

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Literature is a part of culture elements. It describes many aspects of human value, their problems, their thoughts, and also their conflicts. Many people are still confused about how to interpret the meaning of literature. Hornby states that literature is writings that are valued as works of art (1989:728). Semi also states that literature is one of creative art's form and work with the human being and their lives as the object by using language as its medium (1988:8). As the creative arts which uses human and everything in their life as the object. So, literature can be defined as the media to express the idea, theory and thinking system of human. They use their minds to express their feeling, emotion and thought to communicate with others. The result of this literature can be called as literary work.

When discussing about Literature, Eagleton states that the emergence of the concept literature is not limited on the creative writing and imaginative. He also states that literature is a worth writing in society, such as philosophy, history, essay, letters, and also poetry (Faruk, 1983:116). Eagleton says further that literature is more than just to accommodate the certain social values, literature is an important instrument which is strengthening and increasingly broad (1996:23). This Eagleton states more or less means that literature it is not only just to accommodate the certain social values, literature is an important instrument in human life.

When discussion between literature and society derived from De Bonald states that literature is an expression of society (Wellek and Warren, 1956:95). It means literature is the part of imaginative life together in the natural of society to expression their idea. And from the literary society can reveal result of their work.

Then, some of the examples of literary work are novels, fiction, drama, poetry, etc. In Jones's view the classifications of literature is the term of fiction, drama, and poetry as designations of three major literary genres (1968:9). Poetry is one of kinds of literary work beside other literature genres. Poetry is built by a group of beautiful words that interest to be read or to understand the meaning of the poem. Hornby states that poem is piece of creative writing in verse, especially one expressing deep feelings or noble thoughts (1989: 954). Based on the statement above more or less it can be conclude that poetry is piece of creative writing in verse which is produced within a context.

When discussing about lyrics, Kennedy and Gioia states that lyrics is a short poem expressing the though and feelings of a single speaker (2007:427). Hoepfer and Pickering also states that song is a lyric poem set to the music (1990:44). It means that song is kind of a lyric poem joined with music. The lyrics itself are presented in written and spoken text generally in its album record.

Comparing to the other literary work, the researcher thinks that lyrics is more interesting than others literary works because it is interesting to be discussed since there are some people who like the songs not only because of their beats, but also some of those people like the songs because of the extreme choice of words in the lyrics, so the researcher thinks that this analysis can help the people to know

deeper about the songs and the real meanings which the writer want to tell through the lyrics. Music also contains a special message for human life which has different background and culture.

Therefore the researcher is motivated to analyze the lyrics of the song Imagine by John Lennon. Further the researcher decided to choose the lyrics of the song Imagine by Lennon as the object of her analysis. The lyric of the song Imagine is the second album by John Lennon, recorded and released in 1971.

John Winston Lennon (born in Liverpool, England October 9, 1940 and died in New York City, USA, December 8, 1980 at the age of 40 years) was a singer, song writer, instrumental, writer, and political activist who were famous all over the world as the leader of The Beatles (John Lennon-a Biography: 2010:1).

Lennon began his career with The Beatles in 1960. This group released several albums, *Please Please Me* (March 1963), *With the Beatles* (November 1963), *A Hard Day's Night* (June 1964), *Beatles for Sale* (December 1964), *Help!* (August 1965), *Rubber Soul* (December 1965), *Revolver* (August 1966), *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (June 1967), *The Beatles* (November 1968)— aka, the *White Album*, *Yellow Submarine* (January 1969), *Abbey Road* (September 1969). During 1970 to 1975, John undergoing a solo career, with The album of the released such as, *John Lennon/Plastic Ono Band* (December 1970), *Imagine* (September 1971), *Some Time in New York City (with Yoko Ono)* (September 1972), *Mind Games* (November 1973), *Walls and Bridges* (October 1974), *Roots: John Lennon Sings the Great Rock and Roll Hits* (January 1975), *Rock 'n Roll* (February 1975), *Double Fantasy (with Yoko Ono)* (November 1980), *Milk and*

Honey (with Yoko Ono, January 1984), and others. After the dissolution of The Beatles in 1970, he was also successful with his solo career (Edmondson, 2010).

One of the best songs which are still popular is “Imagine”. This song is a popular and phenomenal song because it is such kind the best-selling single of his solo career, its lyrical statement is one of collectivist positivisms. It challenges the listener to imagine a world at peace, without the divisiveness and barriers of religious denominations and nationalities, and to consider the possibility that the focus of humanity should be living a life less attached to material possessions. Lennon also dream’s the world with no heaven or hell waiting for us. Lennon released Imagine as a single in the United Kingdom and it reached number six in the chart that year. The song has since sold more than 1.6 million copies in the UK. (“Imagine John Lennon Song”. Wikipedia.com, 20 November 2012). The researcher assumes that “Imagine” tell the people to live in peace without any abuse, or war. The world where people live should always be in peace and harmony. Lennon also urged the people to imagine life in the world without religion, without nations, living in peace. Therefore, the researcher chooses this song interesting to be analysis more deeply.

