

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the introduction to the study. It consists of some subchapters; those are the background of the study, statement of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitations.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a form of human communication. Language plays an important role because it is a central means of communication. As a means of communication, language is used to convey certain meanings and make them understandable to others. Language is a system of linguistic symbols that people use when speaking to convey messages to others (Wardhaugh, 2006). As is known, one of the important functions of language is for communication. So that when communicating or conveying messages, they can use language. In addition, it can also be used as a means to share knowledge and information with others. The function of language as a means of communication exists for its purpose. The first is just to express yourself to be known by others. Second, when communicating, the use of language is adjusted to the interlocutor, with the aim that the meaning of the language is easily conveyed.

Language can be studied with a science called linguistics. The branch of linguistics that studies language is semantics. Semantics is a sub-discipline of linguistics that focuses on the study of meaning. Linguistic semantics analyzes how language organizes and expresses meaning. Semantics is an important and interesting branch of linguistics to study, especially if it is applied to songs. Dimensions of meaning include lexical, grammatical, and contextual meaning, denotative and connotative meaning, referential and non-referential meaning, word meaning and term, conceptual and associative meaning, idiomatic meaning, and proverbs (Chaer, 2007). The study is limited to the contextual meaning that is tied to a song. Contextual meaning is the meaning of a lexeme or word in a

context. There are several contexts, such as personal context, situational context, context of purpose, mood context of the speaker or listener, context of time, context of place, object context, and the meaning of the language used.

A song is a work that can easily attract attention. A song is a collection of words organized into musical components meant to be sung by someone. A song is a series of words sung with a certain rhythm and tone (Suyanto, 2007). In addition, the song is a tone and sound consisting of a melody and musical arrangements. One of the characteristics of the song is abstract. Songs are classified as abstract works because they cannot be visualized. And until now, the appearance of a song has become one of the most liked works. On the other hand, the song results from culture because it has the allure of beauty in terms of language use and plays.

The language used in a song is called song lyrics. In a song, often, the language feature used is figurative language so that the meaning contained in the song lyrics can be understood literally. The language used in song lyrics must be distinguished from everyday language. Sometimes, the use of language in song lyrics is full of ambiguity and has an expressive aspect; this makes songs easily interesting for someone to listen to (Awe, 2003). Song lyrics are also formed from language resulting from the interaction between songwriters and listeners. In addition, song lyrics are a person's expression based on life experiences that have been experienced, heard, or seen. The song's lyrics have characteristics and specificity compared to the rhymes in poetry because the form of embodiment and pouring of ideas for a song lyric is strengthened by the presence of a melody and type of rhythm, which is then adapted to the lyrics of the song. So that this becomes a beauty of song lyrics which then form musical lyrics when it has been adjusted to the melody in the song (Tyasrinestu, 2014).

A song can be used as a medium for delivering messages because it can be heard and felt. In addition, the song as a medium is a form of expression of feelings or emotions that are poured through writing song lyrics and conveyed

beautifully through the accompaniment of tones and rhythms. The song will guide the listener to create an emotion and feeling of its own and examine the intent, purpose, or even the message in the music. The message conveyed can be implicit and explicit. Most of the meaning and message in the song lie in the substance of the lyrics in the song itself. In addition, the song is also included in the media to convey a straightforward meaning and message from the lyrics in it. So based on this, a song is not just music but also a representation of the composer's emotions and intentions to describe their feelings such as love, struggle, difficulty, jealousy, peace, and antisocial (Jaenudin, 2018). The use of songs as a medium to convey meaning and messages is common compared to other works. However, songs are the easiest and simplest media because song lovers are from various circles. And indeed, one of the existences of a song does have a function and use in society and music as a medium for conveying messages in its lyrics (Raditya, 2014). In connection with this, because the song is a medium for conveying meaning and messages, songs can usually raise specific themes based on the composer's condition of thoughts, feelings, or experiences when creating the song.

The meaning and message in a song is a representation or feeling of the songwriter who is trying to convey value to the audience. The message is a word or a piece of information, either orally or in writing, obtained from one person to another. The message is also a piece of information or a statement about thoughts and feelings sent to another person. Messages have values that can be used as lessons for life. It can also contain science, entertainment, information, advice, or propaganda (Cangara, 2012). In contrast, meaning is something that is interpreted or intended. The issue of meaning is interesting because, for every human being who uses language, every spoken sentence always has meaning. The term meaning is confusing words and phrases (Pateda, 2001).

