

Chapter IV Analysis and Discussion

4.1 The Symmetrical and Repetitive Patterns of the *House of the Rising Sun* Music Video

4.1.1 Visual Analysis of the Symmetrical of the Music Video

What is meant by the symmetrical pattern in this analysis relates to the concept of well-proportion and balance as suggested by Weyl (1953). The symmetrical pattern that is going to be applied is bilateral symmetry. Bilateral symmetry is the image of the balanced right side and the left side which is commonly strictly geometric such as building structures, birds, humans, and animals (Weyl, 1953).

Referring to the above concept, the writer has observed that *House of the Rising Sun* shows such a bilateral symmetry in its visuals. Some pieces of evidence strongly indicate it. Yet, before discussing the evidence the writer would like to describe the visuals of the music video from the beginning to the end to give the idea of what it looks like.



Figure. 5

The opening of the video starts with the scene of a colonnade or row pillars. The scene also shows the group band standing neatly in a line wherein the vocalist is at the most front. In this scene, the viewers can also witness two guitarists, a drummer, and a keyboardist.



Figure. 6

The next scene demonstrates the vocalist starting to walk around the stage followed by the two guitarists behind him. Yet, they stop in the middle of walking around the stage. The vocalist and the guitarists then line them up behind the drummer and the keyboardist. Shortly, the vocalist continues singing.



Figure. 7

In the next scene, the vocalist and the guitarists perform the walking around the stage again. Once they finish walking around the stage, they line them up again. In this formation, the keyboardist stands at the most front.



Figure. 8

The last scene shows the entire stage is zoomed out as the group band bows their head down. This scene is the final part of *House of the Rising Sun*.

The first evidence of the bilateral symmetry is the scene of the colonnade. This is to say that the bilateral symmetry is about the stage background or the stage decoration. We can find this scene at the beginning of the music video.



Figure. 9

This scene is bilateral symmetry because the pillars are arranged in order. These ordered pillars make the scene express a bilateral symmetry.

The second evidence of bilateral symmetry is about performance formation. This scene is still at the beginning of the video where the vocalist, guitarists, drummer, and keyboardist line up neatly and tidily.



Figure. 10

This scene is bilateral symmetry because it shows the order of the band's stage performance. In this scene, the vocalist is situated in the foreground; the two guitarists are in the middle ground, and the drummer together with the keyboardist is in the background. This suggests that the formation gives weight to the vocalist to lead the performance.

The third piece of evidence relates to the band's outfit on stage. In this scene, the video demonstrates the group band wearing the same outfit. The outfit that they wear is a formal suit in grey with a yellow shirt and black tie. They are all the same.



Figure. 11

The uniformity of the band's outfit vividly suggests the idea of bilateral symmetry. This scene shows the group band in such uniformity seem to be attending a formal meeting. This situation is designed as the part of the show.

The fourth evidence of bilateral symmetry is about the attitude or acting on stage. Throughout the entire performance, they act very modestly and properly in accordance with the uniformity of their outfit and the way they play the song.

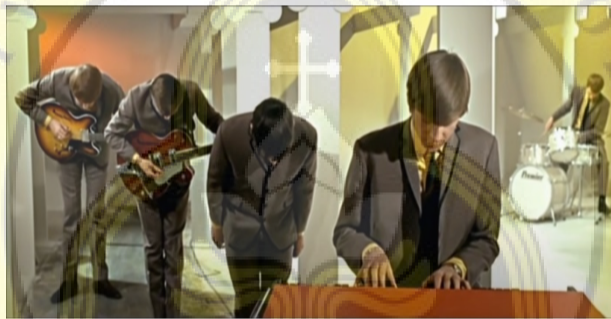


Figure. 12

The way that they act modestly on the stage is part of bilateral symmetry as it goes in line with the melancholic and regretful content of the lyric. The evidence above exhibits the group band bowing down in front of the camera. This implies a sense of gratitude as well as humility or politeness.

