

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of study

The socioeconomic circumstances, values, and ideologies of society are reflected in music, a form of cultural expression. Heavy metal is one musical style that has expanded quickly since the late 1960s. In addition to its musical prowess, this genre is well-liked for the themes it explores in its lyrics, which include revolt, power, and death. As stated by Mayer (2014), the spread of heavy metal music and its accompanying culture is greatly influenced by the development of digital technology and global networks. In the 1970s, bands like Deep Purple, Black Sabbath, and Led Zeppelin were crucial in establishing the fundamental traits of heavy metal. The genre evolved into a number of subgenres with distinct traits throughout time. The New Wave of American Heavy Metal is a well-known subgenre that originated in the US in the early to mid-1990s. The 1999 Huntington Beach, California-based band Avenged Sevenfold (A7X) is an example of this subgenre. Among heavy metal enthusiasts, "*A Little Piece of Heaven*," one of their best-known compositions, has become extremely popular.

Released in 2007, "*A Little Piece of Heaven*" is one of A7X's most renowned songs. The song gained popularity because it blends symphonic orchestral music with metal elements and has provocative lyrics about love, passion, and death. The lyrics relate the narrative of a guy who kills his fiancée

out of fear of desertion, only to bring her back to life. The song portrays excessive violence and the darker side of love and passion. In an interview with Loudwire, James Owen Sullivan (The Rev) stated that the song "*A Little Piece of Heaven*" was inspired by the musical play "*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*." The play was first staged in 1979 and adapted into a movie in 2007. The story is set in 1846 London during the Industrial Revolution and features social inequality, poverty, crime, and class conflict. According to Engels (2004), Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' theory in *The Communist Manifesto* (1848), "the history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles" (1848 [1992], p. 3). Capitalism in the era of the industrial revolution divided 2 categories of social classes, namely the main class, namely the "*Bourgeoisie*" or capitalists and the "*Proletariat*" or working class.

In "*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*," Benjamin Barker, a working-class barber (proletariat), is unfairly treated by a wealthy and powerful judge (bourgeoisie) called Turpin. After being imprisoned, Barker resurfaces as Sweeney Todd and exacts revenge by murdering his clients. The narrative depicts power dynamics, social injustice, and violence as forms of class resistance. The researcher discovered conceptual parallels between the song "*A Little Piece of Heaven*" and the narrative "*Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*," particularly in the themes of obsessive love, violence, and death. Lyrics on the song "*A Little Piece of Heaven*" It is very interesting to analyze because the researcher wants to know more about the ideology expressed by the songwriter and the influence on the listener and the wider community. As a

result, the purpose of this research is to analyze song lyrics using Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA). Critical Discourse Analysis sees language as a social activity that is inextricably linked to power, dominance, and ideology. The researcher applied the theory by Fairclough (1989) ideology is a set of ideas embedded in language that sustains and maintains power dynamics. Often associated with hegemony and domination, ideology is created and disseminated through language for the benefit of certain social groups. Thus, this approach is able to find out how the author builds an ideology and conveys it until it is accepted by the wider community.

In context, this theory unravels ideology with socio-cultural practices that shape and mold society's power structures. Thus, ideology functions to produce texts continuously that provide “normal” assumptions to listeners unconsciously. To see the discourse structure, Fairclough analyzes with three stages, namely; **Description** or selective analysis of the formal linguistic characteristics of a document, including vocabulary and grammar. **Interpretation** (discursive activities) - an examination of the creation and use of texts in terms of context (temporal and spatial factors) and intertextuality (relationships among discourses). **Interpretation** (social practices), an examination of the overarching socio-cultural circumstances that influence discourse, which includes the forces and ideas that shape its form. Discourse analysis is not just linguistic analysis. It involves three levels: the analysis of (1) the text itself, (2) the discursive practice (production, distribution, and consumption of text), and (3) the social practice. “These levels help us to understand how language contributes to the production

and reproduction of ideologies” (Fairclough, 1992, p. 124). Thus, the three stages above can be useful to reveal the relationship between language, ideology and social practices that occur in society and it can be concluded that this theory looks at how discourse can produce up to against dominant social structures.

