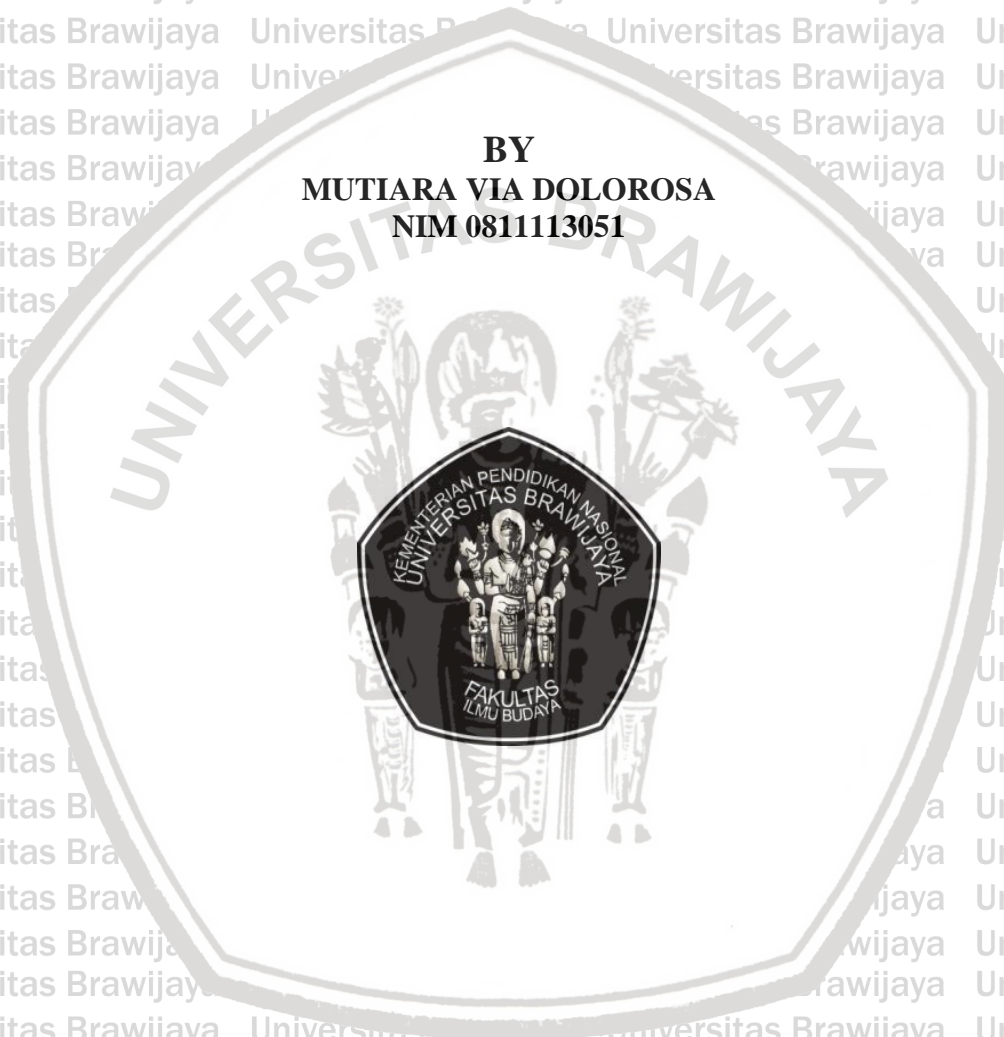


**MICHAEL JACKSON'S SOCIAL AWARENESS
AS MANIFESTED IN HIS SONG LYRICS**

THESIS

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**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
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UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA**

2012

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Malang, 26 July 2012

The Writer

ABSTRACT

Dolorosa, Mutiara Via. 2012. **Michael Jackson's Social Awareness as Manifested in His Song Lyrics.** Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Sri Herminingrum; Co-supervisor: Aris Siswanti.

Keywords: Michael Jackson, social awareness, song lyrics, overt and covert criticism

Song lyrics, as the part of literary work, can be a mirror of society which portrays social phenomena or social problem in the human life. Song lyrics in music can be used to make interhuman communication deliver criticisms for the listeners implicitly and explicitly. In Michael Jackson's song lyrics entitled *Black or White, We are the World, They Don't Care About Us, Heal the World, and Earth Song*, some social awareness is portrayed in two categories. They are covert social criticism and overt social criticism.

The research employs thematic approach as the grounding theory to find out the social criticisms of each song lyric. The biography of Michael Jackson and social life of American people are used as supporting information to make the analysis and interpretation hit its target.

The result of this study describes that Michael Jackson's song lyrics highlights several themes, such as problems of discrimination to Black people, environment, children's welfare, poverty, and war. They are composed in most of his song lyrics and sung for people not only in America, but also for people around the world.

ABSTRAK

Dolorosa, Mutiara Via. 2012. **Michael Jackson's Social Awareness as Manifested in His Song Lyrics.** Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: (I) Sri Herminingrum; (II) Aris Siswanti.

Kata kunci: Michael Jackson, kepedulian sosial, lirik lagu, kritik terbuka dan tersembunyi

Lirik lagu, sebagai bagian dari karya sastra, merupakan cerminan dari masyarakat yang menunjukkan fenomena-fenomena sosial maupun permasalahan sosial dalam kehidupan manusia. Lirik lagu dalam musik dapat digunakan sebagai alat komunikasi antar manusia untuk menyampaikan kritik-kritik terhadap pendengarnya baik itu secara tersirat maupun tersurat. Dalam beberapa lirik lagu Michael Jackson yang berjudul *Black or White*, *We are the World*, *They Don't Care About Us*, *Heal the World*, and *Earth Song*, kepedulian terhadap masyarakat disampaikan dalam dua kategori, yakni kritik sosial yang terbuka dan kritik sosial yang tersembunyi.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan tematik sebagai dasar untuk menganalisa kritik-kritik sosial yang ada dalam setiap lirik lagu. Biografi Michael Jackson serta materi-materi yang terkait dengan kehidupan sosial masyarakat di Amerika juga digunakan sebagai informasi pendukung sehingga analisa yang dibuat dapat mencapai sasaran.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa lirik-lirik lagu Michael Jackson mengangkat beberapa tema, yaitu masalah diskriminasi kaum kulit hitam di Amerika, masalah lingkungan, perlindungan anak-anak, kemiskinan, dan perang antar negara. Tema-tema ini terkandung dalam sebagian besar lagu Michael Jackson, dan dinyanyikan tak hanya untuk masyarakat di Amerika saja, namun juga untuk masyarakat di seluruh dunia.

