

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Rap music is one of the fourth elements in the Hip-hop Culture. There is no official definition of Rap, but the majority of its listeners often defines Rap as Rhythm and Poetry since the strong aspect of rap music is circle around the melody and the lyricism that is used. Collins Dictionary defines Rap as a type of music in which the words are not sung but are spoken rapidly in a rhythmic way. Similar to poetry it comprises a diverse array of verbal or written forms of expression that adhere to rhythmic structures, with the intention of narrating tales, conveying emotions, ideas, or various aspects of existence.

Rap also often associated with the genre of literature known as spoken word poetry. Many shared characteristics and principles exist between spoken word poetry and rap. Similar to the distinctions between musical genres that are flexible and ever-changing, the boundaries and distinctions between rap and poetry are also fluid and universal. Defining their relationship can be a challenging task as they often overlap and intertwine. Although Rap is more than just a form of spoken poetry, it's a connected branch in the family tree of Black artistic expression. As a result, rap can draw inspiration from earlier spoken word works and styles while maintaining its unique, independent position within this artistic lineage. Both genres also share similarities in their early days use as a way to protest political or social issues.

Among the rap groups in Indonesia, one of the groups that stand out and dedicated their music to convey messages upon political and social issues is Homicide. The members of Homicide consisted of Morgue Vanguard (Herry Sutresna), Sarkasz (Aszy Syamfizie), Punish (Adofl Triasmoro), and DJ Kassaf (Kiki Assaf). Through their album titled "Godzilla Necronometry," they delve into various social concerns, ranging from ideological and political issues to the issues revolving the genre of Indonesian rap itself. The group expresses these social concerns through complex lyrics that mirror the political or social conditions during the time it published. This album includes a total of 7 tracks, which are Empower, Boombox Monger, Altar Ruins, Puritan (God Blessed Fascists), Semiotika Rajatega, From Ashes Rise, and Boombox Monger - Remix. The researcher chooses three songs within that album, namely Puritan, Semiotika Rajatega, and Altar Ruins, since the three songs are the one that mainly represent the ideology of liberalism within their lyrics. Another reason, the researcher concluded that these three songs already represent aspects of liberalism ideology within the Godzilla Necronometry album itself.

In contrast to the majority of rappers, Homicide holds a unique perspective on rap music. To them, rap serves as an expression of existence, rather than a commodity shaped by external definitions and influences. It's unsurprising that Homicide stands out markedly from Indonesian rappers who conform to mainstream music trends. They have become a unique hip-hop group with many interesting aspects to explore in their song lyrics.

Apart from their political positions, Homicide is widely recognized as satirical rapper. Their satirical lyrics often unsettle specific audiences. This is exemplified in one of Homicide's tracks titled "Puritan" that prompted a reaction from Thufail Al Ghifari, an Islamic-based rapper. Meanwhile, to others, Homicide is considered an intellectual inclined rap collective because their lyrics frequently incorporate philosophical and interdisciplinary language linked with interesting metaphors and rhymes, as illustrated in one of their songs "Boombox Monger":

Jika konsumen adalah raja maka industri adalah Kasparov

Dan semua Vanguard lapangan tak lebih Lenin dari Ulyanov

Mencari poros Molotov

Yang tak lebih busuk dari kritik kapitalis George Soros

Senyawa dari nyawa creator dan sendawa para insureksionis berkosmos

(If consumers are kings, then the industry is Kasparov

And all the Vanguard fields are no more Lenin than Ulyanov

Seeking the Molotov axis

Which is no more-rotten than the capitalist critique of George Soros

Compounds from the souls of creators and the belches of cosmic insurgents)

These lines of lyrics might stir curiosity among listeners who are not familiar with leftist literature, making them wonder, 'Who is Kasparov?' How does it relate to the saying 'consumers are kings'? Who are the 'field vanguards?', and why are they 'not more from Ulyanov' Wait, 'who is Ulyanov?' They might then dive into research and uncover that Kasparov is

the name of a chess grandmaster, thus presenting the slogan "consumers are kings" meaningless when faced with an industry that can exert control over the "king" himself. To understand the meaning of these lyrics, it is needed to implied the use of a study approach similar to what this research is trying to achieve.

It was within the context of Homicide shattered once-idealistic vision of a post-New Order friendly environment Godzkillla Necronometry was created: a reflection of the demoralization following the New Order and the Reformation era in Indonesia. The melancholic sentiments of that time inevitably found their way into the lyrics throughout Godzkillla Necronometry, subtly underlying their boasting style and references. Such as the lyrics in the song "Boombox Monger" provided above.

These disappointments linked to demoralization are elusive but a consistent undercurrent in the lyrics of songs in Godzkillla Necronometry album. This is the results of the album being composed in a complex-lyrics that are rich with references as provided in the example earlier. This approach surpasses mere name-dropping, making listeners growing the urge to delve into the relationships between the mentioned subjects. The listeners are ultimately pulled into the arena of influential ideological debates that created the world and shedding light on the complexities that accompany them.

The aspect the author wishes to delve into within the lyrics of the three selected songs (Puritan, Semiotika Rajatega, and Altar Ruins) in this study is

the representation of liberalism ideology. In brief, Liberalism is a belief that people or groups can adopt. This ideology really valued personal freedom. This means having rights as an individual, being able to think freely, express yourself openly, speak your mind, explore ideas, and practice your religion freely. Liberalism also believed that the government or religion should not interfere too much in what people do. Basically, those who support liberalism don't like restriction upon their freedom.

