Teenagers' Anxiety in Facing the Transition of Adult Age in Song Lyrics of *Blurryface* Album by Twenty One Pilot (2015)

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Abstract

The purpose of this research is to explain about how song lyrics in Blurryface album by Twenty One Pilot (2015) reflect the teenager's anxiety How the teenager's psychological condition in facing social pressure which in Twenty One Pilot's song lyrics in Blurryface album (2015) The object and primary data used in this research are some song lyrics of Blurryface album as follows; Stressed Out, Ride, Lane Boy, Polarize, Heavy dirty soul and Doubt which whole the lyrics are written by Joseph Tyler. In conducting the process of the research, the researcher applied theory of psychoanalysis, focusing on teenager's anxiety. The method applied in this research is qualitative method. The steps are reading, identifying, classifying, and selecting. In analyzing data, the researcher uses the steps such as displaying, explaining, and interpreting.

Keywords: anxiety, teenager, Blurryface.

Introduction

Being teenager is a phase of human beings starting to grow physically or inwardly. By this situation the teenage phase can be called as a period of identity crisis in human life. According to Curtis (2015: 1) stated that Steinberg described youth as someone who developed dynamically and was informed through physiology, psychosocial and cultural perspective. Adolescents become very vulnerable to get depression because of the pressure both from within themselves and from the surrounding environment. The social condition of society greatly influences the teenager psyche in the transition to adulthood. The influence of the community system or the world of adult life where they need various kinds of needs to maintain their existence, it often becomes a matter that raises many problems for humans, especially teenagers.

By very tight social conditions and level of competition in society that has an impact on teenager psychology, this raises anxiety in themselves. For low levels of pressure this only causes a slight shock in humans, but in some serious cases this anxiety can eliminate common sense to suicide for sufferers. Since in the transition to adulthood, they must be able to adapt in very different circumstances, where they must begin to fulfill their needs both physically and mentally. Heady and Veehoven in Primasari and Yuniarti state that a person will feel happy if the distance between his expectations and reality is very close. Conversely, if the need for this is not fulfilled eating will appear a sense of anxiety, depression and the worst to commit suicide. (Primasari and Yuniarti, 2012: 54)

Most of teenagers' psychology problems is such as anxiety which does not only adversely affect themselves, but it also has an impact on their interaction in socializing with the people around. Those who get pressure often feel insecure to get along with the community, and most of them become anti-social. They usually do detrimental action to the surrounding environment with the aim is just to show their existence off, such as crime to the destruction of public facilities, alcohol and drugs use. As mentioned by Millie (2008: 53), there are many factors such as family problems, social inequality, unemployment, alcohol, drugs use, but there is one very dominant factor why teenagers act like that, lack of respect for others makes them take action.

Problems regarding teenagers' anxiety about social conditions are things commonly encountered in life. So many art creators are inspired by these issues in creating artwork. They try to voice what they are feeling by the artworks. There are several examples of artwork that reflect this phenomenon, such as the film "*Inside Out*" (2015) produced by Pixar Animation Studio which packaged in animated films so that it can be enjoyed from a variety of backgrounds, then the book titled "*Finding Audrey*" by Sophie Kinsella in 2015, and in the same year twenty One Pilots also released the album "*Blurryface*" which in most of the songs were about teenage anxiety. *Blurryface* album was created as an obstinate form of the author when facing the transition period and as critics about the social conditions they feel. The genre of songs in this album is also very varied, not only one genre but also hip-hop, rock, reggae, alternative pop. In this study, the

researcher discusses scientifically song lyric of Twenty One Pilots' songs in *Blurryface* album.

Twenty One Pilots is a band that has a strong character, both in terms of writing song lyrics and performance, so this becomes interesting to be studied. Also based on the background, the researcher analyzes the *Blurryface* album by Twenty One Pilots with the theme of anxiety during adolescence in the transition to maturity towards the social situation of the community. In order to be the right research, the researcher uses the neo Freudian theory by using a socio psycho approach.

