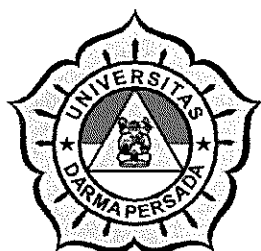


**THE REFLECTION OF *THE AMERICAN DREAM* IN *A DAY TO REMEMBER'S*
SONGS**

TERM PAPER

Submitted in part-fulfilling for obtaining
Strata One (S-1) Degree



By:

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2015

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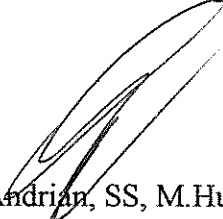
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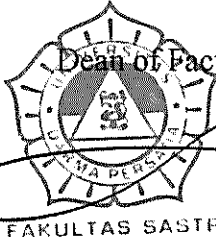

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PREFACE

Praise be to Allah SWT, who has been giving His blessings and mercy to me in completing this term-paper entitled. This term-paper is submitted in part-fulfilling for obtaining Strata One (S-1) degree in English Department, Darma Persada University.

Half and three years study of English Literature gives me so many things to cherish and, indeed, priceless. I am so grateful to all my lecturers in English Department who have guided me thoroughly since the first semester. Especially, in finishing this term-paper, I give my regards and thanks for people who have helped me.

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7. My beloved friends, Xerox Family, Intan, Fandi, Arya, Irfan, Fikri, Mudin, Joko, Aryza, Ridwan, Dini, Vivi and Widya who are as the strength maker and always support me; My Stukik friends, Dini, Puput, and Melly as companion in arms. Thanks for the prayer, pals!.

This term-paper is far from perfection. Suggestions and constructive criticism are welcomed to improve this term-paper.

Jakarta, August 10th, 2015

Writer

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ABSTRACT

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This term paper discusses about the reflection of the American Dream in *A Day To Remember's* Songs by using The American Dream concept and Theory of Poetry Assessment. The American Dream Concept contains of Gold, Gospel and Glory. Then, The Theory of Poetry Assessment contains of Metaphor, Symbol, Rhyme and Imagery. This study is a qualitative range of research, types of literature research that is analyzed with method of data collection in the form of the songs and biography of A Day To Remember as the primary source and supported by some literature sources related to the concept and theories.

Keywords: The American Dream, Theory of Poetry Assessment, songs, and biography

ABSTRAK

Nama : *Faris Adwyrinov*
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Skripsi ini membahas tentang cerminan konsep American Dream pada lagu-lagu band "A Day To Remember" dengan menggunakan konsep The American Dream dan Teori Pengkajian Puisi. Konsep American Dream berisikan: Gold, Gospel dan Glory. Teori Pengkajian puisi berisikan Metafor, Simbol, Rima, dan Perumpamaan. Penelitian ini merupakan ragam penelitian kualitatif, jenis penelitian sastra yang dianalisis dengan metode pengumpulan data dalam bentuk lagu-lagu dan biografi band A Day To Remember sebagai sumber utama dan didukung oleh beberapa sumber sastra yang berkaitan dengan konsep dan teori-teori.

Kata Kunci: *The American Dream, Teori Pengkajian Puisi, lagu-lagu, dan biografi*

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Problem

Literature, in its broadest sense, is any written work; etymologically the term derives from Latin *litteratura/litteratura* "writing formed with letters", although some definitions include spoken or sung texts. More restrictively, it is writing that possesses literary merit, and language that foregrounds literariness, as opposed to ordinary language. Literature can be classified according to whether it is fiction or non-fiction and whether it is poetry or prose; it can be further distinguished according to major forms such as the novel, short story or drama; and works are often categorized according to historical periods or their adherences to certain aesthetic features or expectations (genre).

Poetry is a poetic's work of art. The word of poetic is already contains a special value for poetry. Poetic is a figurative language (figurative language). According to Waluyo, poetry is the language of the solidified, shortened, and given rhythm with sound coherent and choice of words are metaphors.¹

Music is a work of art that is most familiar to humans. Music is a form of expression that is arranged in a rhythmic tone and customarily used to accompany a song or chant. According Titon in Bouman, music is a form of expression that is arranged in a rhythmic tone and is usually used to accompany a song or chant.

In a musical, there are words that have been written by the author or creators, the words called lyrics. The lyrics in a song can be equated with poetry. Just as poetry, lyrics also use beautiful words and meaningful figuratively.

