

CHAPTER IV

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Blink 182's songs have unique choice of word expressions because the lyrics use the ideas teenagers used to express themselves in their life such as the ideas of being lonely and lost, and also the ideas of being rejected from a society; ideas that show punks are pessimists. Those ideas will be found in three songs of Blink 182 that I chose to analyze.

At this point discussing the song lyric is analyzed by using the real meaning of the sentences (denotation) and the meaning beyond the words or phrases in which people can put their assumption toward them (connotation). Denotative and connotative sentences deal with diction which means word choices to impress the listeners, in order to give a certain condition toward the listeners' mind. In analyzing the denotation meaning of the lyrics, I am using the *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary: Third Edition* (Walter, 2008) to help me find the real meaning of the words or phrases in the lyrics.

4.1 Song 1: Stay Together for The Kids

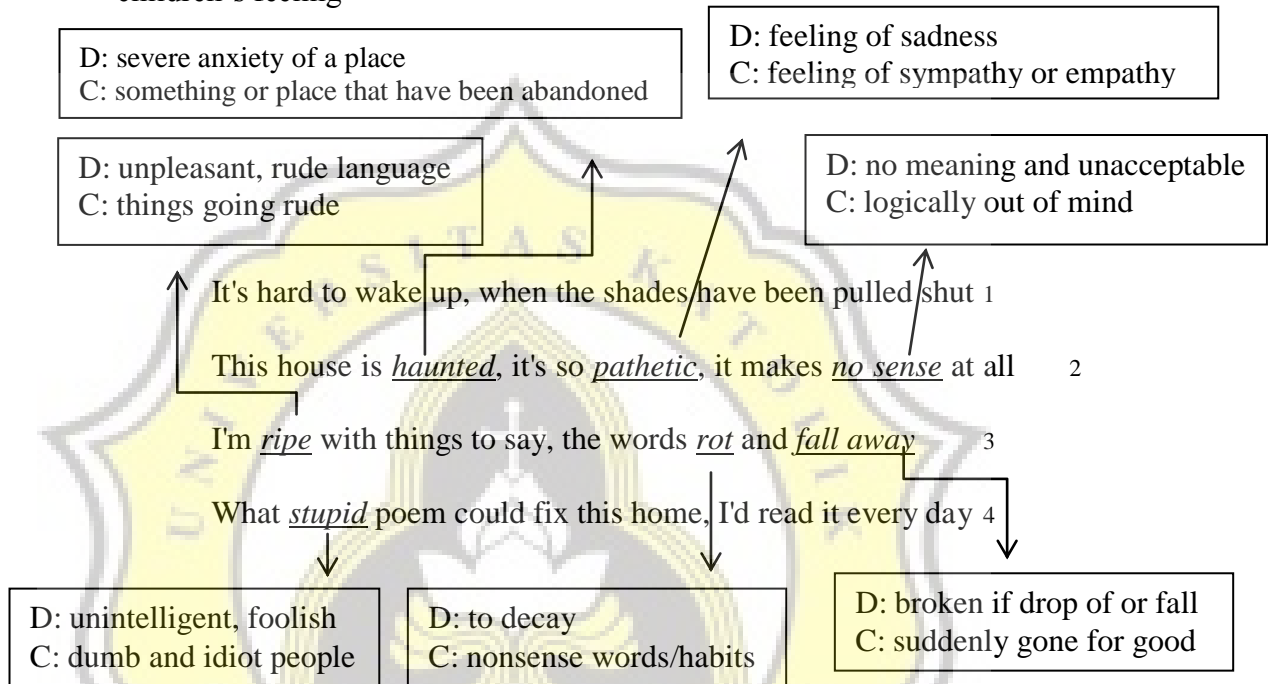
Pessimist people tend to have the value represented by negative words such as “lost, no sense, dead, gone, and hard”. As a punk band, Blink 182 also uses negative words that show pessimism such as “haunted, pathetic, no sense, ripe and dead”. As I mentioned earlier in Chapter II, pessimism itself can lead people to depression and contrariness, which affected by black-mood. Black-mood is a negative mood that will affect people’s state of mind from positive to negative. From the negative words in Blink 182’s songs, it seems that Blink 182 wants to show their pessimistic view on their life experiences.

In the song entitled *Stay Together for The Kids*, Tom DeLonge tried to tell his private experience when he grew up with the fact that his parents were divorced at the age of 18. Tom DeLonge’s band, Blink 182, produced this song in around 1998 or 1999 to show the world that there would be lots of children and teenagers that may lose their hopes and dreams if their parents had a divorce.

The lyric of the song was relevant with what happened in the end of 1990s until early 2000 when many marriages ended in divorce. Mediate.com (2003) states that, “The divorce rate in the United States is the highest in the world. Fifty percent of marriages end in divorce”. Thus, Tom’s words which depict the consequences of divorce shown in the beginning of Blink 182’s music video leave a message that the children

who are victims of the divorce were angry and in total disagreement with what their parents did.

The first stanza which consists of line 1 to 4 below shows the children's feeling



Tom talked about what he felt when his parents got divorced. In other words, the stanza represents Tom's feelings as a child from a broken family. Line 2 which starts with, "This house is haunted ..." clearly shows Tom's feeling. The word 'haunted' in line 2 has several denotative meanings. They are (1) signs of suffering or severe anxiety and (2) a place where ghosts often appear (p. 192), while connotatively it means something that has been abandoned for a long period of time and never been visited. Most people believe that the word 'haunted' relates to a strange activity and related with ghosts appearance. The word 'haunted' in

the beginning of line 2 represents the strange moment that Tom felt when he realizes the fact that his parents has divorced. Tom's house is not like what he wants. The house that is supposed to make Tom feel comfortable and happy to be home has instead changed into a haunted and scary house.

