

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The popularity of a song may come from creative music and unique lyrics. People are usually interested in listening to a song because it brings a certain message in its lyrics. The certain messages in songs bring a new inspiration for listener so that it can attract people to listen to a song. The curiosity makes a song attractive to be heard and so that it becomes popular.

A song writer usually gets inspiration to write a song from their own environment, society, and also experiences. They usually express their own feelings, experience, thoughts, and even their dreams through lyrics. They write a song to illustrate what they want to share to people through songs, and they expect that their song will be acceptable to public. This is not only for psychological purpose that everyone wants their voice to be heard, but also for commercial purpose to get people's acceptance.

A song can be highly loved when people find that the lyrics reflect what they feel and experience. Eventough lyrics cannot perfectly reflect people's feelings and experiences, psychologically people will try to find the similarities of what the listener faced in their life with the lyrics itself. If the listener finds those similarities, she or he will feel there is an interaction between the listener and the song itself. People will feel entertained by listening to the song because lyrics represent what they feel.

Lyrics can be the writer's or even the singer's argument or reaction toward conditions around him/her. Writers are also a part of social community; they can make meaning of what has happened and give reaction in their own ways by writing a song. Iwan Fals' lyrics for example, are highly admired for critical reaction toward bad social and political condition in Indonesia. Another example is a song entitled 'Teman Tapi Mesra/TTM' (Friend but Intimate) that is very popular in Indonesia, 'American Idiot' by Green Day that tells about some citizens of America who are fools because they support what George W. Bush has said and done concerning with war in Afghanistan, and somewhere else.

Poynton acknowledged that genre plays an important role in relationship between the individual, language, and society (1989:15). Every song writer and singer has his own style in writing a song. One of the differences that we can see obviously is from the language that they use, in this case is the words that they use in their songs because different words that have similar meaning can bring different messages. For example the words 'too' and 'so'. These two words have similar meaning, but 'too' are considered to have negative notion. Therefore, the uses of words give important functions in a sentence, or lyrics in this case. The example in the sentences below:

1. John said, "The girl who sits behind Olivia is too beautiful."
2. John said, "The girl who sits behind Olivia is so beautiful."

The first sentence have negative meaning compared to the second, it means that the first sentence tends to mean that the girl is too beautiful so that John cannot have her as a girlfriend. Compared with the second one, there is a possibility for

John to have the girl as his girlfriend because her beauty makes John think that she is appropriate for him.

The application of Leech's seven types of meaning is considered appropriate to analyze song lyrics because these seven types that can represent any kinds of aspect that needs to be analyzed. These Leech's seven types of meaning are used to analyze any kind of text from seven points of view. By differentiating meaning carefully, we can explain how those types are appropriate for communication in all languages and also can give us an idea how a method is appropriate for one kind of type but not for another. Since meaning has very significant understanding, Geoffrey Leech divided it into seven different types of meaning; namely conceptual, connotative, stylistic, affective, reflected, collocative, and thematic meaning. Conceptual meaning or sense has logical, cognitive or denotative content. The view relates words to things directly. Connotative meaning is what is communicated by virtue or what language refers to. It implies that another meaning exists in the mind of language users. Stylistics meaning is what is communicated by the social circumstances of language use. Affective meaning is what is communicated by the feelings and attitude of the speaker (or writer). Reflected meaning is what is communicated through association with another sense of the same expression, an example the use of taboo or slander words. Collocative meaning is what is communicated through association with words, which tend to occur the in the environment of other words. For example, the word *beautiful* collocates with girls, but *boy* does not.

Thematic meaning is what communicated by the way in which the message is organized in terms of order and emphasize.

In this thesis, the writer uses song lyrics by the famous duo girls band named t.A.T.u. The duo Russian attractive girls consist of two members Lena Katina as the older and the younger Yulia Volkova. The writer chooses this band because of several reasons. The first is because their popularity in music industry, not only because of the song but also the uniqueness in their character. Their song is very popular in their own country, Russia, where the song is sung in Russian language, and became very popular in the English, French, Dutch, Spanish, and Japanese versions. The second is because they sing a song that is based on their personal feelings and experiences. Even though t.A.T.u. did not write their own song. This is the statement given by Lena Katina, the older of this duo singer, "Our song is not silly. t.A.T.u. is more sincere, more honest about us and others. We don't shape ourselves for the audience"

(<http://www.starswlove.com/scriptsphp/biography.php?artistid=463>). Below is piece of t.A.T.u.'s lyrics that the writer will analyze:

*And I'm all mixed up, feeling cornered and rushed  
They say it's my fault but I want her so much  
Wanna fly her away  
Where the sun and the rain come in over my face  
Wash away all the shame*

By: t.A.T.u., *All The Things She Said*.

