

## **CHAPTER II GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY**

### **II.A. Lyrical of English Songs**

English song is a musical composition which is made up of mutually dependent English words. Along with music instrumental it produces a unique response. English songs are usually classified according to their popularity on many TV channels and from commercial radio stations which have programs such "Top Twenties" , "Intro Request", "MTV Most Wanted" about the latest hits which are pooled and arranged from people who make requests or choices.

In addition, there is also a new way of classifying English songs that are categorized according to length and tempo (Song in Action. 1992). All songs could be any songs that are produced in any kind of musical forms with any type of tempo and length. Short, slow songs could be any songs with 3 minutes or less

duration and has short lyrics. Story songs that have a story line from the beginning, the middle, the end, are usually long and slow; a very few are short and slow; or short and fast. Long songs which have at least 4 minutes long or longer duration, are not easy to sing and present a series of images rather than telling a story, most of which are fast; a few are slow and most of these songs become the most popular ones. Short, fast songs that typically have one verse with no repeating phrases or refrains, a quick tempo, have usually less than 3 minutes duration .

Most English songs range from three and a half to four and a half minutes in length, whereas the commonest rhythm are in 4/4 tempo that is a weak beat following strong beat. This rhythm can be found in such musical forms as country; folk; pop and it is also known as the basic rhythm of speech in the English language (Successful in Listening. 1990).

## **II.B. Popular English Songs and Mass Media**

Songs which can be informative entertainment have been spreading out into our daily life because of the invention of audio-visual media that have extensively undergone a

development. It can be hardly denied that those media such as radio, TV, tape cassettes, compact discs, video CDs and others have great deal in making the songs known and popularized.

Throughout radio, magazine, TV, songs are firstly introduced to people and become popular since people ask for these songs through request programs on TVs channels and also on commercial radio such as "MTV Asian Lists" on ANTV or "Intro Request" on SCTV and "Top Twenties" on Istarsa FM and so forth. Thus, whenever popular songs are likely to be listened to for several times, people are attracted to have the recordings which could be in the form of cassettes, compact discs, or video CDs.

Above all, we usually choose which songs we listen to. It comes naturally that we listen songs because we want to and it entirely depends on personal point of view that every person has his own preference to songs he likes to listen.

Nowadays, English songs are getting more and more popular particularly among young people. Because of the global era in which technology of mass media have been delivering information to no borders, no matter where young people live they would find easier to keep up with the world's trend on

music and songs. Consequently, these songs could be listened to not only by people in America for instance, which is the world center of music trend but also by people who live in other parts of the world such as Africa, Asia and others. In additionally, since the English language is an international means of communication, English lyrical songs become more popular and can be understood by people of all over the world.

### **II.C. Adolescents as Listeners to popular English Songs**

Adolescents are persons in the middle stages between childhood and mature adulthood, whose average age are about 15-18 years of old. Adolescents are known as dynamic young people who are interested in having fun, enjoying leisure time, hanging around with friends, keeping up-to-date with their own world.

Many of them like to listen to songs or attend music concerts in order to enjoy their leisure time. Listening to songs and attending music concerts for most of them apparently become hobbies. A lot of them give a good appreciation to songs, particularly the ones which come from outside such as English lyrical songs. In this case, English lyrical songs emerge to be

one of their favorite mediums of enjoyment of listening. Based on what Rouch and Wyatt's note on their book of Successful in Listening (1990) that there are 3 different kinds of intention which are possessed by people dealing with their activity of listening. Those intentions of listening are listening to enjoy; listening to understand; listening to maintain relationship. Hence, listening to popular English songs is activity of listening done by adolescents not only to enjoy the music itself, but also to understand certain universal ideas about element of life as death, love, friendship, sorrow, gaiety, loneliness, and so forth which generally songs try to convey its meaning through words.

Furthermore, adolescents like to listen to popular English songs in order to maintain relationship among themselves. By listening to popular English songs, they try to keep up-to-date with their peers about music issues.

While according to Aaron Copland in his book about the appreciation of music pointed out further that people can enjoy music on 3 different levels. The first is enjoyment on the physical level. People can enjoy music by tapping their feet, snapping their fingers, or humming along with the music

because of the certain music aspects such as rhythm, tone, melody, harmony that affect them physically.

The second level is enjoyment on the ideas. People can enjoy music by talking to others who have similar music interests, reading about its articles in magazines and books, letting their mind wonder, finding association with the words they are listening to. On this level, people deal with their mind as a vast network of associated ideas, values, thoughts, feeling, attitudes, sensations.

The third level is enjoyment on musicality. In musicality level, people can enjoy music on another level entirely these people particularly know the technical expertise of the music such as musicians or composers. Furthermore, this level is not open to all of people, but to certain people who are willingly to learn it through years with or without formal education.

These conditions described above, precisely happen to adolescents whenever they listen to popular English songs. They usually have the habits of tapping their feet, snapping their fingers, or just humming along with the music while listening. Most of adolescents like to discuss with their peer group about

**the famous music bands or solo singers along with its musical forms when they hang around together.**

**Many of them like to collect their favorite song albums by buying cassettes, CDs, Video CDs, or collect the lyrics from magazines or from bookstores. A few adolescents like to take courses in private music schools but many others just like to learn music by themselves.**