

AN ANALYSIS OF MORAL VALUE IN *PEACE IN LIBERIA* LYRIC BY ALPHA BLONDY

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Abstract

In this research, the writer discusses song lyric by Alpha Blondy, entitled *Peace In Liberia*. It is aimed to identify kinds of moral values of that song lyric. The data obtained through exploring the line by line and stanza by stanza in song lyric of *Peace In Liberia*.

To analyze moral value, the writer organized the theoretical framework by discussing about approach and theory. The theory applied by the writer in this research is the theory of kinds of moral value and used philosophical approach. This research also applied qualitative method in finding and gathering the data needed. In order to answer the problem, the taken through the lyrical aspects from *Peace In Liberia* song.

The results of this analysis present the analyzed data inside the song lyric. The analysis is also supported by extended significant explanation beside the data itself. As the result, the writer found the kinds of moral values can be found in almost the line of lyric, there are : Religiosity, Brotherhood, Respecting others, Optimism and others.

Key words: *Song lyric, Kinds of Moral Values, Philosophical Approach.*

INTRODUCTION

The world is so dynamic, this includes the change of human's behavior. (Sedyastuti et al., 2021) Situations force people to create something. Human's creation such as art have become an alternative media in expressing their feelings with great value, from the very old way to the modern way, song is just one of those stuff. People are able to speak with others through songs. Through songs someone could convey their voice to many people, so that people can figure out their feelings. It could be about love, social, politic and many others as the theme that can even represent certain situation and condition based on the lyric content. Song lyric as the fundamental point. (Adam et al., 2020), (Rianto, 2021) In this line, song can be cited as a media to transfer perspectives, message, or expressions in order to achieve the pure feeling, joyful, aspirations, or ambitions. In addition, it is explicit enough, that song lyric contains the various aspect of human expression in form of melody and music collaborations

(Huda & Fernando, 2021) says that, lyric derived from Greek "Lyricos" meaning "singing to the lyres", "the rhythm of the entire globe written out like poetry". The song lyric is especially intended for singing. The intention affects diction, content and stanza form. Songs help people to construct their self-images and provide models on how to behave. Finally, song can express attitudes and values by how it sounds. Every song lyric has a moral message and advice for the listeners, whether it is good or bad. It depends on the

kind of the music and the listener too. To understand which song that has bad or good moral message we need to know and then analyze it before concluding.

Moral come from Latin word “Mores”, it has meaning custom and folkways. Moral development has both an intellectual and an impulsive aspect, people must learn what is right and wrong given explanation of why this is right and wrong, Hurlock (1985:386). According to (Mittal & Patidar, 2019),(Schrape, 2018),(Rido & Sari, 2018), moral issue involve a way of behaving and having character, they are unavoidably coming in all shapes and sizes. Fundamentally, moral issues arise when the choice that people take will affect the good attitude of other by increasing or decreasing. Indeed moral values could even be found in several literary works like in a song lyric, since the song lyric also could convey the idea of moral message by performing it through sound and music which can affect the listeners to take the value deeply, in this case the writer picks Alpha Blondy as a sample.

According to Alpha Blondy official website namely *alphablondyinfo.com* Alpha Blondy was born on January 1, 1953, in Dim-bokora, Ivory Coast with originally name Seydou Kone. As a musician Also he created a new sound, a sound that is a blend of his Ivory Coast traditional music and reggae music. He has managed to Become a musical and political figures, passing along his message to the world and preaching about peace. In the lyrics Alpha Blondy use themes of social issues, such as religion and discrimination issues, social gap, and civil war. Various socio-political issues that developed in the community, lead Alpha Blondy to put the valuable and meaningful songs. His popular song called "Peace In Liberia" was aimed to give attention on the socio-political situation in Liberia. In the song Alpha Blondy tried to portray the social reality that occurs in Liberia. Alpha Blondy was a member of Rastafari movement and becomes an ardent proponet of Rastafari(Huda & Fernando, 2021).

Rastafari is an African-centric religion which was developed in 1930s in Jamaica. Rastafari was developed among poor and oppressed Jamaicans. The followers of this religion is called Rasta or Rastaman. (Suwarni & Handayani, 2021). The Rastaman believes that Haile Selassie I is God. He was emperor of ethiopia since 1930 until 1974. As a religion, Rastafari has a basic belief or rules of life. Some of Rastafari’s way of life encompasses the spritual use of cannabis and reject to degenerate society of materialism, sensual pleasures and oppression. The Rastafari holds that evil society dominated and has committed such acts of aggression againts black people. According to (Anuar et al., 2020) says, “Rastafari is ‘religion’ related to the Black’s existence, the past time of Africa, also freedom). From the statement above, it is clear that the Rastafari has close relationship with the stories about freedom. All explanations and description above become background of study of this thesis entilted “*An Analysis Moral Values Seen In Song Lyric Peace In Liberia by Alpha Blondy*”. This thesis takes song of Alpha Blondy’s in *Paris Bercy* album to be analyzed(Sedyastuti et al., 2021).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Philosophical Approach

This research applies the philosophical approach. Philophysical approach concerns in the relation between subject and object, between human being and reality in philosophical view. The aim of philosophy is understanding, which necessiatates the examination of the

relation between awareness of the world and the world as the material of awareness (Kementerian Pertanian RI, 2019), (Darwis et al., 2020).