While the theme is the idea or main idea that underlies a song lyric and the part that is the core of the overall content of the song. Usually, the theme of a song is the subject that forms the basis of song development. In addition, the theme is also the content/meaning of the lyrics of a song that has the most

dominant position so that it can connect the elements to build a song. The further description states that in most cases, the theme carries a message to motivate the listener and at least make the listener think. In other words, song lyrics are a collection of words that make up a song. And throughout the song, the composer entertains the audience with the melody and lyrics of the song.

Based on this, in every song there must always be a meaning and a useful message to provide an understanding to the listener about the content of the song. So based on the description that has been explained, it is important to know in detail and interesting to conduct a study and investigate how a song from the Irish music group, Westlife, can be a medium for conveying meaning and messages and provide an overview of the themes contained in their songs with a study entitled "An Analysis of Contextual Meanings and Messages in the *Top 10 Best Westlife Songs*" by involving semantic theory in its interpretation.

Westlife has five members: Shane Filane, Kian Egan, Nicky Byrne, Mark Feehily, and Brian McFadden. However, on March 9, 2004, Bryan McFadden decided to leave the group because he wanted to spend more time with his family. As a result, their activeness as a music group has only been carried out by the four. The band was formed on July 3, 1998. They were successful in Ireland and the United Kingdom. With their success, they scored 14 number-one singles between 1999 and 2005. Westlife also won four consecutive ITV "Record of the Year" awards with their singles *Flying Without Wings*, *My Love*, *Mandy*, and *You Raise Me Up*. In Indonesia, their debut album was successfully awarded 20 times platinum for sales of more than one million copies.

So related to this, this study is interested in analyzing further the ten best Westlife songs that were selected based on the website *Thetoptens.com*. The songs are *My Love*, *Unbreakable*, *Seasons In The Sun*, *If I Let You Go*, *When You're Looking Like That*, *Swear It Again*, *What Makes A Man*, *Beautiful World*, *The Rose*, and *Queen Of My Heart*. The songs in several Westlife albums were selected for data analysis and described in more detail with several reasons to

support the analysis topics. *First*, because Westlife has enormous popularity and is a legendary music group, they have songs that have contributed to being the theme song for the lives of their fans in everyday life. *Second*, the song used as data were taken from ten different songs and release schedules.

In line with this study, several previous studies are relevant and related to the topic of study on contextual meanings and messages in a song, including by Jaenudin (2018), Clarencia (2018), Jannah (2015), Prayitna (2015), Rahayu (2017), Muawanah (2019), and Marhamah (2014). From some of these studies, although the theory used in the interpretation is the same. The data in this study makes this study different from previous studies. In addition, none of the previous studies discussed or studied the meanings, messages, and theme in one research topic. Hence, this study is critical to do.

1.2 Statement of Research Problems

According to the background explained above, the problems of the study are formulated as follows:

- a. What are the contextual meanings that appear and contained in the *Top 10 Best Westlife Songs*?
- b. How are the messages delivered to listeners in the *Top 10 Best Westlife Songs*?
- c. How do the messages represent the themes in the song?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Concerning to the problems of the study as mentioned above, the objectives of the study are:

- a. To know and figure out the contextual meaning that appears and contained in the *Top 10 Best Westlife Songs*.
- b. To find out and describe the message in the *Top 10 Best Westlife Songs*.
- c. To find out how the messages can represent the theme of the song.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to contribute and impact both theoretically and practically for readers. Theoretically, this study will provide a better understanding and contribute to the linguistic point of view, especially regarding text analysis based on semantic theory. Furthermore, it is essential to provide information to the reader and understand the song's meaning and message. In addition, it is hoped that this study can help to become a reference for analysis with a focus on elaborating issues regarding meanings and messages to readers who need references for their studies. While practically, it is hoped that this study can guide and provide learning about the meanings and messages expressed and delivered in a song. And can help readers to develop analysis further with the same study.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

This study analyzes the contextual meanings and messages of the *Top 10 Best Westlife Songs*. A song can have meanings and messages and have different interpretations based on each listener. So, in line with this and based on research problems, this study will be limited to the linguistic branch, namely semantics, and the phrase in the ten selected songs. Likewise, the content of the elements, namely the contextual meanings and messages in the songs.