CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Literature is a reflection of human's emotions, expressions, and imaginations to the real life. Robert and Jacobs state that literature refers to composition that tell the stories, dramatize situations, express emotions, and analyze and advocate ideas (1). They also state that literature develops people imaginations; increases people understanding, and enlarge people power of sympathy (5).

Taylor in Widianti states that literature like other arts that essentially an imaginative act that is an act of writer's imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life experience (Noviana, 2014). According to Encyclopedia Britannica Eleventh Edition, literature classifies as the best expression of the best thought reduced to writing (538).

One of the literary works that express the emotions, imaginations, and expressions of human being is lyric of song. Pradopo states that lyric of song includes as poetry because it is able to make a sense, amaze the attention, build the suggestion and mellow-feelings (13). Moelionalso states that lyric of song has two meanings, the first is a literature (poetry) that contains the heart-expression and another is an arrangement of a song-part (678). One of the lyrics that the researcher wants to analyze is Rezso

Seress's lyrics entitled Gloomy Sunday. This song is written and firstly published in 1933.

This lyric has influenced to the listeners; many people commit to suicide after listening to this song. Stack, Krysinska, Lester state that Times Magazine posted on Time Archives in 1933 tells about a shoemaker named Joseph Keller left a suicide note quoting the lyrics. In 1937, Times Magazine also reported that Jerry Flanders in Indianapolis hired a soloist to sing Gloomy Sunday but was arrested in saloon just as Flanders was about to drink a glass of poisoned beer. Flanders was died in 24 years old (352).

After Keller and Flanders, many people who influenced after listening to Gloomy Sunday, such as head-sick and feels complicated. Instead a listener feels something not good after listening to Gloomy Sunday, he feels so afraid, head-sick, and complicated. Another one tells that he did baddreaming and felt so destroyed because he listened to the song while sleeping (http://kaskus.us/showthread.php?t=12357500)

From the prooves that the lyric has influenced to the listeners's psychology, the researcher raises into a thesis with the title An Influence On A Song Listeners Through Rezso Seress's Song Gloomy Sunday

Stack, Krysinska, and Lester state that Gloomy Sunday is more well-known after the release of the version of Billie Holiday in 1941 for English version. They continue that the version of Billie Holiday was reportedly

banned from the airwaves in America, and by BBC in United Kingdom until 2002 (350).

This song is very popular song. It receives many notable achievement such as being listed as one of the most recorded songs all of time. Stack, Krysinska, and Lester state that this song is a noted example of suicidogenic song, which could conceivably contribute to suicide among persons already at risk. This song has already recorded 79 times, unlike most songs in popular music (355). This song also inspires The Kovak Box movie in 2006 that tells about people who commit suicide after listening to Gloomy Sunday (http://variety.com/2007/film/reviews/the-kovak-box-1200510535/). This song is listed as being one of the saddest songs of all time on Spinner (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/gloomy_sunday). This song has ever been banned by BBC since 1940s on Billie Holiday's version until 2002. (http://historicmysteries.com/gloomy-sunday-suicide-song/)

The composer of Gloomy Sunday is Reszo Seress. He was born on November 3, 1899 in Budapest, Astria-Hungary. He is a composer and pianist. He has composed many songs, such as Waiter, Bring Me The Bill and I Love Being Drunk. However, his most famous composition is Gloomy Sunday itself. He died in 1968 after jumping out from the small window of his small apartment (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reszo_Seress).

1.2. Statement of Problem

Based on background of the study above, the writer would like to specify the main problems into the question below:

- 1.2.1 What are the meanings of Gloomy Sunday's lyrics?
- 1.2.2 How can Gloomy Sunday's lyrics influence to the listeners?

1.3. Objective of Study

Absolutely the writer hopes that this research can help people to understand more about reader reasponse approach in a very simple example such as lyrics of song. Then, the writer can give the accurate and precise information about:

- 1.3.1 To describe the interpretations of Gloomy Sunday according to the researcher
- 1.3.2 To describe how Gloomy Sunday's lyrics influence the listeners

1.4. Scope and Limitation

In this research, the researcher uses the lyrics of Rezso Seress's song. The title of the song is Gloomy Sunday. The writer focuses to the Billie Holiday's song version that was translated to English by Sam M. Lewis and Desmon Carter and being air waved for the first time in 1941. The length of this song is about 3:13 (three minutes and thirteen seconds) for the mp3 version. The idea of psychoanalysis itself will use Reader Response Theory

1.5. Significance of Study

This study is supposed to enrich the theoretical bases of literary studies, particularly in analyzing unconsciousness concept using reader response approach and practically gives contribution for the next researcher to understand and improve the knowledge about reader response approach. In addition, the researcher hopes that this study can give a new input to the readers, especially the students of English Literature Department in Islamic State University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya who are interested in reader response theory. Furthermore, it is hoped for further researcher to conduct the study, which not only focuses on reflection of unconsciousness but also on the other aspect of psychoanalysis

1.6. Method of Study

In this part, the researcher discusses how the research is conducted. It involves four main sub chapters, such as research design, source of data, procedure of data collection, and procedure of data analysis.

In the research design, the researcher will focus to reader response approach to deal with the data. The researcher uses reader response approach because in this research will analyze about human's responses after listening to Gloomy Sunday and how the song influence to the listeners. After that, the second is about source of data. In this sub chapter,

the researcher uses Gloomy Sunday from Rezso Seress as the main document in this research. The data are taken by the lyrics of song.

In third sub chapter, the researcher will discuss about procedure of data collection. In this step, the researcher finds and listens to Gloomy Sunday by Rezso Seress and understand the meanings. Then, the researcher selects the data based on the problem of study, in this case, the researcher limits on the listeners's responses after listening to the song. And the last is about procedure of data analysis. In this step, the researcher begins to interpret the lyrics of song each two lines of the lyrics, introduce the notable history of the song that has influenced the listeners to commit suicide, make a listener's analysis to prove about the influence of the song then connect into the theory, and the last is the researcher discusses about data-making conclusion from the result analysis

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

To make this research more clear, there must be an explanation to explain more detail or specific from the concept.

- 1.7.1 Psychological Influence: Several factors that has primarily behaviorbased that affect individuals decision making process
- 1.7.2 Song listeners: People who have listened and influenced to GloomySunday song