

Chapter II

Studies of Literature, Poetry Structuralism and Song Lyrics

This chapter discussed about the theories from several experts that related to the problem of the study to support current research. It consists of six parts; previous study, poetry as a genre of literature, poetry structuralism by Jan Van Luxemburg, rap lyrics as spoken word poetry, cultural materialism, and liberalism ideology.

2.1 Previous Study

There are several previous research that is relevant to this study. First, a research conducted by Fajriah titled “*Analisis Karya Sastra Puisi Korea dengan Menggunakan Teori Sastra Struktural dan Bentuk Sastra oleh Jan Van Luxemburg*”, this research study the Korean poems using structuralism by Luxemburg. Second, a research conducted by Maslakhah titled “*Struktur Dalam Syi’ir Sekar Melati*”, in that research Maslakhah also uses structuralism by Luxemburg in order to find the meaning within a poem. Lastly, research conducted by Putri titled “*Pengaruh Sosial dalam Lirik Antassalam Karya Maher Zain: Analisis Sosiologi Sastra*” that also uses structuralism by Luxemburg to find the structure within the lyrics before analysing the sociological aspect of the lyrics.

Some previous examples in the above study used the structuralism theory by Jan Van Luxemburg to find meanings of the objects they examined, which are poems. What sets this research apart from previous ones is one of

them being the object of study. Generally, the structuralism theory by Jan Van Luxemburg is used for analyzing poetry, but in this study, it's used to analyze song lyrics considered as poetry. Another difference is that in this research, beside seeking meaning, the researcher also looks for representations in the lyrics connected to a real-world ideology using the cultural structuralism theory.

There is also one more previous study that uses and touches on the same aspect as the object in this research. The study is titled "Homicide as a New Social Movement (Critical Discourse Analysis of Norman Fairclough's Model on the Lyrics of Puritan (God Blessed Fascists))" by Wahyu. The study focused on communication science, examining how the song Puritan contains social criticism. What sets this research apart from that study is the object being studied and the approach to studying it. That research focused on communication science, while this research is based on literary theory.

2.2 Poetry as a Genre of Literature

Literary works serve as an artistic vessel to showcase beauty through the use of captivating, diverse, and imaginative language (Keraf 2019). Literary works are often used by their creators or authors as a medium to portray the conditions of the real world from their perspective. According to Pradopo (2019), literary work is the picture of the world and human life, the main criteria that is putted on the literary work is 'truth', or everything that wants to be pictured by the author. It can be concluded that the development

in the literary world is inseparable from the changes or influences present in society.

Literary works also serve as a reflection of a period in which the literary work is published, with political and social aspects being two of them. Wellek (2016) stated that literary works is a result of contemplation on reality, can be considered as historical documents of thought and philosophy. Politics and social aspects also become an aspect that influences the formation of a literary work. From the statement of Wellek theory, it can be concluded that literary works cannot be separated from the historical records of the political and social aspects at the time the literary works were published. One of the well-known genres of literary works is named poetry.

The word "poetry" originates from the Greek word "poesis," which means creation. Poetry is closely related to the word "poet." In Greek, the term "poet" refers to an individual who creates through their imagination (Tarigan 2021). According to Wellek (2016) poetry is the cause that allows the emergence of individual experiences that can be narrated through the expressed poetry.

There is a collection of definitions of poetry quoted from Pradopo (2020). According to him, poetry expresses thoughts that evoke feelings, stimulating the imagination of the senses in rhythmic arrangements. Additionally, according to Carlyle (in Pradopo 2020), poetry is the result of thought with a musical nature. Meanwhile, according to Dunton (in Pradopo 2020), poetry is the concrete and artistic thoughts of humans in emotional and

rhythmic language. In shorts, poetry is the expression of a writer in the form of rhymed words/sentences based on the writer's personal experiences containing both physical and inner emotions.

