



The Ideology in Lyrics of Green Day's Song "21 Guns" A Critical Discourse Analysis

Yosia Hanantyo Nugroho^{1*}, Dwi Setiyadi¹, Sigit Ricahyono¹

¹Universitas PGRI Madiun, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author: yosi.pelem@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to find out the meaning and how this song was created by analyzing, Text Analysis in 21 Guns song lyrics, Social Cognition of the 21 song. The study is designed as descriptive qualitative research. The results of the analysis are in the text analysis, there are macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure. In the macrostructure analysis, the theme of the song 21 Guns is acquired to be invitation to peace. While, in the superstructure analysis, the song lyrics are composed of intro, verse, chorus, verse, chorus, bridge, bridge, chorus. Lastly, in the microstructure, there are four branches of analysis which includes the semantic element, syntax element, stylistic element, as well as rhetoric element. Each of the elements is found in the lyrics of the song 21 Guns. (2) In the social cognition analysis, there are personal scheme and event scheme. In personal scheme, the songwriter of 21 Guns, explained himself that the song is used as a salute for someone that's fallen. In event scheme, the Gulf War III has inspired the establishment of Green Day's 21 Guns song and the social context of the study, there are three different perspectives of the song 21 Guns which are interpreted by the majority of the listeners of the song. War perspective interprets the song within the context of a war, couple perspective interprets the song as a fight between couples within a relationship, and universal perspective interprets the song as a general struggle people experience in the daily life.



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1. INTRODUCTION

Every day, people use language to communicate with others. As the primary language of communication, language plays an important role in any information guide. As explained by Martin, Susanne, and Rene (2001: 17), language is used for various actions and purposes. That is, we can use language to ask questions, give orders, make promises, agreements, acknowledgements, permissions, and so on. Language belongs to the human species, and even to a lesser degree of intelligence, to a person suffering from a physical or mental disorder. disease can make use of language commands that apes cannot fully achieve (Chomsky, 2006: 9). From the statement above, it can be concluded that language is only owned by humans. Even though they may have less or even disabled intelligence, they still have a language through which information is exchanged.

In society, a person will need interaction with other people where the interaction itself occurs when humans communicate with each other. Through communication, one can receive and convey information, ideas and messages. As explained by Chiavenato (2006), communication is defined as the process of transferring and understanding information from one person to another. Therefore, communication is used as a tool for people to exchange information, ideas or messages. In this day and age, there are many ways of conveying information or messages that can be used; one way is to use music.

Music has a very big influence in human life. Webster (1983:781) explains that music is the art of arranging tones or sounds in a sequence consisting of lyrics, rhythm, melody and harmony. The combined elements are then connected to each other. Through music, people can tell stories, convey messages, share experiences, and even motivate. Besides, sometimes the meaning behind the lyrics represents the situation or the feeling of the listener while listening to it and that is the reason why people like to listen to music.

There are various types of music, such as pop, rock, dangdut, metal, mellow, jazz, country, ska, hardcore, blues, hip hop, rap, heavy metal and others. These types of music are called genres. Each genre has its own fans or several communities who like the songs. Currently, music has great development all over the world. One of the most popular music genres is Alternative Rock. An Alternative Rock band usually consists of a vocalist, guitarist, bassist, and drummer.

Alternative rock is a branch of rock music that has a type of music that is not too loud like rock, but also not too calm. Alternative rock became known around the 1980s. One of the most popular Alternative Rock bands is Green Day from Berkeley, California. Green Day was formed in 1987 with three members; they are Billie Joe Armstrong as vocalist, Mike Dirnt as bassist, and John Kiffmeyer as drummer. In 2009, Green Day recorded their eighth album, 21st Century Breakdown with the single 21 Guns.

The song 21 Guns was released on May 29, 2009. This song successfully sat at the top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart, ranking 22nd. It was also nominated for the Grammy awards for Best Rock Performance with Vocals and Best Rock Song in 2010. Additionally, 21 Guns was also the soundtrack to the film Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen. Since it was first released, around 264 million people have listened to this song on YouTube. Most people listen to this song because they like the music or because of the lyrics; a deeper meaning is implied in the song that many people might not know about. Therefore, here the author conducts research to analyze the Critical Discourse Analysis of this song and add to the knowledge of those who listen to it.