The music video shows some young adults in an abandoned house who does nothing but sitting with the depressing faces, while in the outside, there is a wrecking ball which is ready to destroy the house. I believe it represents a family that has already been broken. It symbolizes that somehow their parents are trying to rip their family apart with their decisions, and it makes Tom or some young adults get more desperate.

Another negative word in line 2 is 'pathetic'. The word 'pathetic' which follows the word 'haunted' emphasizes the abandonment felt by Tom DeLonge. The word 'pathetic' in line 2 connotatively refers to people's feeling of sympathy or empathy on something that tragically happens around them. The feeling of sympathy and empathy has changed into sick condition as it has a stronger meaning than just (1) causing feelings of sadness especially because a person or animal is suffering, or (2) making someone feel no respect, often because of unsuccessful or showing no ability or effort or bravery (p. 1041) as the denotative meaning. Thus, the word 'pathetic' has negative connotation as being a loser. In other words, I believe that Tom wants to show his disappointment towards his parents who choose to have a divorce because they are not brave enough to face and solve their problems. Beside Tom's

disappointment, he feels sympathy and empathy for other people who experiences the same thing and tries to represent their feeling.

Additionally, in line 2, the phrase 'no sense' denotatively means (1) spoken or written words that has no meaning or no sense and (2) foolish or unacceptable behavior (p. 965). Connotatively it means a decision or an idea that is logically out of mind and mostly unbelievable. Thus, the phrase 'no sense' shows that Tom logically did not believe in what happens to his family. For teenagers, the divorce is just like a nightmare of when they constantly wake up and wish the nightmare will be gone.

Next, line 3: "I'm ripe with things to say ...". The word 'ripe' denotatively means (1) describes a smell which is strong and unpleasant and (2) describes language that is rude (pp. 1231-1232). Connotatively it means that something goes unpleasant and rude. Thus, the word 'ripe' represents Tom who wants to express his feelings in an unpleasant way. However, in line 3, there is the word 'rot' which denotatively means (1) to (cause to) decay, (2) nonsense (n), and as an idiom, the word 'rot' means; to stay in prison or etc. for a very long period (pp. 1241-1242), while connotatively it means words or habits or activities that is nonsense. Some people would call it a 'crap' which means that Tom is thinking that the feelings that he wants to express are useless. In other words, the word 'rot' could be understood as a child who cannot be used as a guarantee to save their family. So, I tend to say that in parents think about their child as being not as important as their ego and the problems they face. This

statement is supported by the phrase ‘fall away’ in line 3 which connotatively means things are broken and suddenly lost or gone forever, which has a stronger meaning than if parts of something falls away, by breaking off and dropping to the ground (p. 507) as the denotative meaning. Implicitly it means that Tom feels that his family is no longer possible to be together. The music video shows that there is no parent in the house so the children have to live alone. These are the kind of feelings that every child would feel knowing if their parents are no longer together and that their families are ripped apart. The negative words mentioned above previously represented in the music video has used the simple word ‘hate’, which means that Tom totally disagrees with what his parents decided.

Line 4: “What stupid poem could fix this home, I’d read it everyday”. The word ‘stupid’ denotatively means unintelligent, foolish, and stupid (p. 431). Connotatively it means things or people that are dumb or idiot or silly. Obviously in this case, the word signals that Tom as the song writer would do anything to make his family in one piece again. Besides, I also believe that the word ‘stupid’ means the parents’ attitude of breaking their family’s is togetherness. The parents’ stupidities are, for example, being an angry person, being a negative minded person, being a narrow minded person, and being a moody person. These children, like Tom, should have a family that can cure any illness and becomes the

strongest support that everyone needs in bad circumstances so having his parents always angry and then have a divorce is regarded as stupid.

Then in the second stanza, which consists of line 5 to 9, the lyric goes:

D: not living, not important
C: lost feelings and hope for the future

D: dead/extinct
C: no longer exist, hopeless

5 So here's your holiday,
6 hope you enjoy it this time, you gave it all away
7 it was mine, so when you're dead and gone
8 will you remember this night, twenty years now lost,
9 it's not right.

D: undetected
C: miss the direction or unknown

The stanza talks about Tom's point of view as a child about his parents' decision to get a divorce. The stanza shows Tom's opinion that his parents' decision was totally wrong. Here in line 5 and 6, Tom wants to show that people or parents that decide to get a divorce will never think about the family they left behind. Because the family was ripped apart, their kids became disappointed. The music video portrays some young adults with depressed face doing some rude and rebellious acts like

