

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

Cigarettes After Sex's album *X*, released in 2024, is the third studio album created entirely by Greg Gonzalez. The content of this album is a reflection of emotional and very personal experiences, especially in a long-term romantic relationship that ultimately left a deep mark on Greg. So, overall, *X*'s can be described as an archive of memories of love, loss, and Greg's reflections after the relationship ended. In *X*'s, Greg also discusses the dynamics of his romantic relationships through various phases, from the beginning of intimacy, an escape, and the breakdown of the relationship. Therefore, listeners of this album will feel as if they are being invited into Greg's inner world and can feel what Greg is feeling.

The first song I analyzed was *Tejano Blue*, which represents the early stages of love, full of passion. Greg wrote this song because he was inspired by the city where he grew up, El Paso, Texas, which is close to the Tejano music culture. This song also describes the desire for true and warm love and the hope that the relationship will last. In this song, I also conducted an analysis through the figurative meaning found in the lyrics, which contain metaphors, hyperbole, similes, and idioms. Not only that, I also analyzed it from a psychological perspective and analyzed the elements of love found in this song.

The second song, *Dark Vacay*, song I analyzed. Through *Dark Vacay*, Greg wants to show that love does not always end in hatred, but rather in sadness and complex memories. This song describes how a relationship that was initially romantic slowly fades and turns into a dark and painful experience. Greg wrote this song as a reflection of a relationship that was starting to deteriorate. In this song, I also conducted an analysis through figurative meaning. There are three figurative meanings that can be analyzed, namely metaphor, personification, and hyperbole. Not only that, I also

analyzed it from a psychological perspective and analyzed the elements of love contained in this song.

The third song on X's album is Hideaway. In this song, Greg tells the story of how he and his partner escaped from the pressures they experienced in the outside world. This experience was truly real for Greg; he was inspired when he escaped with his partner to the beach to save their relationship at that time. Greg interprets Hideaway as love that became a safe space for them at that time to protect each other, calm their anxieties, and try to revive the comfort that had previously been fragile. In this song, I also conducted an analysis through figurative meaning, identifying three figurative meanings that can be analyzed: metaphor, personification, and hyperbole. Not only that, I also analyzed it from a psychological perspective and analyzed the elements of love contained in this song.

The fourth song on X's album is Silver Sable, a song that Greg finds quite unique because it brings characters from Marvel comics into the lyrics as symbols to strengthen the emotional meaning of the song. There is no explicit conflict or separation in the song, but rather a subtle anxiety about relationships and the desire to stay together, stay close, and not let anyone go. In this song, I also conducted an analysis through figurative meaning, finding three figurative meanings that can be analyzed, namely metaphor, personification, and hyperbole. Not only that, I also analyzed it from a psychological perspective and analyzed the elements of love contained in this song.

The fifth song I analyzed is different from the previous songs. Holding you, Holding me shows balance in a relationship, which we can see from the title that indicates a reciprocal relationship, where giving and receiving love are done simultaneously. Greg also describes the happy moments he feels with his partner, whom he describes as a couple who are close to each other, without major conflicts or demands between them. In this song, I also conducted an analysis through figurative meaning, identifying three figurative meanings that can be analyzed: metaphor, personification, and hyperbole. Not only that, I also analyzed it from a psychological perspective and analyzed the elements of love contained in this song.

Overall, the album X's shares an intimate, fragile, and painful emotional experience. In this album, Greg not only romanticizes love but also shows the consequences when a relationship ends. Therefore, the album X's can be seen as a psychological narrative of a journey of love.

After the explanation above, this research provides a good understanding of the true meaning behind the lyrics written by the creator. For those who want to know more about the representation of love in song lyrics, this research can be used as a useful reference when exploring how meaning can be conveyed through literary works. This study focuses on analyzing representations of love and linking them to the psychology of the writer. Future researchers can explore further what has not yet been analyzed. Future researchers can also use the same album as material for analysis and use different theoretical frameworks to gain new insights.

Cigarettes After Sex's album X's (2024) is a personal archive of Greg Gonzalez's memories that reflect his experiences of love, loss, and grief after the end of a long-term relationship. Through an analysis of five selected songs *Tejano Blue*, *Dark Vacay*, *Hideaway*, *Silver Sable*, and *Holding You, Holding Me* this study concludes that love in this album is represented as an intimate emotional drive, yet fragile and full of ambivalence. The use of figurative meanings such as metaphors, personification, and hyperbole in the lyrics is not merely a stylistic device, but serves as a medium for expressing deep emotions such as longing, anxiety, and inner conflict that are difficult to express literally. Psychologically, the lyrics reflect the mental state of individuals seeking escape from affective dissatisfaction and fear of loneliness through romantic memories. Based on Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love, the representation of love in this album is dominated by strong elements of intimacy and passion, which are often categorized as romantic love. However, the element of commitment tends to be weak or absent because the song narratives focus more on momentary emotional experiences and past memories than on mature long-term decisions. Thus, X's album becomes a representation of the complexity of modern relationships that are full of emotional attachment but face fragility in their continuity.