From the pieces of evidence above, it can be concluded that bilateral symmetry does exist in the music video. Furthermore, the bilateral symmetry is crucial to the music video as it underscores and goes in harmony with the lyrics and the musicality of the song. As regards the musical analysis of the music video will be explained in the following section.

4.1.2 Musical Analysis of the Repetitive Patterns of *House of the Rising Sun* Music Video

Repetitive or in common usually called as repeated so it repeating the same single element much time. In music repetitive is usually called “repetition”. To recognize the repetitive pattern is quite simple if the examiner listens and pays attention carefully to the music that is going to examine.

Repetition or repetitive in music is when lyrics, sounds, or sequences are used more than one time (music-mind-brain, 2012). Some people think that repeating the same thing in the arts is childish and regressive. However, there is something amazing in repetition. Repetitive can make the listener enjoyable, pleasurable, relaxing, and even more amazingly can make people enjoy the arts (based on this research is songs) for many hours plus can give someone a deep good memory (music-mind-brain, 2012)

What becomes the focus in this musical composition is on the guitar and the vocal. This is the case because these two elements are the most dominant ones. The notation of the guitar and the vocal elements can be illustrated as follows.

House of the Rising Sun

The Animals

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a Soprano (S.) and Acoustic Guitar (A. Gtr.) part. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 6/8. The first system (bars 1-4) shows the Soprano part with notes G4, A4, Bb4, and A4. The Acoustic Guitar part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with chords Am, C, and D. The second system (bars 5-8) shows the Soprano part with notes G4, A4, Bb4, and A4. The Acoustic Guitar part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with chords F, Am, C, and E. The third system (bars 9-12) shows the Soprano part with notes G4, A4, Bb4, and A4. The Acoustic Guitar part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with chords E, Am, C, and D. The fourth system (bars 13-16) shows the Soprano part with notes G4, A4, Bb4, and A4. The Acoustic Guitar part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with chords F, Am, E, and Am. A large watermark of the University of Tasikmalaya is visible in the background of the score.

Figure. 13

There are notational motives that construct phrases in the *House of the Rising Sun*. In the song, one phrase consists of seven to eight bars based on a two-bared interval before the next melody begins. The illustration of seven to eight bars with two-bared intervals is as follows.

The image displays three systems of musical notation for Soprano and Acoustic Guitar. Each system consists of two staves. The top staff is for the Soprano (S.) and the bottom staff is for the Acoustic Guitar (A. Gtr.).

- System 1:** The Soprano line contains a 'Phrase (Antecedent - Question)' indicated by a long arrow. Below it, three 'Motive' boxes are aligned with the guitar line. The guitar line has three 'Motive' boxes. Chord symbols 'Am' and 'D' are present.
- System 2:** The Soprano line contains a 'Phrase (Antecedent - Question)' indicated by a long arrow. Below it, three 'Motive' boxes are aligned with the guitar line. The guitar line has four 'Motive' boxes. Chord symbols 'F', 'Am', 'C', and 'E' are present.
- System 3:** The Soprano line contains a 'Phrase' box followed by a red box labeled 'The next melody'. Below it, three 'Motive' boxes are aligned with the guitar line. The guitar line has four 'Motive' boxes. Chord symbols 'E', 'Am', and 'D' are present.

Figure. 14

The two-bared interval seems to be designed to harmonize the notational phrases so that the bridges between the phrases do not sound to be hasty. With this, sufficient time is acquired. In effect, the song sounds more harmonious and orderly.

Figure. 15

The two phrases above consist of the so-called antecedent (question) and consequent (answer). These two elements constitute the so-called period.

