

**QUEST FOR HAPPY LIFE IN *MARIAH CAREY'S* SONG LYRICS**  
**SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education  
in English Department

by

**KALIS WINDA KARTIKA**

**A 320 050 267**

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION**  
**MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

**2010**

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

*There can be miracle when you believe*

*Thought hope is frail it's hard to kill*

*Who knows what miracles you can achieve?*

*When you believe somehow you will*

*You will when you believe*

(When You Believe by Mariah Carey)

The sweet lines above are part of Mariah Carey's songs lyric which have inspired the writer to conduct this study. Mariah Carey is a singer and song writer. Mariah Carey was born on March 27<sup>th</sup> 1970 in New York. Mariah Carey started her career in 1990 handled by the executive of *Columbia Records*, Tommy Mottola, and then Mariah Carey received *Billboard* and *World Music Awards* become a best singer at that time according to.

Mariah Carey started the first album in 1990 entitled "Mariah Carey." This album contained love songs such as *Vision of Love*, *Someday, I Don't Wanna Cry*, and *Love Takes Time*. Mariah Carey did not like the production of "Love Takes Time" because she got some oppression from the recording company. Actually Mariah wanted to take a little different song, but the company wanted her to sing sad songs, so she composed "Love Takes Time".

The following year, Mariah Carey launched the album entitled *Emotions*, which was followed by *Unplugged* in 1992 .

In 1993, Mariah Carey launched the next album entitled *Music Box* which contained two hits, namely “Dream Lover” and “Hero”.. Then, in 1995 Mariah Carey launched the *Daydream* album containing three hits that later became number one hit in Billboard Top 100 chart. In 1995 Mariah Made her own video which entitled *Fantasy*, which inspired a lot of people.

In 1997 Mariah Carey launched another album entitled *Butterfly* with the single hit “Honey”. In 1998, she produced another album entitled *#1*, which consisted of the best songs of Mariah Carey ever being number one in Billboard. In 1999 and 2001, she launched again the album *Heartbreaker and Glitter*. However, her most favorite album has been *Butterfly* because this album best expresses her personal expression. The song “Thanks God I Found You” told about how she found her new lover.

After having a depression in 2001, Mariah Carey produced *The Charmbrecelet* in 2002 with the single “Through the Rain” telling about her success in fighting for life during her childhood. Three years later, she launched *The Emancipation of Mimi* telling about the return of the diva and followed by her single “Touch My Body” included in the album of in 2005. This album of  $E=MC^2$  in 2008.

The public gave both positive and negative responses to Mariah Carey’s works. Those who did not like pop music stated that her songs were slow and sad. However, those who liked the genre responded that Mariah

Carey's songs were amazing and nice to enjoy. In cassette store, Mariah Carey's albums are always sold highly. Mariah Carey's album always gets awarded in every year, there are World Music Awards, World Music Legend Awards, World Music Diamond Awards, World Music Awards, Vibe Awards, VH1 Awards, Teen Choices Awards, Soul Train Music Awards, Smash Hits Awards, Radio Music Awards, NABOB Awards, MTV Awards, Billboard Music Awards.

The writer is interested in conducting a research on these songs due to two reasons. Firstly, Mariah Carey's songs have been popular throughout the world. Many people liked her amazing voice in addition to her interesting lyrics. Secondly, she received different awards every year at the turn of the century. Thirdly, the present writer was interested in Mariah Carey's song lyrics because the lyrics, especially, "Thank God I Found You," "Merry Christmas Love Song," and "Hero," "Vision of Love," and "Without You", were so rich with various themes. That is why the writer intended to conduct a research on the lyrics from a sociological perspective entitled "*Quest for Happy Life in Mariah Carey's Song Lyrics.*"

## **B. Literature Review**

In analyzing this song lyric, the writer found several articles about Mariah Carey's song lyrics. As the writer browsed the internet, the writer found the articles, first is Anthony D'Alessandro (2008) in Daily Variety. His article entitled "*Mariah Carey: Tennessee. (For a Song) (Brief Article)*". He talks about the critical backlash to her 2001 "Glitter" film and soundtrack a distant

memory, Mariah Carey rises again to star and sing in the indie pic "Tennessee" as Krystal, an aspiring singer who leaves a soured marriage to embark on a road trip to the heartland. Accompanied by two brothers, she ultimately competes in an open-mike contest with her song "I've Got a Right to Dream."