Based on the above theory, the researcher defines that the analysis of the lyrics of the song “*A Little Piece of Heaven*” can be used applying Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) framework, which views language as a social practice closely related to power, domination, and ideology. This study improves the theoretical connect of language, cognition, and social structure by connecting the findings from *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, which highlights social dynamics, social injustice, and violence as means of resistance.

In analyzing the lyric text of the song, the researcher employs Martin and White's appraisal theory. According to Martin and White (2005), Evaluative language, employed by individuals, inherently conveys an appraisal of information presented both vocally and in written form. “Evaluation is concerned with the interpersonal in dialect, with assets by which speakers express states of mind, lock in with other voices, and arrange connections” (Martin, 2005, p. 1). The researcher examined attitudes in song lyrics, according to Martin (2005), Attitude pertains to human emotions, appraisal theory encompassing emotional responses, assessments of behavior, and evaluations of objects. In the attitude category there are three sub-categories, namely; **Affect**, in this subcategory is related to good or bad emotional feelings. “Affect pertains to the recognition of good and negative emotions: do we experience happiness or sadness, confidence

or anxiety, interest or boredom?” (Martin, 2005, p. 42). 2.). **Judgement**, This subcategory is concerned with assessing human character and behavior according to social standards as well as ideological ones. “Judgment pertains to the assessment of human behavior in relation to societal standards, including an individual's reliability, honesty, bravery, and capability” (Martin, 2005, p. 52). 3.). **Appreciation**, This subcategory is concerned with evaluating objects, actions or phenomena in terms of social values. “Appreciation bargains with assessments of things, particularly tastefully – how exquisite, how imaginative, how valuable they are” (Martin, 2005, p. 56). Then, the researcher examined graduation.

Graduation functions to strengthen and weaken attitudes and evaluations expressed in a linguistic system. “Graduation is concerned with evaluating marvels whereby sentiments are opened up and categories obscured” (Martin, 2005, p. 136). And finally, the researcher examines Engagement in song lyrics. Engagement is a structure that organizes how the text is written by involving other voices or showing attitudes towards the statement. “Engagement covers the resources by which speakers/writers engage with alternative voices and positions” (Martin, 2005, p. 92). Within the engagement category, there are two subcategories, namely; **Monogloss**, which is a closed statement that does not lead to other voices. “Monoglossic articulations are those which display recommendations as unquestionable, as things of truth, as the taken-for-granted” (Martin, 2005, p. 99). 2.). **Heterogloss**, heterogloss is a statement that recognizes the existence of other voices both agreeing and rejecting. in other words, it shows

that the author is aware of the existence of other ideological positions. “Heteroglossic expressions are those which display suggestions as unquestionable, as things of reality, as the taken-for-granted” (Martin, 2005, p. 99). Thus, the use of Martin and White's Appraisal Theory (2005) in analyzing the text of the lyrics of the song “*A Little Piece Of Heaven*” is very relevant because in this approach, the researcher can reveal how the song reveals the ideology of power, obsessive love and deviation of morality that is formed and how it is conveyed to listeners to society. In addition, this approach can provide an understanding of the songwriter's attitude by influencing listeners through the intensity of language, both implicitly and explicitly. Thus, using this theory can be an effective tool in studying ideology in lyrics through an evaluative approach.

