

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Problem

Human beings need something to make them happy. It can be something that is funny, interesting, beautiful, or entertaining. To get the pleasure people can see film or television, read some literary works, or listen to radio or cassette.

Literature is a kind of art. It is closely related to human life, because literature is a work of human being enjoyed by human being. In its widest sense, literature is anything that written to express thought, feeling, and attitude toward life. Edward H. Jones, Jr says (1968: 1) in the following:

Literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imaginations, feeling, and thought. Literature, in its broadest sense, includes all written materials. It means that literature falls into history books, philosophical works, short stories, novels, poems, and plays.

Literature gives pleasure and information too. Further more, literature can be a picture of social life. Then, readers will get the lesson of moral values or other values within literature. To know more about literature, we can see from William Henry Hudson's (1965: 10) view as follows:

Literature is a vital record of that men have seen in life, what they have thought and felt about the aspect of which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language.

There are groups of literature, namely, poetry, prose, and play or drama. All of them have their own beauty or attractiveness. Poetry also differs from prose

in another obvious way, namely, in its shape and form. The basic unit of structure for prose is the paragraph, which varies in length and loosely designed; while the unit structure for a poem is the line and strictly marked stanza, which gives the poem a definite pattern. Furthermore, in poetry there are some devices that make it interesting to enjoy as well, in drama there are actors who represent the characters.

According to X.J Kennedy (1979: 407), "Poetry is a rhythmical composition of words expression attitude designed to surprise and delight, and to arouse an emotional response". According to Reeves (1965: 38), "poetry is the thing said and a way of saying it and nothing else". The poem that is more perceptively, thoughtfully, and considerately with more attention to contents and especially to the theme. The theme is the central idea where something is derived from, as a bait and as well as a place of all subject matters and materials as integral aspect of its surrounding. All of subject matters and materials come from the theme. Analysis of the theme is the step to know the value, which contained in the literary works.

Poetry is the oldest form of literature. According to Sister M. Teresa (1960: 1) as follows:

Poetry is the oldest form of literature. It was known among the ancient people of Babylon, Greece, and Rome. It was recited to music in the old castles and manor houses of medieval Europe by the Celtic bards, the minstrel of France, the scalds of Scandinavia, and the minnesingers of the Germanic tribes. Where ever men gathered together, whether in churches, camps, cottages, or halls, they were stirred by the poetry of the psalms and canticles, the valiant tales of epic heroes, the romances of knights and ladies, or the love songs of the children of men. From the records of history, we know

that the bards and minstrels of ancient times were people of importance. They were warmly welcomed and lavishly entertained when they appeared at the court of a king. They were seated at the king's table and served the choicest foods and wines, and when they feast were over, they were asked to speak. Often they spoke to the accompaniment of a stringed instrument. One of these was the lyre, from which comes the word lyric, which today names a kind of poetry.

The firstly literary work that by human being created when they can write and read is poetry. Poetry firstly appeared in the old English and still exists until now. Poetry in the modern era more increasing in the content. In another words poetry is full of imagination and more variation. Then, poetry in the old period refers to the pattern. As we think of poetry in ancient world and our own, two things stand out. First, poetry is to be read aloud. Second, poetry has to do with feelings.

Since the year people have been facing the globalization Era, an era where there is no limitation for a country to make relationship with other countries. This fact has caused people to try to learn English in order to prepare themselves in the third Millennium. In this era English might be used as a second language.

English is known as an international language, it has been used as the main means of communication through out the world and plays an important role in transferring information. In limited circumstances, English is needed as an important tool of communication in trade, foreign affairs, for tertiary education abroad. It is then almost impossible for Indonesia to restrict its relationship with other countries since Indonesia has decided to join the world market era in year 2003. Consequently, it is suggested for Indonesia to be able to communicate in English in order not to be left behind the time. Beside that, in relation to the

science and technology, people needed to study English seriously in order to be able to read textbook and other publications written in English.

One of the way people learn English is through poetry in form of poem. Once in a while, it is difficult to catch the content of the poem. Because poem has its own language viewed from the diction. That is different with the common English language. To make easier when one reads the poem, there is a song, which helps. Joining the lyrics and the good arrangement covers poem in form of song. Therefore, song is more popular than a poem, because it is more enjoyable for common people.

Because of those reasons, the study is conducted on the analysis on message in the lyrics of English popular songs. In this case, the researcher uses Avril Lavigne's songs as the object of the study. Avril Lavigne is a new comer in music entertainment; she has a group band that arranged all of the music in her album and all of the lyrics written by her. The music of Avril lavigne is alternative. Although she is a new comer in music entertainment but she can attract her listeners. She can also create a new style in clothes so that becomes teenagers trend in the world. One thing that adds the great point is their songs are always popular and her lyrics is simple but great in sense. It is related with daily life of human being. Avril Lavigne's songs are worth analyzing. It is expected that the study will give great contributions to English, especially in the use of a song as a media of poem analysis.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher is interested in finding the answer of the following questions:

1. What is the detailed meaning of Avril Lavigne's first album "Let Go"?
2. What is the general meaning of Avril Lavigne's first album "Let Go"?
3. What are the messages of Avril Lavigne's first album "Let Go"?

1.3. Objective of the Study

In line with statement of the problems, the objective of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the detailed meaning of Avril Lavigne's first album "Let Go".
2. To describe the general meaning of Avril Lavigne's first album "Let Go".
3. To know the messages of Avril Lavigne's first album "Let Go".

1.4. Significance of The Study

The result of the study is expected to be useful for the researcher, English learners, and teachers.

1. Researcher

The researcher finding will give information about message in Avril Lavigne's first album "Let Go".

2. English Learners

The researcher finding will give information about the use of figurative language in English songs. The findings are also supposed to enrich the student is knowledge about the theme and the meaning of the songs.

3. English Teachers

The researcher finding will give information about the messages in the popular songs as the media for teaching English, especially poetry.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This scope of the analysis is limited on the detailed meaning, general meaning, and the message of the lyrics of Avril Lavigne's first album "Let Go" only.

1.6. Definition of key term

To avoid misinterpretation, the key words used in this thesis are as follows:

1. Song is a metrical composition or other set of words adapted for singing or intended to be sung (Reaske, 1996: 53)
2. Message which can be defined as theme and meaning, is insight about life and human experiences that an author expresses (Mac Milan, 1984).
3. Avril Lavigne is a new comer singer comes from Canada. She has a band, which is consists of Avril Lavigne as vocalist and guitarist, Evan Taubenfeld as guitarist, Matthew Brann as drummer, and Mark Spicoluk as bassist.

Avril Lavigne and her band win 3 MTV Asia Awards and 5 Grammy Nominees.

4. Lyrics are a category of poetic literature that is distinguished from the narrative and dramatic. Lyrical refers originally to lyric poetry, that is, to poetry written to be sung to a lyre (Reaske: 1996).