CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is a system of conventional spoken, manual, or written symbols by means of which human beings, as members of social groups and participants in its culture, express themselves. For social interaction, a communication called language is needed. In everyday communication the tool that are often used to communicate are languages, both written and spoken languages. Language as a means of communication certainly has functions. One of the functions of language is to convey information.

Language can be conveyed through spoken and written. To convey information, especially through written, it must be conveyed by considering several elements that can make the writing meaningful and understandable. Functional grammar view language as a resource for making meaning. These grammars attempt to describe language in actual use and focus on text and their context.[1]

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[1] Linda Gerot and Peter Wignell, *Making Sense of Functional Grammar (1995),* (Edited by Berti Nurul Khajati, 2013), p. 5.

According to Butt, there are three broad functions of language that are central to the way grammar works in the language system.[2] It is called metafunctions. They are experiential or ideational meanings; which focus on the social function of language, to interact with other people, interpersonal meanings; focusing on how language is used, and textual meanings; which focus on how message is organized.

The textual metafunction, is described by Halliday as the 'relevance' or the 'enabling' metafunction. This is the level of organization of the clause which enables the clause to be packaged in ways which make it effective given its purpose and its context. The system of Theme is realized through a structure in which the clause falls into just two main constituents; a Theme (the first part of the clause) and a Rheme.[3]

Gerot and Wignell stated that the Theme can be divided into number of categories; Ideational/Topical Theme, Interpersonal Theme, and Textual Theme.[4] The example of analyzing Theme can be seen as follows:

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[2] David Butt et al,. *Using Functional Grammar An Explorer Guide 2nd Edition.* (National Centre for English Language Teaching and Research Macquarie University, 2001), p. 39.

[3] Suzanne Eggins. *An Introduction to Systemic Functional Linguistics 2nd Edition.* (London: Continuum International Publishing Group, 2004), p. 298.

[4] Gerot and Wignell, *Making Sense of Functional Grammar (1995)* (Edited by Berti Nurul Khajati, 2013), p. 84.

I   wrote a letter.

Theme	Rheme

What Jack and Jill did   was go up the hill

Theme	Rheme

But,   Mary surely   we   can wait until next week

Textual	Interpersonal	Topical	Rheme
Theme			

Halliday divided Theme into three types, simple Theme, clause Theme, and multiple Theme. Definition of Theme given by Halliday, is the element which serves as the point of departure of the message; it is that with which the clause is concerned.[5] The remainder of the message, the part in which the Theme developed, is called the Rheme.

Theme can be identified from many sources. One of them is song lyrics. Song lyric is the set of words that make up a song, usually consisting of verses and choruses. The meaning of lyrics can either explicit or implicit. Nowadays, songs are an interesting entertainment that can be enjoyed by everyone. Songs

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[5] M.A.K. Halliday. *An Introduction to Functional Grammar 2nd Edition*. (Edward Arnold, 1994), p. 37.

are one of the most effective media to convey message. The writer can express their feeling through song lyrics.

In this study, the researcher chose Westlife's selected song lyrics as the data source. Westlife are an Irish pop vocal group, which formed in 1998 in Dublin, consists of Nicky Byrne, Kian Egan, Mark Feehily, and Shane Filan. Westlife disbanded in 2012 and reunited in 2018. They have produced ten studio albums and several greatest hits albums. As the data, the researcher selected eight songs from their album called *Gravity*, which was released in 2010.

The researcher chose song lyrics as a media to analyze the types of Theme because: (1) Song lyrics can attract people to study. Through song, we can practice our pronunciation, add our vocabularies and improve our mastery in memorizing; (2) Song lyrics contain many clauses which are many components of grammar. So, the clauses in Westlife's song lyrics are suitable to become the media for analyzing Theme. Based on the background above, the researcher carried out a study under the title, "*AN ANALYSIS OF THEME IN WESTLIFE'S SELECTED SONG LYRICS*".

B. Research Questions

Based on the background above, the research questions of this study can be stated as follows:

1. What types of Theme are found in Westlife's selected song lyrics?

2. How is the Theme realized in Westlife's selected song lyrics?

3. How are the meanings of Westlife's selected song lyrics interpreted?

C. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To find out types of Theme in Westlife's selected song lyrics.

2. To identify Theme realization in Westlife's selected song lyrics.

3. To interpret the meanings in Westlife's selected song lyrics.

D. The Scope of the Study

This study is focus on particular things, they are types of Theme analysis as the object of the study. To know whether it belongs to Ideational (Topical) Theme, Textual Theme, or Interpersonal Theme. The identification of the Theme is based on the order, and Theme is an element that comes from the first of the clause. The clause-complex is beyond the researcher's focus. Therefore, the researcher focuses on realized meaning which concerns on Theme analysis. The researcher took the data source from English song by Irish band, Westlife, which was released in 2010, *Gravity*. The researcher selected eight songs from the album called *Gravity*, they are: *Beautiful Tonight*, *Safe*,

Chances, *I Will Reach You*, *Closer*, *The Reason*, *Difference in Me*, and *Too Hard to Say Goodbye*.

E. Significances of the Study

The result of this study is expected to be used theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically, this study hopefully can be used as a reference to other researchers who wants to study about Systemic Functional Grammar especially about types of theme used in song lyrics.

2. Practically, the result of this study is expected to become an example in teaching Systemic Functional Grammar, textual meaning especially about theme that can be used by lecturer or teacher.

F. The Previous of the Study

An analysis of theme is done by:

1. Tri Kusuma Wijayanto, under the title *"AN ANALYSIS OF THEME IN MICHAEL LEARNS TO ROCK'S SONG LYRICS",* Department of English Education Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Muria Kudus 2013. This study focusing on analyzing theme in Michael Learns to Rock' song lyrics. This research aims to analyze theme from clauses in song lyrics. The difference between this study and the researcher's study is the way of analyzing theme and how to interpreting the meaning of the song lyrics.

2. Esa Whiliandi, under the title *"THEME ANALYSIS OF THE EDITORIAL IN THE JAKARTA POST FEBRUARY 19th 2010 EDITION"*, Faculty of Languages and Letters Dian Nuswantoro University Semarang 2011. This study focusing on analyzing theme in the editorial. This research aims to analyze theme from clauses found in an editorial in The Jakarta Post newspaper. The difference between this study and the researcher's study is the data source.

G. Paper Organization

In order make this research can be read systematically, the researcher organized the paper as follows:

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of background of the study, research questions, objectives of the study, the scope of the study, significance of the study, the previous of the study and paper organization.

Chapter II is theoretical review. It consists of definition of systemic of functional grammar, metafunction, theme and rheme, definition of song lyrics, and biography of Westlife.

Chapter III is methodology of research. It consists of research design, data source, data collection, and data analysis.

Chapter IV is data findings and discussions. In the data findings consist of the types of Theme found in Westlife's selected song lyrics, the Theme realized in Westlife's selected song lyrics, the meaning interpretation of

Westlife's selected song lyrics. In the discussions consist of the types of Theme found in Westlife's selected song lyrics, the analysis of Theme realized in Westlife's selected song lyrics, and the meaning interpretation of Westlife's selected song lyrics.

Chapter V is closing. It consists of conclusion and pedagogical implication of the study and suggestion.