

The Portrayal of Optimism as seen in Maher Zain's song

“Palestine Will Be Free”

A GRADUATING PAPER

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By:

FAUZIYAH FEBRIYANTI
13150067
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
SUNAN KALIJAGA
YOGYAKARTA

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF ADAB AND CULTURAL SCIENCES
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY SUNAN KALIJAGA

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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this thesis is definitely is my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this thesis. Other opinions or findings included in the thesis are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standard.

Yogyakarta, 9 November 2017



FAUZIYAH FEBRIANTI

NIM. 13150067

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
SUNAN KALIJAGA
YOGYAKARTA



PENGESAHAN TUGAS AKHIR

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yang dipersiapkan dan disusun oleh:

Nama : FAUZIYAH FEBRIYANTI
Nomor Induk Mahasiswa : 13150067
Telah diujikan pada : Selasa, 21 November 2017
Nilai ujian Tugas Akhir : B+

dinyatakan telah diterima oleh Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta

TIM UJIAN TUGAS AKHIR

Ketua Sidang

Dr. Witriani, S.S. M.Hum.
NIP. 19720801 200604 2 002

Penguji I

Danial Hidayatullah, SS., M.Hum.
NIP. 19760405 200901 1 016

Penguji II

Ulyati Retno Sari, S.S. M.Hum.
NIP. 19771115 200501 2 002

Yogyakarta, 21 November 2017

UIN Sunan Kalijaga

Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya

DEK A N



Prof. Dr. H. Alwan Khoiri, M.A.
NIP. 19500224 198803 1 001



KEMENTERIAN AGAMA
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN KALIJAGA
FAKULTAS ADAB DAN ILMU BUDAYA
Jl. Marsda Adisucipto Yogyakarta 55281 Telp./Fak. (0274) 513949
Web: <http://adab.uin-suka.ac.id> E-mail: adab@uin-suka.ac.id

NOTA DINAS

Hal : Skripsi
a.n. Fauziah Febriyanti

Yth.
Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
UIN Sunan Kalijaga
Di Yogyakarta

Assalamualaikum Wr. Wb.

Setelah memeriksa, meneliti, dan memberikan arahan untuk perbaikan atas skripsi saudara:

Nama : Fauziah Febriyanti
NIM : 13150067
Prodi : Sastra Inggris
Fakultas : Adab dan Ilmu Budaya
Judul : **PORTRAYAL OF OPTIMISM AS SEEN IN MAHER ZAIN'S SONG
"PALESTINE WILL BE FREE"**

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Yogyakarta, 10 November 2017

Pembimbing

Witriani, S.S M.Hum
NIP 19720801 200604 2 002

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By : Fauziyah Febriyanti

ABSTRACT

The Palestine's war is one of conflicts that should be given attention. There are many negative effects that happened but people in Palestine especially children want to make Palestine to be free. Although they are just children but they have big dream and high optimism to make it come true. Lyrics “ Palestine Will be Free” by Maher Zain describes about the optimism. This research tries to explain specifically about optimism that are described in the song. Optimism is very important because it can change the future of life. This research uses New Criticism theory to explain it. The analysis is about intrinsic elements like rhyme, diction, imagery, paradox, irony, ambiguity and tension. Then, qualitative method is used because the main data is text. Based on analysis, the optimism appears because there is hopeful feeling that wants to get better life and the brave feeling that wants to keep the country in any way. It increases the power to fight enemies. Then, this research finds that the optimism are portrayed by the high dream about the freedom of Palestine. The child who tries to be a strong human. Although, the parents are not with the child but the child does not cry and does not show the fears. Then, the optimism is portrayed by the attitudes of child like the hero. The last, the optimism is portrayed by the thought about great wishes and obsession.

