

THE EXPRESSION OF SADNESS IN SONG LYRICS

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INTRODUCTION

The experience of losing a loved one in life is a universal phenomenon that gives pain to every person. This kind of loss called is sadness. Sadness which is also known as sorrows, is a term used to describe painful emotion that is experienced when someone or something a person cares about either death or loss. The sadness caused by loss of the loved one gives the emotional pain that every person has to cope with.

Sadness as a subject has become a lot of attention in history of popular music. Artists (authors) prefer to express their sorrows through works one of which is sad song lyric. Napier and Shamir (2018) in their academic journal at Lawrence Technological University argued that sadness increased in popular music lyric. They emphasized that the survey did not indicate that music had changed, but the public-tasted musical change as the study covered the most popular song in each year.

Around 2014 Ed Sheeran and some male artist such as Sam Smith and Bleachers revived the popularity of pop male song star, in mid of blissful trend they are united by their embrace of the melancholy. This male singer often used depiction of sadness and melancholy in their work. This research studied seven songs of male singers entitled *Someone you loved*, *When I was your man*, *Jealous*, *Bad*, *I am not the only one*, *Talking to the moon*, and *Stay with me*.

The research found a highlight issue about the sadness in the songs that contain love relationship described in lyrics. Most of the lyrics tell the story of someone who faces the loss of his lover. The sadness phenomena in song lyrics of male is interesting topic to be discussed. Sadness that are involved in song lyrics are real life events

theme that touch the heart of every living person. Sadness songs sung by male singers are more popular and stir more emotion than songs sung by women. The way the singers pour their feeling honestly into a lyrics explain the deep state. They can translate their emotions into beautiful lyrics. The lyrics are written in meaningful simple dictions.

A study of a similar topic has been made by Alfonsa Maria Theoterra Yoshanti (2010) at Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta. In her thesis she investigated the expression and experience of sadness toward Didi Kempot Song lyrics. The data were collected from Didi Kempot popular album which contained sadness theme. The result showed the experience of sadness in Didi Kempot song was due to losing someone he loved. The expression of sadness is shown by facial expression, body language and posture. However Yoshanti mentions that she has a limited access to relevant literature because of not many authors who discuss sadness in song lyrics.

Tomi Chandra (2015) a student from Bung Hatta University also discussed similar topic in his thesis writing. The object of the research is *The Best of Me* a movie (2014). His research aims to describe how the words literally and non-literally used to express the emotions of love and sadness. Chandra (2015) provided description of relevant literature to distinguish emotion in language such the way of using the words to convey the emotions. The result of study was that he determined non literal words dominantly used by the actors in the movie to express the emotion.

METHOD

This study applied qualitative research that determine sadness in song lyrics. A qualitative methodology depiction the result of

study in natural way is based on structuralism approach. To collect the data, the key words popular song were searched on Spotify. As one of music platform hopefully Spotify is reliable and valid to ensure the song showing sadness as whole. The samples were selected based on some criteria such as the rank and theme of sadness the songs contain. The writer discovered the sadness through intrinsic element in song lyrics. In analyzing data, the writer read the lyrics repeatedly to get a better understanding and adjust it to the theory of structuralism, so it facilitated the writer in completing the study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research studied sadness expression in seven songs of male singer in this research, they are "*when I was your man*", "*jealous*", "*stay with me* and *I am not the only one, talking to the moon, someone you loved and bad*".

2.1 Sadness in *When I was Your Man*

When I was Your Man is a song by American singer and song writer Bruno Mars from his Unorthodox Jukebox which released in 2012. This song portrays the sadness of man from letting his lover go. This Bruno Mars song containing sadness theme in the form of regret. In the lyric, the speaker reviews a lot about his sad feelings because of being abandoned by his lover. The lyrics depicted the situation of the speaker after he breaks up. The speaker was sad and lonely. Meanwhile, the decision to separate was taken by the lover because she couldn't bear staying with him.

2.2 Sadness in *Jealous*

Jealous is a song by Labrinth an English singer which released in November 2014. This song is about a heartbreak of a man who losses his lover. As time goes by he still refuses the fact that his lover has found her happiness. The meaning of *jealous* in Labrinth song is more than the jealous itself, but it describes the sadness of someone who broke too. He see his ex-lover who is happy without him. The song tells the story of someone who looks miserable because he cannot be with his lover. He said he was not like rain that falls under his lover's skin, he said he was

not like the wind that could cross to see his lover anytime he wanted. Further it looks that the speaker wants to be close with his lover, he is sad because he can't meet her.