Literary Review

Psychology of Literature

By showing the characters in the literary work, this creator gives other perspectives on the social problems that exist on surround him. According to Wellek and Warren (1949: 75) stated that psychology of literature is a study which understand the state of psychology of the author as a creative process that was created, the study of psychological events and effects on the readers psychological. In addition, this study is a very remarkable development in the field of psychology As Ibsch, Schram and Steen (2002: 18) stated that in research on the problem of the nature of psychology in a literary work has existed since ancient times and needs to be used as a gift then a very genius. By this study the research carried out on social problems can develop very rapidly by analyzing a literary work.

Psychoanalysis and Anxiety

Psychoanalysis is a study that can be used as a reference in studying the nature of traits that exist in humans based on how someone thinks. As Bertens (1979: 10) argues that psychoanalysis is used as a scientific method of research concerning human psychic processes which were previously never addressed. In addition, psychoanalysis is also used as a technique in analyzing of psychiatric disorders that exist in humans. Since inside a human being has a very unique motivation that underlies how people will be. According to Bateman (1995: 6) that in

understanding psychoanalysis Freud organization personality is divided into three levels: The conscious, the conscious and unconscious, which each of them is interrelated. In otherwise, Psychoanalysis also discusses for further about personality system that occurs in the human soul. This theory is primarily based on concept that personality is arranged of three major systems; id (biological aspect), Ego (Psychological aspect) and Superego (sociological aspect). These are the descriptions as follows;

The *Id* is According to Corey statement that Id is a biological aspect that exist in humans since the birth and it is a source of all psychic energy, or commonly regarded as important component in personality systems. Id is driven by desire of pleasure. If it is not achieved, it will cause anxiety. (Sari, Suwandi, Wardani, 2018: 100-101).

The *Ego* is a component in the personality system that responsible for handling the reality development of the Id. The ego also functions to fulfill the desires like Id, but it is still tolerated by the appropriate of reality and social condition. Freud (1989:17) stated that the ego does not fully cover the Id, but it just does so to what extent the PCPT system which forms the surface of the ego, more or less when the germinal disk rests in the ovum. Sharply Ego is not separated from id, but its bottom is still incorporated with Id.

The *Superego* is personality aspect that holds all based on moral view. The Superego can also be a guideline for assessing things and influencing personality development. This is related to the ideals that humans get from both parents and people surround. Freud (1989: 30) argued that Superego came from the fact that it served to suppress Oedipus complexity, and it was clear that this revolutionary event and it was not an easy matter.

According to Fodor and Gaynor (2004: 10) that anxiety appears from Ego which admits the weakness It is especially suffered by adolescents. This study uses psychoanalytic theory from Anna Freud, Sigmund Freud's daughter. She views the psychic side of human from how to defend himself from any sense of anxiety or commonly referred to as a self defense mechanism. Anna Freud (1992:60) argued that when adolescents lose protection against anxiety, such as frustration instinctual habitual satisfaction, this is the cause of neurosis. Freud knew the purpose of psychoanalysis was to make the unconscious part conscious of the cancellation of regression. (Jamilian, Zamani and Darvishi, 2014, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4796512/)

Anxiety is an aversive state that people seek to avoid or escape, usually humans feel the anxiety because of a sense of insecure about new things that make them uncomfortable like when the teenagers facing the transition period. Weiner (2003: 211) said that the power of interpersonal experience will have a profound effect on one's personality Anxiety is also a reaction to pressure affecting psychological and physical conditions.Nye (2000: 29-30) argued that Freud defined three types of hyper anxiety as a human personality disorder as follow:

Reality anxiety, according to Hall (1999: 63) that anxiety arised from things that are clearly or manifestly tangible. Like fear of heights or the threat of wild animals. This feeling of anxiety is based on the ego.

Hall (1999:64-65) stated that Neurotic Anxiety is feeling of anxiety caused from the instincts and fears of what might happen because of anti - cathexes of the ego failure prevent the instincts of object cathexes in their own discharging in some impulsive action. For example, the anxiety about a figure who has the authority to give a punishment even though someone does not make a mistake.

Moral anxiety is based by Hall (1999:68) who stated that the anxiety arises because of shame or guilt which is based on family even society expectations to the human future. However someone breaks the law also cause this matter. DiCenso (1998:31) argued that Freud believed on religion included in the culture repressive mechanisms that suppress and offer other rewards. For example; someone is worried because of the insistence of his parents on his/her future to be a successful person.

