

Expression of Counter Hegemony in “New Generation” Song Lyrics of “The.S.I.G.I.T” Album

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Abstract: This research departs from the phenomenon of English-language music lyrics composed by Indonesian musicians, the music group The.S.I.G.I.T in one of his works, *New Generation*. The purpose of this study is to analyze the structure and meaning used in the lyrics by using the theory of Metaphors by Lakoff and Johnsen, and theory of Counter Hegemony by Gramsci. This research uses descriptive qualitative method, which describes the structure and meaning that appear in the song lyrics of *New Generation*. Findings of this research are that the song lyrics of *New Generation* are composed in tense of Present as the time of utterance and written in simple and complex sentences. Myths of subjectivism compose all sentences of the lyrics. The findings appear in myths of subjectivism are trust of sense and intuitions, feelings, moral practices, and the language of the imagination. These findings become the based on the analysis of counter hegemony found in song lyrics of *New Generation*. The counter hegemony is an ideological effort. It holds art or literature that is in a superstructure. Art is placed in an effort to form hegemony and culture. The song lyrics *New Generation* contain with rejection, criticism, anti-establishment, anti-system and resistant to an established condition. The analysis conducted in this study found three types of counter hegemony expressions in the lyrics, namely: group existence expression, resistance expression (counter hegemony expression), and negotiation expression. All of them are the characteristics of counter hegemony terminology.

Keywords: *song lyrics, tense of present, subjectivism myth, counter hegemony*

Introduction

The SIGIT which becomes the object of research in this paper is a band with independent lable (Inde Label), comes from Bandung whose members are Rektivianto "Rekti" Yoewono (vocalist and guitar player), Farri Icksan Wibisana (guitar player), Aditya "Adit" Bagja Mulyana (bass player) , and Donar "Acil" Armando Ekana (drums player). They are Indonesian. However, their capability in composing English songs is no doubt. Music skill has relation with the capability of the musician. As stated by Richard Kunert (2017: 173) : “There is growing interest in these inter-individual differences, partly because evidence is accumulating that musical and non-musical faculties are related. For example, music skills have been linked to native and non-native language abilities”.

They come from several universities as well as having good intellectual basics because all of them are masters in the fields of Architecture and Engineering. Most of their songs are packaged in English, yet in their first Indie Lable as a pilot sample album with the same title with the name of the band released in 2004, there are also those that are written in Indonesian language. Officially, The SIGIT band has released three albums in the period 2006 to 2013, with the following album titles; the first album titled *VISIBLE IDEA OF PERFECTION* released in 2006-2007 contained about 13 songs with flagship songs such as "Soul Sister", "Nowhere End", "All the Time" and "New Generation" that becomes the object of research in this paper. The second album titled *HEIRTZ DISLEXIA* presents about 10 songs with the flagship songs such as "Money Making", "Bhang", and the third album titled *DETOURN* presents about 11 songs with the flagship song "Detourn" which also becomes the title of the album. The entire work of The SIGIT's songs in the 2006-2013 period, of which around 44 songs are all made in English and

generally tells of love, life, uncertainty, environment, etc. and being presented as an unusual point of view and packed with rock & roll genre especially Garage Rock and interspersed with ballads.

The SIGIT band expresses the lyrics of their music in English because they most perform in abroad such as in Australia and Singapore. Analysis and observe randomly of language expression that appears in the SIGIT albums show the various issues. They generally show a criticism of disapproval of a power environment, questions about self-existence in a power environment, as seen on the first album *VISIBLE IDEA OF PERFICTION*, mainly on songs "New Generation" and "Life in New-York". Language expressions in *HEIRTZ DISLEXIA*'s second album are seen more in "contemplation of identity" towards the community or power, as clearly seen in the song "Money Making" or "Midnight Mosque". On the third album *DETOURN* language expressions appear to emphasize maturity, then the existence of identity and future dreams is seen in the songs "Detourn" and "Ring of Fire". The lyrics of the song Ring of Fire show how Indonesia becomes the identity of the SIGIT.



