CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are many ways to express idea and feeling. One way to express idea or feeling is a song. A song has some major elements to support the idea or the theme that will be conveyed by the singer. They are lyric, music, and melody. Lyrics of song are sometimes adapted from poem. It has the same structure and characteristic with poetry. Poetry has the stanzas; it has the same elements with song which also has the stanzas that we called the lyrics. A poem that is sung by someone can be called as a song. Sometimes songs are intended to express the unexpressed feeling, situation or the unspeakable word. Song has the same function as poetry does, because song consists of the stanzas that are sung by people.

.... Both poetry and song are literary poems that deal with emotion of a particular individual, regarding a particular situation. Furthermore, poetry verses and lines of song often follow a rhyming scheme, giving a sense of melody to the verses, even when the lines are merely recited. There are a number of different lyrics used in songs that derived from poetry. Take for instance, The Star Spangled Banner, which is the National Anthem of the United States. The lyrics of the song were actually derived from the poem of the same title, and written by Franciss Scott Key. (Poetry vs Song, www.differencebetwen.net, 22 December 2009)

From the statement above we can say that the song lyric is similar with poetry, because they have the same characteristics, but it cannot be said that poetry and song lyric are usually the same or identically similar because poetry actually has deeper discussion relates with its verses and meaning. Of course, song is simpler than poetry. However, there is a kind of poetry that is intended to be sung that is called ballad. It becomes the basic of idea that song lyric is sometimes same with poetry.
Talking about poetry, we will think about beautiful word, diction, idiom, symbols and stanzas. However, we need to know poetry at a glance. Poetry is an expression of writer’s idea that uses the selected word to beautify its stanza. We also will find some symbols in it, that’s why poetry has more specific meaning that the word itself.

Lucelles Ubercombie in Pardede’s Understanding Poetry (2008:6) says that poetry is the expression of imaginative experience, valid simply as such and significant as such communicable given by language which employ every available and appropriate device. Kasim (2005:40) mentions in Introduction to Literature (teaching materials):

Based on its form, poetry can be divided in to seven forms; they are ballad, ode, elegy, pastoral, sonnet, confessionals, and free verse. Some of that poetry was created in order to be sung and preserved orally among illiterate or semiliterate people. People sing to express their feeling.

Literature is the mirror of life. It reflects human life and all phenomena that appear in daily life. Literature can be anything that expressed even something impossible. However, the writers are not the liar because of their imaginative or even their silly mind that creates silly words as their works. Those words may have the deeper meaning that we never think before. It may contain of the various value and idea, philosophical idea for instance. Literature is the way to express the experience of the writers. They write whatever they see, whatever they hear, whatever they want to say by using selected and special ordered words to make their work beautiful.

Obviously it is possible for the reality of a fictional world to approximate to that real life, to create an illusion of everyday reality, but it is also possible for the writer to express the idea. In this case, the writer uses words as their medium to express their idea. Literature cannot be separated from the aspect of life because it is the imitation of life and it concerns with the aspect of life such as religion, social, politics, economic, cultural, historical, etc.
Songs also reflects the phenomena of daily life and the events that happened in certain time. It usually conveys the idea of the writer to describe the events that maybe have been forgotten by people and even if it is not realized by people. Therefore, I would like to discuss the aspect of life and the phenomena which are described in the songs through literature point of view that is poetry.

Songs have important function in daily life especially for expressing the unexpressed feeling. People who can’t convey their idea because they are oppressed use songs to express their feeling. For example, when there is a demonstration of students, the participants sing together in order to get more spirit. They sing the stanzas which is their protest to something.

Song and freedom are probably familiar with us. These words are used by people who create some songs for their freedom and these words can make the revolution in black people experience and free them from the slavery of white people in America and European. In this thesis, black American will be the foremost topics to discuss.