House of the Rising Sun

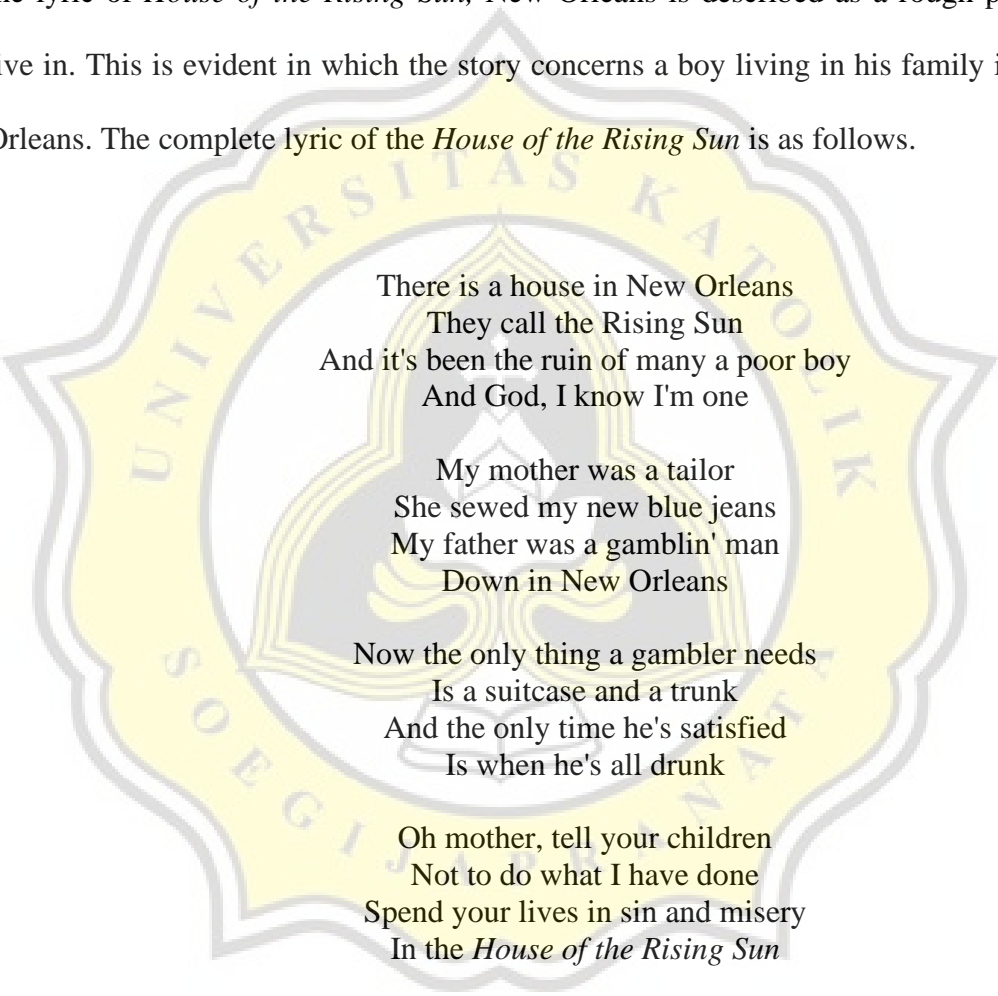
The Animal

Figure.16

The figure above is from the piece of one period in the *House of the Rising Sun* music video. The song expresses a guitar repetitive motive that is very dominant in every period. Thus, the musical composition of the song is divided into motive, phrase, and period that are repeated in all of its segments.

4.1.3 Historical Context of *House of the Rising Sun*

House of the Rising Sun music video tells about the story in New Orleans. In the lyric of *House of the Rising Sun*, New Orleans is described as a rough place to live in. This is evident in which the story concerns a boy living in his family in New Orleans. The complete lyric of the *House of the Rising Sun* is as follows.