Keywords : *optimism, new criticism, hopeful*

Gambaran Optimis dalam lagu Maher Zain

“Palestine Will Be Free”

Oleh : Fauziah Febriyanti

ABSTRAK

Perang Palestina adalah salah satu peristiwa yang harus diperhatikan. Banyak sekali dampak negatif yang terjadi terhadap penduduk Palestina terutama anak-anak yang ingin agar Palestina segera bebas. Walaupun mereka hanya anak-anak tetapi mereka mempunyai mimpi yang besar dan sifat optimis yang tinggi untuk mewujudkannya. Lirik “ Palestine Will be free “ karya Maher Zain menceritakan tentang rasa optimis. Penelitian ini mencoba untuk menerangkan secara spesifik tentang rasa optimis yang digambarkan oleh seorang anak kecil. Rasa optimis sangat penting karena dapat merubah masa depan dalam kehidupan seseorang. Penelitian yang dilakukan menggunakan teori New Criticism. Penelitian ini fokus pada unsur intrinsik seperti rime, diksi, imageri, paradok, ironi, ambigui, dan tension. Selanjutnya, metode yang digunakan adalah kualitatif karena menggunakan data berupa teks. Berdasarkan penelitian, sifat optimis muncul karena adanya harapan untuk mendapat kehidupan yang lebih baik dan keberanian untuk melindungi negrinya dengan cara apapun. Hal itu menambah semangat untuk bertahan dalam melawan musuh. Penelitian ini menyimpulkan bahwa optimis digambarkan dengan mimpi yang tinggi tentang kebebasan Palestina. Anak kecil tersebut mencoba untuk menjadi manusia kuat. Meskipun, tidak ada orang tua disampingnya. Anak kecil tersebut tidak menangis dan tidak mau menunjukkan ketakutannya. Selanjutnya, optimis digambarkan dengan sikap seperti pahlawan dan terakhir digambarkan dengan pemikiran tentang harapan besar yang menjadi obsesi.

Kata kunci : *optimis, new criticism, harapan*

MOTTO

**GOD WILL GIVE ANYTHING BASED ON YOUR EFFORT, SO DO THE
BEST TO GET THE BEST**

**ALWAYS BE GOOD HUMAN WITH EVERYONE ALTHOUGH THEY
HAVE DONE BAD THING TO YOU**

MAKE THE PROBLEMS AS THE WAY TO BE BETTER ONE

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
SUNAN KALIJAGA
YOGYAKARTA

DEDICATION

I DEDICATE THIS GRADUATING PAPER FOR :

My Beloved Parents, Mrs. Suswati and Mr. Muhasin

My Beloved Sister and Brother, Nurma Amindita, Riski
Ramdhani, Jihan Isna Farikhah and M. Januar Nur Hidayat

STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
SUNAN KALIJAGA
YOGYAKARTA

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Fauziah Febriyanti

Nim. 13150067

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literary work often appears in life because it influences society. According to Carter in his book *Literary Theory* (2006: 17) “This all leads to an inevitable conclusion: that literature is what a given society at a given time considers it to be. This may not be a very useful conclusion, but it is certainly true, and it is also true of music, drama and art”. Television, radio, shopping mall, films, music are some of the examples. They become tools that amuse many people.

A twentieth century shows dramatic changes on how music reaches its listeners. The living room becomes a new “concert hall” through recording, radio and television. These technological advances has brought music to a larger audience than ever before, besides vastly increasing the range of available music (Roger, 2006: 299). People can listen to music easily everytime and everywhere because nowadays many technologies have provided various amazing applications. For instance, people can use their handphone to find some songs in home without going outside.

The researcher chooses a subject of music because it contributes a lot in the world of entertainment. It is even needed for the most part of entertainment. A radio, for instance, is one of media that creates audio by sound. Radio has many programs and most of it contains music. In term of

television and film, music plays an important role to enliven the scene parts. The plot story of them will be more interesting and colorful with music. It is as Roger Kamien said in the book entitled *Musican Appreciation* (2006: 388) “During the last few decades, the importance of music in film has become widely recognized. Interest in film music continues to grow, as many movie goers have come to appreciate the significant contributions of this musical genre. Today, soundtrack albums, and concert performances bring film music to millions of people outside the movie theater.”

