

# Social Criticism in the FSTVLT Song Literature Sociology Study

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**Abstract**—The research entitled “Social Criticism toward the Songs Created by FSTVL” aims to analyze the songs by FSTVL group band. The readers are expected to understand and concern with social criticism. Social criticism in songs created by FSTVL is identified using the sociology of literature. The result shows that there are three aspects of social criticism: 1) social criticism in economical aspect, 2) social criticism in political aspect, and 3) social criticism in cultural-social aspect. This research applied the sociology of Literature with qualitative descriptive method, and the technique used in this research is a close-observation method. Data were analyzed decriptively.

**Keywords**—*literature sociology, FSTVL, social criticism*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Literature works are born based on the imagination of the authors of literature works. Imaginative here in the sense that it is not merely an "invention" of the author, but literature works are born based on reflection or representation of the cultural, social, and community conditions experienced by the author. So the facts of the incident, the problems that occur in socio-cultural society are retold and given imaginative “flavor” of the author’s thoughts, so that the aesthetic elements of literature works can be enjoyed by the reader. literature is not just a work that is imaginative and personal, but can also be a reflection or recording of culture, an embodiment of certain thoughts at the time the work was born. Literature work produced from the reflection of the community will also influence the reader in behaving, feeling similarly, determining my attitude in society. This provides evidence that the study of literature work is a study of humans (society) that are closely related to sociology [1].

Sociology relies on the social condition of the community which is reflected in literature works with imaginative polish. Literary works that are public attention are read continuously, will be stored in him and will bring turmoil in his soul. Turmoil in the soul is certainly based on social conditions, can be in the form of influencing attitudes, behavior, or just entertainment. Social values or moral values reflected in literary works will be absorbed by the reader as a way of life. Social conditions are the basis for the birth of literary works that cannot be denied. Briefly explained that

sociology is an objective and scientific study in society, study social institutions and processes. Sociology tries to find out about how society is possible, takes place, and it still exists. By studying social institutions and all economic, religious, political and other problems, all of them are social structures [2].

Literature works genre is very varied, it can be in the form of novels, short stories, poetry and others. Poetry genre is rarely studied using the sociology of literature, because it is considered "less" touching the (social) aspects of society unlike novels, short stories or drama. Actually poetry is a picture of the feeling of the poet looking at a natural event, environment, social community, and so forth in a choice of beautiful words that contain aesthetic elements (beauty).

Poetry is not merely a word that is read aesthetically. There are many ways to express poetry, one of them with music. Music lyrics can be included in the genre of poetry in literature works. This can be shown by the similarity of elements between poetry and song lyrics. Suggests that lyrics are poems in the form of a word arrangement of a song; literature works which contain the outpouring of personal feelings that are prioritized are the paintings of his feelings [3]. Song is one poem that is justified by uniting poetry and music rhythms. This is in accordance with the understanding of song lyrics according to [4] which says that lyrics are short poems that express emotions.

Song lyrics contain messages and meanings conveyed by songwriters to listeners of music. The content of the message and the meaning of the lyrics of the song wrapped in distinctive features and beauty will have the effect of arousing emotions of sadness, excitement, motivation and others. Music is no longer merely an entertainment, but can be a channel for aspirations, changes, individual ideology or social groups. The birth of a song from various inspirations, for example from personal experience, social phenomena, and criticism from a social situation. Social becomes a field of inspiration, because it contains various layers of circumstances, interesting events to be used as songs. The FSTVL band looks at social phenomena to be appointed as social criticism themed songs.

Lyric in music is one of the media from the creator to express the idea that might be difficult to be delivered directly, and this has been done by FSTVL band. This Indie band is

originally from Yogyakarta, and this band was previously named JENNY since two of the personels quit from this band. To respect their friends who left from this band, then Farid Stavy Asta and Roby Setian turned the name of the band into FSTVL. Farid as the leader of this band is a musician and an artist. He also has othergreat works such as the logo of PT KAI, Maicih, Filosofi Kopi, and others.

The rest of this paper is organized as follow: Section II presents theoretical background. Section III describes material & methodology. Section IV presents the obtained results and following by discussion. Finally, Section V concludes this work.

## II. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Institutionally objects of sociology and literature are human beings in society, while objects of natural sciences are natural symptoms. Communities are people who live together and produce culture. The difference is, if sociologists describe human life and society through scientific and objective analysis, writers express it through emotion, subjectively and evaluatively. Literature also utilizes the mind, intellectuality, but still dominated by emotionality [5].

Literature sociology is a tool for our perspective on literarute works. Literature is seen from the point of view of the development of society depicting social status, hence viewing literature works as a depiction of the world and human life. The criteria for literature work are the truth of the depiction or what will be described from the social condition of the community. Of course the depiction of the social conditions of the people as outlined in literature works is not arbitrarily pure or directly from social conditions. The depiction of literature works reflects life, but it must be remembered that the nature of literature works reveals indirect social phenomena. Literature work was born from the author, of course many modifications in the form of creativity in conveying the real picture of social phenomena into literature works that reflect the phenomenon of social images "differently".