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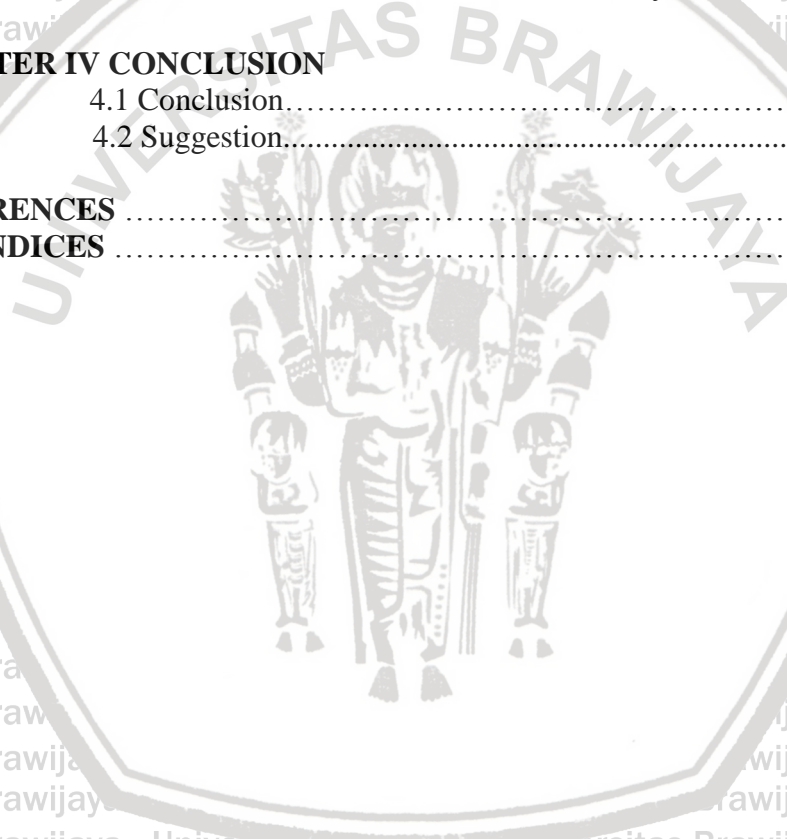
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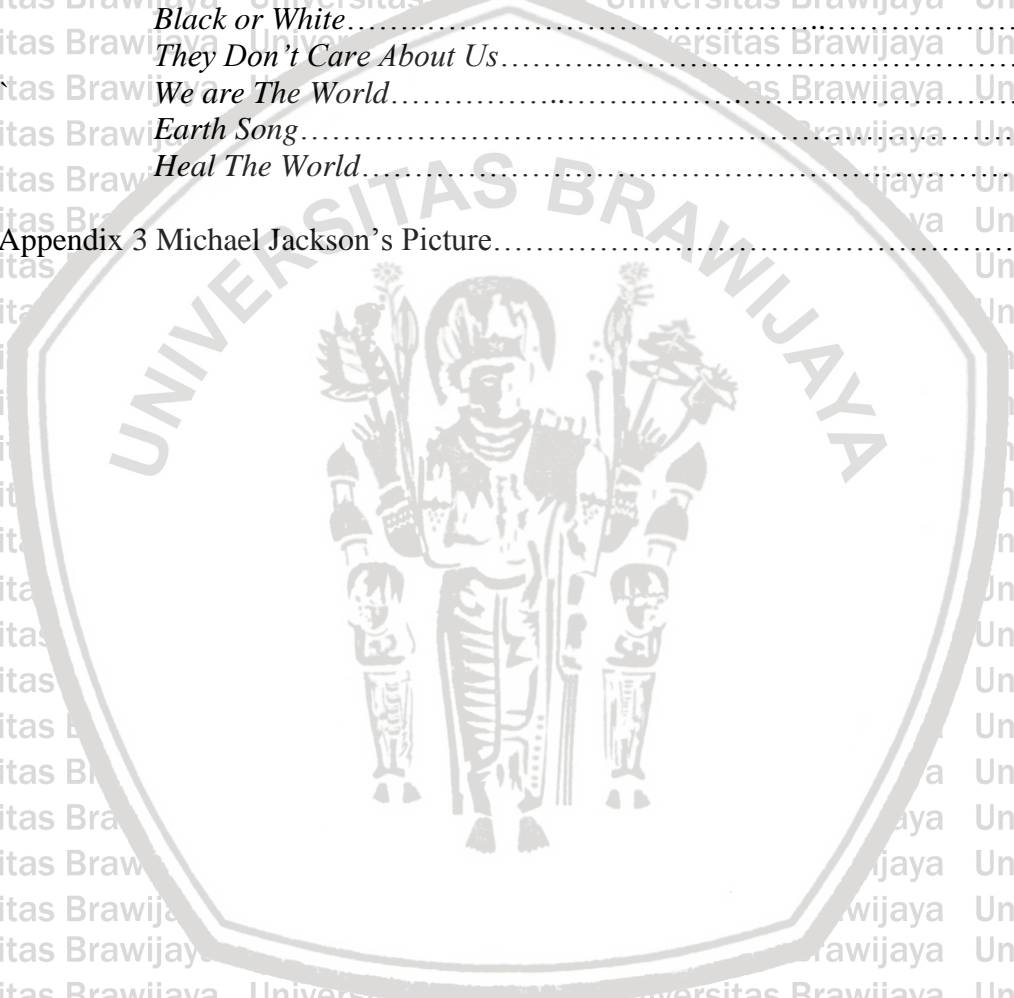
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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Tagg (2002, p.1) describes that music is “a particular type of human sound production and that those sounds are associated with the human voice or with human movement. These sounds have functions involving particular aspects of communication in particular social and cultural situations”. By this description, it is clear that music has a role in communication among people in social life.

According to Encyclopedia Americana (1996, p.646), “music has played an important role in daily activities”. Music may be a part of their daily life, because life will be more enjoyable with music. By listening music, people usually find inspiration, better feeling, or new experience in their life. Some people respect music as their hobby, so they can make a performance by playing music. Meanwhile, the others regard it as a way to earn money and make playing music as a profession.

Actually, music has developed since thousand years ago. The earliest forms of music were probably drum-based, percussion instruments being the most readily available at the time, for example they are rocks and sticks.

Hollis, in *Pre-Renaissance Music: The Evolution of Instruments and Theory* (1999, p.1), stated “these simplest of simple instruments are thought to have been used in religious ceremonies as representations of animals”.

There was no notation or writing of this kind of "music" and its sounds could only be extrapolated from the music of (South) American Indians and African natives who still adhered to some of the ancient religious practices.

From a different point of view, Tagg (2002,p.2) argues that "although the original source of musical sound does not have to be human actually, music is always the result of some kind of human mediation, intention or organization through production practices such as composition, arrangement, performance or presentation". In the development, music is not only about its playing in instrument aspect but also involves the existence of song lyrics. So, music can also be appreciated by understanding its meaning in song lyrics.