Picture 1: Illustration of The SIGIT's album, from left to right *VISIBLE IDEA OF PERFICTION*, *HEIRTZ DISLEXIA* and *DETOURN*

A systemic construction process can be done through many ways such as analysing time of utterance, types of sentences from syntax point of view and the myths of objectivism and subjectivism from Semantics point of view. There are the myths of objectivism and subjectivism because all cultures have myth and we often take the myths of our own culture as truths. According to Lakoff and Johnsen (2003: 186-189), there are the myths of objectivism and subjectivism.

The myth of objectivism says that :

1. The world is made up of objects
2. We got our knowledge of the world by experiencing the objects in it and getting to know what properties the objects have and how these objects are related to one another.
3. We understand the objects in our world in terms of categories and concepts
4. There is an objective reality
5. Words have fixed meanings
6. People can be objective and can speak objectively
7. Metaphor and other kinds of poetic, fanciful, rhetorical, or figurative language can always be avoided in speaking objectively
8. Being objective is generally a good thing
9. To be objective is to be rational; to be subjective is to be irrational and to give in to the emotions
10. Subjectivity can be dangerous. It is self-indulgent, since it exaggerates the importance of the individual

The myth of subjectivism says that :

1. In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust.
2. The most important things in our lives are our feelings, aesthetic sensibilities, moral practices, and spiritual awareness.
3. Art and poetry transcend rationally and objectivity and put us in touch with the more important reality of our feelings and intuitions.
4. The language of the imagination is necessary for expressing the unique and most personally significant aspects of our experience
5. Objectivity can be dangerous because it misses what is most important and meaningful to individual people.

Based on some contrary definitions above, it can be concluded that myths of objectivism and subjectivism need each other in order to exist. Each is master in its own realm and views its realm as the better of the two. The portions of our lives governed by objectivism and subjectivism vary greatly from person to person and from culture to culture.

Theory of Counter Hegemony which becomes other study of discourse in this paper is the Gramsci's hegemony theory which notes an expansion of Marx's hegemony theory understanding, or in other words the expansion of meaning is theoretically recorded in Gramsci's theory. Gramsci's full-fledged position sees language as the mode of expression of the culture characteristic of a class or other group of the population (cf. Ives 2004, 33), different linguistic codes thus being one aspect of the conflictual relationships between subaltern and hegemonic cultures. Gramsci observes, language is to be "understood as an element of culture," each language constituting "an integral conception of the world" (Gramsci 1996, 74, 366).

First, Gramsci argues that in society there is always a plurality of ideologies. Second, Gramsci states that conflicts are not only between classes, but conflicts between groups with global (general) interests to gain ideological and political control over society. Third, Gramsci states that to be the dominant group, the group must represent the public interest. The dominant group must coordinate, expand, and develop its interests with the general interests of the subaltern group. Thus, the key word in understanding Gramsci's hegemony theory is negotiation. Negotiations are needed so that consensus can be reached voluntarily and can be accepted by all groups. Fourth, Gramsci holds that literature or art is in a superstructure. Art is placed in an effort to form new hegemony and culture. Art brings ideology (superstructure) where social cohesion is guaranteed by dominant groups. The ideology is a form of counter hegemony over the hegemony of the ruling class which is maintained through the false assumption that the habits and power of the ruler is the will of God or the product of natural law

In the study of Cultural Studies, the term counter hegemony means to reject the existence of hegemony. According to Gramsci in his theory, he gave a solution to counter hegemony by focusing on the education sector. The existence of counter hegemony arises because of the existence of hegemony. Hegemony itself is an effort or a way to make a group influenced or to follow the ways of thinking of certain groups by providing an understanding that is considered correct so that the hegemonic group considers that the understanding given by the group is true and valid. Yet without realizing it they are already hegemonized by certain groups who have an interest. Hegemony is carried out continuously.