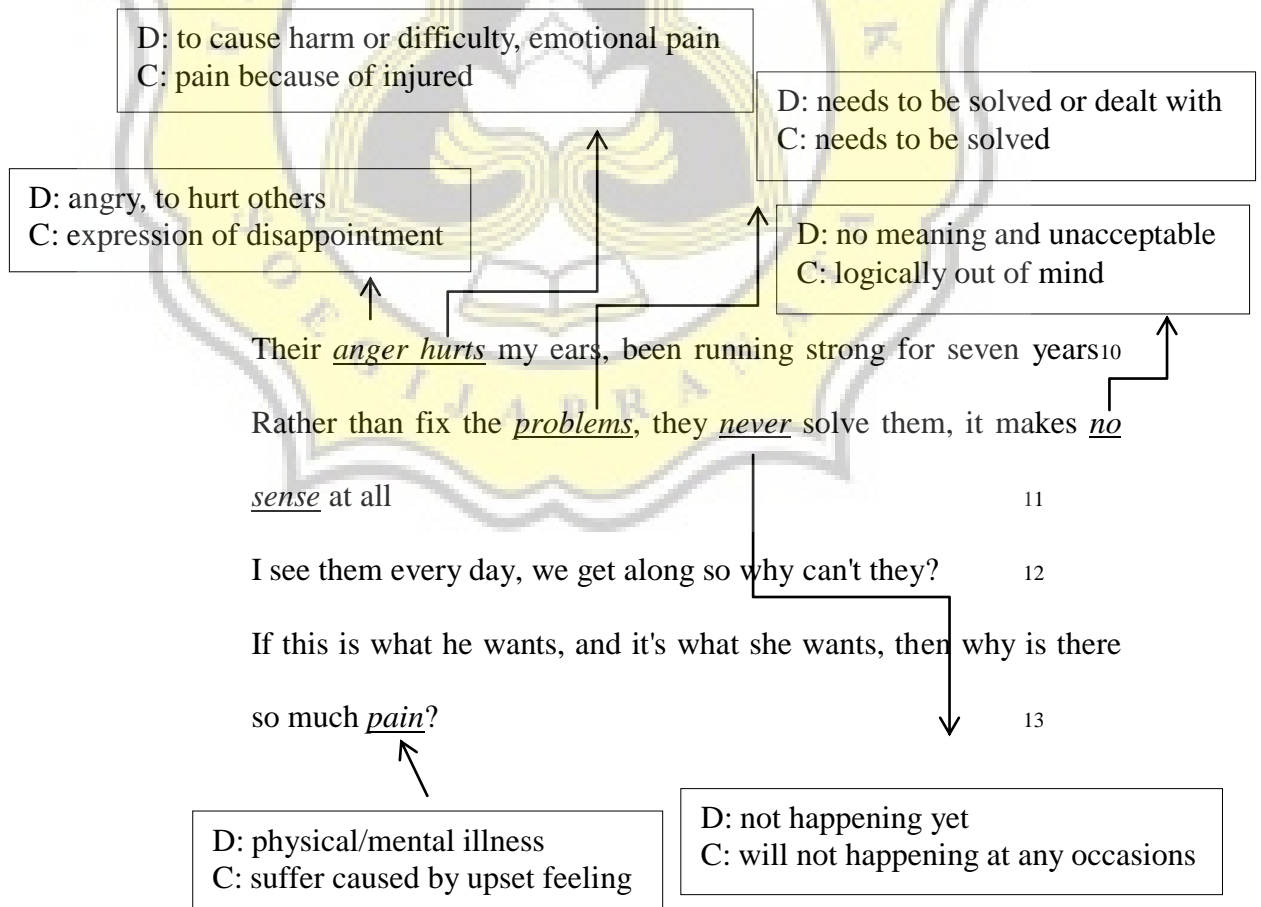
breaking all things around them. I believe that those actions are the way adults express their disappointment, anger, and upset.

In line 7, the word 'dead' has some denotative meanings. They are (1) not living now, (2) if a part of your body is dead, you cannot feel it, (3) something is not important any longer, (4) failed and seems impossible to be successful in the future (p. 356). From here, the word 'dead' can connotatively mean somebody that has totally lost their feelings or hope for the future. Implicitly through the word 'dead', Tom wanted to tell us that for him, there will not be a life without a complete family. Further, the word 'dead' in line 7 is followed by the word 'gone', which denotatively means (1) no longer in existence, (2) dead or extinct, and (3) lost, hopeless (p. 620). Thus, connotatively it means something that is no longer available or no longer exists. The word 'gone' also means a lost in something that is very important in life like hope and dream. I believe that when the children lose their family, they start to choose their own way of life. In its music video, Blink 182 showed some young adult with punk characteristics such as wearing ripped denim pants and jackets, piercing their nose, and having messy haircut and hair do in an abandoned house.

The next word, 'holiday' in line 5 tells about Tom's dream about a happy family. But, Tom lost all of his dream and his happiness because Tom's parents, who did not want to solve their problem, 'gave it all away' by deciding to get divorce Tom's belief that a happy family was the greatest holiday was devastated.

Tom's happiness was gone for good. This is proven by the phrase 'twenty years now lost' that represents Tom's age when his parents got divorced and how long his family had survived. As a word, the word 'lost' denotatively means (1) if something is lost, no one know where it is, and (2) to be unable to live or work without someone or something (p. 849), so it can connotatively mean somebody can get confused and miss the direction of things that cannot be found. The word 'lost' shows us what Tom believes about family, i.e. the family's house, has gone forever and will never be the same again.

Next, in the third stanza, that consists of line 10 to 13 it is written



Here in line 10, the word 'anger' denotatively means (1) a strong feeling which makes one want to hurt someone or be unpleasant because of something unfair or hurtful that has happened, and (2) to make someone angry (p. 49). This connotatively means the way people express their disappointment and upset feeling of something. Some people try to hurt others or break stuff as an expression of the great disappointment, while some others will just yell to let the feeling out.