2.3 Poetry Structuralism by Jan Van Luxemburg

This research examines song lyrics using poetry theory because lyrics, especially in rap music, share many characteristics with poetry. According to Luxemburg (in Perdana 2023) poetic language is not straightforward and objective; instead, it's emotional and subjective. This notion originated from the Romantic era, just like many contemporary ideas about literature and art. In that era, lyrics were also become the most important form within literature. The traditional characteristics of a poem that is connected by many of the reader are rhyme, figurative language, and specific forms of language use.

Poetry is the most suitable means to express one's feelings. In modern Indonesian literature and Western poetic tradition, poems conveying emotions are considered more significant. However, poetry also provides the possibility of broader content, such as depicting a situation, observation, praise, complaints, and philosophical or general thought (Luxemburg in Perdana 2023).

In the structure of a poem, there are also what are known as lines and stanzas in its composition. The words of a poem can be divided into individual lines and groups of lines called stanzas, a stanza is a bunch of lines that are set apart from other bunches of lines in a poem by leaving some extra space (Chris 2021). So, it can be concluded that a stanza is a collection of lines,

which are individual sentences in a poem, separated by a space from one another. This is similar to how paragraphs are used in prose literature.

In his structuralist approach, Jan Van Luxemburg aims for an analysis of poetry as objectively as possible. The analysis separates the poet or other external elements from the body of the poem under examination. This approach allows for interpretations of the meaning within the poem to be interpretations of the actual meaning based on the analysis of the elements that form the poem, regardless of the poet's perspective outside the body of the poem. According to Luxemburg (in Perdana 2023) some key elements used as references in exploring the meaning of a poem include the poetic persona, theme and its development, poetic sound, poetic syntax, and figures of speech or figurative language.

2.2.1 The Poetic Persona

In narrative texts, the one who speaks the words in the text is called the narrator. Generally accepted terms like that are actually no longer applicable in a poem. Often, the poetic persona, also in poetry criticism, is equated with the "poet," which is confusing and inaccurate. Ultimately, the poet is responsible for the words in their poem, but within the text itself, they are not the poetic persona. In a narrative text, the narrator cannot be identified with the author, as the storyteller is part of the text. The poetic persona in poetry must also be distinguished from the poet, whose existence is separate from the text. In many poems, the poetic persona is not only the one who says

everything but also the central figure, that is, the one being talked about.

In conclusion, there is no direct cause-and-effect relationship between the poet's biography and what is in the poem, so it is not accurate to base the interpretation of the poem on the biography of the poet. In interpreting the poetic persona in a poem, there are two distinctive characteristics that differentiate these types, namely, easy interpretation when words like "aku" "saya" "daku" "beta" (me/I) are found, and interpretation that is not explicitly seen in the poem is understood through feelings and personal experiences expressed, or an observation depicted, or the interpretation based on the use of its words. For example:

“Beta Pattirajawane

Yang dijaga datu-datu

Cuma satu” (Cerita Buat Dien Tamaela by Chairil Anwar)

In the context of Chairil Anwar's poetry above, interpreting the poetic persona is very easy because there is the pronoun "beta" (me) in the poem. So, the poetic persona in the poem is a "Pattirajawane," as indicated in the line "Beta Pattirajawane". Another example indicating the other characteristic of the poetic persona can be found on the following poem:

“Luka terlalu parah

Tak tertampung dalam cermin

Tubuh yang terbayang
Sepi – menipiskan bentuk
Bahkan merah hitam
yang terpalut di atas kanpas
tak kuasa menjeritkan
derita – menikam dalam
Hanya darah, mungkin
Darah sendiri yang tergait dengan jari
di dinding – jari yang gemetar dalam lapar” (Ekspresi by Subagio
Sastrowardjo)

The poem above expresses thoughts inspired by an observation. Therefore, the interpretation of the poetic persona can be based on its words. Based on the words in the lines of the poem above, it can be concluded that the poetic persona in the poem is someone experiencing suffering in life. This interpretation is derived from the line “*tak kuasa menjeritkan, derita – menikam dalam*”.