Song lyrics of "New Generation" becomes the object of this research because it is judged to have a choice of words or diction that is interesting especially in the terms of discourse. The song New Generation is one of songs written on the second album *The SIGIT VISIBLE IDEA*

OF PERFECTION. This song consists of six stanza that each verse consists of four lines. When being analyzed in general, it can be seen that some of the lyrics of the song tend to contain a statement of rejection of a situation and condition of establishment given by the environment outside of himself, but the environment has never understood about the true thoughts of this generation. In the understanding of its composer, Reki, vocalist and guitarist in the SIGIT band, song lyrics of New Generation seems blaspheme the vicious circle that connects malnutrition with ignorance.

The other song lyrics with denotative meaning have most been carried out by other musicians by inserting various expressions in the structure of the language and genre of the music. However, the lyrics in New Generation are expressed more vulgar, and it's a kind of subaltern group's class resistance to super-structure domination which gives a normative and ideological view of life. These song lyrics have different feel because they delivered in English by Indonesian musicians whose members have a high level of education that are rarely found in other musicians. Intellectual which is similar with having high education is an important part in understanding Gramsci's hegemony theories. According to which there are six key words in understanding Gramsci's hegemony, namely culture, hegemony, ideology, popular belief, intellectuals and the state (Faruk, 1994: 79-80). The SIGIT band with its cultural production in the form of music and music lyrics are seen as intellectuals who influence changes in social structure to ideology.

The choice of words or diction used as song lyrics by the SIGIT band is interesting to study from the various sides such as the study of the meaning of words, psychology, sentence structure, semantic, semiotics or cultural studies. Most song lyrics express meaningful words and have symbolic metaphor that are quite vulgar. In the song lyrics, sentences and words of protest and sarcastic statements are rather rude expressed in such as We are noodle generation, We are starving brain, We are Naked in the rain, and We are hooker generation, etc., then of course, they imply the following meanings, right? It will be a text study in the form of a study of meaning from a semantic perspective, while the meanings of a class resistance to a certain domination or hegemony of power that appear in the text subsequently becomes discourse studies using Gramsci's special hegemony theory on counter hegemony theory (counter hegemony).

The above explanation raises the following research questions, they are : What are the structure and meaning of song lyrics of New Generation? How do the meanings arise if they are examined in a discourse analysis using Gramsci's Hegemony theory especially Counter Hegemony theory? So the purpose of this research is to answer those questions then it could enrich the discourse generated by a song in the form of lyrics. It can be more known that the form of song lyrics are constructed by words, by choice of words, by language styles where they are all literary work that are quite understood as an introduction to ideology in Gramsci's understanding .

Method

This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive method by conducting two analytical approaches, as explained above, namely the study of texts using semantic as a science that discusses signs and meanings that emerge from words and sentences, then discourse analysis using the theory of Counter Hegemony. The stages of the research process began with the selection of about 42 songs from the SIGIT album then categorized and selected one song that was quite different in the diction of the lyrics that is the song "New Generation". The next stage

is the analysis using matrix techniques to interpret each part of the words in the lyrics semantically, so that conclusions can be found about the meaning of each word from the lyrics. In the following stages the meaning of the lyrics that appear in the semantic analysis is enriched and reviewed using the Theory of Culture Study approach, especially on the counter hegemony theory Gramsci in the form of descriptive exposure

Results and Discussion

In this section, it is put the primary data of song lyrics of *New Generation*, one of songs in the album The SIGIT. These song lyrics of New Generation become the main data. They are analyzed by finding their structure and metaphor meaning. Then they are analyzed by classifying the diction category from the terminology based on Hegemony theory.

Table 1. Song Lyrics of New Generation (Data Source)

No.	Data
1	We are the noodle generation
2	Our foods are made of preservation
3	We don't need your education
4	Things not set in proportion
5	Look around in our perspective
6	Don't you acting to naïve
7	You know it's all tentative
8	You know dog foods are expensive
9	We are the starving brain
10	We are the naked in the rain
11	This is no heaven sends
12	The new generation end
13	We are the hooker generation
14	We don't need your education
15	I only count my intuition
16	Things are going malfunction
17	Look around in our perspective
18	Don't you acting to naïve
19	You know it's all tentative
20	You know dog foods are expensive
21	We are the starving brain
22	We are the naked in the rain
23	This is no heaven sends
24	The new generation end

Analysis of structure and meaning

In this section the analysis process is carried out with the stages of observing the text of song lyrics, then categorizing them based on their structure and meaning.