The word 'hurt' which follows the word 'anger', denotatively means (1) to cause harm or difficulty, (2) injured or in pain, (3) upset or unhappy, and (4) emotional pain (p. 707). Connotatively it means that the pain in the part of the body that is injured. The word 'hurt' represents Tom who feels uncomfortable about his parents having a huge fight for years before they decided to get divorced. This experience hurt him so much. It is clearly shown in the music video that Tom and friends expressed their emotional pain by ruining all things and showing their anger face.

In line 11, the word 'problem' denotatively means a situation, person or thing that needs attention and needs to be dealt with or solved (p. 1129). Thus, connotatively it means something that needs to be solved. For some people this word is something that they mostly avoid. Also in line 11, there is a word 'never' which supports the word 'problem' that denotatively means something that has been not happening yet or will not happen at any time or occasion (p. 965). So, denotatively the two words show us that the parents did not have any intention at all to be together; the

act which affects the children's ideas of their future, their appearance, and their habit. Besides the anger and upset feeling, Tom realized that every person, whether they are parents or children are the same in that they can be a vulnerable person.

As a kid, Tom often wonders why other family can get along for years without ending in a divorce. This statement is shown clearly in line 12 which goes, "I see them everyday, we get along so why can't they?" I believed that Tom was trying to create a third person point of view to talk about his family. In the lyric, it seems that Tom talked about a family which survives although it has been through the same problem as Tom's. I also believe that this line is also Tom's message to his fans or listeners, that there are many better ways to solve a problem rather than getting a divorce.

In line 13, there is the word 'pain' that denotatively means (1) a feeling of physical suffering caused by injury or illness, (2) emotional or mental suffering, and (3) if something pains you, it causes you to feel sad and upset (p. 1024). Thus, connotatively it means that people would suffer if they feel sad and upset. Through these lines, Tom wanted to say that actually he did not have to feel what his parents feel, because it was their decision, not his. So, he was protesting why he had to feel the pain. Also in the music video, the word 'pain' is represented by showing some young adults' depressed and upset faces; young adults who seems too hard to smile.

The other pessimistic view is also shown in the next Blink 182's song, about someone whose life is in a chronic depression because he is bullied by some people. The person's name is Adam. Blink 182's song about this person is entitled *Adam's Song*.

4.2 Song 2: Adam's Song

The song entitled *Adam's Song*, which is written by Mark Hoppus is inspired by a friend who sent him an email about a kid that committed to suicide because he has been bullied by his friends. He leaves a letter to anyone who finds it. This letter moves Mark's heart, so he starts to write about it in his song.

The kid's lonely feeling is shown in line 1 to 4 below:

D: stop living
C: has no more soul/feeling

D: only/without any others
C: nobody to accompany/even care

I never thought I'd *die alone* 1

I laughed the loudest who'd have known? 2

I traced the cord back to the wall 3

No wonder it was *never* plugged in at all 4



D: not happening yet
C: will not happening at any occasions

The stanza starts with line 1, which says “I never thought I’d die alone.” The word ‘die’ in line 1 has several denotative meanings. They are (1) to stop living or existing, (2) to die naturally or violently; and (3) to feel a particular feeling extremely strongly (p. 389). Thus, connotatively it means somebody or something that has no more soul, and/or lost something that is very important in life. The word ‘die’ here represents the moment when Mark described what Adam felt while his friends bullied him and that there was no body to help him. It represents his very depressed feeling of things that happened in his life. In Blink 182 music video, the depressed feeling was ironically highlighted by Travis’ tattoo of the word ‘hope’. In Adam’s letter, he wrote that he didnot wish to be missed. He wished those who didnot care about him to keep moving forward without apologizes and tears.

Then, the word ‘alone’ which is following the word ‘die’, denotatively means (1) without other people, and (2) only, without any others (p. 39). While, connotatively it means that someone has no friend or somebody to accompany or even care. In other words, Mark wanted to show that Adam was not just bullied but also isolated by his friends. The lyric is portraying Adam’s letter. Adam writes that he is alone whether it is at school or at home. No one cared, not even his parents. At the end Adam, lost his trust in God

The music video of Adam's song depicts a similar situation. It shows a gathering of several people. In the gathering, there is a man and a woman that were talking. Suddenly the woman left him alone; his face looked grim and he bows his head. Although there are many people around him, they were talking and laughing to each other, but no one of them cared for him.

Adam's feeling is shown in the next line. In line 2 stanza 1, it goes, "I laughed the loudest who'd have known?" He laughed the loudest, but no one cared or even noticed his existence. There Adam is depicted as feeling lonely and feeling that he wants to die as he feels so depressed.

Then, the next line, in line 3 and 4 of stanza 1 says, "I traced the chord back to the wall. No wonder it was never plugged in at all". The lines explicitly inform that 'the chord' is representing a relation or connection to others. That the chord "...was never plugged in at all" or it is never connected with anything or anyone. I believe this means that that no one is willing to be connected to Adam.

The music video shows a woman who tries to call someone using a payphone. When there is no answer, she feels so sad. Two man are seen coming out of a shop but are not paying attention to the woman. It represents the situation that even when she tries to create a connection with others, no one is willing to. Unfortunately, it does not just happen in Adam's life but I believe it also happens to many people.