2.2.2 Theme and The Development

If we have determined who the poetic persona is and to whom the words of the poetic persona are addressed, the next important question for analysing poetry is: what is the content of the words of the poetic persona; what is the poem about? In determining a theme of a poem, similar to the poetic persona in a poem, there are two different characteristics depending on the use of sentences or words in

the poem. The first characteristic is characterized by the use of stories or narratives in the poem, and the second characteristic by a general opinion or judgement in the poem. For example:

*“Kalau aku pergi ke luar negeri dik
karena hawa di sini sudah pengap
pikiran-pikiran beku
Hidup di negeri ini seperti di dalam kampung
Di mana setiap orang ingin bikin peraturan
menganai lalulintas di gang, jaga malam dan
daftar diri di kemantren
Di mana setiap orang ingin bersuara
dan berbincang tentang Susila, politik dan agama
seperti soal-soal yang dikuasai” (Kampung by Subagio
Sastrowardojo)*

The theme in the poem above is characterized as a general opinion or judgment. In it, the poet expresses feelings of disgust with the narrow atmosphere of the village and the rules made for its residents who act like they know everything about the world. In determining the theme of the poem above, it doesn't involve narration or a story within the poem, as the poem itself lacks narrative elements. The interpretation of themes through narration in poetry can be seen in the example below:

“Sekarang hari ini atau kemarin tanya ibu,

yang diam tanpa berat terapung di ranjang putih
Selalu hari ini, kataku. Ia tersenyum samar
dan berkata: kita di Roden atau Den Haag?
Kemudian: aku jadi terlalu tua sayang.
Aku menghiburnya, antariksawan tersayang seputih salju
sudah begitu jauh mengapung dari bumi
begitu berani keluar melayang di ruang
tanpa petunjuk, tanpa tahu arah” (Hari ini atau kemarin by M.
Vasalis)

In the narration provided in the poem above, it can be interpreted that the theme of the poem is the relationship between the poetic persona and their mother, especially the feelings of the poetic persona towards their mother. This is evident in the line “*Andaikata aku kenalmu semasa anak/ yang sekarang jadi anakku dan ibuku*”. It explores their relationship and the emotions of the poetic persona expressed in a hope that cannot be fulfilled.

2.2.3 Poetic Sound

The relationship between sound and meaning is called sound expression. In various ways, the repetition of sounds can influence meaning. There are two types of sounds in poetry that can be interpreted into meaning, namely, imitating sounds from the real world and using repetition of certain letter or words. For example:

“Rang..... rang..... rangkup

Rang..... Rang..... rangkup

Batu belah batu bertangkap

Ngeri berbunyi berganda kali” (Batu Belah by Amir Hamzah)

The sound “rang” in the poem describes the movement of the stone, while “rangkup” suggests the closure of the stone. So, the meaning of the sound “rang” explains that the stone, which is about to be closed, has moved first. In interpreting sound through the use of words, you can see the example below:

“When to the sessions of sweet silent thought

I summon up remembrance of things past,

I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,

And with the old woes new wail my dear time’s waste” (Soneta Shakespeare)

The “s” sound in words like sessions, sweet, silent, summon, remembrance, things, past, sight, sought, woes, time, and waste mainly add a softening effect and enhances the intended calmness of “sweet silent thought”. Therefore, the meaning conveyed through this usage is more about a tranquil atmosphere. This second characteristic of letter emphasis in Jan Van Luxemburg's theory of poetry sound can be more easily understood when classified as alliteration and assonance. Essentially, both of these are similar to what Jan Van Luxemburg does in his theory.

Alliteration is sometimes called “head rhyme” or “initial rhyme” and mainly means “repeating the same sounds – usually the first letters of words or the stressed parts of words – in a row of nearby words” (Chris 1990). To know exactly what counts as alliteration, we can look at the definition in *The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* that stated “the repetition of the sound of the initial consonant or consonant cluster in stressed syllables close enough to each other for the ear to be affected” (Greene, Cushman et al. 2012). However, there is still some confusion in determining the distance between letters that can be categorized as alliteration in both of these reliable definitions. In the Oxford definition, the distance between words is referred to as “nearby word,” while in Princeton, it is mentioned as “close enough.” So, there is no exact distance in determining whether the repetition of words can be categorized as alliteration.