Critical discourse analysis (CDA) is researching that studies texts and speeches that made to fight an injustice such as the abuse of power arbitrarily, the dominance of a group or individual within the social and political sphere (Dijk: 139). Fairclough (2001: 26) said that CDA analyzes text as well as interactions, but it does not begin with texts and interactions. It begins with social-related issues and problems, problems faced by people in their social life, problems raised in sociology, political science, and cultural studies.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Approach and Type

a. Approach

This research is categorized as qualitative research. Walliman (2006: 129) states that computations and numbers are not being involved in qualitative research, but it is based on information in the form of narrative words, opinions, feelings, etc. Dealing with that explanation, the data that is used in this study are descriptive words instead of statistical data or numbers. According to Yin (2011: 9), qualitative research seeks to collect, integrate, and present data from various sources of evidence as part of any research. It means that accurate information should be assembled and combined to find out the real data before finally presents it. Related to the elaboration that has been mentioned above, this research focuses on examining the 21 Guns song lyrics using Critical Discourse Analysis by presenting and describing the data through words instead of numbers.

b. Research Type : Document Research

2. Sources of Data

Source of data is an important aspect to collect information while conducting research. Bogdan and Biklen (2007: 117) stated that data is both the evidence and the clues. It means that the source of data is where the researcher finds problems that need to be analyzed. In this study, a document is used as the source of data. According to Bogdan and Biklen (2007: 64), the document is divided into three types, namely:

a. Personal Document is produced by an individual for personal privacy and limited purpose. For example, a personal document can be letters, diaries, family photo album, emails, other visual recordings, and personal documents.

b. Official Document is produced by the organization's employees for the purpose of recording and distributing. For example, an official document can be memos, newsletters, files, and yearbooks.

c. Popular Culture Documentation is produced for commercial purposes which are to entertain, persuade, and be consumed by the public. For example, commercial, TV programs, news reports, movies, or audio and visual recordings, and take secondary data youtube videos.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher decides to use Popular Culture Document as the source of data for this study. It is a song transcription lyric by Green Day entitled 21 Guns. https://youtu.be/qcOK_YATp6U

3. Data Collecting Technique

After determining the source of data, the researcher must conduct some steps in order to collect the data. According to Yin (2011), one of them is : Documentation

In collecting the data, documentation also needs to be done properly. It is one of the most important things in this analysis process. Yin (2011: 147), argues that to learn a topic must do documentation. The data is collected by transcribing the song lyrics of 21 Guns by Green Day.

4. Data Analysis Technique

The data analysis technique of this study is using the flow model by Mathew B. Miles and A. Michael Huberman (1984:10) that can be stated

3. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

In this study, the results of the analysis are Text Analysis, Social Cognitive Analysis, and Social Context Analysis.

1. Text Analysis

The first dimension of Van Dijk's critical discourse analysis model is text analysis. According to Van Dijk (1993), the analysis of this text has the purpose of examining the structure of the text and discourse strategies that emphasize certain themes. Text analysis includes three stages. It contains analyzing the macrostructure, superstructure and microstructure.

a. Macrostructure

The subject data that is being examined in the macrostructure is the thematic element that shows the overall meaning of the text. It is analyzed through the theme in the main ideas of the song. Van Dijk suggests that the theme depicts the significant information or notable goal in the text which is delivered to the audiences, readers or listeners. The macrostructure of this anti-war song 21 Guns is being explained in the table below.

Table 2.1 Microstructure Analysis of 21 Guns Song

Table 2.1 Microstructure Analysis of 21 Guns Song		
Discourse Structure	Element	Lyric
Data 1 :		
Microstructure	Topic	<i>One, twenty one Guns</i>
		<i>Lay down your arms</i>
		<i>Give up the fight</i>
		<i>One, twenty one Guns</i>
		<i>Throw up your arms into the sky</i>
(St 4,7,8 – L9-13)		

The table above presents the lyrics "One, twenty one guns// Lay down your arms // Give up the fight" taken from the chorus of the song which are repeatedly sung in the second, fourth, seventh, and eighth stanza. It has a meaning of a truce by soldiers who are at war. This truce itself is used to show that a troop has given up. Furthermore, the next lyric which is "Throw up your arms into the sky" illustrates the act of surrendering by raising both hands up. Hence, it can be inferred that the topic of the "21 Guns" song lyrics is about stopping the war and making peace by discontinuing the attacks.

b. Superstructure

Table 2.2 Superstructure Analysis of 21 Guns Song

Discourse Structure	Element	Lyrics	Part of lyrics
Macrostructure	Schematic	<i>Instruments</i>	Intro
		<i>Do you know what's worth fighting for,</i>	Verse
		<i>When it's not worth dying for?</i>	
		<i>Does it take your breath away</i>	
		<i>And you feel yourself suffocating?</i>	
		<i>Does the pain weigh out the pride?</i>	
		<i>And you look for a place to hide?</i>	
		<i>Did someone break your heart inside?</i>	
		<i>You're in ruins</i>	
		<i>One, 21 guns</i>	Chorus
		<i>Lay down your arms</i>	
		<i>Give up the fight</i>	
		<i>One, 21 guns</i>	
		<i>Throw up your arms into the sky,</i>	
		<i>You and I</i>	
		<i>When you're at the end of the road</i>	Verse
		<i>And you lost all sense of</i>	

control

*And your thoughts have taken
their toll*

*When your mind breaks the
spirit of your soul*

*Your faith walks on broken
glass*

And the hangover doesn't pass

Nothing's ever built to last

You're in ruins.