(Qodriani & Wijana, 2020) said that moral or philosophical approach in literature purposes to teach morality. Thus, literary work is not only presented stories, but also most exhibit moralism and utilitarianism. Similar to Hogan, Proclus also believes that literary works can also be a way of conveying moral or philosophical truth since it is possible to convey divinity directly (Adam et al., 2020).

Moral Value

Before we discuss about moral value, the first one we need to know the meaning of moral. Moral comes from the Latin word *mores*, meaning manners, customs, and folkway (Febrian & Fadly, 2021). Moral is often thought to be an affair with which ordinary knowledge has nothing to do. Moreover Baron in Budiningsih (Ries, 2011) states that moral is the matter which has relationship with prohibition and action and tells about right and wrong.

According to the “Divine Command” theory of morality, an action is wrong if and only if it is forbidden by God and an action is right if and only if it is either permitted or required by God. (van Eijck, Michiel; Hsu, Pei-Ling; Roth, 2009) In addition, Kohlberg in explains the meaning of moral by using some terms as like moral reasoning, moral thinking, and moral judgment. While, Magnis-Suseno (1987: 19) says that:

Moral always refers to right and wrong of human being, so moral field is field of human life if it is seen from right side as human being. Moral norms are measuring rod to determine the rightness of attitude and action in right and wrong side.

Moral term is also used sometimes as a synonymous word with ethnics, but in daily use, there is a little difference. Moral or morality used to the appraisal behavior. The ethnics are used to review the exiting value system. Morals are always refers to human merits as humans. Moral field is the field of human life in terms of the kindness as a human. Moral norms are the measures to determine the correct or wrong attitudes and actions of human beings in terms of good and bad as a human being and not as a specific and limited role (Qodriani & Wijana, 2020)

Kinds of Moral

There are kinds of moral values. It includes the universal concepts such as Religiosity, love and affection, loyalty, sincerity, thankfulness, steadfastness, humbleness, peace loving, brotherhood, respecting others and optimism (Lina & Setiyanto, 2021)

Literary Elements of Song Lyric

A song has some major elements to support the idea or the theme that will be conveyed by the singer, they are lyrics and melodies. In some cases, a song sung by someone has lyric which is adopted from poetry. (Kuswoyo, Sujatna, Indrayani, et al., 2020), (KUSWOYO et al., 2013), (Gulö, n.d.) It shows that there are similarities between song and poetry. This can be proven from the structure and characteristic of both. Song has lyrics and poetry has stanza and both rely on effective use of descriptive imagery (Kuswoyo, Sujatna, Rido, et al., 2020).

“...Both poetry and song are literary poems that deal with emotion of 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”. (Buzan:2008)

The statement above explains that song lyric is similar with poetry, because they have the same characteristics. The writer wants to concerns on research about the kinds of moral value found in song lyric “Peace In Liberia” because there are certain points that later on will be elaborated in the content of this paper (Darwis & Pamungkas, 2021) (Wantoro & Priandika, n.d.).

Alpha Blondy Review

Alpha Blondy (born Seydou Koné on January 1, 1953 in Dimbokoro, Cote D'Ivoire) is a reggae singer. He is a major star in West Africa. He has played with The Wailers. He studied English at Hunter College in New York, and later in the Columbia University American Language Program. Alpha Blondy sings mainly in his native language of Dioula, in French and English, and sometimes in Arabic or Hebrew. His lyrics convey strong political attitudes and a sense of humor. He coined the French word *democrature* (an English equivalent might be *democratatorship*) to identify some African governments.

They recorded his second album, *Cocody Rock*, in Paris in 1984. Later he returned to Tuff Gong to record his third album, *Jerusalem* (1986). By the release of his 1987 album *Revolution*, Blondy had established himself as an international artist. Three years before he had been voted the number one artist by a Radio France international poll. His popularity continues to grow, and he continues steadily releasing albums. His 1992 album, *Masada*, was released in over 50 countries around the world and went double gold in France. Yitzhak Rabin followed in 1998; *Paris Percy* appeared in spring 2001. Although it was recorded in 1999, the album *Elohim* appeared in 2002 in Europe and three years later in America.

