

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Problem

Semiotics is an investigation into how meaning is created and how meaning is communicated. Its origins lie in the academic study of how signs and symbols (visual and linguistic) create meaning. It is a way of seeing the world and of understanding how the landscape and culture in which we live has a massive impact on all of us unconsciously.

Our actions and thoughts, what we do automatically, are often governed by a complex set of cultural messages and conventions, and dependent upon our ability to interpret them instinctively and instantly. For instance, when we see the different colors of a traffic light, we automatically know how to react. We know this without even thinking about it. But this is a sign which has been established by cultural convention over a long period of time and which we learn as children, and requires a deal of unconscious cultural knowledge to understand its meaning.

Music is one way to communication activities that are expected to deliver messages in different ways. Music is part of a work of art. Art is an important part in the system of human civilization that continues to move in accordance with the development of culture, technology and science. As part of a work of art, music can be a medium for someone to communicate with others. One of the goals of music is to communicate media. Through music, musicians want to explain, entertain, and express the experience to others. Music is a means for musicians, like words that are a means for songwriters to uncover what they want.

Song lyrics are a person's expression of something that has been seen, heard or experienced. Lyric can express the thought and the feelings of the poets, in this case the songwriter. It could be songwriter's love experience, the social condition in his/her country, environment, protest, tell a story, even a concept album. In expressing they experience, poet or songwriter engages in words and language to create appeal and uniqueness to his lyrics or poems. This engages in words can be a vocal engages, language style and deviation of the word meaning and reinforced by the use of melodies and musical notation lyrics of the song so that the listener gets carried away with what the author thinks. As a unity in a work of music, the lyrics are an important part that has a universal nature, meaning lyrics can be used even by listeners. No exception for progressive metal songs.

Dream Theater is one of American progressive metal band which formed in 1985. The band is well known for the technical proficiency of its instrumentalists, who have won many awards from music instruction magazines. The band is well known for the technical proficiency of its instrumentalists, who have won many awards from music instruction magazines. Guitarist John Petrucci has been named as the third player on the G3 tour six times, more than any invited players. In 2009 he was named the No. 2 best metal guitarist by Joel McIver in his book *The 100 Greatest Metal Guitarists*. He was also named as one of the "Top 10 Fastest Shredders of All Time" by *GuitarOne* magazine. Jordan Rudess is considered to be one of the greatest keyboard players of all time by many publications like *MusicRadar*. Former drummer Mike Portnoy has won 26 awards from *Modern Drummer* magazine and is also the second youngest person (at the age of 37) to be inducted into the Rock Drummer Hall of Fame. John Myung was voted the greatest bassist of all time in a poll conducted by *MusicRadar* in August through September 2010. The band was inducted into the Long Island Music Hall of Fame in 2010.

*Metropolis Pt. 2: Scenes from a Memory*, it is the fifth studio album and first concept album by American progressive metal/progressive rock band Dream Theater, released on October 26, 1999. This album has 12 songs where 2 songs are only instrumental. This album also consists of nine scenes that Mike Portnoy has statement this concept album tells about a person living in 1999 who later found himself is a reincarnation of someone who lived in the era of 1920's. Moreover, this concept album has been nominated for a variety of different awards. It has already achieved chart Billboard 200, position 2 in Billboard Top Internet Albums, and UK Albums Chart.

In this research, the writer chooses *Metropolis Pt. 2 "Scenes from a Memory"* (1999) the 5<sup>th</sup> album of Dream Theater as an object to know the myths in concept album through their song lyrics. There are many indications and clues in the lyrics which make the writer can also analyze using semiotic theory.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background on the previous, the writer would like to analyze the main problem which is the myths that are appears in *Metropolis Pt. 2 "Scene from a Memory"* concept album. Based

on the identification of the problem that is explained above, the writer assumes that the myths in Metropolis Pt. 2: Scene from a Memory concept album is about mediumship. The writer would like to rebut Mike Portnoy's statement about reincarnation with the myths that appears in each song that will be analyzed using semiotic approaches.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

To make the research more specific focused, and not too large, the writer limits the problem which is the myth of each song proves the concept album in Metropolis Pt. 2 "Scene from a Memory" about mediumship. In this research the writer uses Barthes's theory about denotation, connotation and myth.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the assumption above, the research problem is formulated in the form of research questions, as follows:

**1.4.1** What are the denotative and the connotative meanings from the lyrics in Metropolis Pt. 2 "Scene from a Memory" concept album?

**1.4.2** What kinds of myths in each song in Metropolis Pt. 2 "Scene from a memory" concept album?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

In order to be able to reach the purpose of the research, the analysis steps are conducted in the following ways:

**1.5.1** To know the denotative and the connotative meanings from the lyrics in Metropolis Pt. 2 "Scene from a Memory" concept album.

**1.5.2** To know what kinds of myths from the songs in Metropolis Pt. 2 "Scene From a memory" concept album.

**1.5.3** To rebut Mike Portnoy's statement through the myths that appears from Metropolis Pt. 2 "Scene from a Memory" concept album.

## **1.6 Methodology of the Research**

In this research, the writer uses qualitative method to collect the data. The sources of the data are from journals, English Mono-Lingual Dictionary, Urban Dictionary, articles, books, and internet. Then, the writer analyzes the data and the theories. Then, the writer gives the result of the data and theories.

## **1.7 Benefit of the Research**

The writer hopes this research will help English Department students in doing such literary research, especially which related to song lyric, in the future.

## **1.8 Systematic Organization of the Research**

This writing of term paper uses paper organization. The writer organizes it to be some sections that consist of four chapters.

### **Chapter 1: Introduction**

- In this chapter, the writer explains about Background, Identification of the Problems, Limitation of the Problems, Formulation of the Problems, Objective of the Research, Methods of the Research, and Benefits of the Research in analyzing Metropolis Pt. 2 “Scene from a Memory” song lyrics using Semiotics.

### **Chapter 2: Framework of Theories**

In this chapter, the writer explains about the theory of semiotics and the specific theory that used is denotative, connotative and myth. The writer also uses the theory of mediumship to support the analyzes.

### **Chapter 3: Rebutting Mike Portnoy's Statement in Dream Theater's Concept Album Metropolis Pt. 2 "Scene from a Memory" Using Semiotics Approaches**

In this chapter, the writer focuses on analyzing the lyrics per stanza, per clause or even per word to find the myth in each song. Each clause or word will be analyzed by English Mono-Lingual Dictionary, Oxford Dictionary, Urban Dictionary and

some articles in order to answer the research question which is the denotative, connotative and myths.

#### **Chapter 4: Conclusion**

In this chapter, the writer concludes the analysis of the discovering of the complete study.