Previous researcher has conducted a study about song lyric analysis. Fauqi, (2022) has conducted research on ideology in song lyrics through the Critical Discourse Analysis approach, it was found that the song "*So Far Away*" is not only a personal expression of feelings of loss, but also reflects the broader social aspects associated with the grieving process and respect for the individual who has died. Based on the four previous studies, there is relevance to this research such as using Critical Discourse Analysis as an approach, Using Critical Discourse Analysis as a method, analyzing ideologies and/or social issues in the context of lyrical music, which functions as a critical statement, reflection, or expression of ideology and is themed on death, war, and loss, as exemplified in the theme "*A Little Piece of Heaven*." This research is significant as it addresses

the absence of prior studies that particularly examine the song “*A Little Piece of Heaven*” through the lens of Critical Discourse Analysis. This research aims to elucidate the formation and transmission of ideologies within song lyrics, and to examine the impact of these messages on individuals' perceptions in a socio-cultural framework.

Song lyrics are a powerful tool for conveying social criticism, ideology, and personal experiences. In previous research by Vidhiasi (2021) in analyzing the lyrics of Paw Patrol songs, researchers found that the three subsystems in Appraisal theory, namely Attitude, Engagement, and Graduation, appear in the opening lyrics of Paw Patrol songs. The Graduation system dominates and shapes a heroic image, positioning listeners as recipients of heroic actions. Although this study focuses on children's songs with positive themes, the results indicate that the Appraisal theory is quite effective in revealing the values, ideologies, and linguistic strategies present in the song lyrics. The findings of this study are relevant to the analysis of the song “*A Little Piece of Heaven*” as both utilize the Appraisal theory framework proposed by Martin and White (2005) to identify attitudes, engagement, and emphasis of meaning in song lyrics. This forms the basis for an appropriate method for researching the song “*A Little Piece of Heaven*,” which, despite differing in theme, can still be analyzed using the same evaluative mechanisms Affect, Judgment, Appreciation, as well as the Engagement and Graduation systems to examine how the song's lyrics shape listeners' attitudes, ideologies, and positions in a more profound way. The researcher use previous research that shows that songs

can function as a medium for social criticism, ideology and express socially relevant personal experiences. In the previous research, the researcher used Fairclough's Framework (1995). In addition, in analyzing the text of previous studies, the researcher also use appraisal theory by Martin and White (2005). Therefore, this study uses Appraisal theory to analyze how song lyrics shape listeners' attitudes.

Based on the background above, the researcher use song lyrics "*A Little Piece Of Heaven*" as research, used Fairclough's (1995) and incorporates Martin and White's Appraisal Theory (2005). This research has never been studied before, therefore by combining some of the theories above the researcher can find ideology in song lyrics by understanding the collective perception of listeners, how songs are formed and accepted or rejected by society as well as seeing how songs can strengthen or oppose dominant social structures.

B. Research Question

Based on the explanation on the background, the researcher makes a problem statement, as follows:

1. What are the context of the song lyrics "*A Little Piece Of Heaven*"?
2. How is the text analysis of the song lyrics "*A Little Piece Of Heaven*"?
3. How are ideologies embedded in the song lyrics "*A Little Piece Of Heaven*"?

C. Purposes Of The Study

The purposes of study, including:

1. To explain the context of song lyrics "*A Little Piece Of Heaven*"
2. To analyze the text of song lyrics "*A Little Piece Of Heaven*"

3. To analyze the ideology in the lyrics "*A Little Piece Of Heaven*"

D. Delimitation of the study

This study focuses solely on analyzing the lyrics of Avenged Sevenfold's song "*A Little Piece of Heaven*" using Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) approach (1995). The analysis was conducted on only one song, not the entire body of work by Avenged Sevenfold. Based on the CDA model developed by Fairclough, this study was limited to three dimensions, namely: (1) Text Analysis, which examines the linguistic structure, word choice, and discourse characteristics in the lyrics; (2) Discursive or Cognitive Analysis, which observes how texts are produced, disseminated, and understood through social thought (shared ideas and values) and personal thought (individual opinions); and (3) Sociocultural Analysis, which explains how texts reflect, construct, and disseminate ideology in a broader sociocultural context. With these limitations, this study focuses solely on the critical interpretation of the meaning and ideology contained in the song lyrics, without involving other musical aspects or Avenged Sevenfold works unrelated to these lyrics.