Generally, the form of song lyrics is like poetry. Reaske (1996, p.35) states that "the term lyric now designates a short poem which emphasizes the expression of the individual's feeling and emotions rather than external events or attitudes". As the part of literary work, song lyrics can be a mirror of society, they portray social phenomena or social problem in the human life. In this case, Tagg (2002) explains that music reflects and influences societies and it is a metaphor for ideas and experiences. Music is form of interhuman communication in which humanly organized, non-verbal sound is perceived as vehiculating primarily affective (emotional) and/or gestural (corporeal) patterns of cognition. So, music always has messages delivered to people who listen to it. Tagg adds that music actually has power as a mirror and a symbol of society. Sometimes,

singers and musicians use songs as their way to give a social criticism even though it is covered by the combination of beautiful lyrics and rhythms. But others criticize social condition outspokenly. It means, the criticism is conveyed without covering it by a beautiful lyrics and rhythms in the song.

1.1.1 Music and Black American

Music and Black American have a close historical relationship. The development of music from a folksong to blues, rock and roll, jazz, hip-hop and rapp, inclines together with the history of Black American life. Ruehl (2012) suggests that the influence of Black Americans on folk music has been immeasurable. Many of the songs that have come to be synonymous with struggle, empowerment, human rights, and perseverance have come from the Black American community. From folk-blues singers to modern day hip hop artists, the folk music of the Black American communities has embodied the struggle of the marginalized worker in America. Furthermore, it is explained that the history of folksong in Black American society develops as Black American history stretches.

Great songs that have become synonymous with the plight of every community since then that has stood up for its own rights, include spiritual songs...rhythms and the art of spoken word to communicate the emotions – from celebration to frustration – that characterized their community (Ruehl, 2012, p.2).

Black American folk musicians continue to strongly influence the path of not only American music, but politics, civil rights, education, popular

opinion, and the ever-evolving history of nation. For example, groups like NWA, Public Enemy, LL Cool J, and Run DMC participated the explosion of hip-hop music popularity since 80s. These groups and others brought the folk music of their communities fiercely into the public consciousness, rapping about racism, violence, politics, and poverty. At the same time they also addressed relationships, work, and other aspects of social and political issues.

1.1.2 Michael Jackson as Black American Singer

Michael Joseph Jackson was a Black American artist, entertainer, and composer. He was famous as the King of Pop, and usually people called him by his initials MJ. Michael Jackson was known as the one of the most successful entertainer in America. His contribution to music, dance, and fashion, along with a much-publicized personal life, made him a global figure in popular culture for years.

Michael Jackson was born on August 29, 1958 in Gary, Indiana. He was a seventh son of Joseph Walter "Joe" Jackson and Katherine Esther Scruse. Michael Jackson had three sisters: Rebbie, La Toya, and Janet, and also five brothers: Jackie, Tito, Jermaine, Marlon, and Rand. When he was child, Michael Jackson had experienced a bad relationship with his father. It is explained by Krohn (2010, p.12) that "Michael Jackson claimed that his father had been abusive to him". His father used to give him a distressed treatment as a child. Michael Jackson's talent was shaped since he was child. His father arranged rehearsals almost every day. Campbell,

in biography of Michael Jackson (1994, p.20), stated that Michael Jackson's childhood was completely taken away from him. He told that "there was no Christmas, no birthdays. It was not a normal childhood, no normal pleasure of childhood".

Besides, in another biography by Taraborrelli (2009, p.31), Michael Jackson often spoke about the abuse he suffered at the hands of his father. When he gave his controversial 2003 interview to Martin Bashir, he admitted that his father threatened him. He was still traumatized by the part of his childhood. However, Michael Jackson could actualize himself to be a successful singer in the entertainment world.

Aged nine, Michael had to grow up fast. As we all did. We now had a profession where other kids had nothing to do but play all the time. But had it been any other way, we might never have broken through as the Jackson 5, and the world would never have known Michael's music (Jermaine, 2011, p.63)

As the seventh child of the Jackson family, Michael Jackson debuted on the professional music scene with his brothers as a member of The Jackson Five. He was a talented child. According to Khabibkhan (2009), Michael Jackson began his career as a singer since he was 5 years old, led The Jackson Five with its first album *Got to Be There* (1971). And then, he decided to be a soloist in 1979.

Since his death on June 25th, 2009, the popularity of Michael Jackson has caught even more attention from people around the world. In Fischer (2011), whether people are fans of Jackson's music or not, they think that Jackson's performance has often served as a proxy for public identification with social

justice and human equality. It may be related to the history of discrimination towards Black People in America.

1.1.3 Issues of Michael Jackson's Song

There are some issues reflected on Michael Jackson's songs, such as social criticisms to racism, to discrimination of Black People and to government, on culture, protection of children and environment. Jackson's music also gives consideration to some important things related to Black American people life. Jackson uses his song to express his social awareness. Fischer (2011, p.2) on her journal *Wanna Be Startin' Somethin'*: *Michael Jackson Criticisms race Representation* states, states that "Jackson's song has already inspired people to do his visions". Jackson's vision can be categorized into four. First, it is donating money and other goods to poor and struggling populations. Second is advocating for the human rights, health, and protection of children. Third, it is artistically encouraging adults to integrate their child selves into their adult worlds, perhaps for healing purposes, and the fourth is representing Black people in ways that are humanistic and antiracist, therefore "saving" black identification by emphasizing individual personhood and the intersectional qualities of identity.

Michael Jackson's song lyric which contains social criticisms is always expressed in the different techniques. His brother, Jermaine Jackson explains that "Michael Jackson had power to make a difference with music, and messages of hope, love, basic humanity

and *Mother Earth*” (Jakson, 2011, p.301). He recognized the unity in music and felt it galvanizing force as the only universal medium that made everyone listen, speak the same language, and brought communion between every race, creed, and culture. Besides, he made his song by creating a harmonization between song, dance, and precious song lyric.

As a great singer, he was not only singing, but also composing the songs as well as possible.

There are so many interesting moments which have been experienced by Jackson related to the racism, black people discrimination, and children’s welfare.

They are surely related to social daily life. The song lyrics of Michael Jackson are some of the best and most efficient ways to learn this situation. So, it is important to conduct research on Michael Jackson’s song theme exposing his social awareness.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Michael Jackson composes his songs to express his concern over social condition not only the problems related to discrimination of Black people, but also issues on environment, children’s welfare and war.

