

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A.1 Background of the Research

Spirituality is always associated with spiritual experiences one endures by searching for the truth or faith human believes. Specifically, it originates from the Latin "*spiritus*," meaning "breath of life", or "a way of being and experiencing through recognizable values regarding oneself, others, nature, life, and any kinds of values one believes as the ultimate. It commonly appears through awareness of the transcendent dimension. Being spiritual means being aware of the dimension and living a life marked by recognizable ideals toward oneself, others, nature, life, and whatever one holds to be supreme (Elkins, 1988). Humans may be inclined to inquire about their mortality and existence as conscious beings. As a result, people strive to develop a sense of purpose and meaning and become more aware of their spirituality. Spirituality focuses on what is profoundly significant to humans on a personal level. It concentrates on the reasons behind the value of life rather than just whether it is valuable or not. It shows self-awakening or enlightenment in determining the meaning and purpose of existence.

Meanwhile, literary texts do not have a fixed meaning. It implies that a poem, for example, may have multiple interpretations since it is written in various

ways. A fresh and critical understanding may then develop when meaning is related to other situations or events in life. Such new interpretation resulted from the interaction between a sign's physical presence, objects, binary oppositions, mythologies, history, ideology, and human awareness (Budianto, 2007).

Regarding these, understanding spiritualism appearing in such literary pieces is essential and inspiring, especially using religious perspectives to interpret its meanings and implications. Literary works, like poems, usually represent such an issue, for example, classical spiritual poems by Ben Johnson, John Dryden, and John Milton. This idea also applies to song lyrics as representing spirituality. Lyrics or song lyrics can be regarded as poetry and vice versa. According to Jan Van Luxemburg, this concept is acceptable, for example, when discussing the idea of texts. The interpretation of lyrics is a process used to separate, parse, examine, discuss, and discover all the components, purposes, and functions they contain (Luxemburg, 1989). As a poem is multi-interpretable, so is a song lyric. A lyric interpretation should vary depending on the issues implied, for example, the subject of spirituality. It also appears in Purgatory's lyrics, a death metal group that composes religious songs, unlike other music genres that write love songs.

Purgatory is a Jakarta metal band that was formed in 1994 and has released several albums revealing Islamic teachings, such as the *Uhud* war, death, and others. It produces Islamic lyrics to represent their distinctive image from other heavy metal

bands in common. In promoting Islamic values, the band composed their lyrics based on what they understood and learned about the Holy Quran and Al-hadith. Therefore, many of their albums contain significant events in Islamic history and values that Muslims must practice. One of their albums, entitled 7: 172, has a connection to the number 7 of the Holy Quran. It mainly represents the seventh surah of the Quran, *Surah Al-A'raf*, while the number 172 represents the 172<sup>nd</sup> verse of the surah. This verse and surah consist of humans' confession on the one and only God, Allah, the Most Glorified, the Highest. (Morgothron, 2005)

Meanwhile, "Downfall" is another lyric Purgatory composes depicting the stories of the *Uhud* war, which Rasulullah S.A.W. had led. Through such writings, Purgatory plays its music for entertaining and preaching. As Maulana claims, the song represents personal submission to God's servant as a sort of jihad. It characterizes a Muslim as a servant of Allah who should resist the devil's temptations. It is a different type of jihad that people can perform, yet making it the biggest jihad of his life. Apart from its violence, a form of jihad, such as war or total jihad, is often regarded as well-liked among Muslims. In short, jihad does not always involve fighting; it entails constant devotion and submission to Allah SWT. (Maulana, 2017) In her study on the album,

Regarding to these previous studies, this research tries to reveal aspects of spirituality in Purgatory's selected lyrics. This is important to study for two specific reasons. First, since most of the song lyrics from Purgatory contain Islamic messages, the idea of spirituality is much more popular especially among readers. This will enable them to understand the meaning and message of the lyrics. Second, the issue of spirituality will provide research novelty and will be different from previous studies, because spirituality is a human process to have a belief in something that they consider to be better than other beliefs in their life. Spirituality emphasizes human responsibility to something they believe in.

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

Concerning the background, the research problem focuses on the spiritual issues implied in the lyrics with the question, "How do the lyrics of Purgatory represent the spirituality issues?"

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

The research aims at analyzing the spirituality in Purgatory's lyrics. It is relevant to the research question and will be conducted using the objective approach.

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

Regarding the objective, the research has both theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, it enriches literary studies, especially using the objective approach by analyzing the intrinsic criteria of literature. Meanwhile, a valuable

contribution can enhance spiritual insight from literary analysis. Practically, this study is intended to help those who still believe that heavy metal songs express views toward unfavorable things. When conducting similar or additional research on spirituality in song lyrics, this study helpful to other researchers in terms of enhancing the quality of their work.

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

The limitation of the research lies in the analysis of the spiritual issue appearing in Purgatory's lyrics. This spirituality may cover its types and elements analyzed through the objective approach and supported by the spirituality theory.

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

##### **Purgatory**

Purgatory is a Jakarta metal band that uses their songs as a medium to spread Islamic values.

##### **Objective**

According to Abrams, the objective approach aimed to comprehend and value the distinctive features of a literary work while taking into account its historical and cultural setting (Abrams, 1953).

##### **Spirituality**

Spirituality, which originated from the Latin "spiritus," meaning "breath of life," is a way of being and experiencing that is marked by particular recognizable

values regarding oneself, others, nature, life, and whatever one views to be Ultimate. It is brought about via awareness of the transcendent dimension. Being spiritual is having an awareness of a transcendent dimension and living a manner of life that is marked by particular recognizable ideals toward oneself, others, nature, life, and whatever one believes to be the Ultimate (Elkins,1988).

### **Lyrics**

In this study, the researcher uses lyrics as the object of research, because the researcher finds many unusual uses of terms in the lyrics of the song Purgatory. According to Rosita in her thesis, the words in a song known as the lyrics reveal the theme, personality, and goal of the song. The songs may become more joyous as a result. By singing the song, the audience can experience the rhythm, melody, harmony, and vocals of the singer to understand the meaning of the song. A song accompanied by a lyre is considered to have lyrics (Rosita, 2019).

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

For chronological order, the researcher organizes the research as follows: Chapter 1 is the introduction. It consists of the background of the research, the problem of the research, the objective of the research, the significance of the research, the limitation of the Research, the definition of the key terms, and the organization of the research. Chapter 2 is the literary review. The theoretical framework and the review of related studies are in this chapter. Chapter 3 is the

research methodology. This chapter includes the following: the types of research, the data and source of the data, the method of collecting data, and the technique of collecting the data. Chapter 4 is Data Analysis. This chapter describes the findings and the classifications to answer the research questions. Chapter 5 is Conclusion and Suggestion. This chapter consists of the conclusion and suggestion of the research.