Referring to the explanation of alliteration above, it can be concluded that the repetition of the consonant letter “s” in Shakespeare's Sonnet poetry example above can be categorized as alliteration. The repetition of the letter “s” is at a close distance from each other and is used to convey meaning in the lines of his poetry.

The second thing similar to what Luxemburg practiced is Assonance. Assonance is also called “vowel rhyme” or “vocalic rhyme”. The *Concise Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms* defines it as “the repetition of identical or similar vowel sounds in the stressed

syllables (and sometimes in the following unstressed syllables) of neighbouring words” (Chris 1990). The Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics describe assonance as “the repetition of a vowel or diphthong in nonrhyming stressed syllables near enough to each other for the echo to be discernible” (Greene, Cushman et al. 2012). In simple terms, assonance is similar to alliteration. The difference is that in alliteration, the repeated letter that creates the sound effect is a consonant, while in assonance, it's a vowel.

On its own sound has no meaning, it only acquires meaning in the words that form it. It's only in the combination of the meaning of words and the repetition of sound that a certain impression can be suggested or reinforced. it can be done by linking the sound with the meaning provided by the words in the poem. The repetition of sounds often has no connection with sound suggestion, movement, or atmosphere. Instead, sound repetition is merely used for the organizational structure of poetry. Based on sound repetition, words can gain meaningful connections or reinforce existing ones. Sometimes, the only impact of sound repetition is to enhance the expressive power of words.

So, in conclusion, poetic sound has two characteristics: based on imitating real-world sounds and based on the emphasis of neighbouring consonant and vowel letters. The presence of poetic sound can create an atmosphere within the meaning of the poem.

However, poetic sound itself doesn't have meaning on its own, so understanding the poem's meaning is necessary before analysing its poetic sound. Then, poetic sound can also be used merely as a structural organization of the poem, which is useful for adding aesthetic impressions to the poem.

2.2.4 Poetry Syntax

The syntax that becomes the focus in determining the meaning of the poem is the repetition of words. However, the emphasis here is not on listing various forms of repetition but on the function that they support in the context of the poem in question. For example:

“Sepi di luar. Sepi menekan mendesak

Lurus kaku pohonan. Sepi bergerak

Sampai ke puncak. Sepi memagut,

Tak satu kuasa melepas – renggut

Segala menanti. Menanti. Menanti

Sepi” (Hampa by Chairil Anwar)

In the poem above, the word “waiting” appears four times. Similarly, “loneliness”. Here, repetition serves the main theme, which is the emptiness pressing on the poetic persona; the sense of stagnation experienced is revealed more strongly due to the repetition of these words.

2.2.5 Figurative Language

Figurative language is like a parallel meaning that uses imagery to express something else, like an idea or understanding. The main function of figurative language is to connect two different meanings or frames of reference in a way that creates a new, unexpected meaning. Luxemburg (1989) explains that identifying a figurative language in a poem involves three main characteristics: figurative language that formulates parallel meanings textually (whether the compared or comparing elements are present in the text), metaphorical figurative language in the true sense that only mentions imagery (the compared element), and what is referred to by the imagery (the compared element). All of these aspects must be constructed by the poem reader themselves. In conclusion, based on the characteristics explained, Jan Van Luxemburg's structuralism examines poetry literature using three main figurative languages, namely metaphor, simile, and symbolism.

1. Metaphor

A metaphor is a way of saying that one thing is similar to another thing, even though they are not the same in a literal sense.

For example:

“Hope is the thing with feathers” (“Hope” is the thing with feathers
by Emily Dickinson”

In the literal meaning hope does not have feathers since is an element that exist within a feeling of a human being, not a literal physical being. In metaphor, the feeling of hope can lift someone up, stirring feelings of freedom and levity, thus hope depicted as having feathers.

2. Simile

A simile is when you compare two things using words such as like, as, then, or a verb such as resembles. Simile and metaphor both compare two things that usually aren't alike. The difference is that simile uses words like "as" or "like" to make the comparison, while metaphor doesn't. For example:

“Your teeth are like stars” (Your Teeth by Denise Rogers)

In literal meaning, teeth do not share any common similarities with stars. Stars and teeth are two completely different things. In simile, teeth are like stars describe that the teeth on the poem have a bright colour like stars that shine bright in the sky.