Usually, song is contained by lyrics as the substance of it. People can enjoy the music with lyrics. Then, music and lyric develop a unity into a song. Song is created by author to express their feeling or mood. Generally, they create song based on the condition and situation in their life and surrounding. The authors see some situations that become an inspiration to create the song. According M.H. Abraham in his book *A Glossary of Literary Term* “ a lyric is any fairly short poem, uttered by a single speaker, who expresses a state of mind or a process of perception, thought, and feeling “.

Then, resercher chooses lyric as the object of analysis because it has hidden and implied meanings. Lyric is one of the concret things by imagination and expression of author. It needs more explanation to understand the content of song. It is appropriate with what M.H.Abraham said in his book *A Glossary of Literary Term* “Criticism, or more specifically literary criticism, is the overall term for studies concerned with

defining, classifying, analyzing, interpreting, and evaluating works of literature (2009: 61). This statement fits to a case when people read a poem or lyrics. In understanding it, they should interpret well because many words are connotative. Connotation words are not the real meaning. Usually, the words can be understood in multiple meanings. Christopher states in his book *How To Analyze Poetry* (1966: 31) “connotation- the suggested or possible meanings of word “.

Furthermore, lyrics become media to give motivation or critic. They also can demonstrate some important events that need certain attention. For example, it functions to tell about war or political situation in a country.

The researcher chooses Maher Zain because he is one of the popular musicians that has produced some amazing songs. Most of Maher zain’s content of song is about Islamic theme. His songs deliver a spiritual power especially for Muslim. As a Muslim singer, he creates many religious songs. Indirectly, he conveys a lot of advices through the songs. Some songs tell a theme about Prophet Muhammad and gratefulness to Allah. In Indonesia, the foreign musician who sings about Islamic theme is infrequent. Then, Maher Zain is present to offer different genre music about Islam. His songs imply an important message to remember of Allah and everything about Islam.

Maher Zain begins to be famous in Indonesia after he releases album “Thank You Allah”. Before that, he launches the first video entitled

“Palestine Will be free”. It is launched in 25 countries and stated in the second top number in Amazone chart. Afterwards, Maher Zain affiliates in Sony Music Entertainment Indonesia to promote his album. He gets an appreciation from Nasyid Festival in East Java and gains many fans because of the collaboration with Indonesian singer Fadly “Padi”. (Khasanah, 2002: 23)

There is one of Maher Zain’s songs that has a different theme. The song describes about Palestine. The researcher is interested in analyzing this song because it shows a great sympathetic response of war in Palestine. Through the song, Maher zain gives a meaningful motivation that the Palestinians are not alone. Other people especially Muslims are still paying attention for their life condition.

Futhermore, Maher Zain creates a song to give support for Palestinian citizen. According the narration of song, the situation in Palestine is not safe because of the vicious war that brings fourth a lot of victims consisting of woman, children, old people, and etc. Based the repost of *BBC news*, the victim in 2014 at least 2,104 Palestinian died, including 1,462 civilians, of whom 495 were children and 253 women. For the sake of humanity and peoplehood, Muslim in other part of the world should help them. It seems difficult to help them directly in Palestine but they can help them by moral and material supports. One of the supports for them can be through song because song can spread worldwide quickly. Therefore, many people can

listen to the songs everywhere and understand the message which can turn out to be sympathy.

The other reason why the researcher takes a discussion of song "Palestine will be Free" is because the song tells about an insightful child's mind. In explanation, the other song that recounts Palestine theme depicts war and motivation but this song narrates about a child who strives for keeping Palestine safe from enemies. It has a deep meaning indeed. There are some unusual significances related to the value of song. Generally, children have childhood characteristics. Most of children still need many directions or guidances from their parents but the figure of child in this song is described by a different reaction.

Normally, children feel scared and fractious if they are stated in a war situation. That situation can lead to the sadness and negative emotions. It also makes overcontrolled disorder towards them. In the book "Child Psychology", E. Mavis and Rose mention that:

Undercontrolled childhood disorder like hyperactivity and conduct problems are identified by the negative impact they have on the environment, it is the adverse effect on the child that overcontrolled disorders share in common. Various negative emotions such as anxiety, fears and sadness characterize this broad-band classification. Children with excessive fear or sadness seem overcontrolled in the manner in which they relate to others; they do not fit the ideal of the happy, spontaneous child.

