

TEACHING OF LIFE FOUND IN MICHAEL JACKSON'S SONGS

Durrotul Aimmah¹, Budi Susatyo², Dholiful Hadi³

¹²³Universitas PGRI Ronggolawe Tuban

e-mail: mrbudicobusat@gmail.com, hadialluring@gmail.com

Abstract

The purpose of the study is to find out the answer of statement of the problem: What is teaching of life found in Michael Jackson's songs and how it described in Michael Jackson's songs. This study uses descriptive qualitative research design in which it starts collecting and review research literature to provide the data and examine data for intention of the study. This research uses objective approach in analyzing the study, because the writer does not need to study at author's life, background of the work, or background of the society but just analyzed the whole itself. The object of the study is Michael Jackson text songs which focused on the Teaching of life that found in Michael Jackson's songs. The result of this research is that the writer finds some teaching of life related with moral, peace and love in Michael Jackson's Songs. First, the writer finds teaching of life about moral covering struggle and equality in Michael Jackson's songs entitled "Beat It", "Black or White". Second, the writer finds teaching of life about peace covering careness, brotherhood, and world peace in Michael Jackson's songs entitled "Heal The World", "Earth Song" and "Black Or White". The last, the writer finds teaching of life about love covering love between human being and the importance of love for human life in Michael Jackson's song entitled "I'll Be There" and "Heal The World".

Keywords: Teaching of Life, Song, Michael Jackson

INTRODUCTION

Literature has important rule in art word. Some of art works are coming from literary works. Literary works is an imaginative and creative wring. The reader might find the feeling, though and attitude of the author reflected in his literary works. Along with that, Hudson says "Literary is a visual record of what men has seen in life, where they have the experiment of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspect of it which have the most immediate and inducing interest for all of us"(Hudson, 1915:10). Literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination (Jones, 1970:1). The statement indicates that literature is an imitation of life expressed the writer's imagination in real situation. Therefore, literature has close

relation with society and social life where the story happens because it expresses life through the writer's experiences. So song as one of the literary work can be a good media to convey the teaching of life to others. Literature is a product of language. Its functions to express people feeling, idea and experience, we can say that literature is one of the forms of social expression from the author. Literature reflects way of life, thought, feeling and attitude of human being. One of the literary works is a poem. Poem is commonly defined as a composition written in verse. Even there is no intention of it being set to music, poem maybe called a song or in other word we can say that another form of poem is song.

Song is a short poem of number of verses set to music and intended to be sung (Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary of current English, 1986:822). Song is a poem that has rhythmical tone and manifested into music. Song has a great influence for human life. Everybody likes song, both singing and listening. We can express the emotion to our idea, opinion and also our talent to the music or song. We can write poems or lyrics to be a great song. People belief by listening or singing a song, they will become more relax and decrease their stress. We can choose the music or song that is suitable to our mood. Sometimes we like to a group or singer who we fell to be our favorite or idol. Interestingly, lyric of a song can influence human life. It becomes an inspiration for people. Song can change people's mind about something, especially song which is content with teaching of life that very important for our living. We can't deny that song has a great impact either positive or negative for someone.

Teaching of life is idea or belief which is taught in our living (AS. Hornby, 1986:960). Teaching of life contains with important messages or value in our life such as moral, peace and even love. Teaching of life such as moral, peace, religion, love, etc has important rule for human life. To manage their life well, people need to know and realize that there are teaching of life that must be learned and application in their life. In this borderless world where the globalization and imperialism increase speedy, people start to leave and forget the important thing in life. They don't care each other; they don't care with their environment and nature anymore. People do what they want to do without any respect with others, for example: invasion, war, illegal logging, intimidation, etc. Teaching of life must be taught to the people and we can make a better life for our future.