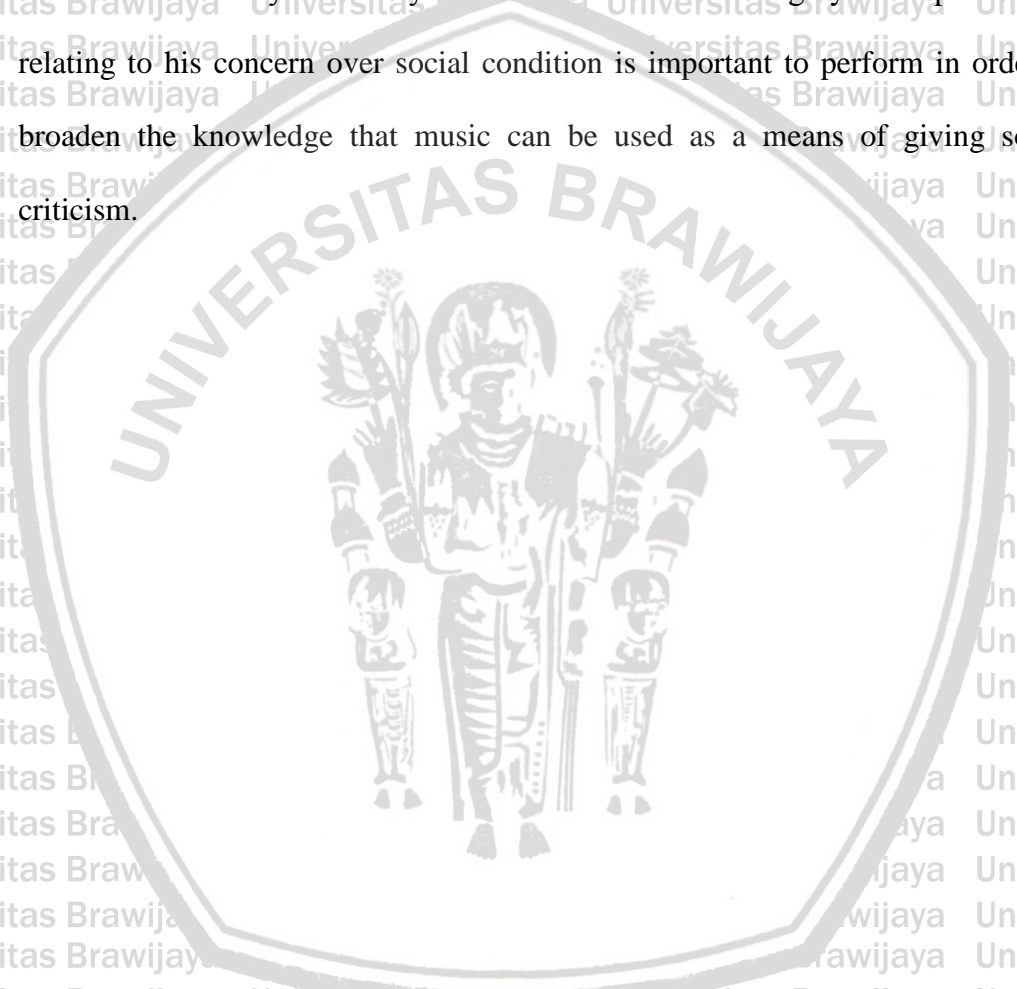
1.3 Objectives of the Study

Concerning the problems Michael Jackson expresses in his songs, the objectives of the study are:

- (1) to observe Michael Jackson’s social awareness through his song lyrics
- (2) to reveal the way how Michael Jackson expresses his concern over social condition

1.4 Significance of the Study

Michael Jackson nicely blends between songs, composition of lyrics, and dance as a harmonious combination of melody. Through his complete art talent, Jackson has conveyed a great message on social awareness to people all over the world. That is why the study of Michael Jackson's song lyrics especially in relating to his concern over social condition is important to perform in order to broaden the knowledge that music can be used as a means of giving social criticism.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

Encyclopedia Americana (1996, p.646) states that music is “the art by a composer, through a performer as intermediary, communicated to a listener certain ideas, feelings, or states of mind”. It is the best language to express feeling. It makes use of tones, lyrics, and rhythmic configuration as the combination to appeal the emotions or intellect. So, it can be an aspect of communication in culture and society.

Music is continuously developing today. It is not only respected as people’s hobby, but also regarded as a profession. According to Baker (1984), in 1920s, music developed as vocation or business. There were some American financiers who became aware of commercial possibilities in music. As a result, there were a lot of people who became musicians or singers. The existence of these musicians and singers has increased quickly together with their own purpose to make a song. They can use it to convey their feeling, idea, and thought for people. However, the most interesting is the time when they use it as a social criticism.

2.1.1 Black American's Role in The Development of American Music

Today, America dominates the world in many areas, but the one area of American domination that the world accepts the most is its music. Referring to Anderson (1993, p.255) on *Introduction to African American Studies*, American music becomes the most unique and dynamic sounds in the world, but most of all are rooted in the history of its people. He argues that "African American music is one of the cultural arts that are the most indigenous to American society. Black people have been the primary source of a folk and popular music that is Native American".

American popular music forms are loved and studied worldwide. There are so many people like and learn them well. In this case, Anderson has opinion in historical point of view. He says that actually the types of music and song of America are dominated by what Blacks have contributed to them. They are spirituals, gospels, blues, jazz and, more recently, rap.

Black gospel music is actually an evolution from spiritual songs. They are basically similar; both have the same purpose, which was a traditional worship service. It is explained by Anderson (1993) that Black gospel music gained in general popularity from 1945 to 1955. Then, by the late 1960s and early 1970s, gospel music became widely accepted and performed in the Baptist, Methodist, and other

traditional congregations. And today, it is received into the homes of listeners nationally and internationally.

After that, the development of Gospel music is followed by Blues music.

It is based on the material reality of Black life. This music reflects the hurt and pain of lost jobs, lost loves, sexual desires, infidelity, hardship,

White racism, despair and anguish. Blues music was developed in 1940s and 1950s. Anderson also argued that when European and White

American rock artists began to imitate Black blues singers and to use blues music to propel into worldwide stardom, Black American interest in the blues was revived.

Years later, by the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, jazz started to exist in America. Jazz evolved from the social culture of Black; descendants of slaves of the American south. It was popular among people in America. This music was imitated by White American and developed in popularity in America and Europe.

Furthermore, there was the first rap record in America, "rapper delight" in 1979. It was released and became stunning commercial success and was marketed internationally. Previously, rap music was initially rejected and spurned by MTV and the music media. But today, its purveyors and fans includes people all socio-economic classes, races, and ethnic group. It becomes really well-known among people not only in America, but also in over the world (Anderson, 1993).

Nowadays, the development of music in America is continuously increased; it becomes inspiration for many singers in the world.

In American music, every aspect of life, ethnicity, and culture is merged, mixed, and highlighted. American music is the story of the country, a reflection of a nation alive with change, and lead by hope and excitement. It continues to grow, change, attract, and entice the whole world, because it is very amazing and popular.