The characteristic in the lyrics looks so different. It tells about a child who is ready to stand alone and fight without parents. The uniqueness of the problem is significant to be discussed in order to give more and better

understanding about the song. The condition that is narrated through the child has a connection with the condition in Palestine at that time. It is also described in the lyrics. The unusual narrated situation describes an optimistic thinking of the Palestinian child. Optimist can be defined as the way of children saving Palestine in the occurrence of war.

In addition, the importance of this research stands for the intention of meaning in the lyrics “Palestine Will be Free” implying many messages about adult good attitude in which optimist characteristic is important. If a child who is perceived to have an exclusive protection from a parent is brave enough to fight enemies, the Palestinian adult also should have attitude as well as the child. They should believe that Allah would help them if they are always optimistic such as doing effort and pray. Furthermore, optimist thinking is needed in the daily life. It can support someone to have a good plan in the next life. For example, if someone fails to reach something, they will never give up to try again and more because of the optimism.

The research uses a theory of new criticism because it can explore the intention of meaning specifically. It helps the researcher to interpret the lyrics textually without looking at the background of author. Therefore, the researcher focuses on the internal element.

People, especially Muslims are suggested become an optimism person. Muslims should not give up easily because Allah dislikes a pessimist person.

That message is mention in the holy Quran Chapter 29 verse 23:

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِ اللَّهِ وَلِقَائِهِ أُولَئِكَ يَئِسُوا مِنْ رَحْمَتِي وَأُولَئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ أَلِيمٌ ﴿٢٣﴾

“Those who reject the Signs of Allah and the Meeting with Him (in the Hereafter),- it is they who shall despair of My Mercy: it is they who will (suffer) a most grievous Penalty”.

(<http://quran.alfalah.or.id>)

The child convinces that Palestine will be free from warfare. It is appropriate with the verse that people who despair from the Mercy of Allah will get a most grievous penalty. Therefore, people who listen to the music and contemplate the lyrics are suggested to actualize an opitimist characteristic as exemplified by the child figure.

1.2 Problem Statement

- How is optimism portrayed in Maher Zain’s song “Palestine Will Be Free”?

1.3 Objective of study

Based on the problem statement above, the objective of this study is to analyze the portrait of optimism in Maher Zain’s song “Palestine Will Be Free”.

1.4 Significance of study

Theoretically, this paper can help the readers to understand about literature, especially the lyrics of Maher Zain's song "Palestine Will Be Free". The readers also know about the optimistic thinking narrative that is described in the song with the child figure. Furthermore, It will give an additional information that optimism is important because it can manage the emotion of bad experience or event. The readers are able to understand on how new criticism theory is applied.

Practically, this paper has some benefits to readers especially for academic contributions:

- a. First, this paper gives more information about understanding the intention of meanings in lyrics of song. The internal elements explain specifically about optimism in lyrics "Palestine will be Free". Furthermore, optimism becomes a basic of education progress. If students have optimism, they will have a good plan about the education.
- b. Second, this paper can be supporting data or references to others who will analyze about song. It can be base of exploration about song analysis with other theory.
- c. Third, this paper becomes a comparison that is required in other paper. The readers enable to know about differences and similarities between this paper and others. Therefore, it can reduce the plagiarism.

1.5 Literature Review

The first is 2013 graduation paper written by Gunawan. Student of State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta entitled “War as Represented in Michael Heart’s We Will Not Go Down”. The researcher in this paper tells about war in that song. He focuses on the portrayal of Gaza war. The researcher uses New Critics Theory. The researcher analyzes six elements that are irony, paradox, rhyme, diction, imagery, and ambiguity. Then, the researcher describe about horrible situation of Palestine war.

