CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the research method which was used in this study. It covers the research method, data collection method, and data analysis procedures which were used to answer the research questions or aims of the present study, namely, to reveal the issues presented in the Beatles' song lyrics regarding to the prevalent social, cultural and political situations at the time when the song lyrics were produced and to discover the way of the song writers in representing the issues in the song lyrics.

3.1 Research Method

This study employs a descriptive qualitative method. This study is descriptive, that is, it has no intention to prove any hypothesis (Arikunto: 234), but to examine and describe the representation of social events that are found in the data sources. In addition, the qualitative method is appropriate to be employed in this study because song lyrics as the data source in this study is a type of personal traces of a band in which the members of the band can represent themselves, others, or events in the song lyrics, as Berg (2001:7) states that:

qualitative procedures provide a means of accessing unquantifiable facts about the actual people researchers observe and talk to or people represented by their personal traces (such as letters, photographs, newspaper accounts, diaries, and so on).

Furthermore, the qualitative method was used because the intention of this study was to gain insights and in-depth description about the ideologies or possible biases in representing particular characters or events. In other words, this study aimed to discover power relations that might be appear in the song lyrics of the Beatles.

3.2 Data Source

The data source for this study consisted of song lyrics of the Beatles. The lyrics were obtained from the website *iamthebeatles.com*. The lyrics were chosen based on their career period according to Heinonen (1994) that has suggested the following periods: 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.*

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 the Beatles' song lyrics. In addition, the lyrics that were selected were merely the lyrics that were written

by the Beatles members. From each period, two to three songs were selected.

The list of the selected song lyrics is given in the table below:

Table 3.1 List of the selected songs

No	Period	Selected Songs	Album
1	Early period (1962-1965)	Ask Me Why	Please Please Me (1963)
		Yesterday	Help! (1965)
2	Middle period (1965-1967)	Doctor Robert	Revolver (1966)
		Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds	Sgt. Pepper Lonely Hearts Club Band (1967)
		All You Need Is Love	Magical Mystery Tour (1967)
3	Late period (1968-1970)	Revolution 1	White Album (1968)
		Get Back	Let It Be (1970)

There were two songs selected from the early period, namely, "Ask Me Why" and "Yesterday". "Ask Me Why" is a song written mostly by John Lennon in 1962. It is a light love song just as the other songs in the first album of the Beatles, "Please Please Me". This song is about the feeling of a man who was falling in love with a girl and he was happy because the girl was feeling the same too. "Yesterday" is one of McCartney's masterpieces, which was recorded in 1965. It is about the expression of a man who was losing his lover, and he did not know the reason why his lover left him. This song is included in the fifth album of the Beatles, called "Help!" and has been recorded about 3000 times by other singers over the years (www.iamthebeatles.com).

From the middle period, there were three songs selected to be analyzed, namely, "Doctor Robert", "Lucy in the Sky with Diamond", and "All You Need Is

Love". "Doctor Robert" is a song written by John Lennon which tells a story about a doctor named Robert who could help everybody who called him for help. This is one of the songs in one of the Beatles' greatest album, that is, "Revolver". "Lucy in the Sky with Diamond" is a song in the eighth album of the Beatles which was written by John Lennon. He said that this song was inspired by a painting done by his son, Julian. In explaining the painting to his father, he described that the girl in his painting named Lucy who is in the sky with diamond.

"All You Need Is Love" is another song written by John Lennon, which is included in "Magical Mystery Tour" and "Yellow Submarine" albums. This song is about universal meaning of love because this song was written for the purpose of the first live global event that was a two hours program broadcasted to 26 countries, entitled "Our World".

From the late period, there were two selected songs, namely "Revolution 1" and "Get Back". "Revolution 1" is a song written during the Spring of Revolution on March 1968 in London, when thousands of people marched in protest against the American Embassy. The song was about a person who was pressured from revolutionaries to declare his loyalty towards the government. "Get Back" is a song written by Paul McCartney in the last studio album of the Beatles, "Let It Be". This song tells his feeling about the existence of the immigrants in Britain. He thought that those immigrants should get back to their hometown.

3.3 Data Analysis

3.3.1 Method of Analysis

This study employs the method of Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis as an analytical framework that is the Three-Dimensional Conception of Discourse. This framework focuses on the relationship between text, discursive practice, and social practice (Fairclough, 1992). This method of analysis was chosen to be used because, in line with the intention of this study, CDA relates texts or discourse with social phenomena (Fairclough, 1989). Thus, the ideologies hidden beneath the texts could be revealed.