It can be concluded that the development of music in America is basically influenced by Black American life. It was started when the Blacks became slaves in America. In this case, they use song to enjoy their work well.

As identified by Levine (1978), there was the rise of secular song during the slavery period. He found there were secular songs which occasionally represented the ethos of the Black folk during slavery. Secular song became increasingly popular in Black folk culture in the decades following freedom.

Black community regarded secular music as their work songs. They were singing and that made their work much better. In addition, work songs accompanied jobs of slaves because they provided psychic benefits by singing.

The beat and rhythm of the song give psychical stabilization to make them work energetically.

Creating a rhythm for work – issuing instructions which helped laborers to synchronize their efforts, supplying a beat which timed work and controlled body movement – was only one of the functions of song. Work songs flourished also in those occupations such as cotton picking, cane-cutting, corn-husking, where group timing was crucial (Levine, 1978, pg.212)

The existence of song was developing constantly among Black slaves. It raised become part of their life during work. It did not only accompany them during work, but also became useful to express their thought. It could be marked that Black Song always referred to as the element of pure self. The performance of their song was dominated by the singer's own feeling, experiences, fears, dreams, acquaintances, and idiosyncrasies. The songs among Black people were developing rapidly and influencing White people to imitate it.

This history affects the color of American music today. Most of all American music always has the value of feeling, experiences, fears, dreams, acquaintances, and idiosyncrasies in life. Its development is always followed by the modification of spirituals, gospels, blues, jazz and rap music which are basically belonged to Black. So, Black American has an important role in American music.

2.1.2 Black American Society

Black American society is always related to racism, color, and culture. "Racism, color and culture are factors which have determined the nature and extent of social and sociological relationship of Black people in America since their involuntary arrival in 1619" (Anderson, 1993, pg.116).

Racism is actually the aspect related to certain physical characteristics of people in society with diverse of population. In American Society, racism was developed and followed by the negative associations with the black color.

Although Blacks and Whites share the same land space, their social and racial experiences are different. The Black American view of America is one of historical slavery and segregation, and of the contemporary discrimination and socio-economic inequality. Black beliefs and values are predicated towards the attainment of racial and social justice. Moreover, Blacks remain generally “isolated” residentially or community-wise from Whites (Anderson, 1993 pg.119)

In this case, Black American culture was distinctive because of different and conflicting worldviews pertaining to racial experiences and race relations. There was a racial and cultural antagonism between White and Black society. It had happened and existed since the Middle Ages. Consequently, Blacks were generally were subjected to cultural, political, and economic domination by those who legitimately classify themselves as White.

2.1.3 Song and Singer

The existence of song in society has a function to be a media for communication between humans. It transfers a message for one person to another.

Nowadays, song is developing continuously and influencing other aspects in society, such as politics, education, economy, and culture. As the result, song has already been used by several singers and musicians as their own way to give social criticism. It makes an important relationship between singer and song itself.

2.1.3.1 Social Criticism in Black American Song

Together with the oppression in Black American society, there was a development of social criticism expressed in song and other literary works. In this case, Levine (1978, p.215) confirms that previously during the slavery period, “the Black workers used their songs to communicate, so too innumerable White bosses found the Black workers they employed using song to make comments, articulate complaints, and issue warnings which otherwise they could not have verbalized safely”.

It can be expected that the songs role as the way to communicate is continuously developed to express feeling and give social criticism.

Anderson (1993) states that Black music is influenced by the social condition and their political ideology. It can be seen that Black music portrays social, political, and economic realities from Black perspective.

It offers an alternative to the stereotypes of Black American created by Europeans and White Americans. In the music, Black Americans try to survive and prevail against slavery, oppression and racism. So, it becomes a social critic for the listener.

2.1.3.2 Singer with Social Criticism

It is explained by Barthes (1977) that in the development of music, when a singer wants to deliver criticism or message in song, he should have the soul which accompanies the song. In this case, the difficult is for the body to accompany the musical diction not with movement of emotion but with ‘gesture support’.

In music, there is a close relationship between song and poetry. It is added by Barthes (1977, pg.186) that there is a reflection in music, there will be “a progressive movement from language to the poem, from poem to the song and from the song to its performance”. So, a good singer should have a reflection in his song, whether it is based on his or people’s experience. Then, it will be implied on the lyrics and singing.

Basically, criticism can be delivered through several forms. In physical form, it can be carried by demonstration or protest march. In oral form, it can be done by giving speech. Then, in the written method, it can be brought by writing articles or writing poems, including song lyrics. Because song lyrics cannot be separated from poetry, criticism in poetry can be delivered in two ways:

(1) Explicit technique

Explicit method is when a word is “expressed in way that is very clear and direct” (Longman, 2003). In song lyrics, some words are written in an extremely clear way, so that people cannot doubt what is meant. When a musician or singer uses this technique to deliver his opinion, it is organized as overt criticism.

(2) Implicitly Technique

Implicit method is when a word is “suggested and understood without being stated directly” (Longman, 2003). From this definition, the writer’s opinions are not written openly, but expressed or understood indirectly by the representative words in lyrics. Therefore, when a singer or musician uses this technique to deliver his opinion in song, it is recognized as covert criticism, because the messages are written in covered way, but they can be still understood by listeners.

2.1.4 Song Lyric

Song lyric is a set of words that make up a melody, usually consisting of verses and choruses. The terms of song lyric are usually like poetry. In this case, analyzing song lyrics can be conducted by regarding it as poetry. According to Reaske (1966, p.5), analyzing poetry is “an enjoyable and provocative mental exercise”. Because of the similarities between analyzing poetry and song lyrics, so some techniques should be paid attention to.

They are:

2.1.4.1 Lyrical

This technique is actually referred to poetry which is written to be sung. In this case, Reaske (1966, p.35) explains that “lyric emphasizes the expression of the individual feelings and emotions”. The line of poetry which is being lyrical seems to express the personal feelings of the writer, because its singing by himself and the listener are allowed to overhear or eavesdrop.

2.1.4.2 Diction

In *How to Analyze Poetry* (Reaske, 1966), it is stated that diction is the use of words in poetry. This technique is actually concerned us to the vocabulary of poetry. The diction has the stylistic and tonal qualities of the words which have chosen by the poet. In this case, a poet should try to select the word which appropriately conveys his intended meaning.

2.1.4.3 Connotation and Meaning

In poetry, there will be a lot of words which have connotations. Connotation is one of the various implications or associations that word carries. A poet uses connotations of a word to his own purposes and advantage. Meanwhile, “when we talk about the meaning of a poem, we are talking primarily about the significance of its message” (Reaske, 1966, p.36). Therefore, meaning in this case is related to the connotation. Before understanding the meaning of poetry, the connotation should be understood first.