In this song, there are many conflicts. In Jonas view, conflict is what gets the reader involved emotionally in what happening (1968:30). Furthermore, Pickering states that conflict may be either external, he classify when protagonist is against some external object or force internal, to be resolved is one within the protagonist’s own self (1993:2). Based on Pickering, conflict divided into two types, internal and external.

As far as the researcher's knowledge, there has been no research that analyzes John Lennon's song "Imagine" in term conflicts. Such research will contribute to the study of literature in general, and the study of poetry in particular. Based on this fact, the researcher tries to make a research on John Lennon's song by applying the theory of conflicts.

1.2 The Question of the Research

On the basic of the above elaboration of the background of the research, the researcher formulates the following question of the research:

1. What are internal conflicts contained in the lyrics of the song" Imagine" by John Lennon?
2. What are external conflicts contained in the lyrics of the song" Imagine" by John Lennon?
3. How are conflicts resolved?

1.3 The Purpose of the Research

On the basic of the above question of the research, this research is intended:

1. To identity internal conflicts contained in the lyrics of the song "Imagine" by John Lennon.
2. To identity external conflicts contained in the lyrics of the song "Imagine" by John Lennon.
3. To described how conflicts are resolved.

1.4 The Significance of the Research

The thesis is meaningful for the researcher herself because by conducting and finishing this study; she can fulfill the final requirement to receive a graduate title of scholar degree of English Department of the College of Teacher Training and Education. She could apply her knowledge she obtained from her lecturer in the literature on this study and books. She hopes that this thesis can give more information and also would be useful to help the reader and the students of English Department to understand the meaning in the lyrics of the song *Imagine* by John Lennon, by understanding the conflicts contained in this song. Finally, she also hopes that the thesis would be significant to contribute to increasing the reader and the student's knowledge and also increasing the collection of the Library references of Muhammadiyah University.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation of the Research

The researcher, in her analysis attempts only to discuss the conflicts contained in the lyrics of the song "Imagine" by John Lennon and also the resolutions of the conflicts.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

1.6.1 Imagine song

Imagine is a song written and performed by the English musician John Lennon in the album *Imagine* May 1971. This song is a popular and phenomenal song because it is such kind the best-selling single of his solo career, its lyrical statement is one of collectivist positivisms.

1.6.2 Poetry

Poetry is poems collectively or in general such as, epic, lyric, dramatic, pastoral, symbolist (Hornby, 1989: 954). Hornby also states that poems itself is piece of creative writing in verse, especially one expressing deep feelings or noble thoughts (1989: 954). Furthermore Buchbinder states that poem is produced within a context which includes the life of author, the audience for whom he or she writes, and the background relationships of various social, historical, and political factors (1993:98). Based on the statement above more or less it can be conclude that poetry is piece of creative writing in verse which is produced within a context.

1.6.3 Lyrics

Hornby states that lyrics are words of a song in a musical play (Oxford University Press, 1989: 746). Usually it is consisting of verses and choruses. Kennedy and Gioia also states that lyric is a short poem expressing the though and feelings of a single speaker (2007: 427). Based on the statement above more or less it can be conclude that lyric are word consisting of verses and choruses which is expressing the though and feelings of a single speaker.

1.6.4 John Lennon

John Winston Lennon (born in Liverpool, England October 9, 1940 and died in New York City, USA, December 8, 1980 at the age of 40 years) was a singer, song writer, instrumental, writer, and political activist who were famous all over the world as the leader of The Beatles.

1.6.5 Conflicts

Perrine states that conflict is clash of actions, ideas, desires, or wills (1988:42). Conflict may exist between the main character and some other person or persons (man against man) between the main character and some external force, physical nature or society, or “fate” (man against environment) or between the main character and some destructive element in his own nature (man against himself) (1988:42). Pickering also states that conflict may be either external, he classifies when protagonist is against some external object or force or internal, to be resolved is one within the protagonist’s own self (1993:2). It can be concluded that conflict internal take from him, conscience, guilt, and what will to do or it can be said with his psychological. And external conflicts come from nature, society and man.

1.6.6 Sociology of literature

Saraswati states that sociology of literature is the study about interdisciplinary between society and written works (2003:1). It means that sociology of literature is the study about the place of literature in social context, how the social functions in literature and also how literature works in society.

1.7 Organization

This study is divided into five chapters. The first, chapter I introduction consists of the background of the Research, question of the research, purpose of the research, significances of the research, scope and limitation of the research, definition of key terms, and organization. The second, chapter II consists of review of related literature. In this chapter, the researcher explains the underlying theory used in

this research. The third, chapter III is about research methodology, consists of the research of design, source of the data, data collecting, and data analysis. The fourth, chapter IV, is about discussion of the analysis toward the fill. The last of this thesis is chapter V, present the conclusions of this research and the result of the analysis.

