

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Problem

Music is an organized arrangement of sound and silences structured through melody, rhythm, harmony. Music has long been a connector for expressing human feelings and emotions, which includes sadness. One of the most influential musicians and songwriters in the music industry, Taylor Swift often uses her background and her private life as her style of writing lyrics, and she also often brings up emotional themes in her songs, including sadness. Taylor Swift is an American singer-songwriter, born on December 13, 1989, in West Reading, Pennsylvania. She was raised with her parents Scott and Andrea Swift, and her younger brother, Austin Swift (Jepson, 2013 : 1). From a young age, Swift demonstrated a strong interest in music. Her self-titled debut album titled *Taylor Swift* was released in 2006 under Big Machine Records (Morris, 2006). Over the years, Swift's musical style evolved from country music to pop, folk, indie and alternative, and the use of lyrics based on her complex personal life (Perone, 2017 : 3). She has a passion for literature, which is reflected in her being an avid reader who also actively participates in literary communities, where she has produced many works inspired by *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost, and *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (Lakhmani, 2024).

One of Taylor Swift's works that depicts emotional themes is her album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* (2024), an album that explores themes of sadness through heartbreak and loss. This album is the second installment of her original album titled *The Tortured Poets Department* (2024), which was released two hours earlier on April 19, 2024. *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* adds 15 extra songs, meaning that *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* has a total of 31 songs. The term "Anthology" itself is used to signify the additional songs in the album (GMA, 2024). The album is based on her personal songwriting and explores her reflections on events in her personal and public life. She was inspired by her turbulent romantic relationships and her public life as one of the

world's biggest celebrities, creating honest, wild, and chaotic lyrical narratives. Heartbreak is the main theme of the album, expressed through various themes such as sadness, anger, illusion, and death, while the lyrics depict the vulnerable side of her personal life and devastating feelings. I chose this album because it marks a significant shift in Taylor Swift's songwriting, where she adopts a highly literary and poetic persona to process her sadness. The complexity of the narratives in this album provides rich data for analyzing how deep emotional distress is channeled into sophisticated literary forms.

In relation to how Taylor Swift constructs the narrative of her life through her emotionally complex lyrics, it can be explained that lyrics are the verbal and linguistic component of music that has a poetic composition expressing the meaning of the song, the emotions contained within it, and the narrative integrated with the music itself.

Sadness in this album is depicted through the lyrics of the 5 songs that I have selected; 1. So Long, London., 2. Iml., 3. The Black Dog., 4. How Did It End?., 5. Peter. These specific songs were selected because they contain prominent use of figurative meaning and imagery that reflect different stages of Taylor Swift's emotional journey. Each song serves as a distinct case study of how sadness is conceptualized through various figurative meanings, providing a comprehensive overview of the album's emotional core, and literary psychology approach is used in order to understand how sadness is constructed into the lyrics of the songs and express Swift personal emotional experience.

The songs reflect various parts of sadness, ranging from the loss of someone very loved to situations of intense melancholy feelings, therefore, I decided to use a literary psychology approach to analyze the album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* because it can reveal how sadness is expressed in Taylor Swift's lyrics. In this study, I use the theory of literary psychology proposed by Endraswara (2008), which discusses the relationship between individual psychology and literary works with the aim of understanding and exploring literary works from a psychological perspective through the writer's personal life that

reflected in his/her work. Therefore, this study can help understand song lyrics and their underlying meanings emotionally through a literary psychology approach.

In another point, sadness is one of the basic emotions that is often expressed and reflected in various works of art, such as literature, film, and music. Sadness is also not merely a reaction to loss, but a complex emotional concept that is formed and understood through figurative thinking. In this context, I use the theory of sadness proposed by Kövecses (2000), which discusses how sadness is conceptualized through experiences embedded in the body and language patterns. According to Kövecses, human emotions are understood through various conceptual figuratives, such as 'Sadness is a Burden' or 'Sadness is Darkness' which allow individuals to express the intensity and nature of their internal suffering through language.

Moreover, figurative meaning is a language style that functions in the process of enhancing the emotional effect of an expression in language. In this context, I use the theory of figurative meaning proposed by Reaske (1966), which discusses that figurative meaning is a way of expressing thoughts through more expressive language. Figurative meaning itself is divided into several types, some of which are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony and others. In the context of song lyrics and sadness perspective through literary psychology, the use of language styles becomes a medium in expressing deeper emotions that can touch the psychological side of the listener.