2.3 Sadness in *Stay with me*

Stay with me is a song recorded by English singer-song writer Sam Smith for his 2014 album "In the Lonely Hour". This song is about a man feelings towards his love relationship with a lot of emotional connection. The sadness is pictured when he realizes that he has been in love with someone who he dated. He wants their relationship to be continued but the fate tells other. He stated "Guess it's true I am not good at one night stand". On the other hand to avoid the sadness happen he tries to maintain his relationship by asking his lover to stay with him. He convinced her lover by explaining what they had been through.

2.4 Sadness in *I am not the only one*

I am not the only one is a song recorded by English singer, Sam Smith. The song talks about infidelity and betrayal in a relationship, where someone decides to stay with a partner who had betrayed him. Over time the speaker find his spouse has cheated him actually before his suspicious feeling arises, but he still hides it until he can find it by himself. In the song *I am not the only one*, the writer of the song is not only sad because he has been cheated on, but he becomes very sad because the person he trusted has betrayed his trust.

2.5 Sadness in *Talking to the moon*

Talking to the moon is a song by American singer Bruno Mars from his debut album, Doo-Wops & Hooligans (2010). This song expresses the feelings of the song writer to his lover. It was told that the lover lost so that the writer missed his lover much. He wants his lover back, however his lover never comes. His unbearable longing killed him softly and slowly, and it make him depressed. The sadness of the speaker who misses his lover reflected in several uses of figurative language. The word moon was chosen to show the writer's despair, the writer of the song talks to the moon at night he has

considered the moon as his friend, he expresses his longing to the moon.

2.6. Sadness in *Someone you loved*

Someone you loved is a song recorded by Scottish singer Lewis Capaldi. This song was released on 8 November 2018 in Vertigo Records and Widespread Music. *Someone you loved* tells a man who just got to know someone, after a time he was comfortable with love, suddenly his lover leaves him without notification. In *someone you loved* the speaker still cannot move on from the past relationship that ruins him, the speaker keeps dreaming and fantasy where he is still with his lover. When a relationship is broken, it becomes source of sadness that is felt naturally.

2.7 Sadness in *Bad*

Bad is a song by English singer-songwriter James Bay. The melody was discharged by Republic Records on 10 May 2019. The word *bad* is used to depict how much the speaker feels sad because of his ex-girlfriend. Most of the lyrics tell the difficult time of someone in the relationship. The speaker mentions he is not happy with the situation. For example in the song that follows, the speaker realizes the fact that her lover does not love him again and asks him to end the relationship. As he stated: *just when I'm ready to get over you, you call me up, and then I crumble when you say you're getting over us*. We can notice that there is an optimistic situation when he says *I' m ready to get over you but things turn around* when his lover says she wants to break up.

CONCLUSION

The result of study shows that seven song of male singers describe sadness. It was realized that in male singer lyrics, sadness is presented through the elements that create song. The writer found that dictions used to express sadness are the dictions commonly used in everyday live, such as the words hurt, cry, down, deep, tears. Meanwhile figurative language are used to describe sadness more clearly, so that readers can enjoy the lyrics. The writer found that sadness occur in the love relationship between the speaker and the lover. Sadness arises because the

lover leaves and goes to find his own happiness. The other sadness then represent while the speaker separated from a lover and the end of relationship. The lover is an important figure and very valuable for the speaker, so when the lover leaves, they are destroyed. The loss experience makes the speakers realize that their lovers have forgotten them. They feel unworthy of being loved, when sadness appears, all the speakers are angry and disappointed with the situation. The sadness that is expressed through the song lyrics of the male singers gives a message to us that we should not involve in love too much because when love leaves we will be sad and weak. In addition, although sadness is often seen as a negative emotion, it also has a positive impact, sadness can make a person being better and wise.

SUGGESTION

The next researcher can deepen this study by studying the songs in psychological perspective based on psychological approach to analyses the data. Finally the writer expects that the finding and result of this study can give idea to researchers to study sadness in song lyrics.

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