Table 2. Data Analysis of Syntax and Semantics

Data	Syntactic Analysis		Semantic Analysis		Explanation
	Time of utterance	Sentences Type	Objective Myth	Subjective Myth	
1	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	We are the noodle generation	The most important things in our lives are our feelings, aesthetic sensibilities, moral practices, and

					spiritual awareness
2	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	Our foods are made of preservation	The most important things in our lives are our feelings, aesthetic sensibilities, moral practices, and spiritual awareness
3	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	We don't need your education	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust
4	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	Things not set in proportion	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust
5	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	Look around in our perspective	The most important things in our lives are our feelings, aesthetic sensibilities, moral practices, and spiritual awareness
6	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	Don't you acting to naïve	The most important things in our lives are our feelings, aesthetic sensibilities, moral practices, and spiritual awareness
7	Present tense	Complex Sentence	-	You know it's all tentative	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust
8	Present tense	Complex Sentence	-	You know dog foods are expensive	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust
9	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	We are the starving brain	The language of the imagination is necessary for expressing the unique and most personally significant aspects of our experience
11	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	This is no heaven sends	The language of the imagination is necessary for expressing the unique and most

					personally significant aspects of our experience
12	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	The new generation end	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust
13	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	We are the hooker generation	The language of the imagination is necessary for expressing the unique and most personally significant aspects of our experience
14	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	We don't need your education	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust
15	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	I only count my intuition	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust
16	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	Things are going malfunction	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust
17	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	Look around in our perspective	The most important things in our lives are our feelings, aesthetic sensibilities, moral practices, and spiritual awareness
18	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	Don't you acting to naïve	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust
19	Present tense	Complex Sentence	-	You know it's all tentative	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust
20	Present tense	Complex Sentence	-	You know dog foods are expensive	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and

					develop intuitions we can trust
21	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	We are the starving brain	The language of the imagination is necessary for expressing the unique and most personally significant aspects of our experience
22	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	We are the naked in the rain	The language of the imagination is necessary for expressing the unique and most personally significant aspects of our experience
23	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	This is no heaven sends	The language of the imagination is necessary for expressing the unique and most personally significant aspects of our experience
24	Present tense	Simple Sentence	-	The new generation end	In most of our everyday practical activities we rely on our senses and develop intuitions we can trust

Language is used to talk about things in the real and imaginary worlds and times. Hearer must construct the worlds and time of spoken of in order to understand an utterance. Although the word is common to all, most people live as if each had a private understanding of their own. Song “New Generation” is a song showing a statement about a fact. The song lyrics have the illocutionary point “singer is giving fact about the new generation”

Analysis of counter hegemony expression

In this section the analysis process is carried out with the stages of observing the text of song lyrics, then categorizing in the types and meanings of words, then a deeper discussion of meaning is carried out from the perspective of cultural studies especially counter hegemony theory.

New generation song lyrics consist of six stanza with four lines of each line, in the matrix below the text is categorized as follows:

Table 3. Data analysis of Counter Hegemony Expression

Diction on Lyrics	The diction category from the terminology of Hegemony theory
<i>We are the noodle generation</i>	Sentence statement as Subaltern group entity
<i>We are the starving brain</i>	
<i>We are the naked in the rain</i>	
<i>We are the hooker generation</i>	
<i>Our foods are made of preservation</i>	

<i>We don't need your education</i> <i>Things not set in proportion</i> <i>Don't acting to naïve</i> <i>I only count my intuition</i> <i>Things are going malfunction</i> <i>You know dogfoods are expensive</i>	Sentence statement of resistance to the hegemony of Dominant group
<i>Things not set in proportion</i> <i>Look around in our perspective</i> <i>You know it's all tentative</i> <i>This is no heaven sends</i> <i>The new generation end</i>	Sentence statement of negotiation with Dominant group.

