Senior High School Students' Ability in Analyzing the Meaning of Song in English

Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement to Obtain

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Amelia, Elfiza Putri. 2021. Senior High School Students' Ability in Analyzing the

Meaning of Song in English. Skripsi. Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra Inggris Fakultas

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This study aimed to investigate senior high school students' ability in analyzing

the meaning of song in English. The participants of this research were 20 of eleventh

grade students in SMA Pembangunan Laboratorium UNP who took English as an

elective subject. This study employed descriptive research with qualitative approach.

The instrument of this research was a written test. The students were asked to write

down their understanding toward the meaning found in the song in English in form of

explanatory essay. The result of this research showed that the senior high school

students' ability in analyzing the meaning of song in English was in the category of

poor. It was shown by the students' difficulties in elaborating their understanding into

some paragraphs and the students' difficulties in including convincing evidence in their

body paragraphs.

Keyword: Analyzing, Meaning, Song in English.

V

ABSTRAK

Amelia, Elfiza Putri. 2001. Kemampuan Siswa Sekolah Menengah Atas dalam

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Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui kemampuan siswa SMA dalam

menganalisa makna lagu dalam bahasa Inggris. Peserta penelitian ini adalah 20 orang

siswa kelas sebelas SMA Pembangunan Laboratorium UNP yang mengambil mata

pelajaran Bahasa Inggris sebagai mata pelajaran pilihan. Penelitian ini menggunakan

jenis penelitian deskriptif dengan pendekatan kualitatif. Instrumen penelitian ini adalah

tes tertulis. Siswa diminta untuk menulis apa yang dapat mereka pahami terhadap lirik

lagu berbahasa Inggris yang diberikan kedalam bentuk essai eksplanatori. Hasil

penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kemampuan siswa SMA dalam menganalisa makna lagu

berbahasa Inggris termasuk dalam kategori rendah. Hal itu ditunjukkan dengan

kesulitan siswa dalam menguraikan kalimatnya kedalam bentuk beberapa paragraf dan

kesulitan mereka memberikan kalimat penjelas yang meyakinkan dalam isi paragraf.

Kata Kunci: Menganalisa, Makna, Lagu Berbahasa Inggris.

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Researcher

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Problem

In improving the quality of education in Indonesia, the Ministry of Education makes changes to the education curriculum. One of the efforts that the government has done to do so is the implementation of a new curriculum which is called Curriculum 2013. This curriculum is an improvement of the previous curriculum known as Curriculum 2006 or KTSP. Under this new curriculum, English subject for Senior High School is taught in two different categories; English as a compulsory subject and English as an elective subject. English as a compulsory subject is required for senior high school students regardless of their stream or major. Meanwhile, English as an elective subject can be taken by nonlanguage major students. In this subject, the students are taught special functional texts such as literary texts which include proverb and riddle, poem, and song. Unlike other literary texts, song is taught in both compulsory English subject and English as an elective subject.

In Curriculum 2013, the literary texts are learned to help students in accomplishing certain tasks or work. For example, students are able to understand and produce texts both in oral and written form in various contexts. Then, students are enriched with knowledge about topics of text, the models, and in what activities the text is used, for example in a performance of art or literature work. In this case, students learn song in English with the aim that they

are able to understand the meaning of song, social function, and the linguistic elements of the song. Furthermore, these abilities are expected to be the skills which help them to accomplish certain task or work such as understanding and producing texts both in oral and written from various contexts.

Songs can be defined as a sequence of words which are sung with rhythm and tone (Suyanto, 2008). Furthermore, Goldmacher (2014) states that song is a writer's story told in the lyrics and followed by melody. Moreover, Guerra (2016) explains that "a song is a composition made up of lyrics and music, with the intent of the lyrics being sung to produce a proportionate feeling or emotion about a particular matter". To summarize, songs are a set of words showed in the lyrics and followed by music.

In English language classrooms, the learning of songs in English has some particular advantages. Among others, songs can enhance students' critical thinking ability (Harmastuty, 2016; Julien, 2016; Casas, 2018). In this regard, songs have meaning that the writer wants to show. Therefore, critical thinking ability is the main ability that the students need when they try to get the meaning of the song. Furthermore, some of the meaning in the songs are not derived from the words written. Therefore, students need to think beyond the words written and think deeper about the meaning meant by the songwriter.

In addition, studies on the teaching of song in English language classroom are in abundance. The studies tend to focus on both language components and language skills. Some of the studies are the use of song as a way for learners to learn new vocabulary in English language classroom (Siskova, 2009; Phisutthangkoon, 2016; Gasma, 2017). Second, songs as a valuable teaching and learning tool to teach pronunciation in EFL classroom (Villalobos, 2007; Millington, 2011; Borland, 2015). Third, song as an enjoyable way to teach grammar (Tsai, 2001; Folse, 2006; Aarsheim, 2019). Fifth, Song used as a useful way to improve listening skills (Sevik, 2012; Wang, 2013; Mobbs, 2018). Lastly, there is a research about the use of songs as a tool to improve students' speaking ability (Shen, 2009; Hakim, 2014).

Although some studies have shown that song has various advantages in English language classroom, there are also problems that might happen to students when song is used in English language classroom. When it comes to the meaning, students find it difficult to understand the inferential meaning of song though they were familiar with literal meaning of words (Goh, 2000). Seconds, students found it difficult to understand some of lexical meaning of words in the song (Fabon, 2013; Kusrini, 2017). Third, students found it difficult to understand the implied meaning of song in English (Dwi, 2017).

There have been several studies related to song in English language classroom. To the best of my knowledge, the topic related to students' ability to analyze the deeper meaning of songs in English is still far between. On the other hand, Curriculum 2013 demands that students able to understand the meaning of songs, social functions, and the linguistic elements of the song. Thus, this

research will analyze about the students' ability in analyzing the deeper meaning of songs in English.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, there are some problems that can be investigated related to the songs in English language classroom. First, students' difficulties in understanding the inferential meaning of song in English. Second, students' difficulties to understand some of lexical meaning of words in the song. Third, students' problems to understand the implied meaning of song in English.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the problems in identified above, this research focuses on analyzing students' ability in analyzing the deeper meaning of songs in English. This research will analyze how the meaning of song is analyzed by senior high school students.

D. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the problem of the research is formulated as: "The ability of grade eleventh senior high school students' in analyzing the meaning of song in English".

E. Research Questions

1. How is senior high school students' ability in analyzing the meaning of song in English?

F. Purposes of the Research

 To find out senior high school students' ability in analyzing the meaning of songs in English.

G. Significance of the Study

After conducting this research, the researcher hopes that the research finding can be useful for the students, the teacher, and the researcher. For the students, the researcher hopes that they can recognize their ability in getting the meaning of English songs so they want to encourage their English proficiency. For the teacher, the researcher hopes that the teacher can be more creative in developing materials, managing the learning process, and using learning methods. For researchers, the finding of this research is hoped can help the researchers to make another analysis related to students' ability in literature texts learning.

H. Definition of Key Terms

 Ability : The quality of being able to do something, especially the physical, mental, financial, or legal power to accomplish something. 2) Analysis : The process of considering something carefully or using statistical

3) Theme : Theme is defined as a main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work, which may be stated directly or indirectly.

4) Song : A short poem or other set of words set to music or meant to be sung.

5) Meaning : The purpose underlying or intended by speech, action, etc.