Considering the relevance of the theme as well as the complexity of the lyrics, this research aims to understand and explore the sadness in the album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* by Taylor Swift. I assume that theme of this analysis can contribute to the study of the field of literary psychology, especially in understanding the relationship between song lyrics, language expression through figurative meanings and human emotions.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background described above, the problems in this study can be identified, namely:

Taylor Swift's album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* depicts extraordinary sadness through the use of poetic and emotional lyrics that invite interpretation from literary and psychological perspectives, particularly literary psychology. The main issue identified is how song lyrics can express and reinforce emotions of sadness through figurative meaning. Through an intrinsic approach, this study analyzes how figurative meaning functions as a poetic tool to express emotions, while an extrinsic approach based on a literary psychology perspective explores how this figurative meaning presents Taylor Swift's psychological situation in sadness. By integrating these approaches, this study aims to reveal how Taylor Swift's figurative meaning artistically transforms personal sadness into an expressive and emotional literary work.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the problems formulated above, the problems in this study can be limited, namely:

1. To analyze the elements of poetry, particularly figurative meaning and imagery as the main tools used to describe the theme of sadness in the selected songs from the album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology*.
2. To analyze Taylor Swift's process of dealing with and expressing sadness from the perspective of literary psychology, with a focus on how song lyrics function as a medium for emotional expression.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the problems identified above, the problems in this study can be formulated, namely:

1. How do the elements of poetry support the reflection of Taylor Swift's sadness in the album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology*?
2. How does Taylor Swift deal with her sadness and channel it through figurative meaning?

1.5. Objectives of the Research

1. This research aims to identify, explore, and understand sadness in Taylor Swift's album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology*, focusing on five songs: *So Long, London.*, *loml.*, *The Black Dog.*, *How Did It End?*, and *Peter*.
2. It also aims to analyze the meaning behind the emphasis of the lyrics of these songs through figurative meaning, as analyzed through a literary psychology approach.

1.6. Benefit of the Research

This research provides the following benefits:

1. This study can help understand and explore emotional illustration in music, which can illustrate that music can bridge individual feelings that reflect themselves through the interpretation of song lyrics.
2. This study can help enhance the understanding that sadness can resonate through song lyrics, and providing educational analysis of song lyrics from a psychological perspective in literary analysis.

1.7. Systematic Organization of the Research

The structure of this research paper consists of several chapters, namely:

1. CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, I provide an introduction containing research background, problem identification, problem limitation, problem formulation, research objectives, research benefits.

In this chapter, I describe and explain the sadness through the figurative meaning in Taylor Swift's album entitled *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* (2024) which is the main theme of the research.

2. CHAPTER 2: THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

In this chapter, I discuss theories relevant to the research, as well as previous research that discusses basic emotional

expression, specifically sadness in music and literary works. In this chapter, I explore the application of the literary psychology approach, theory of sadness, and figurative meaning as medium for understanding emotional expression in the meaning of song lyrics, and provide a relevant theoretical basis for analyzing the songs selected from the album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* by Taylor Swift.

3. CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, I discuss the qualitative research methods used in this study, including the research approach, research location, time, and research object. In this chapter, I also describe the data collection techniques of the song lyrics selected from the album *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* by Taylor Swift through a literary psychology approach.

4. CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS

A FIGURATIVE MEANING ANALYSIS OF SADNESS IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S ALBUM "THE TORTURED POETS DEPARTMENT: THE ANTHOLOGY" (2024)

In this chapter, I present an analysis of the figurative meaning of sadness in the songs that I have chosen in Taylor Swift's album titled *The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology* (2024). The five songs chosen in the analysis in this chapter are; 1. So Long, London, 2. I'm, 3. The Black Dog, 4. How Did It End?, 5. Peter. This analysis focuses on how Taylor Swift reveals sadness in these songs, and focuses on how sadness is constructed in the lyrics of the five songs by understanding and highlighting the sadness as a part of literary psychology approach through figurative meaning.

5. CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I summarize the main findings of the research conducted and evaluates the results of the analysis presented in the previous chapters. In this chapter, I also discuss the implications of the research findings, specifically in the context of the field of psychology in literary analysis.

