

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Popular music is the music preferred by a big number of people. (Kotarba, Merrill, Patrick Williams, & Vannini, 2013) By listening to a pop song, people can sing along or dance with the song. However, the pop song usually is heard on radio top 40 charts.

There is a person behind the pop song that so many people heard. A person who writes the lyrics, makes the beat and melody, plays an instrument, records the sound, and does all the procedure to make a song. That person is a musician.

Music will not exist if there is no musician. Musicians have the ability to connect lyric and harmonization. Musicians or songwriters sometimes write song lyrics based on their personal lives or activities. However, some musicians have a tragic ending, for example, Whitney Houston. She was a talented American Singer who was cited as the most awarded female act of all time by Guinness World of Record. Her cocaine abuse led her to a massive heart attack. Her death was revealed on February 11th, 2012. Jim Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, and Amy Winehouse, these three musicians also died because of drug or alcohol addiction. In the cases above, drugs and alcohol become the causes of the musicians' death (Buck, 2016).

In this study, I write about Amy Winehouse. She was a talented British Singer. She won five Grammy awards for her 2006 album called *Back to Black*. *Black to black* is Amy's second album was released on 27th October 2006. The album *Back to Black* lyric mostly talks about Amy's tumultuous relationship with her husband, Blake Civil-Fielder and her addiction to drug and alcohol (Newkey-Burden, 2011). One of the songs is *Back to Black* where the lyric goes "me and my head high, and my tears dry, get on without my guy". The lyric obviously informs us that Amy is depressed because of her broken relationship with Blake and she runs away from it by just getting drunk. Amy's depression and all ended up when she was intoxicated by alcohol on July, 23rd 2011. (Newkey - Burden, 2011)

Alcohol is not a new thing for Amy; Blake was the man behind her addiction. Blake admitted that he introduced Amy to drugs when he was interviewed by *News of the World*. People who heard his confession were not surprised by the fact because they had long suspected Blake's involvement in Amy's addiction.

'I introduced her to heroin, crack cocaine and self-harming,' said Blake. 'I feel more than guilty. The first time Amy took crack she asked me, "Can I try a bit of that?" I was weak and an addict and I let Amy take some. I didn't stop it from happening. For that, I take full responsibility. It became something we did as well as heroin. And then our lives fell apart.' It is to be hoped both parties can rebuild their lives separately. As Blake

made this confession, Amy was once again in the hospital, her fourth hospitalization in 2008. (Newkey - Burden, 2011)

Amy's problem started in 2005 where they first met. At that time Blake wanted to celebrate to win something in a pub. When he opened the door he only saw Amy. He once cited "We met at a pub called the Good Mixer in Camden. I'd just had a good win at the bookies so I went to the pub to celebrate, opened the door and Amy was the first person I saw and that was it. The drinks were on me for the first and last time! And from that night onwards, we began our tortuous love affair". Moreover, Blake said that he knew that they would be together and he will only in her heart. Then, Amy makes a tattoo, written in her chest Blake's name. However, their relationship was not so long. Blake went back to his former girlfriend and left Amy alone.

The album '*Back to Black*' also talked about Amy personal life. She has money, fans, and everything but she felt unhappy and even desperate. However, the relationship with her ex-husband made her depression.

However, besides the dark background of her album, Amy Winehouse is noticed for a massive achievement in that year, not only of her musical talent but also her unique fashion. Victoria Beckham praises Amy's style by saying that Amy had a unique style, and she adored her. Moreover, she also said that Amy had a real sense of style and she just

loved it. She ended up saying Amy was a fashion icon, she adored Amy's unique and original style.

Amy's *Back to Black* album is related to Amy's biography that tells about Amy's life. Thus, in this study, the writer will use biographical criticism to analyze the lyrics. Sunarhendro cited in his thesis "biographical criticism as a critical approach that uses the events of an author's life to explain meaning in the author's work.

This thesis analyzes the Amy lyric which contains in Amy's biography. The study focuses on the analysis of Amy Winehouse's song which contains her depression as found in her biography. In order to do the analysis, the writer applied a biographical approach to find out Amy's depression. There are four songs in this thesis: *Back to Black*, *Rehab*, *You Know that I'm no Good*, *Just Friends*.

## 1.2 Field of the Study

The field of the study is literature especially song lyrics.

## 1.3 Scope of the Study

In analyzing Amy Winehouse's song lyrics, the study is limited to the connotation and denotation meanings related to depression contain in Amy's song lyrics in

#### **1.4 Problem Formulation**

This study aims to answer the following question: “What is the depression represented in Amy Winehouse’s song lyrics?”

#### **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

To find out the depression represented in Amy Winehouse’s song lyrics.

#### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The writer hopes that this study could be used for the benefit of the students who analyze song lyrics.

#### **1.7 Definition of Term**

##### **1. Song lyric**

The word lyric claims its emotional place in music and poetry, with the words to a song being called the lyric (Kotarba et al., 2013).

##### **2. Depression**

Depression is one of the common psychological problems, affecting nearly everyone through either personal experience or through depression in a family member (Beck & Alford, 2009).

##### **3. Drug and alcohol abuse**

Drug and alcohol abuse is a class of psychological disorder in which a person continues to use a substance, despite having significant

health, social, or other negative consequences as a result of their substance (Brick, 2005).

