

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literary works are not only a reflection of the beauty of language, but also reflect the social reality that occurs in society. Through song lyrics, poetry, drama, and prose, writers often express social issues that are rooted in the context of their times (Hidayatullah, 2023). This reflects the author's experiences, values, and views on the social conditions surrounding them. Therefore, literary works can be understood as a medium that records and interprets social phenomena in society.

Sociological aspects in literary works are important because they can record changes, tensions, and problems faced by society. According to Ahmadi (2021), through sociological analysis, readers can understand how literary works act as a reflection of social conflicts faced by society. Therefore, examining literary works in relation to social reality is essential for developing more contextually grounded literary studies. Thus, sociological studies open up space for a deeper understanding of the social values contained in literary works. In the context of songs, lyrics are an effective medium to voice social unrest. It means, sociological aspects are important in analysing a literary works.

Socio-political conflict is one of the important issues that often arise in relations both individuals and countries. These conflicts include competing interests, ideological differences, and political tensions that affect people's

lives. This phenomenon not only impacts the stability of the country, but also affects the cultural dynamics and artistic expressions of society. Socio-political conflicts are often a source of inspiration for artworks that aim to reflect the conditions of society (Zulfitriani et al., 2024). In many cases, socio-political conflicts trigger the beginning of protest movements through literary works that are full of meaning and criticism (Hikmah et al., 2021). This shows that literature has a strategic role in representing current socio-political conditions. Through art, people are invited to reflect on the values of justice, freedom, and peace. Therefore, socio-political conflict is one of the important aspects that can be raised in the study of literary works. Research on socio-political conflicts is crucial to understanding how literary work capture social reality in a particular context.

One form of literature that is effective in conveying socio-political conflicts is song, because songs are works of literature that are rich in symbolic meaning and social messages. Song is one of the closest forms of artistic expression to human life. Julianto et al. (2024), states that song can evoke emotions, convey messages, and be an effective medium of communication. Song as an art form has a unique power to reflect socio-political conflicts. According to Hikmah et al. (2021), song is not only a medium of entertainment, but also an effective means of communication to voice aspirations and criticism of injustice or political tension. Through song, artists can portray the struggles, hopes and dynamics of a turbulent society. Song is a powerful medium in mobilizing public opinion and influencing public awareness of social issues.

Therefore, song is often used as a tool to criticize and understand certain socio-political contexts.

The song *Wind of Change*, written by Klaus Meine and performed by the Scorpions, has become one of the iconic songs in describing the socio-political conflicts of the Cold War era. The song was created during a time of great transition in Eastern Europe, where various communist regimes collapsed and brought new hope to the people. The song became a symbol of hope and freedom for a society that was facing a transition from military regime to democracy. The lyrics contain a message of optimism and change that symbolizes world peace after long geopolitical tensions (Ramadiansyah, 2018). Through its lyrics, *Wind of Change* manages to capture the atmosphere of freedom as well as people's anxiety in facing the future. The song is not only popular among rock lovers, but also an icon of global socio-political change. In this context, *Wind of Change* becomes more than just a piece of song, but also a reflection of the spirit of change in society at that time. Research on this song is relevant to understand the socio-political meaning contained in it.

Moreover, the socio-political significance of *Wind of Change* lies in its ability to reflect people's hopes for peace and change after a period of conflict (Maulana et al., 2024). The song symbolizes a generation that wants a more peaceful and just life. Through its lyrics, this song is able to describe how people face uncertainty in the midst of major changes that occur. The song also reflects the dynamics of the relationship between the Western and Eastern Blocs that are undergoing reconciliation. By analysing the socio-political

meaning of this song, the research can reveal the values contained in it. This analysis can also provide an understanding of how song becomes a bridge between artists and the reality of society. Therefore, the socio-political significance of this song is important to be studied further.

Furthermore, socio-political conflict in the world of song is reflected in many works that were born from anxiety and concern about the situation that occurred (Mahardika, 2021). Songs with the theme of socio-political conflict become a form of resistance or solidarity with an issue. This shows that song can function as a reflection of the state of society in the face of injustice or social change. In addition, song also plays a role in building the identity of groups that have certain social or political views (Dahal, 2021). Thus, song becomes an important platform in understanding how socio-political conflicts are reflected in popular culture.

Some of previous research have conducted some on the representation of socio-political conflicts in songs and literary work. Hikmah et al. (2021) conducted research to examine how the Palestinian conflict is represented in songs such as *"We Will Not Go Down"* and *"Palestine Will Be Free."* The research uses a descriptive qualitative method with Roland Barthes' semiotic approach to analyse the denotative and connotative meanings in the song lyrics. The results show that the lyrics strongly criticize military aggression, human rights violations, and the suffering of civilians, especially women and children. A similar study by Firmansyah (2016) aims to examine the function of songs as a medium for social criticism in the Indonesian socio-political context

through the songs of Iwan Fals. This study uses a qualitative method with a literary sociology approach to connect song lyrics with the social reality that underpins them. The results of the study prove that Iwan Fals' songs consistently voice protests against social injustice and corrupt political practices. These findings confirm that songs and literary works have a significant role as a medium for representing socio-political conflicts in various social contexts.