Song can be entered into the genre of poetry in literature. The expansion of the meaning of a poem that includes the lyrics is based on an understanding

¹ Waluyo, Herman J. 2002. *Apresiasi Puisi*. Jakarta : Gramedia Pustaka Utama

Riffaterre which points out that poetry is always changing according to the evolution of taste and aesthetic concepts change.²

American people are famous with their *American Dream* concept. American society has always wanted to achieve the *American Dream* they were divided into gold, glory and gospel. Likewise with A Day To Remember, through their latest album called 'Common Courtesy', they achieve the highest success in their career.

In this research, the authors raised the lyrics of *A Day To Remember's* songs called *City Of Ocala*, *Right Back At It Again* and *I Remember*. A Day to Remember (sometimes shortened to ADTR) is an American rock band from Ocala, Florida, founded in 2003 by guitarist Tom Denney and drummer Bobby Scruggs. They are known for their unusual amalgamation of metal-core and pop punk, and their musical style has also been described as post-hardcore. The band consists of vocalist Jeremy McKinnon, rhythm guitarist and backing vocalist Neil Westfall, bassist Joshua Woodard, percussion and drummer Alex Shelnutt and lead guitarist Kevin Skaff.³

Signing with Indianola Records for their first album 'And Their Name Was Treason', Scruggs was replaced by Shelnutt in 2006. Later that year the band recorded 'For Those Who Have Heart' with Victory Records. They embarked on several tours of the UK and U.S. and played at several festivals, before recording and releasing 'Homesick'. While promoting 'Homesick' on tour, Denney was replaced by Skaff. Soon after releasing their next album, 'What Separates Me from You', the band went on a worldwide tour to promote it. Beginning in 2011, the band has been involved in a lawsuit with Victory Records over their recording contract. In October 2013 the band was given the right to self-release a new album until a final verdict is reached. They released their fifth album, 'Common Courtesy', the same month.

'*Common Courtesy*', the newest studio album from *A Day To Remember*, released worldwide on November 25th, 2013. The album sold an impressive 92,000 units in its first week of release and has moved nearly 200,000 units to

² Ibid., p. 3

³ <http://www.artistdirect.com/artist/bio/day-to-remember/3218518>

date. Through this album, *ADTR* awarded multi-platinum selling rock act. It is the first award obtained by *ADTR*.

City Of Ocala, Right Back At It Again and *I Remember* into 'Common Courtesy' album. Those three songs are created by their vocalist, Jeremy McKinnon as leader. The song tells about their history. It tells what they have done, what they sacrifice and what they have achieved over the last 10 years. So, the band wants to convey what they went through to people. They want all people to know even if they come from a small town in America but they can reach upon the success as now even though it takes hard work and sacrifice very much.

The story of a small band from a small town in America that can be successful in the world makes me interested to analyze *City Of Ocala, Right Back At It Again* and *I Remember* songs.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem, I identify that the problem is when there is a band from a small town in America that can be successful worldwide. Through their latest album called 'Common Courtesy', they achieve the highest success in their career. I assume that the theme of this research is: The Reflection of American Dream in *A Day To Remember's* Songs.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, I restrict the study of the problem on *City Of Ocala, Right Back At It Again* and *I Remember* lyric. The theories and concepts that are writer uses are theory of poetry studies and sociology. The sociology approach is American Dream concept.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

In this case, I formulate the problems as follows:

1. How to analyze lyric of *City of Ocala, Right Back At It Again* and *I Remember* by Jeremy McKinnon through Theory of Poetry Studies?

2. Do *City of Ocala, Right Back At It Again* and *I Remember* songs reflect the concept of the American Dream?

1.5 Objection of the Research

Based on formulation of the problem, the objectives of this research is The Reflection of American Dream in A Day To Remember's Songs. To fulfill this purpose, I have to take some steps:

1. To analyze *City of Ocala, Right Back At It Again* and *I Remember* songs using Theory of Poetry Studies.
2. To analyze *City of Ocala, Right Back At It Again* and *I Remember* songs using The American Dream Concept

1.6 Framework of Theories

Based on the objective research above, I use the Theory of Poetry Studies and The American Dream Concept to analyze this research. In this study I choose three songs to be analyzed.

In a musical, there are words that have been written by the author or creator, the words called lyrics. The lyrics in a song can be equated with poetry. Just as poetry, lyrics also use beautiful words and meaningful figuratively.

Song lyrics can be entered into the genre of poetry in literature. The expansion of the meaning of a poem that includes the lyrics is based on an understanding Riffaterre which points out that poetry is always changing according to the evolution of taste and aesthetic concepts change.⁴

In this study, I choose the Theory of Poetry Studies as a tool to examine the lyrics of *City of Ocala, Right Back At It Again* and *I Remember* and American Dream Concept as a tool to examine the messages contained in the lyric of *City of Ocala, Right Back At It Again* and *I Remember*.