3. Symbolism

Symbolism explains the symbolic relationship between human aspects like emotions, age, and external things such as nature, weather, etc. Symbolism uses something like an object or a word to stand for an idea, feeling, or belief. This thing that represents something else can be anything physical like an object, colour, word, place, action, or even a person. Symbolism is often

used to help people understand the connection between real things and deeper feelings, thoughts, or connections. For example:

“The young girl wore a spotless white dress”

In the example sentence above, symbolism is shown by using the object "spotless white dress," which is worn by a young girl. So, this symbolism signifies that wearing the dress represents purity or innocence, which is usually associated with young children.

2.4 Rap Lyrics as Spoken Word Poetry

Lyrics in a song can be categorized as one of the genres in literature name poetry. Music and poetry can be said to have coherence, as expressed by Carlyle (in Pradopo 2019), that poetry is a musical idea. Furthermore, Pradopo (2019) stated that poetry is a musical thought. Rahman (2015) also stated that song lyrics are essentially the same as poetry when seen on paper; they share a similar essence. From those explanations, it can be concluded that song lyrics and poetry share many similarities both in structure and writing between the two.

In the Anglo-American tradition spoken word poetry is a specific kind of poetry intended for public performance or reading on stage. This outwardly simple English term is difficult to define, as it can be understood two ways – more broadly, as spoken poetry in general, which would include all oral poetic forms – performative, experimental and jazz poetry, but also – and perhaps primarily – hip hop (Syzmil 2016). In shorts, spoken word poetry is a type of

poem that is intended to be performed. It also has many genres that can defined the poet definition.

Syzmil (2016) also stated that in spoken word poetry among its stylistic features, metaphor dominates, and spoken word poets also tend to employ wordplay, repetition, and rhyme. Another crucial feature of spoken word poetry is that these poems often deal with important contemporary events, commenting on existing current social reality of when the poem was created. The themes of equality, discrimination, hate, social injustice is some of the themes that is often found in spoken word poetry. These themes arose due to the spoken word poetry origin that strongly links with African-American culture, constituted a political act from its beginnings. Most often, the identity of the poem is perceived as “real”.

Similar to spoken word poetry, rap music originated from African-American culture. Rap music can be historically linked back to the 1970s, with its roots in the Bronx Borough of New York City and its initial creators being African-Americans. Rap artists are widely recognized for using their music as a platform to address societal concerns. This connection to rap origins, which emerged from a marginalized and segregated social group burdened by significant social prejudices, has prompted rap artists to express their views on apparent social inequities. This including issues like police brutality, poverty, mass incarceration, and the war on drugs, within their lyrics.

In the book titled “Hip-Hop”, Styles (2015) within the chapter titled “MC Origins: Rap and Spoken Word Poetry” explored the similarities between rap and spoken word poetry through their characteristic and historical origins. Spoken word poetry and rap have a lot of things in common. The boundaries between rap and poetry are not fixed; they are flexible. Defining their relationship can be hard because they share a history and purpose.

To understand the history of modern spoken word and rap, we need to acknowledge the ancient traditions of oral performance and storytelling in African culture. Spoken word poetry in an African style gained prominence in the American conscience during the twentieth century. In the 1960s, popular spoken word poetry became more politically active, aligning with the civil rights movement of that time. In the 1970s, influential poet and musician Gil Scott-Heron, in poems like “Whitey on the Moon,” showed how rhythm and melody could effectively highlight uncomfortable truths and important messages. In summary, African American poetry and music often have rhythmic qualities similar to spoken word poetry and address social or political issues.

It's important to understand that rap is an oral form that originated from hip-hop and shares a certain style and rhythm with spoken word poetry. Rap has a unique place in the history of Black artistic expression and can draw inspiration from earlier spoken word works while maintaining its independence. DJ Kool Herc's MC Coke La Rock is credited with being one

of the first to enhance rap by incorporating poetic elements and rhythm innovations. As this trend continued, the similarities between rap and spoken word poetry became more noticeable.