However, studies that specifically review the representation of socio-political conflict in the lyrics of songs are still limited. By examining the socio-political conflict in this song, the research can make a new contribution to the study of literature. In addition, this research can also complement previous studies that still focus on aspects of social and political. This suggests based research opportunities to explore the conflict themes contained in the song. Therefore, this research tries to fill the void.

Researcher analyses the song “*Wind of Change*” because it strongly represents socio-political conflict and change through the use of diction, symbols, and rich metaphors in ideological meaning. The song not only functions as an aesthetic work, but also as a response to the social and political realities of its time. Through a sociological approach to literature, researcher sought to understand how the lyrics reflected the tensions, hopes, and social transformations that occurred amid changes in the global political order. In literary studies, song lyrics are viewed as texts that contain both aesthetic and ideological value, making them relevant for critical analysis (Asroriyah et al.,

2023). The sociological approach was chosen because it allows researcher to uncover the symbolic meaning, linguistic strategies, and representations of socio-political conflicts that underlie the creation of the song (Firmansyah, 2016; Subagiharti et al., 2023; Siahaan & Satria, 2022). With in-depth analysis, this research is expected to reveal the layers of meaning in the song. Therefore, the sociological approach is relevant to study the socio-political conflict that occurred in the song *Wind of Change*.

Finally, the purpose of this research is to analyse how socio-political conflicts are represented in the lyrics of the song *Wind of Change* by the Scorpions. This research also aims to see how song can be a medium for artists to convey social and political criticism to society. Thus, this research is expected to contribute to the study of English literature, especially in the analysis of song texts as a form of contemporary literary works. Ultimately, this research is relevant to answer the question of how song can be a mirror of the socio-political dynamics of its time.

B. Research Focus

This research is focused on analysing the socio-political conflicts represented in the lyrics of the song *Wind of Change* by Scorpions using Ahmadi's literary sociology theory approach. The research focuses on how the lyrics represent socio-political conflicts during the Cold War. This research also reveals the inspiration behind the creation of the song. By examining the social, political, and historical contexts reflected in the lyrics, this research

seeks to understand the symbolic meaning and social messages conveyed. This approach allows for an in-depth analysis of the relationship between the song's lyrics and the socio-political conflicts in reality.

C. Research Questions

This research questions of this study are:

1. How does the song *Wind of Change* represent the socio-political conflicts during the Cold War?
2. What are the causes of socio-political conflict that form the context in the song “*Wind of Change*”?

D. Purposes of the Study

The purposes of this study are:

1. To describe the representation of Socio-Political Conflicts during the Cold War in the song *Wind of Change*.
2. To identify and explain the socio-political factors that led to the creation of the song “*Wind of Change*”.

E. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to help researcher understanding the role of songs as a medium for social criticism as well as a bridge between popular culture and complex socio-political dynamics. Songs are not only positioned

as entertainment, but also as cultural texts that contain ideological values and responses to certain social conditions. Through this study, the song “*Wind of Change*” is understood as a representation of the socio-political changes and conflicts that occurred at that time. Thus, this study broadens the perspective of literary studies on non-conventional forms of work such as song lyrics.

Based on these theoretical contributions, this study also provides practical implications in the field of English language teaching. The song lyrics analysed can be used as authentic texts that connect language learning with social and cultural contexts. Theoretically, this reinforces the view that language learning cannot be separated from its social meaning and context. Practically, English teachers can use the song “*Wind of Change*” to teach vocabulary, symbolic meaning, and social discourse in a more contextual and engaging way.

In line with the implications for English language teaching, this research also has a direct impact on English students as learners and prospective researcher. In practical terms, students can develop critical and analytical thinking skills through the study of non-conventional literary texts such as song lyrics. This understanding helps students see that language analysis does not only focus on linguistic structure, but also on social, cultural, and political dimensions. Thus, this study encourages students to understand language as a means of reflecting social reality as well as a tool for criticism in academic and social contexts.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Socio-Political Conflicts

Socio-political conflicts are tensions or conflicts that occur in society due to differences in interests, ideologies, or values related to social aspects (class, ethnicity, religion) and political aspects (power, government policies, regime change). Socio-political conflict is often a theme in works of art, including song, which is used to reflect or criticize the conditions of society.

2. Song

Songs are musical works of art that combine lyrics with melodies that are usually sung. In this research, songs function as a medium of communication that conveys socio-political messages through lyrics and tones, so that it can influence people's perceptions or attitudes towards socio-political conflicts.

3. Song Lyrics

Song Lyrics are verbal texts that form the main part of a song and serve as a medium for conveying the meaning, message, and ideology of the author. Song Lyrics are regarded as a form of literary work that contains aesthetic, symbolic, and semantic elements, so they can be analysed like written literary texts. In this context, song lyrics serve as a representation of socio-political conflicts and changes that occurred during a certain period. Therefore, song lyrics are not only understood as a musical complement, but

as a cultural document that reflects the social, political, and ideological realities of the society at the time the song was created.