Based on the matrix above, the sentence statement and word choice have been categorized in three types of expressions according to Gramsci's hegemony theory perspective, especially counter hegemony theory. The possibilities of interpreting the meaning of the lyrics are as follow :

In the first category, the selected diction is categorized as a Subaltern group's entity statement, as it is known in the understanding of the hegemony theory. Gramsci divides the group into two parts, one of them is Dominant group. It has power, maintains and organizes power, and to become a Dominant group, the group must represent the public interest. The Dominant group must coordinate, expand, and develop its interests with the general interests of the Subaltern group. It seems that the choice of words written in New Generation song is in the first category and becomes the representation and expression of the existence of the group as subordinate and Subaltern group that must be known by the Dominant group. The sentence choices such as *We are the noodle generation*, *We are the starving brain*, *We are the naked in the rain*, *We are the hooker generation* are diction of sarcastic which states that there are Subaltern groups who are "victims" of a Dominant group, which is not realized by the Dominant group. This statement is supported by other sentences such as *Look around in our perspective*, *Don't act to naïve*, *You know it's all tentative*.

In the second category, diction tends to be the sentences of resistance to the dominance or hegemony of Dominant group such as *We don't need your education*, *Things not set in proportion*, *Don't act to naïve*, *I only count my intuition*, *Things are going malfunction*, *You know dogfoods are expensive*. Based on the choice of diction in those sentences that tend to reject, judge, and desire of Dominant group, must understand with this Subaltern group's mind, it could be identified what ideological form adopted by the Dominant group, as in the sentence. The lyrics *We don't need your education*, which appears twice, is resistance to the establishment of the system, where the existence of education or having higher education, as if a fixed price of human life at moment. Without education, human will not succeed. This educational conception in hegemony theory is one of the superstructure which can develop the ideology of the Dominant group. The sentence *We don't need your education* is a rejection of the education system developed by the Dominant group by the Subaltern group. In other sentences such as *Things not set in proportion*, it is seen that there is a rejection of the system and the imposition of uniform proportions and rules carried out by the Dominant group against Subaltern groups which in reality, they have plurality of ideologies. Likewise, in the statement *Don't act to naïve* and *I only count my intuition*, they show that there are distrust of the system and carried out by the Dominant group. They trust more to the institution experience rather than to follow the system that is forced without understanding this generation that is Subaltern group, as expressed

in other lyrics namely *Look around in our perspective*, which means invites to negotiate and understand about this generation.

In the third category, diction tends to be the statement of 'negotiation' with the Dominant group. The sentences are Things not set in proportion, Look around in our perspective, You know it's all tentative, This is no heaven sends, The new generation end. The sentence choice is very visible that there is a negotiation effort from the Subaltern group to the Dominant one. According to Gramsci Hegemony theory about negotiation, to be the Dominant group, the group must represent the public interest. The Dominant group must coordinate, expand, and develop their interests with the general interests of the Subaltern group. Thus, the key word in understanding Gramsci's hegemony theory is negotiation. In the choice of diction the above sentences show an attempt to "negotiate" between Subaltern groups submitted to the Dominant group.

Conclusions

New generation song lyrics consist of six stanza with four lines of each line. Song lyrics of New Generation are composed in tense of Present as the time of utterance and written in simple and complex sentences. Myths of subjectivism compose all sentences of the lyrics. The findings appear in myths of subjectivism are trust of sense and intuitions, feelings, moral practices, and the language of the imagination. The song lyrics have the illocutionary point "singer is giving fact about the new generation"

The results of the study of the song lyrics *New Generation* contain with rejection, criticism, anti-establishment, anti-system and resistant to an established condition. This condition in cultural studies especially Gramsci's hegemony theory is a representation of a subaltern group which is an opposition to the dominant group or hegemony group. This dominant group has and controls power, including social, cultural and ideological systems. As a lyrical style that is resistant, which in Gramsci's theory is called Counter Hegemony, an expression of how to express is found. The analysis conducted in this study found three types of counter hegemony expressions in the lyrics, namely: group existence expression, resistance expression (counter hegemony expression), and negotiation expression. All of them are the characteristics of counter hegemony terminology.

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