Michael Jackson is an icon and idol in 90s. Michael Jackson is a king of pop. His popularity had a power to influence people all over the world. Michael expresses his feeling, emotion and shares his experience through his songs. Michael tries to convey good messages which concern with teaching of life to other people. He hopes by listening and singing his song, people can make up their mind and realize the importance of teaching of life for their life. So they can do the right thing, living happier and more peacefully. Having combed and analyzed the background of the study above, she then choose the title "Teaching of Life found in Michael Jackson's Songs" as the topic.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is qualitative research in form of documentary analysis. It means the researcher analyzes the content of Michael Jackson's song text and describes the important points in the song text as the material of analysis in order to prove that in Michael Jackson's song text there are teachings of life we can take. The researcher analyze document in form of song text to know its contain and to prove that in the song text there are Teaching of Life we can take. Descriptive method according to Webster (1980:233) is anything containing description and having the quality of representing as the type of a research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words, from this statement we may conclude that descriptive method contains with the descriptions, has the quality of representing as type of research and the result of data is in form of written or oral words.

Qualitative research is research that didn't use any number result but in form of words and quotations. Along with that, Biklen and Bogdan say: "Qualitative research is descriptive; the data collected are in the form of words of pictures rather than number. They often contain quotation and try to describe what particular situation or view of the words is like in narrative form..." (Biklen and Bogdan, 1982:29). This study is also totally done through library research. The researcher doesn't do field research but finds the data and the supporting information for the study from library research, she takes any book and encyclopedia and other material like: magazine, internet, cassette, etc.

According to Abrams (in Nurul Hidayat Ulfa, 2005:26) there are four kinds of approach, there are:

1. Mimetic approach, it views that literary work as imitation or re-creation of an action that serious, and complex in itself.
2. Expressive approach, expressive criticism treats a literary work. Primary in relation to the author. It defines poetry as an expression or overflow, or utterance of feelings, or as the product of the poet's imagination operating.
3. Pragmatic approach, it views the work as something which constructed in order to achieve certain effect on the audience (effect such as aesthetic, pleasure, instructions or kind of emotion), and it tends to judge to value of work according to its success in achieving that aim.
4. Objective approach, it views the work as something which stands free from the poet, the audience, and environing world.

The researcher chooses objective approach to analyze the songs. The instruments of analysis in this study are moral, peace and love. In this case the researcher does not need to study the life of the composer or the singer, the background of the work but analyze the Teaching of Life that can be found in Michael Jackson's songs covering "I'll Be There", "Beat It", "Heal the World", "Black or White" and "Earth Song" lyric. The technique and process of collecting data can describe as follows:

- Listening, reading and understanding the content of Michael Jackson's text song.
- Choosing data dealing with the problem or the criteria.
- Selecting data that relevant and concerning with the purpose of the study.

After the data collected, it's important for the researcher to check data validity in order to get good result of research. The technique of checking data validity can be described as follows:

- Confirming the data with the text song.
- Checking the data with the criteria or the problem.

After checking the data validity, the researcher has to determine some steps that will be used to analyze them. The steps which use by the researcher as follows:

1. Identifying data

The researcher identifies the words, sentence, and word phrases of Michael Jackson's text song which contain with teaching of life.

2. Classifying data

The data which have been collected are classified into two categories, they are:

- a. Main data, it is the data which is certainly needed to be research. The main data of this research is Michael Jackson's text songs.
- b. Supporting data, it is the data which are collected in the purpose to support the main data, so valid result could be obtained. The supporting data are the theories related to the purpose of the study.

3. Describing data

The researcher describes the content of text song in form of words and quotations.

4. Analyzing data

Analyzing the data is the main work of the research. The data which have been collected and described in it analyzed carefully. The main data and supporting data are compared.

RESULTS

The researcher wants to express about teaching of life reflected in Michael Jackson's songs, they are: Moral, peace and love.