Subsequent to these three dimensions of discourse, Fairclough (1989) differentiates three dimensions, or stages, of critical discourse analysis, namely the description stage, which is concerned with the formal properties of the text or the linguistic form that appears in the text, the interpretation stage which is concerned with the relationship between text and interaction, and the explanation stage which is concerned with the relationship between interaction and social context.

3.3.2 Technique of Analysis

In this study, the song lyrics were examined by using Systemic Functional Grammar (SFG) proposed by Halliday. Germane to the research aims above, Thematization and Transitivity system were employed as tools of analysis. Thematization was used to reveal the Macrostructure of the lyrics, and

Transitivity was used to identify the Microstructure of the lyrics. First, the song lyrics were divided into clauses, then each clause was analyzed using the Thematization and Transitivity system. After that, the most common Themes and Processes that occur in each lyric were counted. Thematization was used because it views clauses as messages. It is believed that by analyzing the theme in each clauses of a text can facilitate the researcher in revealing the hidden issues or ideologies in the text. Transitivity was employed because this study aimed to reveal the representation of people, events, or issues in the text because Transitivity deals with construing experiences into texts (Halliday, 2004).

3.3.3 Procedures of Analysis

Based on the Fairclough's framework of CDA, there were three stages of analyses in this study. It started with the Description stage continued to Interpretation stage and Explanation stage.

In the Description stage, the Thematization and Transitivity system of SFG were used to examine the song lyrics because, as mentioned in previous chapter, in the Description stage the analysis is about finding the linguistic features of the texts, in this case are song lyrics. Thus, in this analysis stage, the texts were unfolded into clauses.

The Thematization deals with the analysis of the Theme and the Rheme of each clause. By applying this analysis system, the topics or issues in the song lyrics can be revealed by counting the dominant element that becomes the

Theme of the clause. This is because the Theme, especially Topical Theme, is the element that the author's choose to be the topic of the clause. The representation of the topics or issues in the song lyrics was analyzed using Transitivity system.

The Transitivity system deals with the analysis of the kind of processes, participants and circumstances that the author used in composing his or her experience into texts. Each clause was categorized whether it belongs to Material, Mental, Relational, Behavioral, Verbal, or Existential that also related to the types of participants that appear in each clause. Then, the dominant processes were counted in order to discover the author's way in representing the issues in the texts.

The next stage of analysis is the Interpretation stage. In this stage, the linguistic features that have been analyzed in the Description stage were interpreted because in this stage, the analyst is trying to investigate the meaning of the texts, by linking the linguistic features with the background knowledge of the analyst related to the production of the song lyrics.

The last stage of analysis is the Explanation stage. This is the stage where it comes to existence the analyst's opinion, or critical perspective towards the author's point of view in the song lyrics. Thus, in this stage the ideologies that constitute the background of the representation of issues in the song lyrics were revealed.

3.4 Example of Analysis

There were three steps in analyzing the song lyrics, namely, the description stage, interpretation stage, and explanation stage. In the description stage, the lyrics were divided into clauses and then they were analyzed using Thematization and Transitivity systems of SFG. Here is an example of Thematization and Transitivity of a clause:

Oh	I	believe	in yesterday
	Senser	Pro: cognition	Phenomenon
textual Theme	Topical theme	Rheme	

After all the clauses were analyzed using Thematization and Transitivity, then, it moved to the second steps, namely interpretation stage. At this stage, the most common Theme and Processes that appear in the song lyrics were counted and arranged into tables to facilitate the interpretation process. Here is an example of the interpretation table of a song lyric:

No.	Types of Topical Theme	Realization	Number of appearance	Percentage
1	Participants (unmarked)	I	9	39.13%
		She	4	17.39%
2	Processes (marked)	-	-	-
3	Circumstances (marked)	Yesterday	4	17.39%
		Now	5	21.74%
		There	1	4.35%
TOTAL			23	100%

The table above is an example of interpretation table of the most common Topical Theme that appears in "Yesterday" lyric. It can be seen that in

this lyrics that "I" appears to be the most common theme (39.19%). Thus, this song lyric is a story about the writer himself.

After the interpretation stage, I moved on to the explanation stage, in which the linguistics features that has been analyzed and interpreted were related to its discursive and social processes.