD, there might have been some other issues in the Beatles' song lyrics conveyed to the listeners. In fact, song lyrics as a kind of artwork function not only to entertain people but they also function to influence or even to change the thoughts or beliefs of the listeners. Hence, as the members of the band grew mature and as the social situations changed over time, some alterations might have been made in the issues that they brought into their song lyrics in every album.

In revealing the issues or hidden messages in the song lyrics, Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) can be applied because song lyrics are also a kind of text or discourse. As Halliday (2004: 3) defines the term "text" as "any instance of language, in any medium, that makes sense to someone who knows the language". By applying CDA in analyzing a discourse, the hidden messages, issues or ideology of the discourse can be revealed because CDA not only relates texts or discourse with social phenomena but also disclose ideologies through the application of its Functional Grammar tools (Fairclough, 1989).

Based on the backgrounds above, the present study examines the issues expressed in the Beatles' song lyrics over the periods of their career as a band. This study also attempts to reveal how those issues are represented in the song

lyrics. In other words, the role of the issues in the song lyrics that related to the social phenomena behind the song lyrics.

1.2. Research Questions

The present study investigates the problems that are expressed in the following research questions:

1. What issues are presented in the song lyrics?
2. How are these issues represented in the song lyrics?

1.3. Aims of the Study

The aims of the present study are to answer the research questions above, namely:

1. to examine the issues raised in song lyrics
2. to reveal the representation of issues in the song lyrics

1.4. Scope of the Study

During the Beatles career, from 1962 to 1970, they had recorded 214 songs, which were released in thirteen studio albums, several singles and compilation albums. In this present study, not all the song lyrics were analyzed, but the lyrics were chosen based on their career period according to Heinonen (1994) that has suggested the following periodization: Early period (1962-65) — from the album *Please Please Me* to the album *Help!*; Middle period (1965-67) —

from the album *Rubber Soul* to the EP *Magical Mystery Tour;* Late period (1968-70) — from *The Beatles (White Album)* to the album *Let It Be.*

From each period, two to three songs were selected purposely by defining the song lyrics that are most relevant to the present study. The sources of data were limited based on the reason that in Critical Discourse Analysis the most important thing is not in the quantity of data but in the depth of the analysis.

1.5. Significance of the Study

This study hopefully can benefit the language learners who are interested in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) in giving a good example on how to apply CDA approach in analyzing song lyrics as type of discourse and SFG in textual analysis. Thus, a better understanding about the application of CDA, especially of Fairclough's CDA framework and SFG will be gained. In addition, the present study is also kind of a warning for the readers to be critical in dealing with any kind of discourse, even when listening to the song and reading the lyrics.

1.6. Clarification of Terms

There are some terms that need to be clarified in order to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding, as follows:

a. Alteration:

It is a noun which can be both uncountable and countable. According to Oxford Advanced Learners' Dictionary (p. 33), as uncountable noun, it means the action or process of changing something or of making a change. While as countable noun it means an act or result of changing something.

b. Ideology:

Ideology is defined as representations of aspects of the world which can be shown to contribute, to establishing, maintaining, and changing social relations of power, domination and exploration (Fairclough, 1995). In addition, according to Gerrot (1995:90), ideology is the sum total of our beliefs, values and our understanding of truth, what is right or wrong, and how the world and those in it work

c. Representation:

Based on Hall (1997) Representation is a process which links together between "things" (objects, people, events, and experiences), concepts (what comes to our mind about the things) and signs that are arranged into language to communicate the concepts to other people.

1.7. Organization of the Paper

The organization of the research paper is as follows:

Chapter I   : Introduction. This chapter elaborates background, research questions, aims of the study, scope of study, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II   : Theoretical Foundation. This chapter presents the theoretical framework of this study, and several previous studies in the same field.

Chapter III : Research Methodology. This chapter describes the research methodology which is applied in this study. It covers research problems, research method, data collection methods, and data analysis procedures.

Chapter IV : Findings and Discussion. This chapter presents the findings of data analysis, its interpretation and explanation.

Chapter V   : Conclusion and Suggestion. This chapter contains the conclusion of the research and suggestion for further research.