1.6.1 Theory of Poetry Studies

⁴ Ibid., p. 3

Menurut Waluyo puisi adalah karya sastra dengan bahasa yang dipadatkan, dipersingkat dan diberi irama dengan bunyi yang dipadu dan pemilihan kata-kata kias (imajinatif). Karena kata-katanya disingkat dan dipadatkan maka pengarang/penyair benar-benar memilih kata-kata yang bermakna luas dan banyak. Adapun faktor-faktor yang dipertimbangkan dalam memilih kata-kata dalam karya sastra puisi, yaitu: makna kias, lambang atau simbol (eksponensial) dan persamaan bunyi atau rima.⁵ (In my translation: poetry is the language of literature in compressed, shortened and given rhythm combined with sound. The dictions are metaphors (imaginative). Because of the abbreviated and condensed words, the author really chooses the words that have much meaning. The factors considered in selecting the words in literary works of poetry, namely: the meaning of allegory, emblem or symbol (exponential) and rime or rhyme).

1.6.1.1 Symbol (Exponential)

In Pradopo, Altendbernd said that image is the image of thinking, mind, mental impressions or visual imagery and language to describe it. Menurut Waluyo dalam puisi banyak digunakan lambang, yaitu : penggantian suatu hal/benda dengan hal/benda lainnya. (In my translation: According Waluyo, in poetry widely used symbol, namely: the replacement of a thing / object with things / other objects.)⁶

Type symbol in poetry, among others: the epitome of color, atmosphere and sound. The symbol of color gives additional meaning to replace the intended meaning, for example, white as a symbol of purity. The symbol of atmospheres depicts certain circumstances, for example, describe the sadness rain. The symbol of sound means of meaning resulting from the combination of various sounds.

1.6.1.2 Rhyme

Menurut Pradopo dalam puisi, bunyi bersifat estetik, merupakan unsur puisi untuk mendapatkan keindahan dan tenaga ekspresif. Bunyi disamping sebagai hiasan juga untuk memperdalam ucapan, menimbulkan rasa dan bayangan angan yang jelas, suasana yang khusus dan sebagainya. Pemilihan

⁵ Ibid., p.1

⁶ Ibid., p.4

kata dalam puisi mempertimbangkan kata yang memiliki persamaan bunyi yang harmonis. (In my translation: According to Pradopo in poetry, sound is aesthetic, an element of poetry to get the beauty and expressive power. Rhyme, as well as to deepen greeting decoration, creates a feeling of clear thinking and reflection, a special atmosphere and so on. The dictions in poetry consider words that have similar harmonies sounds.)⁷

1.6.1.3 Imagery

Imagery is the way the poet uses figures of speech to construct a vivid mental picture or physical sensation in the mind of the reader. In order to analyze a poem with imagery, you should read the poem and take note of the types of imagery that the poem expresses. It is important to keep in mind that a poem is not limited to only visual imagery, but will also likely have imagery that appeals to the reader's other senses.⁸

Poetry indirectly appeals to our senses through imagery. Imagery is more incidental to a poem than metaphors, symbols and theme and they are often confused. Nevertheless, an image should conjure up something more than the mere mentioning of the object or situation. A mistake often made is to take every image as though it were a symbol or metaphor.

1.6.2 Sociology

Sociology is the scientific study of human social behavior and its origins, development, organizations, and institutions. It is a social science that uses various methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop a body of knowledge about human social actions, social structure and functions. A goal for many sociologists is to conduct research which may be applied directly to social policy and welfare, while others focus primarily on refining the theoretical understanding of social processes. Subject matter ranges from the micro level of individual agency and interaction to the macro level of systems and the social structure.⁹

⁷ *Ibid.*, p.27

⁸ <http://classroom.synonym.com/analyze-poem-imagery-1936.html>

⁹ Giddens, Anthony, Duneier, Mitchell, Applebaum, Richard. 2007. *Introduction to Sociology*.

1.6.2.1 The American Dream Concept

In 1920, Gilbert K. Chesterton, after a visit to the United States, concluded that the American nation is the only nation in the world that is formed by a system. The essence of the system is the belief that the future harmony lies in the individual. The gait is the birth of frontier life which supported by a very popular belief, namely The American Dream.