2.1.4.4 Theme

Theme becomes the main idea in poetry (Reaske, 1966). It is basic impression which the poet is trying to convey for the reader. In poetry, the central concept is developed into theme. Understanding theme is one of important techniques to analyze poetry. It will be significant because by understanding the theme, the reason of poet for writing the poetry can be also identified.

2.2 Previous Studies

Most research of song lyrics has been conducted by considering it in its linguistic point of view. For example, a thesis entitled *Word Formation Analysis on Country Music Lyrics of Shania Twain's Album "Greater Hits"* by Wiwik Surya Utami (2009), and *The Semantic Analysis of The English Phrasal Verbs Used in Celine Dion's Song Lyrics* by Siska Puspita Sari (2005).

In this study, Michael Jackson's five songs will be observed differently from the studies executed before. Jackson's song lyrics which are used to deliver social criticism are analyzed from literary perspective. Therefore this research will make new alteration to the study of literature.

2.3 Research Method

In conducting this research, there are four steps taken:

2.3.1 Choosing the Object of Study

Out of a large bulk of Michael Jackson's songs, *Black or White*, *We are the World*, *They Don't Really Care about us*, *Heal the World*, and *Earth Song* are chosen to observe. These songs represent some problems in society related to discrimination of Black people, issues on environment, children welfare and war. The songs are suitable for the problem of study.

2.3.2 Collecting the Data

The purpose of collecting data in this research is to obtain significant information related to the object of study which has already been chosen. There are two kinds of the collected data:

- (1) Primary data: the songs that have already been in transcript
- (2) Secondary data: references comprising of books, essays, or journals that provide proper information about Michael Jackson's background and Black American society. These data can be used to support the analysis of five chosen songs.

2.3.3 Analyzing and Interpreting the Data

There are several phases used in analyzing and interpreting the data.

First, it is treating all Michael Jackson songs as poetry, because there are figurative languages, diction, and vivid image in analysis. Barthes (1977) has already proposed that poem is a progressive movement from a song. They basically have the same technique in the way of writing, such as figurative language – metaphor, personification, and hyperbole. That is why treating Michael Jackson's song as poetry is an effective phase to be used. The research is text oriented, so the five songs' transcripts are read several times.

The second phase is connecting the theme of Michael Jackson songs to his purpose in singing. According to Tagg (2002, p.3), "music is a matter of interhuman communication". Consequently, in music, song lyric is usually used by singers or musicians to convey their feeling, idea, and thought for society. Thematic approach is used as grounding study to observe the social criticism of each song lyric. This method will be employed to find out criticisms in Michael Jackson song lyrics showing his awareness to the society.

The third phase is reading the biography of Michael Jackson as supporting information. As proposed by Anderson (1993), the development of Black American music is influenced by the social condition and their political ideology. In the music, Black Americans try to survive and prevail against slavery, oppression and racism. It develops their role in music.

Reading Michael Jackson's biography will explore the role of Michael

Jackson as Black in development of music. This method will uncover his background and reasons in composing several songs which criticizing the phenomenon in society.

The fourth phase is applying any references related to Black American life in society. This information will support the data which is correlated with Michael Jackson's background as a Black American. His experiences from the childhood until his death have already influenced his perspective in composing song lyrics.

Additionally, Black American's life is not about their culture or discrimination only, but also about their perspective in seeing several phenomena in this world, such as children welfare, environmental problem, war, poverty and starvation.

All these methods are applied in conducting the research because the basic concept of the study is using literary point of view. Michael Jackson's song lyric is one kind of literary works; it is a mirror of society where social life or social problems are portrayed. That is why the information about Black American society is important to be understood because Michael Jackson's song is always influenced by the social condition around him –as Black American. It develops his awareness to compose song lyrics which highlight the social phenomena not only in America but also around the world.

2.3.4 Categorizing the Social Criticisms in the Songs

As discussed in the theoretical framework, that several singers and musicians use their song as way to communicate their criticism for society. Based on this relationship between singer and song, it can be seen that *Black or White, We are*

the World, They Don't Really Care about us, Heal the World, and Earth Song are forms of Michael Jackson's social criticism as a singer. These five song lyrics are written with appropriate choice of words (dictions). Connected to the dictions used in Michael Jackson's song lyrics, which possessed of social criticism, so the discussion will be organized into two categories:

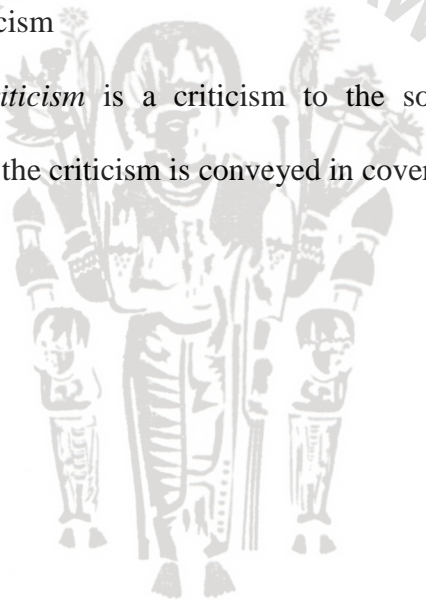
(1) Overt Social Criticism

Overt Social Criticism is a censure to the society which is expressed directly.

In this case, the criticism can be seen straightly from the song lyrics.

(2) Covert Social Criticism

Covert Social Criticism is a criticism to the society which is extended indirectly. In this case, the criticism is conveyed in covered technique.



CHAPTER III

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Music has developed continuously as a way to express people's feelings, ideas, or thoughts. In music, there are song lyrics which are part of literary works. Song lyrics can be a mirror of society; they portray social phenomena or social problems in the human life. Therefore, a singer can use music as a way to deliver criticism to the listener, as what Michael Jackson did through his songs.

Most Michael Jackson's song lyrics are used as a criticism to society. There are several kinds of social criticism expressed in his song; including the problem of discrimination to Black people, environment, children's welfare, and war. Therefore, it can be realized that actually messages in Michael Jackson's song are not only for people in America, but also for people around the world. Jermaine Jackson, in *You're not Alone Michael* (2011), wrote that Michael Jackson wanted to create music that makes different. He wanted to be a musician and humanitarian, with his lyrical messages of love, peace, and harmony. "That is what I want to do," he said. "Make music that makes a difference" (Jackson, 2011, p.173). So that, in creating song lyric, Michael Jackson always had a message or criticism to the society.

By taking consideration of the five representative songs, the messages of the chosen songs: *Black or White*, *They Don't Really Care about us*, *We are The World*, *Earth Song*, and *Heal the World* are organized into two kinds

of social criticism. They are overt social criticism and covert social criticism.

