

# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

## A.1 Background of the Research

A song is a part of musical compositions which includes lyrics. Some of song writers create musical work or instrumental pieces which resemble the qualities of a singing voice, it blends vocals and melody. The lyrics are the words which shape the song, consisting of verses that convey a narrative and a refrain, a short clause repeated at the end of each verse. As a social phenomenon, songs have lyrics that provide variety of genre and style to express and deliver meanings. Through lyrics, people express emotions such as feelings, heartbreak, love, despair, and apologies (Maulana & Suprayogi, n.d.).

Ibrahim (2019) states that a love song is classified as a song which is influenced by the romantic relationship circumstances and is commonly marked by its capability to emphasize strong emotions and personal relations. Love song often express the happiness in finding love in a person's life and is related with significant memories. This type of theme in songs can be found in the various of music genres and it reveals the courtship for a loved one.

Based on Henderson's (2022) statement, break up song is narrated as a song which is indicated by the capability to evoke strong emotions particularly the emotions related with grief, melancholy, sorrow, frustration, and anger. This type of song also often has specific acoustic characteristic such as lower pitch and slower tempo which contribute to the emotional construction. The message on this type of song is not always be the same between one breakup song to another. The songs which have been written from the perspective of someone who has been dumped by their lover tend to be different from the songs which have been written by the person who does the dumping's perspective.

These two types of themes are commonly used in a lot of songs by various singers. The examples of the song which applies the theme of break up is a song titled “I Knew You Were Trouble” and “Would’ve Could’ve Should’ve” by Taylor Swift. Rodriguez (2020) indicates that these songs explore the theme of betrayal and heartbreak lyrically. It reflects the toxic relationship with a person that she considered as the trouble from the first place. The song conveys the regret and pain feelings powerfully through its lyrics. This iconic song delivers Taylor’s disappointment and consequences caused by the unwise romantic options. These songs also a reflective of themes of regret and lost opportunities, specifically focusing on a past relationship. It is as an exploration of how past decisions and relationships shape who we are and the regrets that can linger long after those moments have passed. The song also captures her ongoing struggle with the memories of that time.

On the other hand, love song offers different emotional experiences. The examples of the implementation of the love song theme are contained on a song entitled “King of My Heart” and “London Boy”. Thompson (2019) declares that these songs explore a narrative of romantic idealization lyrically. It reveals further about somebody’s commitment in a romantic relationship. These romantic songs highlight the devotion and emotional connection between the writer and her partner. It reflects the sense of completeness and security in a lovely relationship. As an additional, the song's narrative captures the excitement of a cross-cultural romance and the feeling of finding a new sense of belonging through love.

These four songs which have two different types of themes, namely heartbreak and romance are interesting to analyze as research data because the song appraise the same issue, but in the different contexts and realizations. These songs also have the various types of transitivity system, it results the analysis will be more diverse. The variousness of the types of process from the data will also participate to construct the complex descriptive of the findings. These songs also have some of metaphors as

the subject or the object on some of the lyric clauses, it makes the data to be more unique and special.

Halliday (1985) explains that transitivity defines the concepts of processes, circumstances, and participants, serving as broad semantic categories that illustrate how real-world phenomena are represented through linguistic structures. He categorizes the transitivity system into six distinct types of processes: material, mental, relational, behavioral, verbal, and existential.

Studies on song have been done by other researchers with various sources and approaches. A study (Mawaddah et al., 2020) examined German children's songs to identify the types of actions and stories depicted in the lyrics. The researchers categorized the songs into stories about events and sequences of events, highlighting interactions among people and their surroundings as the main themes. Another research (Medina & Noorman, 2020) analyzed song lyrics from Queen's Greatest Hits album to determine the dominant mood types and modality values present. They found that declarative mood and median modality were frequently used in songs like "Bohemian Rhapsody" and "We Are the Champions," conveying information and reflecting speaker commitment to truth. Meanwhile (Ariska et al., n.d.) focused on Adele's songs from the album "21" to examine the mood system (declarative, interrogative, imperative) and modality used in the lyrics. Adele predominantly used declarative mood to share her personal story, with a significant emphasis on obligation modality to convey her wishes and emotions effectively to the audience.

Some scientific investigations have also specified their objects on Taylor Swift's works. They include (Sartika et al., 2023) focusing on transitivity in *Midnights* album, (Dini Rahmani & Septian Nasution, n.d.) examining figurative languages in *Red* album, and (Fitria, 2023) delving on wider perspective of semiotics, not on the lyrics but the video clip of "You Belong With Me".

The research discusses about the meaning of the language features which are constructed on the album. It consists of ideational meaning of the singer which is resulted from the experiences she has been through in her life (Irene et al., 2023). The last study by (Hong, n.d.) implies the investigation and the analysis of the meaning of verbal and visual signs in the music video. The analysis shows two classifications which are verbal and visual sign. The data define that the verbal and visual sign explained about jealousy, caring, disappointment, and express feelings.