America is a big continent; it has various nations, races, ethnic and lifestyle. Nowadays, black people dominate that continent. However, if we look back to the history of America it remains a terrible memory. It leads us to remember the slavery in the United States and the brutal racial segregation that hurt the black people. It is counted among more than 36 million people of African descent lived in the United States. At the beginning of the 21st century there are millions who migrated to United State voluntarily during 20th century. They came from the island of Caribbean, continued a pattern that began the slavery era. That was the situation where the black people supposed to have the lower status than white people did and the white people enslave them. They worked hard, built the bridge, railway, and they become the soldier in civil war against the Indian people to expand United States’ region.

Black people have the high intuition of art, they create the songs and they always dancing with traditional music instruments, (Dodson, 2003). Most traditional West African
societies, the sources of the vast majority of enslaved Africans in the America, had dynamic, vibrant, and expressive cultures. The languages spoken were unusually animated, by most European standard. No festival or life cycle celebration was complete without the presence of music, the moving rhythmic center of traditional African social and cultural life.

As Amiri Baraka said in The Phenomenon of Soul in African-American Music (Dodson, 2003:180) that the work song was primarily secular, but there were always similar musical and emotional element in both aspect of black musical culture. The religious music yearns for choosing into a new life, a raising of this life onto “higher ground” an ultimate salvation of the person and their soul and freedom for this wearying slavery world. It is true that song can express the optimism and critical realism. Black people criticize their life by the songs; they also use it to claim the white people for their behaviors because they only the slaves. They can’t do anything, however many of them tried to escape and they got the worst punishment. Therefore, they use songs as the medium to express their rejection to their life. They struggled to get the same right with white people and they start to rebel and struggle their right for their live. They began to publish their freedom struggle by song lyric.

Bob Marley is one of the famous figures who contribute the work to the struggle of black people. He was born in the Caribbean island-nation of Jamaica in 1945. He and his reggae music sounded the songs for freedom. He created the songs that describe the struggle of black people against the white people. Although Marley never declares himself as a politician or prophet, his music was very much reflective the times. It inspires the people to not only recognize the continuation of the struggle for liberation and social justice but also to take up the international call to reverse the social processes of colonialism and neo-colonialism that happened from 15th century to 19th century.

By the 1970s, the African liberation movement was in full force. A campaign of solidarity would emerge as a dominant political tendency in the United States and the
Caribbean. The youth of South Africa in 1976 made a popular protest and rebellion collected the pan-African solidarity and global support for Caribbean. This same year Bob Marley and the Wailers released the legendary album “Rastaman Vibration.”

There were so many actions done by Bob Marley through his songs to struggle the blacks’ right. For example, he held a concert that was performed to help to steer Zimbabwe into independence. He held the benefit concert in Boston to raise funds for the freedom fighter in Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. The concert was a success with over 25,000 people in attendance and it featured Marley straying from the script and giving a heartfelt speech on African Unity.

1.1 The Reasons For Choosing the Topic

Discrimination of black people remains in our mind and it always become the interesting to discuss. It leads our mind to remember the racial segregation that differentiates the black people with white people and slavery in America from 1619 to 1865. Blacks from the Caribbean whose ancestors immigrated or who themselves immigrated to United States, also traditionally called African-American bounded by slavery. Most of them lived in South American. In 1865 after the civil war, the President of America Abraham Lincoln issued the emancipation proclamation and freeing in the southern states at war with the north by the 13th amendment of the United States constitution that outlawed the slavery. It remains the wound when in apartheid had been disappeared, but black people still suffering in living their life in America because white people still abused them and ignored their right.

Many poets and singers protested that situation and created many works that purpose to lead the spirit of the blacks. They tried to make sure the blacks to realize that they are better than white people are. Black people have culture and art, they can get more achievement, and they have the big role to America. One of the artists that make works to protest the racial
segregation is Bob Marley. He is the singer from Jamaica that created so many songs that contain the discrimination of black people.

