CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is the inspiration of the life that is legalized in the written language and carries the sense of humanity. It is an artificial word of the author; therefore literature can be called as the artificial of its creator. Through literature, we can express our feelings and ideas in the form of beautiful language. We can write our sadness and happiness which we feel in the form of literature. In conclusion, literature is a part of our life and can not be separated with our life.

By means of literature expression, a poet is able to reveal clearly human character, behavior and how human being encounter the problem of life. Moreover, a poet is able to describe objects of nature in such a good way that the readers are well attracted. One of the forms of poems is song, which is the combination of both the art of language, literature and the art of sound, music.

As one of the forms of poem song lyric also has two elements, intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic elements discuss about theme, setting, rhythm, symbol, meaning, message etc. In other hand, the discussions of extrinsic elements are sociological, political, cultural background etc. (Charlotte et. al., 2007: 123). One of the interesting parts of song lyric is its symbolic meaning. Understanding the symbolic meaning of song lyric is very amazing. Someone will understand the song lyric deeply by understanding the
symbols in that song lyric. It will be nothing if someone does not know the symbolic meaning of a song lyric. Someone cannot catch what does the song lyric mean and what does the author mean or what are the messages that the author wants to show through the song lyric if she or he does not understand the symbolic meaning of the song lyric. It means that the symbolic meaning of song lyric is very important to be understood to know the meaning of the song lyric and its message that the author wants to convey.

Moreover, music is an expression of feeling and heart. It means that music with all of its instruments can enhance any kinds of feeling, love, sadness, and happiness. Music is also universal, we can enjoy it at any situation in according situation with our feeling or emotion. A song lyric, as one of literary works, is interesting to listened. We will not only get a fun for this, but also we will get science and we will be brought into large, close and fresh relation to life. What has been composed in literary works is the reflection of human beings life, whether it is created by the composers own feeling or others. Literary works may even be imaginative experience (Frederick, 2001:220).

“Symbols and the Messages Found in Robert Frost’s Poems” which is conducted by Zaenal Machmud (2000). In his research, Machmud focused on kinds of symbol and messages in Robert Frost’s poems. In Machmud’s analysis, he thinks that in Robert Frost’s poems which are analyzed by him, consist of three categories of symbols; they are conventional, natural and private symbols.
There are so many songs that can touch the heart of listeners, but based on those many, Michael Jackson’s are included. The researcher choose Michael Jackson because Michael Jackson is legendaries and fenomenal pop singer and his song not only talking about love but also talk about humanity, equality, rasis etc. altought he pass away but his song until now still live in people life. That’s why many people influence by his song. It is so interesting to know deeply the messages that Michael wants to convey through his song since mostly the theme of his songs tell about humanity, equality, and love which are never faded by time.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in writing her thesis dealing with the message of symbolic meaning as the scope of this thesis especially in the lyrics of Michael Jackson songs in the “Dangerous” Album. The researcher choose “Dangerous” album because became the fastest selling number one album, breaking the records by entering the charts at #1 only 3 days after it's release. Since it contains three phenomenal and popular songs of his, those are: “Heal the World”, “Black or White”, and “Will You Be There”. The lyrics in Michael Jackson songs have creative language and are very closed with the heart of young people in the world especially in Indonesia.

1.2 Statements of problem

Based on the background of the study above, the statements of the problems are formulated as follows:
1. What are the meanings of the lyrics of Michael Jackson's "Dangerous" Album?

2. What are the message of the lyrics of Michael Jackson's "Dangerous" Album?

1.3 Objective of the study

Concerning with the statement of the problem above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To figure out the meaning of the lyrics of Michael Jackson's "Dangerous" Album.

2. To know what are the message of the lyrics of Michael Jackson's "Dangerous" Album.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Related to the result of this study, the researcher expects that this research can give both theoretical and practical contribution on the area of literature.

Theoretically, this study aimed at enlarging the knowledge of literature such as song lyrics especially in the meaning and message.

Practically, this study is expected to give experience and available knowledge for the researcher. Then this research also can give information and opportunity for further analysis on a similar subject, so that this study can be used as a reference for further researchers who are interested in conducting similar studies by using different variables and manipulate different subject.
1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of the study is only figuring out meaning and message. This study focuses on symbolic meaning and the universal message that Michael Jackson's songs carry.

In addition, Michael Jackson's songs that will be analyzed by the researcher are songs taken from “Dangerous” album released on November 26, 1991 by Epic Records. The limitation of this study focused on the three most phenomenal and popular songs in the album, those are: “Heal the World”, “Black or White”, and “Will You Be There”.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

In the following section, the writer gives definition of key terms related to the thesis. The purpose of this explanation is to avoid the ambiguity and misunderstanding of terms which are used.

1. Message in this study refers to value or lesson that the author wants to convey through the literary work by using either explicit or implicit expression (Irvin, 2006: 115)

2. Meaning in this study refers to reference, its association with the object it refers to (Fromkin, 2011: 154)

3. Song lyrics in this study refers to poem means to be sung or an especially musical or highly subjective poem (Morris, 2003:314).

4. Michael Jackson's “Dangerous” album in this study refers to Dangerous is the eighth studio album by American recording artist Michael Jackson. It was released on November 26, 1991 by Epic Records.