

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The last chapter of this paper contains the resume of the analysis and some concluding points. Based on the analysis in the previous chapter, there are two main concepts conveyed by the signifiers in the album cover. First is the concept of love and the second one is the concept of life. The two concepts are related to create a message. Every signifier makes a great synergy to show both of the concepts

As we can see in the album cover, there are visual and verbal signifiers. The visual sign has two dominant signifiers, the picture of the heart and the picture of the tree. From the picture of the heart, what we can get is the interpretation of love. However, the concept of love that is portrayed in the cover is not a happy love. This is signified by the picture of the heart which is not in a good shape. Moreover, it drips blood in order to show that it is hurt, so that this signifier signifies a depressing situation of being in love that is a broken heart experience.

In addition, the picture of the heart can also signify the concept of life, as a heart is a human being's vital organ. In addition, the picture shows that the heart is tied to the tree branch with a rope as if it were committing suicide. This is

the condition of someone's trying to end his own life. The concept of life is also signified by the picture of the tree. In line with the concept of love, the concept of life that is depicted in the picture is not a happy life. The suicidal heart, the condition of the tree with withered and almost leafless branches show that the life is not a life worth-living. Furthermore, it is a depressing life, as those who are depressed often show suicidal wishes and even suicidal practices in their life.

Other visual signs that occur in the cover also convey the depressing situation. There is a hole in the tree which signifies a trauma in the past. The branches of the tree are moving downward. This also signifies a remembrance of the past. Thus, I can say that these signifiers are related to the concept of life as they deal with certain moments in life that a person cannot forget.

Another visual sign is the use of colours. There are three colours used in the picture, namely red, white and black. These three colours are also related to the concept of love and life. Red colour signifies love, white colour signifies the loss of desires in life, while the black colour signifies death or the loss of life.

The verbal sign in this cover occur in the text 'The Used' and 'In Love and Death'. 'The Used' here gives the identity of the album cover as the album of this band. Thus, it can signify that the cover contains things that are related to the band. Based on the interview done by MTV with the band, it is found out that the songs in this album were inspired by the tragic experience of the band's vocalist who lost his pregnant girlfriend. She died of doing overdose . (<http://www.mtv.com/news/articles/1493746/20041115/used.jhtml>) The phrase 'in love and death' also supports the concept of love and life. The concept of love is stated explicitly in the text, while the concept of life is stated by using a word which is the antonym of life, which is death. The use of the phrase supports the

information about the band. The phrase 'in love' shows the past life, which is the love that occurs between the vocalist and his pregnant girlfriend. The word 'death' signifies their separation. The contradiction in 'in love and death' also strengthens the tragic moment of love. Moreover, the thoughts of love - in this case a love which is full of regrets - and death are the symptoms of depression.

Judging from the relation between the signifiers and the signified in the cover, I conclude that the cover depicts a love life which is sad and it leads to depression. Thus I can say that the sign system in this cover leads us to one idea that is the state of depression. Based on the sign system, I think the message that the band wants to convey is a reminder that an unhappy love life can make a person depressed because the past love-life memories cannot be easily forgotten.

To find out about the symptoms of depression, the analysis of the cover has to be related to the theories of psychology. Thus, it is clear that the study of semiotics cannot stand on its own. It has to be interrelated with other subjects as the study of signs is very wide. Signs can be about anything and can convey any idea. This is also useful to make the interpretation of the signs have proper grounds, namely theories from other fields of study.

For further researches, I may recommend other album covers of The Used to be analyzed. If we pay attention to their album covers, they always use abstract pictures. By using this kind of drawing patterns, the band may convey something to us. In doing this research, the study of their background is also necessary. Their hometown Utah may relate to the pattern, as Utah is an area with its poverty and homelessness. This kind of area may influence the kind of drawing they have. Therefore, a research of the complete album covers of the

band can will be very interesting and challenging as it reveal whether the band always has the same representation or not. Moreover, the next researches of semiotics can also be widened to the art design area, specifically to the graphic theory.

Words: 970