Second is an article by Melinda Newman (2009). Her article entitled "*Mariah Carey Talks 'Memoirs, Responds to Haters.'*" From the literature review above, the present researcher assumes that there is no researcher who analyzes about "Quest for happy life in Mariah Carey's Song Lyrics". The writer will analyze the novel by using sociological approach.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the research, the writer proposes a single problem statement. The problem of this research is "how the quest for happy life is reflected in Mariah Carey's song lyrics?"

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The limitation of the study is how Mariah Carey shows happiness in her song lyrics viewed from sociological perspective. Lyrics selected purposively based on the dominant theme of the song lyrics.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

Dealing with problem statement above, the objective of the research are as follows:

1. To analyze the song lyrics based on its structural elements of lyrics: speaker, spoken to, figurative language, rhyme and rhythm, imagery and symbol, diction and theme (main idea)
2. To analyze the song lyrics based on the sociological perspective by identifying quest for happiness based on social background of the author in the Mariah Carey songs lyrics.

#### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The result of this research is expected to give some benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

It gives contribution to the larger body knowledge particularly study on Mariah Carey Songs lyrics.

2. Practical Benefit

The main purpose of this research is to getting the Bachelor Degree in English Department.

#### **G. Theoretical Approach**

The writer develops this research paper by applying the sociological approach which is coined by Swingewood. The writer focuses on analyzing the social aspect of the author, readers of the songs lyric. The writer tries to explore the social change happening in United Stated of America in late twentieth century and early twenty first century. The writer comes to one believe that is significant to apply some step in discussing the song which is going to be analyzed.

First the research is started from the intrinsic of literary work. Second the writer conducts a study about the relationship between sociology and literature particularly based on sociological approach. Third the writer conduct a research on the social changes happening In United Stated of America in late twentieth century and early twenty first century as reflect in Mariah Carrey songs lyrics. It can be done trough the lyrics, characters, plot and setting and through theme reflected in Mariah

#### **H. Research Method**

##### 1. Type of the study

In this research paper the writer usies descriptive qualitative method which focus on the analysis of textual data.

##### 2. Object of the study

The object of the Study is “Mariah Carey’s Songs Lyrics”.

##### 3. Type of the data and data source

The type of data of this study is text, namely words, phrases, clauses, and sentences taken from the song lyrics of Mariah Carey’s albums. The data sources are classified into two categories, primary data and secondary data. The primary data are taken from the lyrics itself, while the secondary data are taken from the other data, which have relation with the research, the underlying theory and others materials concern the analysis.

#### 4. Technique of the data collection

The method of data collection of this research was note-taking that is part of library research. The steps of collecting the data was as follows:

- a. Listening to the music
- b. Browsing in the internet to get several information which related to the object of the study
- c. Taking notes of important data from both primary and secondary data

#### 5. Technique of data selections

The method of data selection is the writer try to classify the dominant theme in Mariah Careys song lyrics, then chose it to analyze:

- a. Arranging the data into several parts according to its classification
- b. Selecting particular parts that are considered important and relevant for the analysis

#### 6. Technique of data analysis

The technique of data analysis that is used is descriptive in which the writer make some interpretations of Songs Lyrics dealing with the character from the author which is researcher wants to analyze using sociological perspective.

### **I. Research Paper Organization**

The writer arranges the research into six chapters with the purpose of making easier to understand as following: Chapter I is introduction, covering background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the

study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II shows the theory of sociological approach. Chapter III includes the social historical background of America in early nineteenth century. Chapter IV covers the structural analysis of the songs lyrics. Chapter V discusses the sociological analysis of Mariah Carrey's the social behavior in America as reflected in the song lyrics. Chapter VI explains conclusion and suggestion of the research.