There are two literary theories that can be used to analyse the representation of liberalism ideology within the lyrics of Puritan, Semiotika Rajatega, and Altar Ruins. Those two theories that is used in order to analyse the topic of this research, namely, Structuralism by Jan Van Luxemburg and Cultural Materialism. The structural analysis of a poem is the examination of the poem into its elements and their functions within the poem's structure. The approach of this analysis emphasize each element that holds meaning in relation to other elements, and even based on its position within the structure (Pradopo 2019).

The main theory of structuralism used in this research is the one that created by Jan Van Luxemburg. Luxemburg theory approaches poetry as a literary work in an objective way without regarding the poet. This approach is important to understand the whole meaning of the lyrics that are regarded as poetry. The approach is also important to use in analysing the lyrics in an objective manner without any influence of subjective external elements such as the poet itself.

Cultural Materialism is a critical method which has four features: historical context, theoretical method, political commitment and textual analysis (Gore 2022). This theory explores literary works based on what the works trying to represent. The relevance of this theory is compatible with the main goals of this study to find representation within the three chosen song lyrics with the ideology of liberalism. The lyrics are analysed by structuralism to find the meaning that consist its ideological context to find out how the lyrics represent the liberalism ideology.

In miniature, “Godzilla Necronometry” album by Homicide explored political and social aspects during the time of the album release. The three chosen songs in this research from the album namely Puritan, Semiotika Rajatega, and Altar Ruins, specifically represent the ideology of liberalism. The lyrics that are used in the three chosen songs is considered as a literary works based on several theories on the connection between rap music genre and spoken words poetry. This research titled “Liberalism Ideology Presented in Songs Lyrics as Spoken Word Poetry by Homicide (Analysis of Poetry Structuralism by Jan Van Luxemburg)” aims to prove the representation of the liberalism ideology within the three chosen song lyrics using two theories on literature.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

As clarified in the research background above, Rap in lyrical context can be considered as a literary works since it shares similarity with the literature genre known as spoken word poetry. The well-known definition of

Rap also represent literature as it stands for Rhythm and Poetry. Rap lyrics also often used as a medium for the artist to express their standing point on certain issues. Within this context, the three chosen songs in Homicide album “Godzilla Necronometry” is the example of lyricism that portray the ideology of liberalism.

The lyrics practices in using complex words to convey messages upon the ideology is what makes them unique. They often use multicultural and several disciplines terms in their lyrics. Therefore, it is fundamental to implement structuralism by Jan Van Luxemburg to understand the meaning of the lyrics objectively. Moreover, to understand the issues that is portrayed by the lyrics, cultural materialism is the necessary approach as it will uncover the liberalism ideological context within the lyrics.

The issue being presented throughout the lyrics is the main focus of this research. Therefore, in order to understand the issue portrayed within the lyrics, first it is essential to understand each background and meaning of the lyrics itself using structuralism. Cultural materialism theories used as a medium to analysed what is being portrayed in those lyrics after understanding them.

1.3 Limitation of the Study

The analysis in this research is exclusively centred on the representation of the liberalism ideology within the meanings of lyrics on Puritan, Semiotika Rajatega, and Altar Ruins songs in “Godzilla Necronometry” album by Homicide. All of the chosen song lyrics are

analysed using structuralism by Jan Van Luxemburg and cultural materialism theories.

1.4 Research Questions

In connection to the issue that have been presented previously, the research problems to be addressed in this study are framed into two central questions, namely:

1. What are the meanings of the lyrics on Puritan, Semiotika Rajatega, and Altar Ruins from “Godzilla Necronometry” album by Homicide?
2. How does the lyrics from Puritan, Semiotika Rajatega, and Altar Ruins on the album 'Godzilla Necronometry' by Homicide represent the ideology of liberalism?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

Through the research of this study, the writer aims to address the research issues and attain additional goals. Therefore, the primary objectives to be accomplished through this study include:

1. To understand the meaning in lyrics on Puritan, Semiotika Rajatega, and Altar Ruins songs from “Godzilla Necronometry” album by Homicide using structuralism theory; therefore, this study could enhance the writer’s understanding regarding structuralism in use to analyse song lyrics as poetry.
2. To discover how does the lyrics in Puritan, Semiotika Rajatega, and Altar Ruins in “Godzilla Necronometry” album by Homicide

represent the ideology of liberalism; thus, this study could enhance the writer's knowledge on how rap lyricism take path to represent ideological aspect.

To discover how the ideology of liberalism is portrayed in the songs Puritan, Semiotika Rajatega, and Puritan "Godzkillla Necronometry" album by Homicide: thus, this study could help the writer obtain knowledge regarding the ideology of liberalism.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study is carried out to attain importance for the English department, fellow students, and other relevant individuals. Therefore, the primary significance to be gained from this study includes:

1. The outcome of this study is anticipated to serve as a means for implementing structuralism theory technique in understanding rap lyrics as a literary work, namely poetry. Hence, it can also enhance the resources available for literary appreciation, analysis, and criticism within the English department of Pasundan University.
2. The findings of this study can represent the implementation of cultural materialism to analyse the portrayal on rap lyricism regarding ideological aspect. Therefore, it is anticipated that the study will serve as a point of reference for fellow students and researchers planning to undertake research on a similar topic.