Rappers experimented with rap as a medium, drawing inspiration from spoken word poets, thereby strengthening the connection between rap and spoken word. Some rappers show clear influence from spoken word poetry in their delivery style, poetic explorations, or references to poets and their work. In the hip-hop track "DWYCK" (1994), Guru aligns himself with Langston Hughes, showcasing the tradition of boast rap and connecting to Hughes' influence on jazz poetry. This also reflects the African tradition of "toasting" and "boasting" like a griot, educating the audience by mentioning a significant African American literary figure.

In the case study of Black Arts Movement (BAM) that created in the mid-1960s, it was a movement that aims to blossom around civil rights movement in America using the expression art of African American spoken word poetry. Within the movement, spoken word poetry played a considerable role. The potential to play with and manipulate sound and words ignited the movement's deliberately provocative and revolutionary message. One of the iconic poems that was born within the movement is titled "Poems That Killed" by Baraka, the delivery in that poem mimics bullet shots and war-planes, has been deemed a poetic manifesto of the Black Arts literary movement.

Similar to the use of spoken word poetry rap was used as a platform to protests against inequality in the society within the platform that called “Project Bowed. This movement started in 1994, run by B. Hall and her son R. Kain Blaze at the Good Life Café. While the dominant form of expression at the movement was rap, when asked about the balance of spoken word poetry and rap, Abstract Rude one the artist within the movement stated that: *“The best, most entertaining rappers had this element of spoken word to their flow. If the beat would stop they could keep going acapella or freestyle even, or, they would do a long acapella before or after their set. So it definitely had a strong spoken word undertone more so than an equal balance of the two. They were also adept at incorporating spoken word flows into their verses”*

In shorts, spoken word poetry and rap share their unique histories and shared family tree. When looking at the Black Arts Movement (BAM), the influence of political spoken word poetry on the hip-hop generation is evident. Examining Project Blowed at the Good Life Café reveals how rap, with its experimental nature, closely connects to spoken word poetry. Rap borrows elements from spoken word. Comparing the two forms shows their merits and achievements, appreciating both as important and equal entities.

2.5 Cultural Materialism

As a research approach, cultural materialism prioritizes the scientific method and objective analysis over the less provable assertions of the relativism of postmodernism (Barathi 2016). Harris (in Barathi 2016) recommends using real-world research and precise scientific techniques to

accurately compare different cultures. Supporters of cultural materialism believe that its viewpoint effectively explains both the differences and similarities between cultures.

Raymond Williams is a well-known left wing literary critic and he is known for his theory regarding cultural materialism. His theory on cultural materialism has a significant impact on the field of literary studies. Williams (in Kelly 2009) saw culture as a creative process, believing that studying the literature of any era would mirror the prevailing values of that society. Material cultures like literary works, paintings, and city architecture were considered cultural materials that could tell the political struggles, economic, social, and cultural systems of governance in a society.

According to Kelly (2009), the significance of cultural materialism lies in its effort to uncover alternative versions of dominant histories told genealogically. Culture materials were seen as tools used by hegemonic political structures in a society, where they appropriated and utilized important texts to validate certain values in the cultural imagination. Postcolonial writers like Leela Gandhi and Edward Said argue that the English novel illustrates how 'orientalism' values were promoted and secured as part of the Empire's economic and cultural consolidation. The novel, therefore, is not just a reflection of those values but becomes a diagnostic and political tool.

In conclusion, cultural materialism is a theory of literature that aims to examine the representation of social and political conditions during the

time the literary work was published. This theory believes that a cultural work has significant importance as a historical record of its time. Besides the representations in the work, it can also serve as political tools to express opinions or criticisms.

2.6 Liberalism Ideology

Before understanding the meaning of liberalism ideology, we first need to understand what the word ideology itself means. Etymologically, ideology comes from the word "idea" which means concept or basic understanding, and "logos" which means science or study. From this understanding, we can see that ideology is a study that contains ideas or basic concepts. Furthermore, Karl Marx (in Kaelan 2002) defined ideology as a worldview developed based on the interests of a particular social class in political, social, and economic fields. Then, Hornby (in Winarno 2019) stated that ideology is a set of ideas forming the basis of economic and political theories held by a person or a group of people. From these explanations, it can be concluded that ideology is a study containing ideas about political, social, and economic aspects, believed by an individual or a group.