Moral

Moral is one of value of life that is very fundamental. Moral is pertaining to character and behaviour from the point of right and wrong. Moral value such as struggle, equality, and care ness can be conveyed through a song. Michael Jackson tries to convey it in his song untitled Beat It, it can be concluded based on the quotation below:

They told him don't you, Ever come around here, Don't wanna see your face, You better disappear, The fire's in their eyes, And their words are really clear, So beat it, just beat it ... (Beat)

The quotation above indicates how difficult and hard to be accepted in a new different society, it can be seen in the sentence "*They told him don't you ever come around here, don't wanna see your face, you better disappear*" it shows that there are people who can't accept Michael well' even they chase him away. Another verse shows how the struggle his life, it can be concluded based on the quotation below:

You have to show them, That you're really, Not scared, You're playin' with, Your life, this ain't, No truth or dare, They'll kick you, Then they beat you, Then they'll tell you It's fair, So beat it, but you, Wanna be bad... (Beat)

The quotation above indicates that someone should have strength in solving the problems to keep their life enthusiastic. It can be seen in the sentence "*You have to show them that you're really not scared, you playin' with your life, this ain't no truth and dare*" it shows that we have to show them that we are strong enough and not scared with everyone who treats us badly. Moreover those people are going wild and beat us, it can be proved in the sentence "*They'll kick you then they beat you, then they'll tell you it's fair*" it describes that those people get angry and kicking and beating us even they tell that it's fair. Meanwhile in other Michael' song untitled Black or White tells about the effort of a black man to keep his life and fight for his honor. It can be concluded based on the quotation below:

I'd rather hear both sides, of the tale, See, it's not about races, Just places, Faces, Where your blood, comes from, Is where your space is, I've seen the bright, get duller, I'm not going to spend, My life being a color... (Black or white)

From the quotation above indicate that he tries to make someone understand with the differences of human background. It can be captured in the sentence "*See, It's not about races just places, faces, where your blood comes from is where your space is*" it shows that it doesn't matter if we are different with other such as ethnic, origin even skin color. Moreover he doesn't want to be discriminated just because he was black it can be proved in sentence "*I've seen the bright get duller, I'm not going to spend my life being a color*" it describes that he wants to get good treatment like the other people and he doesn't want to be called as a color. Another verse in this song also tells about egalitarianism or equality. It can be concluded based on the quotation below:

I took my baby, On a Saturday bang, Boy is that girl with you, Yes we're one and the same, Now I believe in miracles, And a miracle, Has happen tonight, But if you thinkin, about my baby, It don't matter if you're, Black or white... (Black or white)

The quotation indicates that all human being is same or equal. It can be seen in the sentence "*Yes we're one and the same*" it shows that everyone is the same, no matter who he or she is and where he or she is

coming from. Another verse tell that we can make a relation with all people, in fact all people are brothers, it can be concluded based on this quotation below:

I said if, You're thinkin' of, Being my brother, It don't matter if you're Black or white, Ooh ooh Yea, yea, yea now Ooh, ooh Yea, yea, yea now, It's black, it's white, It's tough for you, To get by, It's black, it's white, whoo... (Black or White)

From the quotation indicates that actually we can be a brother for other people without seeing the different background that exists. It can be seen in the sentence "*I said if you're thinkin' of being my brother it don't matter if you're black or white*" it describes that everyone could be our brother or friend either the black or the white one. Moreover we should be proud with ourselves, it can be captured in the sentence "*It's black it's white, it's tough for you to get by*" it shows that however we are, we must thank God and always be confident because that is our strength in life.

Peace

Living harmony is everyone's dream in life. That dream will come true if there is the peace. Peace is the freedom from violence and disorder. In this case violence is not just related with human being, such as war, discrimination, invasion, etc. But also related with natural world and other living creature, disturbing long-standing equilibrium among any and all living things may be perceived as a form of violence. Like wise Michael tries to convey peace messages through his song untitled Heal The World, it can be concluded based on the quotation below:

There's a place in Your heart, And I know that it is love, And this place could Be much, Brighter than tomorrow, And if you really try, You'll find there's no need, To cry, In this place you'll feel, That there's no hurt and sorrow... (Heal the World)

The quotation indicates that in fact in every heart of people there's love and great hope to live better and peacefully, it can be seen in the sentence "*There's a place in your heart and I know that it is love, and this place much be brighter than tomorrow*". It shows that everyone has affection and wants peacefulness in their life in order to live better than before. Moreover if we realize it and want to try we won't find sadness and sorrow, it can be captured in the sentence "*And if you really try you will find there's no need to cry, in this place you'll feel that there's no hurt and sorrow*" it describes that if we try to reach it, we won't feel sad

because there's no hurt and sorrow if we live in peacefulness. Meanwhile in other verse talks about what we have to do to get peace on earth in order to make a better life for all people, it can be concluded based on the quotation below:

Heal the world, Make it a better place, For you and for me, And the entire human race, There are people dying, If you care enough, For the living, Make a better place, For you and for me... (Heal the World)

The quotation above indicate that people should care with the world and the others, it can be seen in the sentence “*Heal the world make it a better place, for you and for me and the entire human race*” it shows that we have to behave wisely with the world and make the world be a better place for all human being. Still in “Heal the World” lyric, it also talks about the way to get the peace in this world it can be concluded from the quotation below:

We could fly so high, Let our spirits never die, In my heart, I feel you are all, My brothers, Create a world with, No fear together we'll cry, Happy tears, See the nation turn, Their swords into plowshares ... (Heal the World)

The quotation indicates what should be done by the people to get the peace in this world, it can be seen in the sentence “*Let our spirit never die, in my heart I feel you are all my brothers, create a world with no fear*” it shows that we must keep our spirit, have good relationship each other and create a joyful life, moreover we will get great happiness in our life. It can be proved in the sentence “*Together we'll cry happy tears see the nations turn their swords into plowshares*” it describes that people are living happily together and see the good change of the world. Create a world peace is not an easy thing; we have to look at the aspects that involve with it. Michael Jackson's song untitled “Earth Song” talks about the things that should be noticed to reach the peace in the world, it can be concluded based on the quotation below:

What have we done to the world?, Look what we've done, What about all the peace, That you pledge your only son..., What about flowering fields, Is there a time, What about all the dreams, That you said was yours and mine..., Did you ever stop to notice?, All the children dead from war, Did you ever stop to notice?, The crying earth the sweeping shores ... (Earth Song)

The quotation above indicates what should we realize and reflect to get the peace in our life, it can be captured in the sentence “*What have*

we done to the world look what we've done" it shows that we have to think what we've done to the world. Moreover, we have to look what the thing that can influence it and what happened to the world, it can be seen in the sentence *"What about all the peace that you pledge your only son, what about flowering fields is there a time, what about all the dreams that you said was yours and mine, did you ever stop to notice all the children dead from war, did you ever stop to notice, the crying earth the sweeping shore"*, it describes that there are many things that must be reflected and noticed in the world such as the peace itself, the people's dreams, children dead from war and the crying earth. For the last in Michael Jackson's song untitled "Black or White" talks about that the care ness and brotherhood among human being, it can be concluded based on the quotation below:

Protection For gangs, clubs And nations Causing grief in, Human relations, It's a turf war on a global scale ... (Black or White)

The quotation above indicates the important of protection for human life. It can be seen in the sentence *"Protection for gangs, clubs and nations"*, it describes that we have to protect each other or with all the people in the world. Another verse talks about the relationship in human life, people can make friends with anyone, no matter whom he or she is, it can be concluded from the quotation below:

I said if, You're thinkin' of being my brother, It don't matter if you're Black or white... (Black or White)

The quotation indicates that we can get anyone be our brother, in can be seen in the sentence *"I said if you're thinking about being my brother, it don't matter if you black or white"* it describes that when there's someone who wants to be our brother, we can accept and respect him well.

Love

Love is the biggest God gift in life. Love is universal, love does not know the differences which exist in our life such as: religion, ethnic, race, etc. Michael Jackson tries to tell about love between human being and the truth of love in his song untitled "I'll Be There", it can be concluded from the quotation below:

You and I must make a plan, We must bring salvation back, Where there is love, I'll be there, I'll be there, I'll reach out my hand to you, I'll have faith in all you do, Just call my name, And I'll be there, I'll be there ... (I'll Be There)

The quotation above indicates that there are people who love, care and support each other, it can be seen in the sentence “*Where there is love I’ll be there, I’ll be there, I’ll reach out my hand to you I’ll have faith in all you do*” it shows where there’s love people will always be together, helped, understand and support each other.