Research Method

To get answers of the teenagers anxiety in facing transition of adult age in Twenty One Pilots *Blurryface* album (2015), qualitative research is used here. It is used because the researcher gives a description about something and it does not include any statistic calculation and enumeration. In this research, the researcher is really concerned with the process. The researcher's opinion is based on Cresswell (2009:13) said that as Qualitative approach—Participatory worldview, narrative design, and open-ended interview. Based on the above quotation, qualitative research can be used to examine human behavior presented in narrative form, and this research focuses on teenager psychological phenomenon by analyzing words, providing detailed views and also conducting research in a more natural large. Qualitative research is very different from quantitative one and this explanation provides an understanding so that the research can be understood well.

According to Sangidu (2004:61), objects of research literature is the subject or topic in the research. The object of the research is teenager psychological behavior in facing the transition age which reflected in the *Blurryface* album (2015). The things that will be analyzed is contains the song lyrics of this album. There are two steps, such as (1) Main Data, Researcher just uses two types of the data, the first data is main data that collected from song lyrics of *Blurryface* (2015) album by Twenty One Pilot. (2) Supporting Data, The second data is called a supporting data. The supporting data is collected from the thesis with the tittle is *Anxiety of Will Kean's as Main Character in Autumn in New York Movie Directed By Joan Chen and Written by Allison Burnet*which is arranged by Ulfah Zakiyah in (2007).

Technical data collection in this research techniques are reading, identifying, classifying, and selecting.(1) Reading is the first and basic step in analyzing, this is to understand the content of those song lyrics in *Blurryface* album (2015). It also helps researchers to identify which parts of the song lyrics would be analyzed related to the topic. By reading the song lyrics only, this process would help the researcher understand the contents of the songs theme. This process is also a data collection procedure to be analyzed. (2) Identifying is step to identify the main data, Such as; listening carefully those song and taking a quote from those song lyrics which will be analyzed entitled *Blurryface* (2015). (3) Classifying, The identified data on song lyrics of Twenty One Pilots' *Blurryface* album (2015) is classified based on the problem statement. (4) Selecting, The researcher selects the classified data to answer the problem

statements. The result of selecting step is selected data in song lyrics of Twenty One Pilots' *Blurryface* album (2015).

There are some steps to analyzing scientificly after collecting data as evidence of anti-social in those albums. According to Creswell (1994:276-284) there are several step used in analyzing data in qualitative research as follows; (1) Displaying, To prove that the data is valid, the quotation from song lyrics of *Blurryface* album (2015) will be included in this research.(2) Explaining, In this step, the researcher explains the displaying data of the song lyrics of *Blurryface* album(2015)to answer the problem. (3)Interpreting, The last step is interpreting. The researcher interprets the selected data based on the problem statement by applying the Anna Freud's theory.

Discussion and Finding

Teenager's Anxiety is Represented in Twenty One Pilots' Song Lyrics in *Blurryface* Album (2015)

Some Twenty One Pilots songs on the *Blurryface* album (2015) that will become objects include; *Stressed Out, Ride, Doubt Polarize, Heavy Dirty Soul and Lane Boy*, all lyrics are written by Joseph Tyler (vocalist). However, to find out more about the issues to be raised, teenager's anxiety is main topic of this analysis. Then Researcher identified the symptoms of anxiety about anything that Joseph Tyler tried to express in his songs.

Some Twenty One Pilots songs represent anxiety about adulthood, like things that start to burden him. The simplest thing has to fulfill his own personal needs. In the *Stressed Out* song, quotation below tries to convey it in the lyrics fragment.

We used to play pretend, give each other different names We would build a rocket ship and then we'd fly it far away <u>Used to dream of outer space but now they're laughing at our face</u> <u>Saying, "Wake up, you need to make money"</u>

(Tyler, *Stressed Out*, 2015: stanza 1, line 27-30) This song generally reflects the lives of adolescents who are starting to grow up and by this phenomenon, humans must be able to fulfill their needs independently. At the song, The quotation above tries to express the experience that is in teenager's mind. It's about feeling anxious when teenager has to face adulthood. During the time he was experiencing he felt this was very different and made him feel depressed. Since he has to start looking for money to fulfill his needs materially. This is clearly very different from the situation in which he had a child when he wanted to sleep, his mother was still rocking him by singing a song. Not only that, when in adolescence they begin to dream of reaching out for what they aspire to, but circumstances require them to wake up from their dreams and start looking for money to get their needs. Also, In the Polarize song section too.

