CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Music and people are two things that inseparable. Music is a part of people’s life. Music has permeated people’s lives through a variety of avenues, such as commercials, radio, iPods, and even cues to station breaks on television. The reasons people listen to music, from the fulfillment of emotional needs to the desire for entertainment. Listening music is one of the pleasurable activities for people. People listen to the music everyday and everywhere. In music, a song is a composition for voice performed by singing or alongside musical instruments.

In a song there are three major elements to support the idea or the message that will be conveyed by the singer. They are lyrics, music and melody. The song lyrics have the same structure and characteristics with poem. Poem has rhythmic and aesthetic structures, the song lyric just the same. Both of them have deep meaning that disguise in every their sentences. The song lyric is the words of a song to expressing a person’s personal feelings and thoughts. One of the functions of the song lyric is to convey the disguise message that content in its sentences.

Song is one of many ways how people express their feeling and idea. Song sometimes holds the main function to express the unexpressed feeling. Song nowadays not only talks about love, but songs also try to imply the message about the complicated issues in today’s society. One of them is the women issues. Issues about women are always become the problem in society along the history. It always exists from along time ago till now. Then, what really interesting to be discussed is
the oppressions on women. The oppressions on women has been existing from a long time ago until now. It such a big issue that never has no end to be discussed.

The word oppression derives from Latin word “opprimere” which means “pressed down”. It can be defined as an act or instance of oppressing, the state of being oppressed, and the feeling of being heavily burdened, mentally or physically, by troubles, adverse conditions or people, and anxiety.

… Oppression is when people reduce the potential for other people to be fully human. In other words, oppression is when people make other people less human. This could mean treating them in a dehumanizing manner. But, it could also mean denying people language, education, and other opportunities that might make them become fully human in both mind and body. (Iris Young, retrieved from https://mrdevin.files.wordpress.com/2009/06/five-faces-of-oppression.pdf)

The statements above mean the oppression on women can be defined as an act that makes women less human with denying women to aspired their ideas, restrict their opportunities in education or another else. It is also divided the oppression on women in two kinds. They are physical (body) oppression and emotional (mind) oppression. Physical oppression is the actions that cause physical violence on women. Whereas emotional oppression is a kind of bad treatments which involve the psychology of women such as verbal abuse, powerlessness, cheating, lying, etc.

Patriarchy culture or patriarchy is something that never can be separated with the oppression of women. It is mentioned as the main cause why the oppression of women happened. Patriarchy is a social system which the eldest man in a family (in can be a father or the eldest brother) holds the primary power to decide everything in that family. That man has the authority over women and children. In patriarchy culture system, there is the division of duties where women do every household
works. This is one of the real evidence of the existence of the oppression on women that can be looked in daily life.

The kinds of the oppression on women can be seen in news around the world easily. It is because most of countries in the world have the patriarchy in their culture. Look at the news nowadays; there is a lot of bad news about women in media ranging from torture, beating, domestic violence and even sexual abuse in public places. Those things are kinds of the oppression on women physically that actually happen around the world. Wartainfo (January, 2015) published *10 The Most Dangerous Countries For Women*, they are Mexico, Nigeria, Columbia, Yemen, Pakistan, Sudan, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq, and the last Syria (retrieved from http://www.wartainfo.com/2015/01/10-negara-di-dunia-paling-berbahaya.html).

There are so many the oppressions on women physically happen in those countries especially sexual abuse. Those cruel treatments imprints to women who experienced it deeply.

Furthermore, the other oppression on women currently happen is emotional oppression. Sometimes, women do not really aware with this kind of oppression. In media there is much news about women do surgery in some parts of their bodies to look flawless like a Barbie doll. Women required to looking perfect in every single situation. This is also a part of the oppression on women because women are forced to do that. *Beauty is pain*. This quote is well known by people nowadays. Some women are ready to severe any pain in the sake of their image in society. That is why most of the women nowadays being an *Anorexia Nervosa*. *Anorexia nervosa* is an eating disorder that makes people lose more weight than is considered healthy for their age and height. Persons with this disorder may have an intense fear of weight gain, even when they are underweight. They may diet or exercise too much or use
other ways to lose weight. Because they think slim body is flawless and make good image in society. Women are forced to make perfect appearances. People think it is not important what in women’s mind (brain) or behavior because the most important being a woman is to look beautiful as same as Barbie doll. That is perfect enough.

There are many public figures that struggle to fight the oppression on women nowadays and one of them is Beyonce. Beyonce Knowless is an American singer, actress and song writer. Most recently, she is on the cover of *Time Magazine* (April 23rd, 2014) as one of the most influential people. She is appointed as a feminist due to her songs that are often characterized by themes of love, relationships, and monogamy, as well as female sexuality and empowerment. Her songs are also inspire people to be more respect to women. In an interview from *Vogue Magazine*, she declared herself as a modern-day feminist who do believe in equality between men and women. She fights the inequalities between women and men from her songs. This is one of the reasons why the writer chooses Beyonce’s selected songs which deal with the oppression on women are going to be used as the source data and also the object of this thesis.

1.2 Problem of the Study

During the analysis process in this thesis, it is important to make the specification of problems that are going to be analyzed. The problems of the study of this thesis are:

1. How are the oppressions on women as portrayed in Beyonce’s selected songs?
2. What are the solution to the oppressions on women given in those selected song?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study that follow this thesis are:

1. To find out the oppressions on women as portrayed in Beyonce’s selected songs.

2. To find out the solution to the oppressions on women given in Beyonce’s selected song.

1.4 Scope of the Study

In order to avoid an over lapping explanation, this analysis should have a clear scope and the focus of this thesis that is going to be analyzed is not out of context.

The study of this thesis will be focused on two problems. The first is the oppressions on women portrayed in Beyonce’s selected songs which are in this case, the writer will focus on the oppression on women physically and emotionally in those songs. The second is the writer will find the solutions to the oppression on women that are given in those Beyonce’s selected songs. There are five Beyonce’s selected songs that are going to be analyzed. They are Pretty Hurts, Listen, If I were A Boy, Resentment, and Irreplaceable.
1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of the analysis of this thesis is expected to enrich the reader’s knowledge about what actually the messages behind Beyonce’s selected songs just as learning about women issue. The first significance of this thesis is to give the reader an exploration about the oppressions that are given by society to women portrayed in Beyonce’s selected song. Secondly, this thesis also gives an exploration about what the messages that are given in those songs. Last, the writer hopes that this thesis will give bright information about position of women in society so the readers are going to more respect to women.