Next is the word ‘never’ in line 4. It denotatively means (1) not at any occasion (p. 956). Thus, connotatively it means something that is not yet happening before and will not happen at any time or occasion. Explicitly, it creates a statement that as a human being we have to care for each other, especially when they are in a bad circumstance and need a help.

In line 5 to 8, Mark tries to explain more about what happens to Adam’s life and what he does to face it.

I took my time, I hurried up	5
The choice was mine I didn't think enough	6
I'm too <u>depressed</u> to go on	7
You'll be sorry when I'm <u>gone</u>	8

D: in state of despondency
C: under a pressure that really strong and urged

D: dead/extinct
C: no longer exist, hopeless

Those lines above show that the moment when Adam is trying to run away from the reality. The word ‘depressed’ in line 7 denotatively means (1) in state of general unhappiness or despondency, (2) suffering from clinical depression, and (3) in a physically lower position or having been pushed or forced down (p. 376), while connotatively it means that there is an under pressure or demand that is strong and urged. The use of the word ‘depressed’ tells us that Mark wants us to know that a victim of

bullying will suffer deep depression. The word presents Adam's depression and how he tries to tell everybody that by taking the final decision, he wished there will be no more harassment that hurt him a lot. The depression was voiced in Adam's letter which tells that his decision was a result of his thinking that other people ignored, hurt, and isolated him.

In the music video, the deep depression was portrayed by a man sitting alone in a beach, doing nothing. It seems that this man is thinking of a way to escape his problems. This man represents Adam who is taking his time and thinking of what happened in his life.

Moreover, in line 8 there is the word 'gone' which denotatively means (1) no longer in existence, (2) dead or extinct, (3) no longer available, and (4) feeling of lost and hopeless (p. 620). Thus, it connotatively means that something is no longer available or can exist forever. Some will believe that the word 'gone' means they lost something very important in their life like hope and dream. While Mark started to tell us that the victim of bullying will suffer of deep depression, he implies that every trial to wipe out the shadow of bullying is useless. Their hope and dream to have friends who are willing to accept them is gone forever. They are standing on their own with no body by their side. The lyric echoes Adam's letter which contains his wish to escape from the problems that made his life so sad.

In the music video, the word 'gone' is described by two different scenes. In the first scene, people are eating, talking and laughing together except for a man who is sitting alone. In the second scene, people leave the man, who is still sitting alone. The video represents that even when he is in a crowd, the crowd will leave him alone. The crowd does not care to invite him joining the gathering. Then the crowd will go one by one and leaves him alone.

The second stanza, line 9 to 16, talks about Adam's contemplation of whether to run away from the situation or to survive.

The first part is lines 9 to 11 which go,

I never conquered, rarely came 9

16 just held such better days 10

Days when I still felt alive 11

The lines above describe the moment when Adam, in Mark's words, is thinking about disappearing to teach everyone around him, including people who bully him, to realize that he was also important for the society. I believe that Mark tries to draw the song into his private life's experiences in line 11. The 'days' here represents the time he spends with his band mates. It is a simple description that many teenagers must have friends in their life. Mark must have believed that the boy, Adam, still has somebody to rely on.

In line 12 and 13 below, Adam reaches his final decision.

We couldn't wait to get outside 12

The world was wide, too *late* to try 13



D: happens after planned
C: not on time

Line 13 has a word 'late' that denotatively means (1) (happening or arriving) after the planned, expected, usual or necessary, (2) no longer having specified and former (p. 807). Thus, connotatively it means that something is not on time and already left behind the exact time. Moreover, Mark adds the word 'too' followed by 'late' which means that the moment was already out of time to execute. This lyric quotes Adam's letter which says, "It was too late for everything". The letter implies that Adam did not need everyone anymore, even his family, friends, teachers and girls.

Mark describes his own memories when he is child. It is the time when he has a friend and when everything is okay. He clearly tells that he is sunk in depression after the bullying, a harassment that he never has when he is a kid. I believe that Mark wants to tell us that Adam should have dropped his plan to escape his problems.

Next, in line 14 to 16, the lyric goes,

D: more, finished
C: too much, too late, more than expectation



The tour was over we'd survived 14

I couldn't wait till I got home 15

To pass the time in my room alone 16



D: goes past
C: across something over

The word 'over' denotatively means (1) falling down from somewhere, (2) falling because of stepping on something, (3) more than, and (4) finished or completely finished (pp. 1012-1032). Thus, connotatively it means too much, too late, more than expectation, something that comes to an end of a period of time. Reading the whole part of line 14 and connecting it with line 15 and 16, I know that Adam finally tries his best to survive through all his bad circumstances.

Adam's trying to survive is also shown in line 16 where there is a word 'pass', which denotatively means (1) to go past a particular point in time, (2) if you say a state or feeling will pass, you mean it will disappear, (3) when time passes, it goes past, and (4) a difficult or unpleasant condition (pp. 1037-1038). Thus, connotatively it means going through

something or across something over. I believe that Mark wants to show us that Adam should have survived all the circumstances he face.

Adam's letter shows that every day Adam tries to face all things that happens in his life. He is rejected by his friends and girls that he liked. In his letter, he also mentions some girl's names. In connection to Blink 182, Adam's life can be connected with Punk's life; a Punk that survives rejections that they have it all times, and hold on to what they believe no matter what will happen into them and their societies.