The characters in this song experience pressure where their desire to remain in the comfort zone cannot be fulfilled. Id that is based on desire cannot be fulfilled so that raises anxiety. Such as in this sentence; Used to dream of outer space but now they're laughing at our face, this explains that they used to dream of going to outer space, but what happens is that people only consider it to be boastful. While the ego cannot tolerate the reality that occurs in the situation requires him to be independent and aware of the life he faces today, to be like an adult in general. Where the characters in this song feel uncomfortable with what is being faced and the pressure they experiences is not only come from his family but also from the people around him. In the sentence section; Saying, "Wake up you need to make a money" shows that as a person who starts to grow up he must act something to produce, not only sleep in his dreams. What teenagers generally experience is feeling stressed, because they have to do new things like work while they are used to just happy activities. This is the moment where the feeling of anxiety arises, because they are also still uncertain about the work that have to do. the superego experienced by this character is where the people around him want that they have to fulfill their needs such as making money, while their ego tells him to live like pretending when in fact they are stressed this is natural.

They think this thing is a highway If it was our way, we'd have a tempo change every other time change 'Cause our mind's changed on what we think is good I wasn't raised in the hood

(Tyler, Lane Boy, 2015: stanza 1, line 5-8)

This song tells about someone who is underestimated by society because the person has his own way to live life. On song excerpts above people think that the path chosen by teenagers is a difficult dream to reach. However, according to them when they are on the right path, they will live it on the way that stay in their mind. They believe that they can grow up in their own way.

Human feelings will be depressed when they feel belittled. The influence of social activities in the environment around them will cause various kinds of effects. Since the social intervention by the people around him give bad an impact, the song also reflects the bad things of society. This is destructive to the human personality, because this intervention makes a person feel unconfident. This kind of pressure makes dwarfs mentality of someone. As in the following song excerpt; '*Cause our mind is changed on what we think is good*, what is considered a good society will become a respectable standard in society, whereas according to him that everyone has a good way of thinking by the other perspectives, but other people don't realize it.

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Wish we could turn back time, to the good old days When our momma sang us to sleep but now we're stressed out Wish we could turn back time, to the good old days When our momma sang us to sleep but now we're stressed out We used to play pretend, give each other different names We would build a rocket ship and then we'd fly it far away <u>Used to dream of outer space but now they're laughing at our face</u> <u>Saying, "Wake up, you need to make money"</u>

(Tyler, Stressed Out, 2015: stanza 1, line 23-30)

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Teenager's Psychological Condition in Facing Anxiety which in Twenty One Pilots' Song Lyrics in *Blurryface* Album (2015)

Anxiety is a natural thing experienced by teenagers. There are many factors that cause this to happen. This research discusses the symptoms of anxiety found in some Twenty One Pilots songs on the *Blurryface* album (2015). Researcher identified several processes that occur in the phenomenon of adolescent anxiety that are interpreted from songs of the Twenty One Pilot Band.

Youth anxiety levels vary greatly. This feeling is usually accompanied by how much trouble they face. Usually the bigger the problem they face, the greater the level of anxiety they suffer. In addition, this will have an impact on one's behaviour. The signs about teenage anxiety that the researcher can identify in the song of the Twenty One Pilot can be seen in the following *Stressed Out* song, excerpt;

I was told when I get older all my fears would shrink <u>But now I'm insecure and I care what people think</u> My name's <u>Blurryface</u> and I care what you think My name's Blurryface and I care what you think (Tyler, Stressed Out, 2015: stanza 1, line 5-8)

The song excerpt above tells us that when someone starts to grow up in his imaginary the fear of fear will disappear. As in the minds of children, adulthood is a beautiful time in the process of life. However, what happened in this song, this character felt insecure and began to care about what other people said. So he named himself as *Blurryface*.

