

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes the background of the study problems of the study, objectives of the study, and definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Discourse refers to expressing something using words. Discourses are ubiquitous ways of knowing, valuing, and experiencing the world (Renkema 1993, p.1). There is one part of discourse which is called discourse analysis. Furthermore, there is an instrument in discourse analysis, whose function is to relate and unite from one sentence to another sentence namely cohesion.

Cohesion means relationship between one sentence and others in a text realized by means of formal linguistics devices which are called cohesion devices. According to Halliday and Hasan (1976), if someone wants to comprehend about a text, firstly, it is important for someone to know about the relationship between the elements of that text. That is the reason why the researcher is interested in discussing cohesion and its application in written text especially in literally works, such as lyrics of the song, poem or article. By identifying the cohesion aspects, the researcher can get the point of a certain this lyric and what the poet tries to convey in the poem easier. In this particular study, the researcher just focuses on lexical cohesion.

Song is a poem set to music and intended to be sung (Oxford, 1989, p.1912).

Song is one of the literary works that consists of a number of lyrics which set to the music and intended to be sung. A song is relatively short musical composition for the human voice commonly accompanied by other musical instruments, which features words (lyric). Furthermore, Kirkweg (2009, p.6) explains that song (music) has a power to influence people's emotions and behavior. It has been found to affect and stimulate many different parts of the brain and body. Song can reduce stress level, serve relaxation, ease depression, and help storing and recalling information among other functions.

Music is one of effective relaxation therapies in today's times of depression.

Stress is reduced through song (listening music) by decreasing the amount of the hormone cortisone released in the body (Salcedo, 2002, p.74). Songs and cohesion are closely related because in composing lyrics of the song should be interconnected with the lyric before. Therefore, in writing songs lyrics to be good and true and it is called cohesion. On the other way, song especially English song can be really useful in English learning skill, in this way, song can be a useful aid in learning vocabulary, pronunciation, and structure including sentence pattern (Richard, 1993, p.166). From the functions above it is shown that the song has many advantages which people can find. This case inspires the researcher to take a study about song (System of A Down songs) in linguistic point of view, especially based on the discourse analysis.

Lexical Cohesion is a group of words which is lexically cohesive when all of the words are semantically related; for example, when they are all concerned with the

same topic (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). Renkema (2004) divide lexical cohesion into two main categories “reiteration and collocation.” Renkema (2004) states that reiteration can be divided into repetition, synonym, hyponym, metonym, and antonym. Lexical cohesion has two functions: first, to link word and word, phrase and phrase within a text then it can divided again indicating a repetition, indicating synonym, indicating superordinate, and indicating general word. Second, it is used to indicate co-occurrence of words whose meanings are related in the same environment, (Halliday and Hasan, 1976). Lexical cohesions always appear in songs. In songs the writer often uses repetition, synonym, antonym, imagery, etc in words or sentence.

In this study, researcher discussed kinds of lexical cohesion used in the lyrics of System of A Down songs. The functions of lexical cohesion used in the lyrics of System of A Down songs, how the song can be related each other (from one lyric to another lyric) and how the song has unity from one lyric to another lyric. By analyzing lexical cohesion the researcher will know the kinds and functions of lexical cohesion with Renkema’s and Halliday and Hasan’s theory used in the songs of System of A Down (SOAD) group name. Furthermore, lexical cohesion which consists of reiteration and collocation is very essential in order to get deep understanding of the songs.

System of A Down is metal alternative band from Los Angeles, California, USA, comprises three members of Armenian heritage, Serj Tankian as a vocals, Daron Malakian as a guitar and Shavo Odadjian as a bass, and John Dolmayan as a

drums. Tankian, Malakian and Odadjian first played together in 1993 as Soil, renaming themselves System of A Down, from a poem by Malakian, in 1995.

Recruiting drummer Dolmayan they built up a following on the southern California circuit with their explosive live act.

In this study, the researcher is interested in analyzing the lyrics of System of A Down songs. These are good songs lyrics to be analyzed. Because in the songs of System of A Down there are a lot of criticisms to the United States government.

Besides, there are many interesting lexical cohesion in the lyric. Those are the reasons why the researcher chooses System of A Down songs to be analyzed in and this study.

The researcher choose 5 out of 38 songs in 3 albums because those songs generally represent System of A Down concept of thought. The songs are "Aerials", "B.Y.O.B", "chop suey", "war", and "Toxicity." Besides, those songs contain a lot of objects of research to be analyzed based on lexical cohesion topic. The songs are worth to be discussed for everyone who wants to know more specific about what cohesion is and how it is applied in the lyrics so that, it can understand the contents of the lyrics.

The researcher expects that this study gives big contribution to English learners, English lecturer, and also for further researchers in the same field because this study can lead the reader understand the relationship of the words in the text.

They can learn about lexical cohesion easily and enjoyable by this song. In addition,

the study entitled “Lexical cohesion in the lyrics of System of A Down Songs” is be expected to give a big picture to everyone about the essential idea of lexical cohesion.

### 1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher intends to answer these questions:

1. What are the kinds of lexical cohesions found in the lyrics of System of A Down songs?
2. What are the functions of lexical cohesions found in the lyrics of System of A Down songs?

### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

Referring to the research problem above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the kinds of lexical cohesion used in the lyrics of System of A Down songs
2. To describe the functions of lexical cohesion used in the lyrics of System of A Down songs.

### 1.4 Definition of the Key terms of the Study

1. **Cohesion** is the grammatical lexical relationship within a text or sentence and it can be defined as the links that hold a text together and give it meaning. (Halliday and Hassan, 1976).

2. **Lexical cohesion** is a cover term for the cohesion that results from the co-occurrence of lexical items that are in some way or other typically associated with one another, because they tend to co-occur in similar environments". (Halliday and Hassan, 2001).

3. **System of a Down** is an Armenian-American rock band from Southern California, formed in 1993. It consists of Serj Tankian (lead vocals, keyboards, and rhythm guitar), Daron Malakian (vocals, guitar), Shavo Odadjian (bass, background vocals) and John Dolmayan (drums).

4. **Lyrics** is the words of a song which are similar to short poems that expresses the personal thoughts and feelings of the person who wrote it such as happiness, sorrow, and love. (Oxford, 1989).