The second is 2014 graduation paper written by Mukhammad Irfan Ridlowi from State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta entitled “Racism as reflected in Bob Marley’s Songs : War and Bufallo Soldier”. The researcher focuses on the song as the expression of the author and describes how Bob Marley responds to the problem of racism as reflected in that song.

The third is 2016 graduation paper written by Jehan Rizki Rakhmadani from State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta Entitled “Youth as Represented in the Song Lyric of We are Young by 3OH13. This paper is about the meaning of Youth behaviour in special writing style. The theory used is New Criticism.

The three researchs above utilize different concept but use the same object. The first thesis uses new criticism and focuses on situation of war. The second thesis uses expressive theory to know how Bob Marley responds

to Racism that will be told in his song. The third, the thesis tells about the intention meaning of youth. In contrast, this research also uses new criticism theory but it focuses on describing optimism that is described in the song with the figure of child in the context of war in Palestine.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

A research in literary work applies a theoretical approach. It helps the researcher to analyze the work and explain the object. In this research, the researcher uses New Criticism theory. New Criticism is one of theories that is developed from structuralism. Structure is the elements that built of thing. According to Siswanto in his book, entitled "*Metode Penelitian Sastra*", he explains that the term of structure is adopted from structural anthropology treasure pioneered by Levi-Strauss. He is a pioneer of structuralism idea. The basic doctrine of structuralism says that the essence of things is not in themselves but inside relation of elements. There are not the elements that have meanings in themselves but it should have relevance with the meaning from all elements in the structure.

New criticism focuses on the internal element without the external element. It means that New Criticism also can be independent because it just focuses on interpreting the text without involving the background of the author. M.H.Abram mentions "in literary history by insisting that the proper concern of literary criticism is not with the external circumstances or effects

or historical position of a work, but with a detailed consideration of the work itself as an independent entity” (2009: 216).

The other opinion tells that the New Criticism does not depend on the author. It gives new different interpretation because the reader can interpret the text that becomes the freestanding object. According to Hans (Via Lawrence, 1924: 123), never trust the artist. Trust the tale. In other words, Interpreting a literary text, the author commentary, or what we know of the author’s intentions, is of secondary importance. The actual text should be our guideline, not what the author may want to say (2001: 23).

Close reading is another term that explains new critic concerning with textual analysis. It is more interesting in text itself than things appropriated with social, politic, or surrounding of author. Cuddon argues that new critics advocated ‘close reading’ and detailed textual analysis of poetry rather than an interest in the mind and personality of the poet, sources, the history of ideas and political and social implications (2013 : 485).

New criticism analyzes the intrinsic elements which are important. There are only some elements applied. They are paradox, irony, ambiguity, and diction. Appropriated by Culler, according Cleanth Brooks, John, W.K. Wimsatt, for new critics, the task of criticism is to elucidate individual works of art. It focuses on ambiguity, paradox, irony, and the effect of connotation and poetic imagery (2000: 130).

1.7 Method of Research

This part explains about the aspects related to method of research. There are four parts of research method:

1.7.1 Type of Research

This paper uses qualitative research. It is different from quantitative research. Qualitative research takes data from texts, images etc. It is accordance with the book entitled “Research Design”, John W.Creswell (2009:162) that explains “qualitative procedures rely on text and image data, have unique steps in data analysis, and draw on diverse strategies of inquiry.”

Qualitative research in this paper is focused on the data of texts because the object used in this research is lyrics. All lyrics are in the song of “Palestine Will Be Free”. The texts are gotten by books, documentation, internet source, library, and etc. Subsequently, texts analyzed in this research focusing on the lines of every stanza.

1.7.2 Data Sources

Data are all informations selected as a material in a research. Usually, data is divided into two parts. First is primary data. It contains the main data which will be analyzed. In this research, the main data are lyrics from Maher Zain’s song “Palestine Tomorrow Will Be Free”. All data used are word, phrase, and sentence in each line and stanza. For example, rhyme is taken from word. Diction, imagery, irony, paradox, and tension

are taken from words and sentences. Then, imagery is taken from word, phrase, and sentence.