Literature sociology is a literature understanding of social aspects. With a social foundation, the views built are sometimes related to other fields such as anthropology, religion, philosophical politics and others. The various fields are framed in a sociological perspective in general. The breadth of sociology in the contents of these fields, of course there is a point of view that is sharp in dissecting literature works in sociology.

### A. *The view of sociology*

The two features of literature research in terms of sociology, namely 1) literature is a mirror of mere socio-economic processes. This research moves from external factors of literature to discuss literature. Literature is only valuable if it is related to elements outside of literature. Literature work is the second symptom, not the main one. Research directed at the text to describe the structure, and then used to understand social symptoms [6].

Literature work is a social mirror that is given a favor of creativity and imagination. The content in social tangible literature is considered important. The perspective of literature sociology which divides the two directions, is a path. Each perspective has discussion channels. That path will determine the focus of interpretation. Sociology as a mirror is a pathway, independent of an intrinsic structure of literature [1]. The concept of mirrors is literature as social reflection. The reflection has been polished with imagination. Anything in the literature, as long as it reflects social life, is considered important. Conversely, text research in a sociological perspective, still pay attention to intrinsic elements. Literature elements are understood, to reveal social factors (outside of literature). The element of literature builder has been thought carefully by writers, narrated, expressed in accordance with social conditions.

### B. *Genetic View*

There are two things genetic views on literature works. First, perspective adopts the documentary aspect of literature that literature needs to be understood from the genetics of the work that gives a clear picture of a situation in literature. Through this sociology of literature research can reveal the good and bad of a social situation. The complexity of the situation is as a mirror of social reflection directly from various aspects such as, a) social structure, (b) family relations, (c) social conflict, (d) class conflict, and possibly (e) trends in divorce and population composition. All aspects that exist in social is as one of social disclosure through literature imaginary. This cannot be separated from the author's situation and the historical situation from which they came from [2].

The perspective of sociology of genetic literature is a way of getting historical facts through the text and the author's side of the literature. The process of searching for literature genetics needs to be explored carefully, because the reality in literature is wrapped with creation, imagination from the author. With this genetic view, it is expected to get the results of why literature was born, the extent to which researchers can trace one's history and how social conditions are.

Poetry is a literature work that uses language as its medium. Poetry is the expression of the values conveyed by the author through writing in a beautiful language style. [6] suggests that poetry is a type of literature work which its language is filtered for use. The choice of language in poetry, especially the aspect of language selection has passed rigorous selection, considered from various aspects, both concerning the elements of sound, shape and meaning. All of them aim to obtain the effect of beauty.

### C. *Social Criticism*

Literary works were born with a reason. Literary works were triggered by the experiences, events, pehonemon, thoughts obtained by the authors. Literary works are the social reflection of the society, and the events existed in society which is too complex creates the idea from creative process

owned by the authors. Problems occurred in society frequently make the authors deliver the social criticism through literary works. Criticism delivered through the literature is not only to create the aesthetic aspect but also the positive value and the balance in defiance of the order in society. [7] said the literary works that were born among the society aims to become the social control and communication form in society.

Social criticism or social problems in society is one of the results caused by the goals that have been designed. Social criticism is not about the problem or the rich and the poor, but it has many other aspects behind it, such as politics, culture religion, economics, education, moral, and others. Those fields are coped in social [8].

**III. RESEARCH METHODS**

This research, researchers used qualitative methods [9, 10]. Qualitative research is intended as a method of seeing and understanding the real side or facts about a person's life, history, behavior, besides that it can also be about the role of the organization, social movements where this method gives primary attention to the meaning and message, in accordance with the nature of the object of research. Research collects data from material object and formal. The object of this research study is from *FSTVL*. After the data is collected, then the data is analyzed using formal data. In the analysis of this song, the author uses a way of note-taking.

**IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Social problems found in *FSTVL* are deserved to be presented. This band creates the songs related to social topic. Social criticism in the songs of *FSTVL* fully contains and describes the social reflection obtained by the song's author. The anxiety, unfairness, lifestyle, and defiance become one of the ways to resist, especially using a song. Songs contained with social criticism to make everything balance and to control the society.

The result is arranged in tables that furthermore need to be analyzed. The result in research delivered by explaining the social criticism obtained from the data sources in four songs created by *FSTVL* band. Social criticism found in *FSTVL* is such as economical criticism, political criticism, and cultural-social criticism (see in Table I).

TABLE I. THE RESEARCH RESULT IN *FSTVL* SONGS

No.	Titles	Social Problems			Social Criticism
		Economic	Political	Cultural-Social	
1.	<i>120</i>			✓	Hedonistic lifestyle of society to get admitted.
2.	<i>Tanah Indah Untuk Para Terbaik</i>		✓		Problems of development cannot be solved by the government to

	<i>an Rusak Dan Ditinggalkan</i>				make the society prosperous.
3.	<i>Menagisi Akhir pecan</i>		✓		The anxiety of the labors

**A. Social Criticism in *FSTVL* songs**

From the data analyzed in *FSTVL* songs, there are three kinds of social criticism found in their songs, such as 1) Economical aspect; 2) Political aspect; and 3) Cultural-Social Aspect. It cannot be denied that it might have more than one aspect in a song.