One, 21 guns

Lay down your arms

Give up the fight

One, 21 guns

Chorus

*Throw up your arms into the
sky,*

You and I

*Did you try to live on your
own*

*When you burned down the
house and home?*

Bridge

*Did you stand too close to the
fire?*

*Like a liar looking for
forgiveness from a stone*

*When it's time to live and let
die*

Bridge

And you can't get another try

*Something inside this heart
has died*

You're in ruins.

One, 21 guns

Lay down your arms

Give up the fight

One, 21 guns

*Throw up your arms into the
sky*

One, 21 guns

Chorus

Lay down your arms

Give up the fight

One, 21 guns

*Throw up your arms into the
sky,*

You and I

Based on the table above, there are four parts of the schematic elements in Green Day's "21 Guns" song lyrics which includes intro, verse, chorus as well as bridge. Verse is where the lyrics begin to be sung in which it contains the story in the song. The next part is chorus. This part plays the climax of the song in which the verses are minimized and being repeated for some time. The last part of the schematic elements is Bridge. Bridge is a link of repeating the lyrics of a song in purpose of relieving or giving a different sound from a song.

c. Microstructure

The last part of the text analysis is microstructure where the choice of words or diction and sentence structure are being analyzed. Microstructure has several important elements namely semantic, syntax, stylistic, and rhetoric

2. Social Cognition analysis,

There are personal scheme and event scheme. In personal scheme, the songwriter of 21 Guns, explained himself that the song is used as a salute for someone that's fallen. In event scheme, the Gulf War III has inspired the establishment of Green Day's 21 Guns song.

Social Cognition	Explanation
Person Scheme	The songwriter of <i>21 Guns</i> , Billie Joe Armstrong, explained himself

	that the song is used as a salute for someone that's fallen, but done in an arena rock 'n' roll sort of way.
Role Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- US accused Iraq of making weapons of mass destruction that endangered the world.- Help Iraqis free from Saddam Hussein's authoritarian regime.
Event Scheme	The Gulf War I, II, and III have inspired the establishment of Green Day's 21 Guns song.

3. Social Context Analysis

Social context of the study, there are three different perspectives of the song 21 Guns which are interpreted by the majority of the listeners of the song.

1. War perspective interprets the song within the context of a war,
In this perspective, the interpretations of the song lyrics 21 Guns are mainly focused on referring the song to a war. Some of the opinions of the listeners are pretty specific; some others are still in general.
2. Couple perspective interprets the song as a fight between couples within a relationship
In this perspective, the interpretations of the song lyrics 21 Guns are mainly focused on referring the song to a couple problems within a relationship. The data interpretations are described in the following explanation.
3. Universal perspective interprets the song as a general struggle people experience in the daily life.
In this perspective, the interpretations of the song lyrics 21 Guns are mainly focused on referring the song to general problem in life. The interpretation is described in the following explanation where it focuses mainly on a depression.

4. CONCLUSION

1. In text analysis, there are three aspects that are being analyzed including macrostructure, superstructure, and also microstructure. In the macrostructure analysis, the theme of the song 21 Guns is acquired to be invitation to peace. While, in the superstructure analysis, the song lyrics are composed of intro, verse, chorus, verse, chorus, bridge, bridge, chorus. Lastly, in the microstructure, there are four branches of analysis which includes the semantic element, syntax element, stylistic element, as well as rhetoric element. Each of the elements is found in the lyrics of the song 21 Guns.

2. There are three different schemes found in the social cognition analysis which are personal scheme, role scheme, as well as event scheme. In personal scheme, the songwriter of 21 Guns, Billie Joe Armstrong, explained himself that the song is used as a salute for someone that's fallen, but done in an arena rock 'n' roll sort of way. In role scheme, the USA as the dominant group accused Iraq of making weapons of mass destruction that endangered the world as well as justified the war as a reason of helping Iraqis to free from Saddam Hussein's authoritarian regime. Lastly, in event scheme, the Gulf War I, II, and III have inspired the establishment of Green Day's 21 Guns song.

3. In the social context of the study, there are three different perspectives of the song 21 Guns which are interpreted by the majority of the listeners of the song. Those perspectives are war perspective, couple perspective, and also universal perspective. In war perspective, the listeners interpret the song in the context of a war including the war itself as well as the soldiers. In couple perspective, the listeners interpret the song as a fight between couples within a relationship. Lastly, in universal perspective, the listeners interpret the song as a general struggle people experience in the daily life.

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