I am interested in analyzing the idea of the struggle of black people in United States through Bob Marley’s songs because it can help us to understand the situation of black people in America. Some Marley’s songs will describe the racial segregation and describe how black people survive in that condition. Besides, it will embroider my horizon of thinking and give me some moral teaching.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

I have listened to some Marley’s songs and understand the lyric, and found some rebellion spirit against the racial segregation that happened to the Blacks. They are underestimated by the white people, because white people always suppose they have the higher level and higher status than Blacks do. Bob Marley is an eccentric singer. He has strange performance, his clothing, dreadlock, and hairstyle, are looking so different from another singer. Moreover he made some critical songs bravely, his words showed the clear critic to the white people. There must be something wrong in his society itself that reflected in some of his songs. By analyzing these songs, I could know the reason why he created the songs and how the songs were intended to struggle the right of black people. I also could know the situation of African-American society at that time. Besides, I could know the style of language and style of words that he used to criticize the society in that discriminated the black people.

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

The analysis of these songs has definite objectives that must be achieved. The objective of the analysis is to find and give the images of Marley’s ideas of the struggle of black people during his time that is reflected in his songs. This analysis is also intended to know the reason why Bob Marley made the songs that criticized the white people and raised the black people.
1.4 The Scope of the Study

Bob Marley is one of the great singers of his period. Through his simple mind and his brave words he can create many songs that critic the public, against the discrimination, never give up idea, and rebellion. To make the clear limitation or scope of the study, I focused my study on analyzing the songs of Bob Marley which deal with society of black people and their struggle to get the same right with white people. Moreover to make the limitation of the analysis I just use the theory of poetry to analyze the song.

1.5 The Method of The Analysis

To analyze the subject matter of this thesis, I would like to use intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. The intrinsic approach includes point of view, style, image, etc. Then, the extrinsic approach is to know the external factors of literary works such as biography, economy, politic, society, history, psychology, etc.

In this thesis, I will use the historical-biographical approach since we know that this approach is the best way to analyze the subject matter. Literary work is always influenced by the writer’s living and background. It is related with the condition of the society and writer’s environment.

By using the historical-biographical approach I could know more about the writer’s background and I can get the idea easily because the text usually influenced by the situation, place, and time.

Then to make this analysis systematic, I use descriptive approach. In doing the descriptive approach, there are some stages of procedures taken. First, I have to collect Bob Marley’s song that related to the struggle of black people to his withdrawal from his background and his society. Second, all data are interpreted and the last I will further analyze it and draw the conclusion of the analysis.
I also use the library research as the method of the analysis. The analysis of the data relies on the materials, which are considered to be determining or supporting sources of discussion. All of the data are taken from the private and public library.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

Jabrohim, (Naibaho 2008: 5) states that an analysis is done due to certain significance it has. The significance of analysis can be both theoretical and practical. It means, the result of an analysis could be beneficial for developing knowledge insight, and can be applied for daily living. Based on this statement, this analysis has two major significances. Firstly, I want to learn more about the historical of black American. I believe that it can enrich me with more knowledge and moral lessons. Secondly, this analysis is specifically focuses on Bob Marley’s songs that describe the struggle of black people. People can understand more about the condition of black people in that period that is explained in this analysis.

1.7 The Review of Related Literature

I use several books in supporting this thesis. The first book that gives the big contribution in writing this thesis is Jubilee: The Emergence of Africa-American Culture. This is a book that contains the chronicle of slavery and its enormous effect on American nation’s history and economy, tracing the origin development of the slave trade, and the realities of the life for African slaves, runaways, and freedmen alike – in pre-civil war America. This book also illustrates the condition of the “peculiar institution” transferred in to a vibrant, distinctively, African-American culture, a complex, fascinating process of social cultural, political, and survived deliberately, dehumanizing, oppression, without ever surrendering their individuality.

Second book is Black Literature and Literary Theory by Henry Louis Gates, Jr (1984). It is a book that contain the characteristic of black work structurally and the works that reflected the critic of society.
The third book that I used to complete this analysis is *Modern African Poetry and The African Predicament* by R.N. Egudu (1977). This book explains about the poems that have responses to apartheid and some kind of racial discrimination. Modern African literature, as opposed to traditional, is an artistic study of the African predicament from the colonial era, through the time of the attainment of political independence, to the post independence era.