METHOD

In chapter four, a broad definition of research is given by (Booch et al., 1998). He stated "In the broadest sense of the word, the definition of research includes any gathering of data, information and facts for the advancement of knowledge". To analyze a problem formulation, it needs a method as the important way in all activities in research, the activities to get right knowledge about a problem. Hence, a method is apparently required to be carried on a research. Therefore the method will help the researcher to get answers of the questions related to the issues discussed. There are some methods that are used in this analysis, such as; research design, data and data source, data collecting technique, and data analyzing technique.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer explain and elaborates the result of analysis to answer the question that stated in research of the problem. In order to make the analysis comprehensible, the writer recalls the theory that can help the writer to find moral value inside *Peace in Liberia* song lyric. It will enable the writer to gain the final result which would demonstrate expectation with accurate data of the research question proposed. This analysis applies philosophical approach and moral value theory, because this analysis deals with moral value that found in *Peace in Liberia* as the object of study. In order to make the analysis is more comprehensive, the writer uses theory of Hornby to show the kinds of moral value to analyze *Peace In Liberia Song lyric*. In order to know more deeply about the meaning of lyrics, the writer use figure of speech that correlate with the issue of moral value in the object of study that is song lyric entitled *Peace In Liberia Song*.

Kinds Of Moral Values in Lyric by Alpha Blondy

Religiosity

Religiosity is morbid or excessive concern with religion in it is formal expression . Religiosity can be defined as exaggerated embodiment of certain aspects of religious activity. Religiosity is characterized by excessive involvement in religious activities. Religiosity is one of the value related with the belief of people toward their God. They believe that God can save their live over the condition that happen in Liberia, therefore they surrender to their God because of their God will save their live, and it show from the line that explain below

*And everywhere over JAH land
Muddy rivers of blood oh lord !!
(Blondy, 1992: Line 12-13)*

From the quotation above show that the moral value in kind of religiosity found, it show from the word *Muddy rivers of blood oh lord !!* from this sentence show that Blondy complain about the condition and the circumstance of Liberia at that time, the condition that worse and cruel make people suffered it because of civil war that happen at that time, the sentence *muddy river of blood* is the sentence that portrayed brutality of the war itself, *Muddy river of blood* refers to how many people killed and become victim because of civil war at that time.

The moral value that can be found in that line is religiosity that show from the word *JAH* and *oh lord*. The word *JAH* means that Jah or Yah (Hebrew: יהו Yahu) is a short form of Yahweh, the proper name of God in the Hebrew Bible. This short form of the name occurs 50 times in the text of the Hebrew Bible, of which 24 form part of the phrase "Hallelujah". In an English-language context, the name Jah is now most commonly associated with the Rastafari. The lyric "*And everywhere over JAH land*" means that JAH Land refers to Liberia and Monrovia, because which used word JAH, Alpha Blondy hope the violence over Liberia land will be end.

Oh Lord, this sentence like complain from people as member of a religious community that complain to their lord about their condition that very poor because there are many people who killed because of civil war that happen in Liberia. It portrayed the relationship between God and human. From the sentence *Muddy rivers of blood oh lord !!* Blondy emphasis that

God is the place where all human complaining about the problem of their life and from the quotation above Blondy try to convey to the listeners that God is always listening what are the lamentation of the people and God always understanding what happen to his member. This is one of the kind of religiosty value that Blondy as the song writer want to share to the listeners.

Furthermore, Blondy use figurative language “hyperbole” The writer found a quotation of lyrics that categorized as overstatement, which is

“Muddy of river bloods oh lords !!” (Blondy, 1992: line 13)

In this sentence the researcher conclude that the writer of the song lyric overstating to describe the condition of that circumstance, the hyperbole sentence can be shown from the sentence *“Muddy of river bloods, oh lords!!”* the reason why this sentence categories as hyperbole because in fact there is no river that consist of blood of human, the song writer try to depict the cruel condition in Liberia which is very bad and horrible at the time, it cause of civil war that involve more than 600.000 people as victim of civil war itself. Because of that reason the song writer use the sentence Muddy of river bloods, from this sentence the song writer reflect what happen in that society.

CONCLUSION

As the completion from the previous chapters, the writer would like to more specified term where it have to be conclude. The conclusion will be presented through the coherency between the application of the theories , concepts and also the result of the analysis that formed in the form of the the tables and extend discussion to answer the problems that have been formulated in the early pages. After analyzing the line by line and stanza by stanza inside the lyric, the writer found eight moral values that exist in *Peace In Liberia* lyric. The eight moral values by (Lina & Setiyanto, 2021) Those are; religiosty, loyalty, sincerity, peace loving, brotherhood, respecting others, optimism, bravery. All of the moral values can be found in this lyric. From the eight kinds of moral values, all of the kinds can be found in this lyric. Basically, moral values cannot be judge by perspective of one person, because moral values based on what one environment believes about the one condition.(Suwarni & Handayani, 2020),(Permatasari, n.d.),(Husna & Novita, 2020) In this thesis the writer just focuses on the eight kinds of moral values from Hornby to make the specification the moral values itself, because moral values is to general and did not have limitation about the moral values.

The writer can conclude that moral values cannot only be found in the novel, short story, but in a song lyric the moral values can be found. This thesis prove that a reggae song not only about the entertaining, dancing or talking about marijuana , drunks or others criminality but reggae song also can be as the way of protest against oppression or a problem that occurs , if our mind and our perspective thinks with different way(Indriyanto et al., 2017)(Kurniawan et al., 2019). In this analysis, this song lyric draw several point of moral value which can be seen from the word, phrase, sentence and the line in the song lyric itself.

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