There is a house in New Orleans
They call the Rising Sun
And it's been the ruin of many a poor boy
And God, I know I'm one

My mother was a tailor
She sewed my new blue jeans
My father was a gamblin' man
Down in New Orleans

Now the only thing a gambler needs
Is a suitcase and a trunk
And the only time he's satisfied
Is when he's all drunk

Oh mother, tell your children
Not to do what I have done
Spend your lives in sin and misery
In the *House of the Rising Sun*

Well, I got one foot on the platform
The other foot on the train
I'm goin' back to New Orleans
To wear that ball and chain

Well, there is a house in New Orleans
They call the Rising Sun
And it's been the ruin of many a poor boy
And God, I know I'm one

(AzLyrics, 2000)

The first verse tells about the house in New Orleans and it is called "*House of the Rising Sun*". In that house, a poor boy is living in it. The boy is the narrator. The

second verse is about the boy's family. The boy's mother works as a tailor. She loves his son. Yet, in this verse, the audience is also confronted with the fact that the boy's father is a gambler and heavy drunkard.

The third verse articulates the situation where the boy's father does not care about his family. The only one that can make him satisfied is when he gets drunk. The fourth verse expresses the boy's feeling of regret about the sins and mistakes he did in the past. The boy now wishes his mother to tell her children to do good deeds instead of the bad ones as the narrator (the boy) has done.

The fifth verse reveals the situation where the boy is going back to the prison with the ball of chains attached to his leg. The prison is the *House of the Rising Sun* in New Orleans. Here, the audience recognizes that the *House of the Rising Sun* told in advance is a prison. The sixth verse clearly communicates the idea that the *House of the Rising Sun* in New Orleans or the prison has made many poor boys including the narrator suffered. This is obviously a regretful tone of the narrator.

From the lyric above, the narrator articulates a strong sense of regret for the sins and mistakes he did in the past. This implies that the narrator hypothetically wishes for a different or a better life he underwent in the past. Such a wish also suggests that if he had done things in order and been subjected to the law, he would not have been imprisoned. This point of regret and awareness to follow the rule to live in harmony in order is crucial about what has been visually and musically shown in the music video.

The significance of living in harmony and order in the music video is artistically and symbolically described through some scenes. They are the scenes showing the colonnade of the stage background as shown below.



Figure. 17

The colonnade above clearly shows how they are designed in order. Pillars themselves architecturally represent strength, authority, and stability (Witte, 2015, p. 57).

The second evidence we can see the group band play in the proper place to create a harmonious atmosphere.



Figure. 18

The third piece of evidence relates to the band outfit on the stage. The group band wearing the same outfit. The outfit that they are wearing is a formal outfit with a yellow shirt and black tie.



Figure. 19

The fourth evidence indicates the group band at the end of the show bowing down



together in the front of the to express their gratitude.

Figure. 20

The order and harmony in the musical representation can be identified from the guitar motive and period that are always repeated.

House of the Rising Sun
The Animal

The image displays a musical score for the song "House of the Rising Sun" by The Animals. It features two staves: Soprano (S.) and Acoustic Guitar (A. Gr.). The score is divided into four systems, each representing a phrase. The first system is labeled "Phrase (Antecedent - Question)" and the subsequent three are labeled "Phrase (Consequent - Answer)". Motives are identified within each phrase. A red bracket on the left side of the score spans the first two systems and is labeled "Period".

Figure.21

Historically *House of the Rising Sun* is a folk song of the Americans especially from the Southern States of the USA, such as Louisiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky. The song dates back to 1933 of the bluegrass style song of Clarence Ashley. The song indeed told about traveling through train and prison. The narrator of the lyrics was originally imagined as a woman living in an area outside New Orleans. The city of New Orleans in 1808 – 1822 did have a hotel called Rising Sun. The hotel was notorious for gambling, drinking, and prostitution site. The song is also associated with “a women’s prison outside of New Orleans with a stone etching of a rising sun over the gate, though no images have surfaced to date. The theory is plausible, since most versions before the 60s made the narrator a woman, and many renditions include the phrase “ball and chain” (Matt, 2011).

The song has experienced changes in terms of genre, from bluegrass style to rock and roll, and lyrics from imaginative female narrator to the male one (the boy). Yet, unfortunately, the old version of the folk song lyrics was not written down. It was only passed down orally. As this was the case, consequently, a different version of the song from the cross of the countries to substitute New Orleans for another town and the Rising Sun for a different establishment happened (Matt, 2011).