Then, the third stanza which consists of line 17 to 24 of the songs. Basically this stanza has the same meaning with the first stanza, but this stanza concentrates more on Mark's description about Adam's letter that is left for his family. In the letter, Adam says that his parents does not want him, he feels that he is just an asset for his parents like their house and car.

The stanza starts with line 17 to 19:

D: cannot be guessed, not familiar
C: invisible, no one knows/even care

I never thought I'd die alone 17
Another six months I'll be unknown 18
Give all my things to all my friends 19

There is a word ‘unknown’ in line 18 which denotatively means (1) not known or familiar, and (2) something that cannot be guessed at or calculated because so little is known about it (p. 1591). Thus, connotatively it means that it is invisible and no one knows or even care about it. The word ‘unknown’ itself clearly represents Adam’s plan to disappear and be invisible forever. Moreover, it shows that Adam is planning to go for ‘another six months’ to somewhere unknown and for no exact time. This is why he says, “Give all my things to all my friends”. That line shows that Adam does not want to remember all the bad day of being a loner. As I said before, the lines show a state where Adam does not want anyone to remember him, because of everybody seems not to care of him and that everybody does not want his existence around them. The rejections simply makes him depressed.

The next lines (20 and 21) show that Adam wants everyone to bury every memory about him.

You'll never step foot in my room again 20

You'll close it off, board it up 21



D: to end C: to stop, to block

The lyric seems to send Adam’s message that he does not anyone to remember anything about him. It is also shows in Adam's letter that he will not have anyone to remember and mourn for him, not even his best

friend. In line 21, the word ‘close’ has several denotative meanings. They are (1) to (cause something to) change from being open to not being open, (2) to (cause something to) end (3) unwilling to talk about things to other people (pp. 256-257). Thus, connotatively it means to block, to stop, to end, or the range is not far. When Adam writes the letter, he says that he will not tell his best friend about his suicide. It was a surprise because it is not his first effort to make a suicide. He tries to make a suicide for three times and his best friend always called 911 to fail his effort to suicide. That is why, in his last and final suicide, he leaves a letter and kept out his best friend from finding his plan. In other words, Mark’s lyric describes that Adam implicitly asks everyone close to him to stop trying to save him and let him do what he wants. The request is mentioned in line 20 as follows, “never step a foot in my room”. It is emphasized by the phrases in line 21, “close it off” and “board it up.”

Further, Adam’s song is continued in line 22 to 24:

D: fall/spread over C: fell and scattered and spread over
--



Remember the time that I *spilled* the cup 22

Of apple juice in the hall 23

Please tell mom this is not her *fault* 24



D: a mistake/weakness C: a bad feeling of doing unsatisfying things
--

It is about the moment when Adam realizes that all troubles and problems he experiences may drag his parents into troubles, too. The word, 'spilled' in line 22 denotatively means (1) to (cause to) flow move, fall, or spread over the edge or outside the limits of something, and (2) an amount of something which has come out of a container (pp. 1393-1394). While connotatively it means something falling and scattering and spreading over something. I believe the word 'spilled' represents Adam's overflowed emotional pain that he experienced when he wrote the letter before he pulled the trigger of his gun to end his life.

In the lyric, Mark adds 'please tell mom this is not her fault.' As a negative word, 'fault' denotatively means (1) a mistake, especially something for which you are to blame, (2) a weakness in a person's character, and (3) to find a reason to criticize someone or something (p. 516). It connotatively means that there is a bad feel of doing unsatisfied things or feel sorry for wrong circumstances that somebody has made. The lyric seems to tell the audience that although Adam feels that he is just treated as an asset, not a child, he still acknowledges his parents. Adam wants to say that his suicide is not his parents' fault.

4.3 Song 3: Stockholm Syndrome

The third song shows the stage where punk's pessimistic view starts. In this case, punks who feel pessimistic toward what happens in the

world and things around them recently. In this song, Blink 182 decides to use a psychological term as the title of the song. *Stockholm Syndrome* itself is a psychological phenomenon in which hostages express sympathy and empathy and have positive feelings toward their captors. This syndrome is named after a famous robbery in Stockholm, Sweden in 1973 where captives were kept in a bank vault for 6 days.

Basically, this song is written based on the atmosphere of World War II. It starts with an interlude showing Marks' grandfather's love letter that was sent to his wife. Actress Joanne Whalley is reading the letter for the interlude. This song is assumed that to literally talk about the post-9/11 paranoia and warmongering that utterly altered the atmosphere in the western world. However, I believe the song is meant to speak about how punk feels when they are isolated and feel sorry for the world. Their isolated and sorry feeling trigger empathy and sympathy feeling.

The first stanza which consists of line 1 to 8 of the song is talking about Tom's grandfather's feeling when he has a mixed feeling of frightened and worry in a small and dark room. It was the time when Tom's grandfather is in the combat field and cannot get home until he finished his war.

Line 1 and 2 state that,

This is the first (thing I remember) 1

Now it's the *last* (thing *left* on my mind) 2



D: only one left
C: latest one mentioned

D: (past tense) leave
C: passed or missed

In line 2, the word 'last' denotatively means (1) (being) the only one or part that is left, (2) to continue to exist, and (3) to continue being good or suitable (pp. 806-807). Thus, it connotatively means the latest one to appear or mentioned or suitable. Mark's grandfather's love letter shows that he misses the moment with his wife; the night they are together. Blink 182 describes the words in the letters with videos of places that are possibly visited by Mark's grandmother and grandfather. Places which are full of memory.