The American Dream is belief in the freedom that allows all citizens and residents of the United States to achieve their goals in life through hard work. Today, it often refers to one's material prosperity, which is dependent upon one's abilities and work ethic, and not on a rigid class structure. Although the phrase meaning has evolved over the course of American history, for some people, it is the opportunity to achieve greater material prosperity than was possible in their countries of origin. For others, it is the opportunity for their children to grow up and receive an education and its consequent career opportunities.

In the definition of the American Dream by James Truslow Adams in 1931, "life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement" regardless of social class or circumstances of birth.

The American Dream is an important concept in American principle of life. The concepts explain about the purpose of the immigrant come to America. But, nowadays people interpret American Dream with different understanding. When people learn about American Dream, it means that they learn life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness in American point of view.

Konsep American Dream meliputi: gold, gospel, dan glory. Elaborasi tiga unsur diatas, pertama, tujuan imigran ke Amerika mengejar kekayaan materi atau sumber daya alam. Kedua, upaya mereka untuk menyebarkan agama mereka, keyakinan atau ideologi yang terakhir ini dapat ditafsirkan sebagai penyebaran prinsip-prinsip demokrasi liberal. Ketiga adalah upaya mereka untuk mencapai kebesaran dan kemuliaan (In my translation: The concept of the American Dream includes: gold, gospel, and glory. Elaboration of the above three elements are, first, the purpose of the immigrants to

America pursuit of material wealth or natural resources. Second, their efforts to spread their religion, belief or ideology that latter can be interpreted as the spread of liberal democratic principles. Third are their efforts to achieve greatness and glory).¹⁰

Konsep American Dream juga mengacu pada dunia pendidikan dan preferensi keunggulan dalam ekonomi. Istilah ini melambangkan apresiasi yang tinggi dari pendidikan, kebebasan untuk memilih, kesempatan untuk memiliki rumah pribadi, memperoleh dana keamanan, memiliki kesempatan melakukan hal yang lebih baik daripada yang telah dilakukan oleh orang tua mereka, memiliki perusahaan sendiri, dan kesempatan kerja memperoleh mulai sebagai buruh sampai menjadi manajer. (In my translation: The concept of American Dream also refers to the world of education and preference of excellence in economy. This term symbolizes the high appreciation of the education, freedom to choose, the opportunity to have a private house, obtain security funds, to have the opportunity melakukan things better than had been done by their parents, have their own companies and memperoleh opportunity work began as a laborer until became manager).¹¹

1.7 Methods of the Research

I analyze this research using qualitative research methods. It means a method based on the characters that exists in the data with descriptive method, the reference is to the source data is written (text); *City Of Ocala, Right Back At It Again* and *I Remember* songs, as a primary source and supported by a relevant sources such as literature, books from the Library of the University and also the internet that relates to theories, definitions, concepts to be used as a secondary reference.

1.8 Benefits of the Research

¹⁰ Albertine Minderop, *Pragmatisme – Sikap Hidup dan Prinsip Politik Luar Negeri Amerika* (Jakarta: Yayasan Obor Indonesia, 2006), p. 10

¹¹ *Ibid.*, p. 13

From this research, I hope it can be useful for the readers to obtain a deep understanding and knowledge about American Dream Concept and for the band came from a small town which wants to be success. They should not be afraid to start something. This research will teach them to keep fighting in order to achieve success despite having to sacrifice a lot of things but it would be nice in its time. Furthermore, a result of this research is also available to be continued and a developing of this research can be used in the future research, especially the research about American Dream in *A Day To Remember* songs.

1.9 Systematic Organization of the Research

This writing of the research uses paper organization. I organize it to be some sections that consist of four sections.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains background, literature review, identification of the problem, limitations of the problem, formulation of the problem, objection of the research, theoretical framework, methods of the research, benefits of the research, and systematic organization of the research.

CHAPTER 2: THE ANALYSIS OF THEORY OF POETRY STUDIES THROUGH LYRICS OF “*CITY OF OCALA*”, “*RIGHT BACK AT IT AGAIN*”, AND “*I REMEMBER*”

This chapter contains the analysis of the theme by using theory of poetry studies.

CHAPTER 3: THE ANALYSIS OF THE AMERICAN DREAM THROUGH LYRICS OF “*CITY OF OCALA*”, “*RIGHT BACK AT IT AGAIN*”, AND “*I REMEMBER*”

This chapter contains the analysis of the theme by using sociology approach that is the American Dream and the elaborations of the

approach between theory of poetry studies and the American dream.

CHAPTER 4: CLOSING

This chapter contains the conclusion regarding the research literature song called "*City of Ocala*", "*Right Back At It Again*" and "*I Remember*" through approaches that are used. In this chapter there are two sub-chapters, the conclusions and summary.