Then secondary data contains supporting informations that contribute to the research. It can cover some books, dictionary, electronical source from internet like journal, e-book, and other references related to research.

1.7.3 Data Collecting Technique

The collecting data of this research does not use test, interview, or observation but it utilizes texts as the instrument of research. In the process, the researcher applies a method of documentation. The researcher gets, collects the data about the lyrics in Maher Zain's song "Palestine Will Be Free" from library or web and reads many references such as dictionary, journal, thesis, e-book, and etc. Researcher also applies a close reading method to collect the data. It helps researcher to grab some specific data that are appropriate with the lyrics. Close reading process directs researcher to focus on the text itself without extending to outside of the text.

After that, the researcher takes some important data and makes a list. Then, she identifies the data based on the categories. The categories are rhyme, diction, irony, ambiguity, paradox, irony, and tension. Therefore, the researcher enables to reduce the data which do not have a relation with the object. These ways are purposed to select the data and get the relevant and sufficient information.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

This method is very important because the good result of the research should meet some effective steps. Firstly, the researcher collects data by documentation and close reading method. This step helps the research to focus on the lyrics of the song closely without considering the outside issue. After collecting the data, the researcher classifies the data. The data can be taken from stanza, lines, sentences, words by words. The data are purely taken from lyrics “Palestine will be free”. They are classified based on the theory. Thirdly, the researcher analyzes lyrics based on the classification. The analysis should be appropriate with the selected sub-chapter. The next step is about to give explanation deeply about the hidden meaning in lyrics. This step is very important because it leads to the conclusion. Lastly, the researcher concludes the analysis based on the all analysis previously and answers the problems statement in the last chapter.

1.8 Paper Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. Chapter I is introduction that consists Background of Study, Problem Statement, Objective of Study, Significance of Study, Literary Review, Theoretical Approach, Method of Research, and Paper Organization. It explains about the important reasons why the researcher chooses the lyrics of Maher Zain song’s “Palestine Will Be Free “. Then, chapter II is about formal

elements. Chapter III is the research analysis. It explains the main analysis of the research. Chapter IV is the last part which is conclusion. It is the result of analysis that answers the problem of research in this paper



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

This research uses poetic devices to analyze the lyrics. The poetic devices are appropriate with the new criticism theory which are rhyme, diction, imagery, paradox, irony, and ambiguity and tension. It makes the analysis unified and answers the research question. Based on the analysis, the portrayal of optimism is described in the stanzas. Every stanza gives a different explanation about optimism and supports each other.

Based on the paradox, ironies, and ambiguity, the intention of meaning can explain the portrayal of optimism. Then, the tension gives a description about hopeful feelings that support the optimism. In the first stanza, the optimism is portrayed by the high dream about the freedom of Palestine. In the second stanza, the optimism is portrayed by a child who strives for being a strong human. Although, the parents do not accompany them in the situation of war, but they do not cry and show the fears. They even motivate to continue their life in the future without the parent presence. In fourth stanza, the optimism is portrayed by the attitudes of child who acts like a hero. The land in Palestine will be kept by their bare hand. They will caress everything because people in the other country are not dependable.

The last stanza, the optimism is portrayed by the mind. The great wishes of freedom is in their mind and be their obsession. The statement “Palestine will be free” is repeated over and over. It is a way to increase the power to fight enemies. Then, the last way as a Muslim, they should believe that God will help them to gain greater and peaceful life.

4.2 Suggestion

The researcher realizes that this research needs some suggestions because it is still far from the perfection. There are many references, sources, and knowledges that are limited for the researcher. Furthermore, this research also can be explored deeply with the other theories. The researcher gives suggestion to the next researcher, if they want to analyze the lyrics of song; they can use semiotic theory, reader respond theory or dynamic structuralism theory. It is helpful to give more variation of analyzing this case because it does not only use an intrinsic element but also uses an extrinsic element.