This organization depends on the dictions of the song lyrics.

3.1 Overt Social Criticism

There are some lyrics in Michael Jackson's songs that can be categorized as overt social criticism. They are songs entitled *Black or White*, *They Don't Really Care about us* and *We are the World*. In these songs, some criticisms are conveyed directly. The chosen dictions in lyrics are sung outspokenly, and they can be understood easily.

In *Black or White* and *They Don't Really Care about us*, it can be seen a criticism about racism, especially the discrimination of Black people in American society. These two songs are actually related each other, where the first is about the difference between Blacks and Whites in America, and the second is about the different treatment which is done by the White people to the Black ones. Related to these two songs, there are conflicts which always happen between Blacks and Whites. The conflict develops because of the historical background of Black people as slave in America. This condition makes a culture of which the Black people become the minority group. Therefore, Blacks have no power, control, or influence in their own lives than White people as the dominant group. In society, Blacks sometimes are discriminated and have a hard oppression from the Whites.

By reading lyrics *Black or White* and *They Don't Really Care About Us*, people can understand that there are differences between Whites and Blacks in American society which caused discrimination.

Meanwhile, song entitled *We are The World* gives the overt social criticism about poverty. This song shows Michael Jackson's awareness to the starving people and poverty. It forms a picture of miserable condition which is experienced by some people in this world.

3.1.1 The Difference Between Black and White

Lopez (2011), in *The Social Construction of Race: Some Observations on Illusion, Fabrication, and Choice* explains that previously the human race was classified depends on their biological concept. People have generally divided human beings into five distinct classes. They are Negro, Indian, Caucasian, and Mongolian race. The categorization depends on their genetic line or family. This division of races use biological concept as the base to distinguish human race.

But now, people are classified by looking physical appearance, such as skin color, hair color, hair texture, facial angle, and jaw size. And, the most common categorization is based on their skin color. As the result; Negro is called as Black, Indian is called as Red, Caucasian is called as White, and Mongolian is called as Yellow. This understanding develops constantly become a culture in society.

There are differences between Blacks and Whites in American society. They are exposed directly in *Black or White*. In this song, Michael Jackson criticizes White people who always discriminate the Blacks. He wants to tell them that discrimination leads social problem because some people treat others

unfairly. In this case, he tried to be a model which did not appreciate others by seeing their color black or white.

According to Vogel in *Man in the Music* (2011, p. 158), *Black or White* was an “explosive pop-rock-rap fusion with a message of racial harmony and undercurrent of indignation”. It can be seen as Michael Jackson’s protest, but it is expressed in a positive and interesting action, such as singing, dancing, and composing a quality song. In this song, what the Blacks feel is expressed clearly.

The lyrics remind that for all the aspirations for racial equality, the outrage of injustice remains. By composing this song lyric, Michael Jackson openly defies victimization, contesting the intimidation of white supremacy. Vogel also states that the criticism in this song is conveyed openly, so people call it as a roar of a “black panther”.

Black or White tells about a story when a boy (the singer) went out with his girlfriend, “my baby”, on a Saturday date. Then, there was a man asking him if she was really his girlfriend. It may look like the couple did not have the same skin color. The boy explains that she was truly his girlfriend and it does not matter the girl is black or white.

I took my baby
on a Saturday date
Boy is that girl with you
yes we’re one and the same
Now I believe in miracles
and a miracle has happened tonight
But, if you’re thinking about my baby
It doesn’t matter if you’re
black or white

(*Black or White* line 1-12)

These lyrics tell people that the singer may have a different color with the girl, so that they ask him. But then he replies, “we are one and the same”.

By saying these words, the singer thinks that people should not worry about their differences by questioning their skin color. The words “one” and “the same” here tell about equality. The singer reminds the listeners that they are basically one, so there is no problem whether they are White or Black. He wanted people realize that Whites and Blacks are basically equal.

In this song, it can be seen that actually the common problem among many ethnics is racism. It already happens everywhere because of skin color, between Blacks and Whites. By singing this song, Michael Jackson describes his opinion on racism and how people have affected him and the world around him.

Michael Jackson writes the lyrics "I told about equality / an it's true / either you're wrong / or you're right" (*Black or White*, line 17-20). In these few lines Michael Jackson tries to say that everyone has opinion on what equality is. However, whatever people say, equality is basically the truth.

Later in the song, Jackson states:

I am tired of this devil
 I am tired of this stuff
 I am tired of this business
 So when the going gets rough
 I ain't scared of your brother
 I ain't scared of no sheets
 I ain't scare of nobody, girl when the goin' gets mean.
 (*Black or White* line 26-33)

This lyrics show that Michael Jackson is tired of the problem of racism which is described as a “devil” in this song. The word “devil” is used to describe a condition where racism happens. Thinking about people in unequal way can make negative stereotypes, discrimination, prejudice, and war. Jackson also states that he is not scared of anyone when things get bad. He will not let people see other as different because of race. It shows that he wants to convince people to accept equality as truth.

In the next lyrics of this song, Michael Jackson incorporates with a rap, “Protection / for Gangs, Clubs and Nations / causing grief in human relations” (*Black or White*, line 34-36). Within this rap, it is mentioned how gangs, clubs and nations are protected for their beliefs even though it's "causing grief in human relations". It means that the protections are not always good; in contrast, it creates borders between societies.

The song also suggests that racism is actually a war of races. Michael Jackson knows that war of races often happens in society. It develops hostilities between ethnic groups divided on the basis of racial group or skin color. By singing *Black or White*, Michael Jackson advises people to appreciate others without regarding them as Whites or Blacks. “It’s a turf war on a global scale / I’d rather hear both sides of the tale” (*Black or White*, line 37-38). That sentence shows that “turf war” has been developed globally. According to Wordnet (2011), “turf war” is defined as the “bitter struggle for territory or power or control or rights”. This condition is not only happening between rich people, but also common people – civilian.

This "turf war" may be related to the condition of Blacks where they often be discriminated as different color. Having a good job or profession, living in the same territory where the Whites also live, or being a leader in a company is impossible for them. Therefore, the difference between Blacks and Whites has been a culture for American society eventhough slavery period has ended since hundred years ago. The sentence "I'd rather hear both sides of tale" clearly reveals that Michael Jackson wants to teach people listen to hear both sides of people's opinions, whether they are Blacks or Whites. This is because of the concept of equality in which people should not be regarded by seeing their skin color, but by other sides, like their characters or personalities.