**a. Social Criticism in Political Aspect**

Based on the research of social criticism in political aspect that refers to the problems of arbitrariness and recklessness toward the society that ignores the condition of the society, social criticism in political aspect is found in *Tanah Indah Untuk Para Terbaikan Rusak Dan Ditinggalkan*. This song provides the evidences in human development. This song sees how the development done by the government has not been fully implemented, and it suffers the society.

*Di tanah tua yang tinggal hanya  
debu darah dan marah  
di antara keranda prasasti janji  
ku bangun kendaraan  
dari kayu  
pasak dan tali  
bekas bakal rumah itu*

At the beginning of the song, it was very clear about the construction of a place of residence which was described as having no attention from the government. Places that are not suitable to be inhabited are only dust (dirty), blood (struggle), and anger (emotion). Plus promises from the government that every day echo the distribution of development. The community only receives dead *di antara keranda prasasti janji*. The condition of the place of residence that is built only uses makeshift materials in the form of wood, pegs and ropes. Pasak's word *Pasak dan tali bakal rumah itu*, a description of the state of the building's concerned facilities.

Development that does not come makes the shelter uncomfortable. This lyric wants to voice the wishes and goals of society in a more prosperous life. The objectives presented are in the following quotation.

*ku bangun mesinnnya dari  
logam senjatamu yang menyayat-nyayat  
kurangkai sayapnya dari sumpah serapahmu  
yang menampar-namparku*

*mengepul minyak bakar yang  
menetes kencang dari lebam yang menghitam  
menjelajah ruang yang megah  
mengarungi waktu yang entah*

*menengadah ke langit yang pemurah  
pergi dari tanah yang rusak*

*b. Social Criticism in Cultural-Social Aspect*

Social Criticism in a cultural aspect is to criticize the changes or shifts of the order in society. This causes some of the society get shifted from the ideal condition. Social criticism in cultural-social aspect can be found in a song entitled *120* by FSTVL. This song tells about a materialistic, hedonistic lifestyle. Hedonistic is a luxurious lifestyle to obtain pleasure and avoid the suffering. Society now tends to be fond of materials to be accepted. A good man or an educated man will never get more respects than a wealthy man, and it is what is believed today. The position to get admitted in society is done without determining the good or bad way because what is important for them is achieving the aim. This is in line with the lyric in *120* song as follows:

*tentang benda-benda yang engkau punya dan engkau  
banggakan tentang  
gaya hidup yang kau kenakandan bahkan kini kau tuhankan  
tentang kekinian yang selalu saja kau bicarakan  
tentang status dan posisi tawarmu dipenglihatan orang-orang.  
jangan harap itu bisa mengesankanku dan menjatuhkanku atas  
nama dunia yang engkau pikirtelah dan selamanya akan kau  
genggam tentang nama besar yang kau sandang dan engkau  
busungkan*

*c. Social Criticism in Economical Aspect*

Social criticism in economical aspect has a wide scope. In the lyric of the song entitled *Menangisi Akhir Pekan*, it tells about the routines of the labors to fulfill their needs. The routine that “had to” satisfy the needs of capitalist economy as a profit seeker. Social criticism in *Menangisi Akhir Pekan* is as follows:

*permintaan dan pemenuhan terangkai dalam sebuah rantai  
makanan sepekan termakan dalam rantai makanan itu  
satu paling ujung dari tuju saatnya tumpahkan keluh kesahku  
hingarkan panggung rendah luas terang tanpa barikade*

The verse above describes the anxiety of the labors to do their routines. The rules in the capitalist system forced them to achieve the targets of the company that ignored the labors’ rights. In a phrase *permintaan dan pemenuhan terangkai dalam sebuah rantai makanan, sepekan termakan dalam rantai makanan itu*, the labors were trapped in a capitalist system that is never fair and mutually profitable toward the labors’ right. The next verse implies that weekend is a moment to share and to be relaxed, and these days must be celebrated after spending the routines in working days.

*teman dan pencerita, panggung dan pertunjukan, cairan dan  
pendosa, rayakan dengan, asap di hela napas jalan dan  
pencarian jawaban ingatan dan penyesalan tangisi akhir  
pekanmu*

## V. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the discussions that have been carried out in the previous chapter, it is known that FSTVL songs contain aspects of social criticism. FSTVL songs carry a social theme. Social criticism was conveyed because of the anxiety experienced by the band FSTVL. FSTVL songs are suitable when dissected using the perspective of literary sociology.

In the analysis of FSTVL songs found three aspects of social criticism, namely 1) social criticism of economic aspects, 2) social criticism of political aspects, and 3) social criticism of socio-cultural aspects. Contained in the weekend crying song, Beautiful Land For Neglected and Abandoned, and 120 Neglected People.

The song titled Winning the weekend contains social criticism of the arbitrariness of the capital against workers whose rights are not considered. The Tanah Indah song for the neglected is broken and abandoned tells about a government that does not pay attention to development in the community. While song 120 contains criticism of hedonic hudding in society.

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