

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Problem

Everyone has a favorite song, whether it's a love song, a breakup song, or just another uplifting tune. Music can be very meaningful to someone; they can interpret it as part of their life journey. Music is also entertainment that can transcend the boundaries of time, space, and culture. According to (IFPI & Moore, 2023) global data shows that listeners spend an average of more than 20 hours per week listening to music, whether through radio, concerts, or streaming services. This data reinforces the idea that music is not just entertainment, but also an important part of human life, allowing people to express themselves and manage their emotions.

Songs with modern love themes are often considered cliché and exaggerated, but history proves that this theme has been constantly renewed by each generation, from 19th-century German and French cabaret to 1980s American rap, ensuring that it remains alive and relevant. To this day, love-themed songs remain dominant, with a 2018 study showing that 67.3% of the lyrics from the top 40 songs of the 1960–2010 period refer to relationships and love, and 29.9% touch on sex and desire, while other themes such as social issues, religion, identity, family, and friendship only appear in small portions (Hynek, 2024).

Cigarettes After Sex is a band with a dream pop style from El Paso, Texas, formed by Greg Gonzalez. Cigarettes After Sex, or CAS as they are commonly known, currently has three active members: Greg Gonzales, who is the vocalist and lead guitarist of the band; Rendall Miller, or Randy, who plays bass; and Jacob Tomskey, who plays drums. CAS was formed in 2008. CAS is known for their minimalist, melancholic, and atmospheric style of music, which features androgynous vocals, reverb guitars, and slow tempos. The lyrics focus on love, longing, sexuality, and memories experienced by Greg, which he channels through his songwriting.

The band rose to fame with the release of their first EP, *Nothing's Gonna Hurt You Baby*, in 2012, which went viral on YouTube. Cigarettes After Sex became even more popular after the release of their first album, *Cigarettes After Sex*, in 2017. They followed this up with the release of their second album, *Cry*, in 2019.

In July 2024, the band Cigarettes After Sex released their new album titled *X's*. This album touches on themes of romance, longing, memories, and melancholic emotions of love. The *X's* album immediately reached the top 50 on various global music charts such as the Billboard Alternative Albums chart and the Spotify Global 50 Viral chart. Cigarettes After Sex is one of those bands whose lyrics depict a mood filled with love and longing. This is evident in their newly released album, *X's*, with songs like “Dark Vacay” and “Tejano Blue” containing symbolism or metaphors that reflect feelings of loss and the desire for closeness. The lyrics also convey a sense of love, making this an intriguing subject for analysis.

On this album, Greg explores the theme of love, and the lyrics are based on events he has experienced, which inspired him to write love songs as the main topic of the album. The lyrics describe feelings of always wanting to be close, together, and the desire to have someone even though the relationship they are in is fragile, distant, or problematic. This is also related to Greg building the narrative of his life through the lyrics he writes emotionally, and it can be explained that lyrics are the verbal component of music that has a poetic composition that expresses the meaning of the song.

The representation of love in *X's* album is depicted through the lyrics of the songs I have chosen: 1. *Tejano Blue*, 2. *Dark Vacay*, 3. *Hideaway*, 4. *Silver Sable*, 5. *Holding you, Holding me*. These five songs describe love and contain figurative meanings that are used as clues to highlight love or longing in the 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, whether through the characters, the author, or the readers of the literary work. Therefore, this

study can help understand song lyrics and their underlying meanings emotionally through a literary psychology approach.

A Triangular Theory of Love is a theory of love proposed by Robert J. Sternberg in 1986. In this theory, Sternberg has his own view of love and rejects the view that love is only a single emotion, but rather that there are several interacting components. According to Sternberg, there are three main components, namely Intimacy, Passion, and Commitment.

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 (Keraf, 2009) 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 literary psychology, the use of language styles becomes a medium in expressing deeper emotions that can touch the psychological side of the listener.

However, academic research on this album is still rare. There has been no study that specifically discusses love in X's album, therefore, this research is important. From an academic perspective, this research can expand the application of love theory into modern music studies. From a practical perspective, the results can provide new insights for listeners, musicians, and the world of education about how song lyrics influence feelings and thoughts.

1.2. Identification of Problem

Based on the background of the issue, I will focus on analyzing the lyrics of songs that describe love in Cigarettes After Sex's latest album, X's. Sternberg's theory of love is rarely used in analyzing emotional representations, especially in contemporary music. In particular, the concept of the subconscious mind is related to past experiences of love that feel like loss. This analysis will focus on the album X's. There are not many in-depth studies on the representation of love that use psychological

lenses as a technique for analyzing the lyrics of Cigarettes After Sex songs, especially on their latest album, X. Not many have conducted research linking human inner conflict with the representation of musical works as a form of psychological expression.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem, the limitation of this problem is to analyze the representation of love in Cigarettes After Sex song lyrics from the Album: X's, by analyzing the theme of love in the song lyrics and I will focus to the interpretation of the lyrics through the psychology perspective and figurative meaning.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the problem of this research can be formulated as the following question:

1. How is love expressed in album X's through figurative meaning and psychological perspective?
2. How is love expressed in album X's through imagery and psychological perspective?

1.5. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the object of my research are:

1. To analyze the figurative meaning and psychology perspective in the album Cigarettes After Sex X (2024).
2. To analyze the application of love representation through psychology literature and imagery in the lyrics of Cigarettes After Sex's album X's

1.6. Benefit of the Research

In this research, the author hopes that the reader will add his insight in knowing what meaning is in the lyrics of the X's Album (2024), not only that, with this research the author hopes that the listeners of the band Cigarettes After Sex will not only listen

to the work of the band but also understand what message the band wants to convey through their songs.

1.7. systematic Organization of the Research

The framework of this term-paper which titled “Representation of love in the lyrics of X’s (2024) album Cigarettes After Sex is explained as follow:

Chapter 1 : INTRODUCTION

In chapter one, it will explain about the stages of the research design, such as the background of the problem, problem identification, problem limitation, problem formulation, research objectives, research benefits, and systematics of research writing, problem identification, objectives, and benefits of this research. In this chapter I explain the representation of love in Cigarettes After Sex’s album X’s.

Chapter 2 : THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this chapter contains the theoretical framework and provides an overview of what will be done in the research. In this chapter, I explore the application of literary psychology, through the concepts of love and figurative meaning, as a medium for understanding emotional expression in song lyrics and providing a relevant theoretical basis for analyzing selected songs from Cigarettes After Sex's album X's.

Chapter 3 : RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, I will discuss the qualitative research methods used in this study, including the research approach, research object, time, and location. I also will explain the technique of

collecting the data on song lyrics I selected from the Album X's by Cigarettes After Sex

Chapter 4

: REPRESENTATION OF LOVE AND LONGING IN THE LYRICS OF X's (2024) ALBUM CIGARETTES AFTER SEX: SIGMUND FREUD'S PSYCHOANALITIC APPROACH

In this chapter I will present the results of an analysis love representation in the songs that I chose in Cigarettes After Sex' album (2024). Five songs that chosen in this analysis is 1. Tejano Blue, 2. Drak Vacay, 3. Hideaway, 4. Silver Blade, 5. Holding you, Holding me. For the analysis if focus on how love is construct in the lyrics of the five songs by understanding through the literary psychologi approach.

Chapter 5

: CONCLUSION

Contains conclusions from what has been researched regarding the Analysis of Love and Longing Representations in Album X Song Lyrics and in this chapter will make it easier for readers to understand why this research is important to them