One of the most famous ideologies in the world is liberalism. In shorts, liberalism is an ideology that values individual freedom highly. This is related to the origins of liberalism in Europe in the 17th century. Initially, liberalism arose due to people's frustration with the feudal system that restricted them. It also emerged from dissatisfaction with the various forms of tyranny of that time. Chaniago (in Siti 2010) stated that Liberalism originally emerged as a

struggle by the bourgeoisie against conservatives or feudal lords. It is the ideology of the urban bourgeoisie. In a broader sense, liberalism is a belief in maintaining individual autonomy against community intervention.

Taken from the book titled "*Orientalis and Diabolisme Pemikiran*" (Arif 2008), the term "liberalism" itself comes from the Latin word "liber," which means "free" or "liberated." Until the end of the 18th century, this term was closely associated with the concept of human freedom, whether freedom from birth or freedom after being liberated from a previous status as a "slave".

In the book "Ideology and Politics," Schwarzmantel (2008) also stated, "the core ideas of liberalism include individual choice, individual rights, limiting state power, and the crucial role of the market". From this explanation, it can be concluded that the core idea of liberalism emphasizes freedom for individuals in their rights and choices, and the need to limit the power of the state over these individuals.

Individuals or groups who adhere to liberalism advocate for freedom within their society. The characteristic of this ideology is the freedom of thought for individuals. Those who follow this ideology do not desire restrictions, either from the government or religion. Classical liberal societies believe that everyone has the freedom to think, demand their rights, and express themselves (Ridha 2005).

Dwi Siswanto (2004) in his journal titled "*Konvergensi Antara Liberalisme dan Kolektivisme Sebagai Dasar Etika Politik di Indonesia*" (Convergence Between Liberalism and Collectivism as the Basis of Political

Ethics in Indonesia) presented several characteristics of liberalism ideology. Firstly, according to liberalism, the highest value of human beings is the development and happiness of the individual (individualism). Thus, placing individual freedom as the highest value. Liberalism hopes that culture and the welfare of society will progress if the talents and energies of individuals are increasingly allowed to develop freely. The state must protect the freedom of individuals and groups in society.

The second characteristic is that members of society have full intellectual freedom, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press. Thirdly, the government only regulates society's life to a limited extent. Decisions made are few for the people so that they can learn to make decisions for themselves. Fourthly, one person's power over others is considered bad. Therefore, governance is conducted in such a way that abuse of power can be prevented. In short, power is suspected to be prone to abuse, and therefore, it is limited as much as possible.

In liberalism, the economic system is a market economy where individuals have the freedom to engage in economic activities and transactions. In a liberal economic system, government intervention is minimal, acting only as a regulator to ensure economic interactions occur smoothly. Everyone has the freedom to choose their business ventures, make profits, and select their jobs. The concept of liberal economics is based on capitalism, which relies entirely on the free-market mechanism and the free movement of capital within and between countries. Capitalism supports the

liberal system because such freedom is fundamental to its creation. Over time, capitalism continues to adapt and maintain this freedom (Siti Aminah 2010).

Chaniago (2010) stated that the liberal economic system is the opposite of the socialist economic system, as everything is left to the market. Economic actors are given full rights to compete and develop strategies to win in production and marketing their products. The state or government acts only as a protector, facilitator, or mediator to ensure that economic activities run smoothly. The government should not create regulations or policies that hinder market activities or the economy.

In conclusion, liberalism ideology is a belief system that can be embraced by individuals or groups who highly value individual freedom. This freedom encompasses aspects such as individual rights, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, freedom of speech, intellectual freedom, and religious freedom. Liberalism ideology also believes in limitations on government or religious interference in what individuals do. Because fundamentally, individuals or groups who uphold liberalism are those who do not desire restrictions. These restrictions also apply to the economic system, where liberals desire a free economic system like capitalism.