Also, there is the word 'left' that follows the word 'last' which denotatively means (1) leave (p. 818) and connotatively means the last thing remain, something that pass over but it should not be passed or missed. The word 'left' in the lyrics, I believe, means that Mark's grandfather only has memories about the night he spent together with his wife. Mark's grandfather missed that the moment very much, but only the picture remains.

Next, in line 3 to 5, the lyric goes,

D: feeling fear/worry
C: a phobia, scared of terrible

D: no lights
C: get blinded, lost of hope

Afraid of the *dark* (do you hear me whisper) 3

An *empty* heart (replaced with paranoia) 4

Where do we go (life's temporary) 5

D: without meaning
C: feels nothing inside

In line 3, there is the word 'afraid' that denotatively means (1) feeling fear, or feeling worry about the possible results of a particular situation., and (2) used to politely introduce bad news or disagreement (p. 25). Thus, connotatively it means scared of terrible things, a phobia, a deep feeling of worry or discouragement that makes somebody frightened when this feeling comes up. The next negative word which follows is the word 'afraid' and 'dark'. It denotatively means (1) sad and without hope, (2) evil or threatening, and (3) secret or hidden (p. 352). Thus, connotatively it means no lights at all or in other words lost of hope for future and get blinded by the reality of life. The two words 'afraid' and 'dark' represent the setting of the letter writing. In the letter, Mark's grandfather talks about the setting: a war that spoiled a lot of things including himself. It also implies the idea that Mark's grandfather wants to leave the horrible moment. In the music video, the horrible moment was portrayed by a low

lights room where the wall is full of mural arts depicted a dirty room that represents the atmosphere of being taken hostages.

The word 'empty' in line 4 denotatively means (1) not sincere or without any real meaning, (2) without purpose or interest, and (3) to remove everything from inside something (p. 406). It connotatively means somebody that feels nothing. The lyric tells that Mark's grandfather feels lonely and alone; and he wishes to meet his wife again.

Then, line 6 to 8 goes:

D: dead/extinct
C: no longer exist, hopeless

D: no gentle, difficult
C: impossible to face

After we're gone (like new years resolutions) 6

Why is this hard (do you recognize me) 7

I know I'm wrong (but I can't help believing) 8

D: no suitable or correct
C: judged to be dishonest

As a word, 'gone' in line 6 denotatively means (1) no longer in existence, (2) dead or extinct, and (3) lost or hopeless (p. 620). Thus, connotatively it means something that no longer available or exist forever. The word 'gone' also means lost in something that is very important in life like hope and dream. The word 'gone' in line 6 of the song is supported by the letter which is presented by Blink 182 in the interlude. A letter which

talks about the same feeling, the feeling of losing someone very important and loved.

Then, in line 7 there is the word 'hard' that denotatively means (1) difficult to understand or do or experience or deal with, (2) not pleasant or gentle; severe, and (3) to criticize someone severely or to threaten them unfairly (pp. 656-657). Thus, connotatively it means something that is impossible to face or to go through or even to change. It was 'hard' because of Punks see the world changes so far away from the world they used to know. The world that never treats them well and pushes them away from the system.

Then in line 8, the word 'wrong' denotatively means (1) not suitable or correct or not as it should be, (2) if you ask someone what is wrong, you want to know what is worrying or upsetting them, (3) not considered morally or socially acceptable or suitable by most people, and (4) an unfair action (pp. 1689-1690). Thus, it connotatively means judged to be dishonest, and facing different facts from what have been promised.

Next is the second stanza which consists of line 9 to 16. The lines

go:

D: undetected,
C: miss the direction or unknown



I'm so lost

9

I'm barely here

10

I wish I could explain myself

11

But words escape me

12



D: get free, get avoid
C: an exit/shortcut

The word 'lost' in line 9 denotatively means (1) if something is lost, no one know where it is, and (2) to be unable to live or work without someone or something (p. 849), so it connotatively means somebody can get confused and miss the direction of things that could not be found. The word 'lost' here represents the lost that Mark's grandfather felt for his wife because of the war; something that he could not accept easily.

Then, the word 'escape' in line 12 denotatively means (1) to get free from something or to avoid something, (2) a loss that happens by accident, and (3) something that helps you to forget about your usual life (pp. 475-476). It connotatively means a secret exit or shortcut or a solution for a problem. In other words, the only way to run away from the feeling is only by writing letters to his wife. Mark interprets and is fascinated by the word 'escape' because the word represents the miscommunication that

happens between punks and the world that wants to stop their movement. Mark says that, “People more or less just wait to talk. And even then, words get in the way and intent gets lost”. That is why Mark in the song writes, “I wish I could explain myself but words escape me,” in line 11 and 12.

Next is line 13 to 16 goes:

It's too <i>late</i>	13
To save me	14
You're too <i>late</i>	15
You're too <i>late</i>	16

D: happens after planned
C: not on time

In line 13, the word ‘late’ denotatively means (1) (happening or arriving) after the planned, expected, usual or necessary, and (2) no longer having specified and former (p. 807). It connotatively means that something is not on time and already left behind the exact time. By looking at what happens in the war at that time, it is very late to replace all the moments that had passed. The words mirror punk’s feeling when they realizes that it is too late to save the world that is taken over by capitalism, and starts to push and stop their movement.