Love is identical with beauty and woman, although it doesn’t only happen in them. Another verse of “I’ll be There” talks about how beautiful of love between men and women, it can be concluded based on quotation below:

Let me fill your heart with joy and laughter, Togetherness, girl it’s all I’m after, Whenever you need me, I’ll be there, I’ll be there, I’ll be there to protect you, Yeah baby, Just call my name, And I’ll be there, I’ll be there... (I’ll be There)

The quotation above indicates that when someone falls in love he will try hard to make his lover happy, it can be seen in the sentence “*Let me fill your heart with joy and laughter togetherness, girl it’s all I’m after whenever you need me I’ll be there, Ill be there*” it describes that a man will fill his girl’s heart with joy and laughter and be there for her whenever she needs him. Love is not always being together, sometimes the man or women who we love is falling in love with another person, but if there is a chance we should take it. Like wise what Michael wants to show in his song “I’ll be There”. It can be concluded based on the quotation below:

If you should ever find someone new, I know he’d better be good to you, ‘Cause if he doesn’t, I’ll be there, I’ll be there... (I’ll Be There)

The quotation indicates that we should accept if our lover finds someone new and keep our love with her or him, it can be captured in the sentence “*If you should ever find someone new I know he’d better be good to you ‘cause if he doesn’t I’ll be there*” it describes that we should be gentle and wise if our lover finds someone new ‘cause he would be better for him or her, but if our love are not happy with him or her we should take care with him or her. Love has become strength for human being; with love our life will be better than before. Love creates great happiness in our love. Michael Jackson’s song untitled “Heal the World” tells about the power of love in our heart and its impact in our life, it can be concluded based on the quotation below:

If you want to know why, There’s a love that, Cannot lie, Love is strong, It only cares for, Joyful giving, If we try, We shall see, In this bliss, We

cannot feel, Fear or dread, We stop existing and start living... (Heal The World)

The quotation indicates the truth of love that exist in people's heart, it can be seen in the sentence "*There's a love that cannot lie, love is strong, it only cares for joyful giving*" it shows that there's love in each people hearth, which is strong and only cares for joyful giving. Moreover if we want to realize it we would not be scare, it can be captured in the sentence "*If we try we shall see in this bliss we cannot feel fear or dread*" it describes that if we try to arise our feeling or love in our heart we would not feel fear or dread. We can live in harmony and comfort if the world around us is nice and good. We should care and keep with the environment around us well as the form of our love with nature. Another verse in this song tells about love with nature, it can be concluded based on the quotation below:

Heal the world, Make it better place, For you and for me, And the entire human race, There are people dying, If you care enough for the living, Make it better place for you and for me ... (Heal The World)

The quotation above indicates that we should care with the nature and living, it can be seen in the sentence "*Heal the world make it a better place for you and for me and the entire human race*" it shows that we should have enough attention with world condition and if any damage we should make it better for the future of our living.

CONCLUSION

Literature as a part of art has social relation with human life. Literature reflects way of life, thought, feeling, and attitude of human being. Song as one of the literary works could be a good media to express our emotion, opinion, feeling and idea, song also becomes inspiration for the people in their lives. There are various purposes that want to be conveyed and described in literary works, such as values of life, moral message. In this analysis the writer studies teaching of life found in Michael Jackson's songs. Because the writer point, the listeners will be able to understand and see the teaching of life such as moral, peace and love that want to be conveyed by Michael Jackson through his songs.

The writer found some teaching of life in Michael Jackson's songs, first the writer concentrates on moral messages in Michael Jackson's

song entitled "Beat It ". It talks about the effort of someone who wants to be accepted and get good treatment in the different society. Meanwhile in his song entitled "Black or White" talks about how the struggle of black man to keep his life and honor and also talks about equality between black and white. Second, the writer concentrates on the peace in Michael Jackson's song entitled "Heal the World" and "Earth Song". It talks about the dream of peacefulness and love that exist in everyone's heart and also talks about what people must do to make a better life for reaching the peacefulness in the world, in other song entitled "Black or White" talks about the protection and brotherhood in human life. Last the writer concentrates on love in Michael Jackson's song entitled "I'll Be There", it talks about love and care ness between human being. Meanwhile in song entitled "Heal the World" talks about the important of love for human life.

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