Those kinds of studies provide insights into how different artists utilize mood, modality, and storytelling techniques in their song lyrics to convey personal experiences, engage listeners, and evoke emotions. The present study would focus on transitivity system realized in a song lyric to reveal how the song writer realizes the emotion of happiness and sadness as the impact of love relation. The present study employed transitivity like the previous study (Ayu Putri et al., 2020), but it would reveal the types contained in the songs and the emotion wording in the songs through its transitivity as representational meaning at clause level. Thus, it would explore transitivity on the lyrics (IKY, WCS, KM, and LB) to reveal the realization of happiness and sadness in the lyric's wordings.

### **A.2 Problem of the Research**

1. What types of transitivity processes are used in the break-up and romance songs?
2. How are the transitivity devices of love and break up realized on the songs?

### **A.3 Objective of the Research**

1. To identify the types of transitivity system used on the songs.
2. To reveal how the singer forms and compare the sadness and happiness through the application of the transitivity.

#### **A.4 Significance of the Research**

The significance of the study is split into two, practical and theoretical.

Practically:

This study is aimed to be valuable as a reference, it is also expected to provide in-depth knowledge for the readers who want to study further about the transitivity system especially about the six processes contained.

Theoretically:

This research is expected to be a consideration for the researchers for further study especially for the students in the field of linguistics who will create the same research to expand their understandings particularly about the transitivity theory.

#### **A.5 Limitation of the Research**

This research is limited only to Transitivity Theory, particularly in the five processes (material, mental, relational, behavioral, and verbal). The objects of the research are lyrics of songs by Taylor Swift. The lyrics would be analyzed based on the transitivity processes contained to portray the sadness and happiness on the songs. The transitivity theory that is applied on this study is the framework of Systemic Functional Linguistic by Halliday. As a discourse analysis, the researcher implements the song lines as the primary data. The lyrics on the song have an important function to convey meanings of the song to the listeners, which makes it simpler for the researcher to analyze the songs.

#### **A.6 Definition of the Key Terms**

##### **A.6.1. Transitivity**

Halliday (1985) states that transitivity is the concepts of processes, circumstances, and participants serve as broad semantic categories which explain the issues of the real world are represented as a linguistic structure in the most general way. He divides the transitivity system into six different types of

processes, namely: material process, mental process, relational process, behavioral process, verbal process, and existential process.

#### **A.6.2 Material Process**

According to the Halliday's (1985) statement, material processes involve actions signifying the process of 'doing' which indicates activities or events. This process represents the physical experience of human being which illustrates the notion that some participants "do" something to the other participants.

#### **A.6.3 Mental Process**

Halliday (1985) defines that mental processes are a process which relates the indicating of cognition, affection, perception, and desire. This process enables the participants to express thoughts, opinion, and preferences.

#### **A.6.4 Relational Process**

Halliday (1985) mentions that relational processes are a process which indicates being and relation among entities. It commonly can be recognized by the verb 'be' or other verbs on the same classifications.

#### **A.6.5 Behavioral Process**

Halliday (1985) states that behavioral processes are a process which indicates the physical and psychological behavior. This process stands between the material and mental process or material and verbal process.

#### **A.6.6 Verbal Process**

Verbal processes involve the process of 'saying' which represents something that shows activities related to information, specifically the process consists of commanding, asking, saying, and offering. (Halliday 1985)

### **A.6.7 Existential Process**

Existential processes indicate the process of existence which represents something happens or exists. The characters of this variety of transitivity can be seen from the clauses which expressing existence such as be, arise, exist, occur, and remain. (Halliday 1985)

### **A.6.8 Song**

A song is a part of musical composition which includes melody as the musical notes sequences and lyrics as the words to convey the messages. Songs serve various genres and themes and it is purposed to deliver storytelling, emotions, and expressions.

### **A.6.9 Lyrics**

Lyric is an important part of the song, it is written to reveal the narrative of the song. This particular component is commonly provided in a poetic way in order to emphasize the emotion and expression of the song. It is usually followed by a specific rhythm pattern.

## **A.7 Organization of the Research Report**

For the sequence order, the researcher arranges the report to be constructed as follows:

### **Chapter I: INTRODUCTION**

The first chapter provides the introduction. It points the research background, the research objectives, the research problem, the limitation of the

research, the definitions of the key terms on the research, and the organization of the research.

## **Chapter II: REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The second chapter indicates theoretical framework and literary reviews. This chapter is constructed by the review of the related studies which contains of the research that have the similarity. The theoretical framework consists the definition and the classification of the theory used.

## **Chapter III: METHODOLOGY**

The third chapter covers the research design. It deals with the method, this part of the research is formed by the shorts of the study, the data and sources of the data, and the technique and method of collecting the data.

## **Chapter IV: DATA ANALYSIS**

This chapter deals with the data description, the data analysis, and the discussion.

## **Chapter V: CONCLUSION**

This chapter is the final component of the research, which conducts the conclusion and suggestions for the next research.