The other important point, the readers can take the substance of advice to have an optimistic thinking. It helps someone to have great wishes in the future. Automatically, they will have a good plan and make them true. Especially for the Muslim readers, it is also one example of the implementation of verse that is explained in the beginning of the chapter.

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APPENDIX

1. Palestine Tomorrow Will be Free Diction, Imagery and Rhyme

Stanza	Line	Text	diction		Imagery			Rhyme
			Denotative	Connotative	visual	Kinaesthetic	Abstract	
1 st	1	Everyday we tell each other	√		√	√		8a
	2	That this day will be the last	√				√	7b
	3	And tomorrow we all can go home free	√			√		10c
	4	And all this will finally end	√					8d
	5	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√				√	9c
	6	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√				√	9c
2 nd	7	No mother no father to wipe away my tears		√	√	√		12e
	8	That's why I won't cry		√	√	√		5f
	9	I feel scared but I won't show my fears		√	√		√	9e

	10	I keep my head high		√	√			5g
	11	Deep in my heart I never have any doubt that	√				√	12h
	12	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√				√	9c
	13	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√				√	9c
3 rd	14	I saw those rockets and boms shining in the sky		√	√			11f
	15	Like drops of rain in the sun's light		√	√			8h
	16	Takin away everyone dear to my heart		√				11i
	17	Destroying my dreams in a blink of an eye		√			√	11j
4 th	18	What happened to our human rights?		√			√	8k
	19	What happened to the sanctity of life?		√			√	10l
	20	And all those other lies?		√			√	6m
	21	I know that I'm only a child		√	√			8n

	22	But is your conscience still alive		√			√	9o
5 th	23	I will caress with my bare hands		√	√	√		8p
	24	Every precious grain of sand		√	√			8q
	25	Every stone and every tree		√	√			7c
	26	Cuz no matter what they do		√				7r
6 th	27	They can never hurt you		√		√		6s
	28	Cuz your soul will always be free		√			√	8c
	29	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√				√	9c
	30	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√				√	9c

2. Palestine Will be Free Paradox, Irony, Ambiguity and Statement of Optimism

Stan za	Li ne	Text	Ambig uity	Paradox	Irony	Tension
1 st	1	Everyday we tell each other			√	
	2	That this day will be the last	√		√	
	3	And tomorrow we all can go home free	√		√	
	4	And all this will finally end	√		√	
	5	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√			
	6	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√			
	7	No mother no father to wipe away my tears				√
	8	That's why I won't cry				

2 nd	9	I feel scared but I won't cry				√
	10	I keep my head high	√	√		√
	11	Deep in my heart I never have any doubt that	√			√
	12	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√			√
	13	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√			√
3 rd	14	I saw those rockets and boms shining in the sky	√		√	√
	15	Like drops of rain in the sun's light			√	
	16	Takin away everyone dear to my heart	√		√	√
	17	Destroying my dreams in a blink of en eye	√	√		√
	18	What happened to our human right?			√	
	19	What happened to the			√	

		sanctity of life?				
4 th	20	And all those other lies?	√		√	
	21	I know that I'm only a child			√	
	22	But is your conscience still alive		√	√	
5 th	23	I will caress with my bare hands			√	√
	24	Every precious grain of sand			√	√
	25	Every stone and every tree			√	√
	26	Cuz no matter what they do				
6 th	27	They can never hurt you				
	28	Cuz your soul will always be free	√		√	
	29	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√			
	30	Palestine tomorrow will be free	√			

CURICULUM VITAE

Personal Identity

Name : Fauziah Febriyanti
Birth : Kebumen, February 19th 1995
Adress : Kradenan, RT 01/RW 02, Ambal, Kebumen, Central Java
E- mail : fauziyahfebriyanti@gmail.com
Phone Number : 087837780577



Formal Education

Kradenan Kindergarten : 1999-2000
Kradenan Elementary School : 2001-2007
Triwarno Islamic Junior High School : 2008-2010
Kutowinangun High School : 2011-2013
Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University : 2013-2018

Informal Education

Al- Munawwir Komplek Q Islamic Boarding House : 2013-2018