Then, in the third stanza which consists of line 17 to 22, the lyric explicitly talks about the final day of the kidnapping; when the hostages think about what the captors will do to them: execute them or release them.

Then, in line 17 and 18, the lyric goes:

D: feeling disappointed
C: upset

You're cold with disappointment 17

While I'm drowning in the next room 18

D: die because of cannot breathe underwater
C: carried away in situation

In line 17, the word 'disappointment' denotatively means (1) the feeling of being disappointed, and (2) something or someone that is not what you were hoping it would be (p. 398). Thus, connotatively it means feeling upset of something that out of expectation. The word 'disappointment' implicitly shows how Mark described punks' feeling about the world that rejects and hates them so much. The world is supposed to be a place where everybody would love them the way they are.

Then, in line 18, the word 'drowning' denotatively means when someone dies because of they are under water and cannot breathe (p. 434). Thus, connotatively it means someone that is a victim of a disaster or

situation. However, as a phrase, ‘drowning in’ means to have more of something than you are able to deal with (p. 434), while it connotatively means carried away situation. The war leaves something different in Mark’s grandfather life. He is carried away in the sadness of lost that he got confused with what he should do to get rid of the feeling.

Then, in line 19 and 20 which said:

The diagram illustrates the denotative and connotative meanings of the words 'contagious' and 'sick' in two lines of text. It features a large, faint watermark of the Universitas Jember logo in the background.

Line 19: The last contagious victim of this plague between us

Line 20: I'm sick with apprehension

For 'contagious' (line 19):

- Box 1 (left): D: caught by a disease; C: infectious illness or feeling
- Box 2 (right): D: to pain, to annoy; C: extremely annoying

Arrows indicate that the boxes point to the word 'contagious' in line 19. A downward arrow also points from 'contagious' to 'sick' in line 20.

For 'sick' (line 20):

- Box 3 (bottom): D: physical/mental ill; C: feeling revolted

In line 19, the word ‘contagious’ denotatively means (1) a disease that can be caught by touching someone with the disease or a piece of infected clothing, (2) someone who has a contagious disease, and (3) a contagious feeling spreads quickly among people (p. 301). Thus, connotatively it means infectious; not just illness but also people’s strong feelings, behaviors, habits, lifestyles, and point of views.

Then the word ‘plague’ which follows the word ‘contagious’ is believed to refer to the syndrome that contaminates the hostages. As a word, the word ‘plague’ denotatively means (1) to cause worry, pain or

difficulty to someone or something over a period of time, and (2) to annoy someone, especially by asking repeated questions (p. 1079). Thus, connotatively it means disturbance that is extremely annoying. In this song, Mark implicitly describes the moment when the atmosphere of the war turned into a contagious feeling that hit almost all the citizens, including his grandfather. His grandfather feels that he is a victim hit by the 'plague' that forces him to feel sad and disappointed with the little time he has with his wife

Then, the word 'sick' in line 20 of the song denotatively mean (1) physically or mentally ill; not well or healthy, (2) feeling ill as if you are going to vomit, and (3) causing or expressing unpleasant emotions (p. 1333). It connotatively means people's feeling that revolted of something that nonsense or logically out of mind.

Here in line 21, there is a word 'apprehension' which follows the word 'sick' that somehow showed us the representation of what punks face. By the time capitalism is ruling, it tried to force down punks movement that they believed affects treat capitalism to run their systems. Then, punks started to get bored for every effort that capitalists does to push them down.

Next, line 21 and 22 state that:

D: hard to walk/move C: lame and flawed	D: extremely tired C: has no more strength
--	---

I'm crippled from exhaustion 21

And I dread the moment when you finally come to kill me 22

D: strong feeling of worry C: extreme phobia	D: to stop/destroy C: defeated/get paralyzed
---	---

There is the word 'crippled' in line 21 that denotatively means (1) describes someone with serious injuries that affect their ability to walk or move (p. 332). Thus, connotatively it means lame and flawed. Also, in line 21 which follows the word 'crippled', there is the word 'exhaustion' that denotatively means (1) extremely tired (p. 488). Thus, connotatively it means weak and has no more strength. Implicitly, line 21 wants to tell us from the point of view of capitalism that wants to stop Punks movement, because the capitalists are tired of the 'game' they played with Punks.

Then in line 22, there is the word 'dread' that denotatively means (1) to feel extremely worried or frightened about something that is going to happen or that might happen, and (2) a strong feeling of fear or worry (p. 428), while it connotatively means extremely afraid of something or an extreme phobia. War affects the prisoners or hostages by giving them frightened feeling which leaves a depth traumatic feeling. Some victims never wanted to talk about the moment they were captured.

Also, the word 'kill' which follows the word 'dread' in line 22, that denotatively means (1) to stop or destroy a relationship or activity or experience, (2) to cause someone a lot of effort or difficulty, (3) to cause someone a lot of pain (pp. 788-789). Thus, connotatively it means defeated or get paralyzed of something. This line is believed to represent the moment when the hostages start to feel frightened by the possibility of getting executed.

In other words, I believe that Mark is about to tell us that in some points, punks also feel that they are defeated by the world and start to think about surrendering and stopping their movement. However, they remember the time when they feel sorry and they remember their goal to change the world to be the place they want it to be. The world that they think had been ruined by the capitalists who rule the world.