E. Significances of the study

From this research, researcher hope to provide several benefits, such as:

1. The Readers

It is hoped that the results of the study can facilitate providing more information for readers. In addition, readers can understand through information about the ideology of Avenged Sevenfold's song "*A Little Piece Of Heaven*". they can find out the linguistic structure of the song, culture and

ideology that is poured into the lyrics and understanding of how song lyrics can be analyzed to reveal their underlying ideology. This research utilizes critical discourse analysis, a theoretical framework that helps uncover the social and political implications of language. This theoretical value can enhance readers' knowledge of the intersection between language, ideology, and social context.

2. The Students

It is hoped that the results of the research can make it easier to provide more information for students to be interested and complete their research journals. They can use this research as a reference. Thus, they can easily complete their research journals. By uncovering the ideologies behind song lyrics, this research can raise public awareness about the messages and values conveyed through music. This research can encourage listeners to critically engage with the media they consume, recognizing how music can influence their perceptions and attitudes.

3. The Further Researcher

This research offers valuable contributions not only to the field of discourse analysis but also to the personal academic development of the researcher. By engaging deeply with the process of analyzing song lyrics, the researcher is able to broaden their understanding and strengthen their methodological skills, which will be highly beneficial for conducting similar studies in the future. Additionally, the findings and analytical approaches employed in this study may serve as a helpful reference or framework for

other researchers who are interested in exploring the ideological messages embedded in musical texts. Furthermore, this research has the potential to enhance public and scholarly awareness regarding the power of song lyrics in shaping, reinforcing, or challenging social perceptions, values, and attitudes among listeners across different contexts.

F. Definitions of Key Terms

1. Ideologies

Fairclough (1989) state that ideology is a set of ideas embedded in language that sustains and maintains power dynamics. Often associated with hegemony and domination, ideology is created and disseminated through language for the benefit of certain social groups.

2. Avenged Sevenfold

Avenged Sevenfold, also known as A7X, is a metal band from Huntington Beach, California, formed in 1999. The band is part of the New Wave of American Heavy Metal. The original members were Matthew Sanders (M. Shadows), Zachary Baker (Zacky Vengeance), James Sullivan (The Rev), and Mark Wendt. Wendt was later replaced by Justin Sane, a former bassist of Suburban Legends (Smith, 2010). Their first album, *Sounding the Seventh Trumpet*, was released soon after the band was formed. In 2003, their second album, *Waking the Fallen*, brought them more public attention. This album added two new members: Johnny Christ (bass) and Synyster Gates (lead guitar) (Johnson, 2015).

3. Song Lyrics

Song lyrics are a set of words that make up a song, which is usually sung or composed to be sung. According to Waluyo (2002), that the language in song lyrics is that which is condensed, shortened, given rhythm with harmonious sounds and imaginative word choices.

4. A Little Piece Of Heaven

"*A Little Piece of Heaven*" is a song from Avenged Sevenfold's 2007 album. Drummer The Rev wrote it before he died, inspired by the show *Sweeney Todd : The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*" (Loudwire, 2007). *Sweeney Todd : The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*" set in London in 1846, a period when many people were broke and life was difficult (Engels, 2004). The song's macabre narrative reflects the grim social conditions and desperate acts of its source material.

The story about Benjamin Barker, a working-class barber (proletariat), is unfairly treated by a wealthy and powerful judge (bourgeoisie) called Turpin. After being imprisoned, Barker resurfaces as Sweeney Todd and exacts revenge by murdering his clients. The narrative depicts power dynamics, social injustice, and violence as forms of class resistance. Todd has appearances of a psychopath—he doesn't feel shame or care for others (Tallei, 2016). Sweeney Todd's violence is an extreme response to class oppression and personal injustice