That piece of lyrics above seems to give an assumption that it tells about love between two girls since the singer is duo girls. The lyrics is very interesting

and different from any other song that is sung by other duo girl singers. Since the interpretations of meaning of music lyrics are various, the writer will try to analyze their lyric in order to find the real meaning by using the seven different points of view of Geoffrey Leech's theory.

Based on the several reasons above, the writer selects t.A.T.u's lyric as the object of the study because she wants to know the true meaning of the lyric. This unique duo from Russia is very phenomenal in music industry, moreover since their song has been translated in English, French, Dutch, Spanish, and Japanese. The writer will analyze the meaning of the lyric from the seven points of view. Some people considered that they just illustrate their sympathy about lesbianism, or even they do not have specific reason why they sing songs that tells about the story and love between lesbians. Others have opinion that they sing uncommon love song to make the band famous and get a lot of profit from music industry. The members of t.A.T.u. have never spoken about their personal lives because of the interest of the music industry needs. The lesbian issue is still a big question for their fans, they never answer whether that issue is true or not. From those reasons, the writer will try to find out the truth of t.A.T.u.'s lyrics by analyzing their song lyrics using semantics approach, especially Leech's seven types of meaning.

This kind of lyrics meaning analysis has been done by Retno Ikayanti, a bachelor of English Faculty of Letters at Airlangga University. She analyzed Bon Jovi lyrics that is entitled 'These Days' and 'It's Hard (To Let You Go)'. In her thesis, she concluded that Leech's seven types of meaning are applicable in analyzing Bon Jovi Lyrics, and she also concluded that rock music especially the

lyrics does not only tell us about hard things, rudeness, and others. The previous research that had been done by Retno Ikayanti is absolutely different from the writer's. The previous research is actually just an analysis of famous groups lyrics, there is nothing special than implementation of Leech's seven types of meaning. In this research, the writer wants to know the truth of t.A.T.u.'s meaning lyrics by analyzing their lyrics using Leech's seven types of meaning.

To find out the truth condition behind the lyrics of these duo Russian phenomenal girls, the writer tries to analyze the meaning of the lyrics using semantics approach. The writer is using Leech Seven types of meaning in analyzing t.A.T.u's song lyrics entitled *All the Things She Said*.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Lyrics are very interesting form of a language expression from the singer or the writer. Analyzing the meaning of lyrics with semantics approach is a very interesting study; moreover the uniqueness of the lyrics that make this band successful. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing the meaning of t.A.T.u's song lyrics by figure out these questions:

- What are the meanings beneath the t.A.T.u's song lyrics based on Leech's seven types of meaning?

## 1.3 Objective of the Study

The famous duo Russian girls become very popular since the launching their first album in Russia, and their first hit become number one in Russia's

music chart. An English and Japanese version of their album has been made to fulfill their fans need. It makes them famous and known all over the world. This research is conducted as below:

- To find out the meanings beneath the t.A.T.u.'s song lyrics based on Geoffrey Leech's seven types of meaning.

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study will explore the meaning of t.A.T.u.'s song by analyzing t.A.T.u.'s song lyric especially in the songs entitled *All The Things She Said*. This study is expected to be informative to readers who are interested in analyzing lyrics. This study can be useful for the tutu's fans, especially the writer herself, to know further about t.A.T.u. By knowing the meanings of the t.A.T.u.'s lyrics, the readers of this study and the fans of t.A.T.u. especially will be able to know what t.A.T.u. really want by revealing their feelings in their song.

The findings of this study are expected to be useful for the development of lyrics analysis, or it can be used to be applied to another kind of text to find the truth behind certain issues find in a newspaper or magazine article, autobiography, letter, poem, and others by using the same semantics approach. Moreover, this study might be used as references for next researchers who are interested in analyzing t.A.T.u.'s lyrics in different song and also different theory of meaning.

### 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

- **Song:** a piece of creative writing expressing one's deep feelings or noble thoughts in beautiful language, sometimes written with the intention of communicating for singing.
- **Lyrics:** contemplative, sing able and commentary on a single situation or object.
- **Duo:** pair of performers (singer).
- **Conceptual meaning :** logical, cognitive and denotative meaning
- **Connotative meaning:** what is communicated by virtue or what language refers to.
- **Stylistic meaning:** what is communicated of social circumstances of language use.
- **Affective meaning:** what is communicated of the feelings and attitudes of the speaker (or writer).
- **Reflected meaning:** what is communicated trough association with another sense of another expression.
- **Collocative meaning:** what is communicated trough association with words, which tends to occur in the environment of other words.
- **Thematic meaning:** what is communicated by the way in which the message is organized in terms of order and emphasis.



## **CHAPTER II**

# **LITERATURE REVIEW**