When adolescence grew up he starts to think critically. In their mental transition it is unstable. This critical period will foster a sense of anxiety that impacts on the mental psychological state of a person, especially to the teenagers.

In this song, the character feels attacked with the pressure of life, that he must be able to live alone and not depend on the abilities of others. in the sentence; *But now I'm insecure and I care what people think*, this shows that this person experienced insecure. Uncomfortable feeling to himself is caused by the beginnings of external pressure. The other people's thoughts make him think which makes him feel depressed. Then he named himself a *Blurryface*, which came from the word *Blur* and *Face*. This means that he can be someone who is not considered, so he wants to prove that he is able to do more as proof to others.

There are people back home which are talking to you <u>But then you ignore them still</u> All these questions they're forming like <u>Who would you live for?</u>

(Tyler, *Ride*, 2015: stanza 1, line 29-32)

Whereas in the song excerpt above which tells about a teenager who determines his own way of life, the people around him are busy blaspheming him. So that the words of the people around him finally shape how his personality will be in the future. Then he really thinks whether his life is just to make others impressed or make him feel satisfied.

When adolescents begin to determine their own way of life, here a very historic process occurs for themselves in determining their decisions. This feeling of doubt will grow anxiety. This part of the sentence; *Who would you live for?* It shows that? This suppresses their ego when he wants to be someone who is independent but they do not know what to do precisely what they get is someone's blasphemy, so that the Superego in the characters in this song is not able to cover the ego performance where it is more likely to fulfill the wishes of the Id. In this sentence; *But then you ignore them still*. This person prefers to ignore the words of others. he prefers to be yourself. Although in reality it is difficult to fulfill their needs materially

From the two excerpts of the songs, it can also be categorized as reality anxiety because of the threatening object from the outside, causing anxiety. The object contained in these two songs is the mind and blasphemy of the community. They think this will not be able to meet their needs, because the economic quality that is likely to be produced by what the characters do will not be able to fulfill it. Yet in a different song, this proves the existence of a self - defense mechanism strategy carried out. See the following *Heavy dirty soul* song excerpt;

We used to play pretend, give each other different names We would build a rocket ship and then we'd fly it far away Used to dream of outer space but now they're laughing at our face Saying, "Wake up, you need to make money" (Tyler, Stressed Out, 2015: stanza 1, line 28-31)

This part of the song tells that people often pretend and give names that are different from each other. He began to dream up and start a career and then enjoy the results. Even this wish has been there since childhood. Then when you become an adult, this is a lot different. Humans must start to make money to fulfill their needs.

From the above quotation above researcher identified to know that someone tries to project himself to others as a strategy of self defense mechanisms. This can be identified through understanding sentences; *We used to play pretend, give each other different names*. Actually, he felt a great deal of anxiety, but he also realized that not only he feel it. So, he uses *We* which means it is plural and more than one person.

Conclusion

After analyzing Twenty One Pilot's songs in a *Blurryface* album (2015) such as; *Heavy dirty soul, Ride, Stressed Out, Lane Boy, Polarize* and *Doubt* that all the songs were written by Joseph Tyler and also agreed on the facts about teenager's anxiety, researcher concluded that it is a reflection of the mental stress experienced by teenagers. In some of the songs above Joseph Tyler expressed the anxiety caused by various factors. So, this also causes a reaction to his behavior in society.

On *Blurryface* album (2015) the songwriter experienced many life problems. According to him when humans are in the transition from adolescence to adulthood, there will be many psychological problems arising from internal or external individual. From some of these songs the song writer experiences reality, neurotic and moral anxiety which are influenced by the social system around them. In addition, the songs also show some symptoms of the psychology condition felt by the songwriter. It is about how someone experiences anxiety and their way to escape the mental illness slump.

In the daily life, teenagers experience many activities that have the potential to make them feel anxious, in this period teenagers can be said to be in the quarter of the crisis of life. Since in the transition period, they experience many changes in activities, so they have to do something more to meet their own needs. Also, it burdens them so much, automatically it creates anxiety. In other side they have to find their identity, sometimes pursuing passion as a reaching the dreams makes teenagers feel underestimated by society.

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