Michael Jackson also suggests that racism is about "places, faces, where people's blood comes from and where the space is" (*Black or White* line 39-41). He gives an understanding that the people's identity is not known just by seeing their skin color only. There are still many things that can be considered to decide others identity. In the next sentences, he also states that he is "not going to spend life being a color" (*Black or White*, line 42). It means that the singer does not want the label of a different race. Life is not only for grouping colors, and there are still many things that need concerns from the society. Therefore, this song is sung as the criticism for American society where difference between Black and Whites still takes place. *Black or White* is categorized

as overt social criticism because the chosen words in lyrics can be understood directly.

3.1.2 How the White Treat the Black

In Michael Jackson's song entitled *They Don't Care About Us*, there are several discrimination shown, such as allegation and aggravation. These two actions are often experienced by the Black. But this song focuses on the treatment which is done by the White people to the Black ones. The lyrics of this song are written explicitly. The outspoken words are chosen to make the listeners understand what the singer means directly. That is why this song also included in overt social criticism.

In *Man in the Mirror* (2012), Vogels clarifies that *They Don't Care About Us* is one of the most powerful protest songs to come out of the 1990s. This song delivers targeted blow against an abusive, corrupt, and oppressive apparatus of power. The song in fact is about the pain of prejudice and hate and is a way to draw attention to social and political problems.

In the biography of Michael Jackson written by his brother, Jermaine Jackson, it is explained that Michael Jackson had an experience where White people did the discrimination to him.

The first difference we noted was when the white driver of our limousine was cold and abrupt, not talkative like other drivers we've had. At our hotel, he refused to get out of the car and open our doors, and no staff came out to help us with our bags either... it was just an observation of sharp difference in our treatment (Jackson, 2012, p.133)

By reading the citation above, it can be concluded that discrimination and racism still exists regardless of one's profession. Michael Jackson was a popular artist,

but he still experienced discrimination because of his black skin. It is an example how Whites subjected Blacks in different treatment. This problem often made Michael Jackson fell concerned because he knew that the similar treatment was not only experienced by him, but also by other Blacks. So that, he often adapted discrimination and racism themes to his song lyrics like the song entitled *They don't Care About us*.

The content of this song is related to the history of American society, there are White people who treat Black people in a bad way. They may accept Black people, but it does not always mean that they can be equal to the Whites.

In the lyrics "Everybody gone bad / Situation, aggravation / Everybody allegation / In the suite, on the news / everybody dog food / bang bang, shot dead / everybody's gone mad" (*They Don't Care About us*, line 2-8), Michael Jackson gives a picture of the situation happening in American society. There are aggravation and allegation to the people caused by racism. These situations become a culture and make people do not care each other. Michael Jackson criticizes how the White people treat Blacks in America; "All I wanna say is that / they don't really care about us / All I wanna say is that / they don't really care about us" (*They Don't Care About Us*, line 9-12). These sentences are repeated twice to emphasize that if White people care about Blacks, it is a pretense only.

From the following lines, "Beat me, hate me / You can never break me / Jew me, sue me / Everybody do me / Kick me, kike me / Don't you black or white me" (*They Don't Care About Us*, line 12-20), it can be seen that Whites

treat the Blacks badly. The word “me” refers to the singer – a representation of the Blacks. According to Frustrat (2010, p.1), “*They Don't Care about Us* is the most controversial piece Jackson ever composed”. There are some sentences like “Beat me, hate me”, “Jew me, sue me”, “Kick me, kike me” as examples of what the Whites do to the Blacks. These sentences made a controversy between American societies. People did not understand what their meanings. But basically these sentences have the same meaning; it is “Discriminate me” or “Hate me because I am different”. In addition, the sentence “Don't you black or white me” shows there are so many people discriminate Blacks because of their skin color. Michael Jackson does not like this situation. Also, his skin color is always being questioned. This song is sung to make White people realize that they should not treat him (as a Black American) like that, because it is basically not a problem.

Meanwhile, in the lyric “Some things in life they just don't wanna see / But if Martin Luther was livin' / He wouldn't let this be, no, no” (*They Don't Care About Us*, line 67-69). Martin Luther is mentioned as an icon when discrimination against the Black people has ended. He had so many reformations of which people should be equal whether they are Blacks or Whites. At that time, there was a segregation law, enacted to control the separation between Black and White.

Martin Luther as the leader of Black people against the discrimination. He had a concept that Black and White should be equal. By singing these lyrics, Michael Jackson hopes people remember Martin Luther's concept about equality to end

the segregation between Black and White. He wants Black people to appreciate Martin Luther's resistance as the hero of equality.

3.1.3 The Awareness to Starvation and Poverty

Michael Jackson's concern on the starving people is portrayed in *We are the World*. In this song, the condition of starving people is stated as the problem which should be resolved together. This song delivers messages in some lyrics directly, so the listeners can understand it obviously.

We are the World begins with lyrics "There comes a time when we heed a certain call / When the world must come together as one / There are people dying / And its time to lend a hand to life / The greatest gift of all" (*We Are the World*, line 1-5). The statement "We heed a certain call" means that this song is composed for calling people to be aware of others. Generally, this song contains a metaphor of how people should treat the world, as if it were themselves. The purpose of this song is to deliver messages for people to put themselves in another person's shoes and empathize as if it were them who were going through the pain and hardships. Lyrics of this song are composed nicely where the chosen words elicit some implicit meanings. For that reason, this song included as the covert social criticism.

This song talks about the existence of starvation and poverty and reminds people to help. "Lending hand" can be defined as giving help for these poor people. Michael Jackson thinks that helping is a nice way for treating others. The inspiration of *We are the World* comes from Michael Jackson's awareness to poverty. According to Stebbins (2011),

“In 1984-1985, there was a severe drought in Ethiopia, and the food supplies had depleted rapidly there”. Knowing the lives of many people in Africa were being threatened, Michael Jackson worked together with Lionel Richie to write the song entitled *We are The World*.

In this case, some popular artists in America were invited to sing together.

This song becomes a demo which reminds people about starving people in Ethiopia.

We are the world, we are the children
 We are the ones who make a brighter day
 So lets start giving
 There's a choice we're making
 We're saving our own lives
 Its true we'll make a better day
 (*We Are the World* line 11-17)

The sentence “We are the world, we are the children / We are the ones who make a brighter day / So lets start giving” (*We Are the World*, line 11-13) invites people to share. This song teaches how to show love to one another, because there are some people dying and suffering. People should remember orphans, widows and needy children, and do something for them. Therefore, this action will create a better place for the next generation.

These lyrics are the main point of this song. People as a whole are the “world” no matter from what country they are from. People should be together without discriminating each other. Then, people should be like children who have desire to help others sincerely. At this point, Michael Jackson tries to persuade people to share and make the world better. This song has

open persuasive sentences that are sung insistently. These song lyrics naturally influence people all over the world.

Vogel (2011, p. 157) describes the song is “widely acclaimed for its humanitarian message and purpose”. This song is basically related to Michael Jackson’s vision about charity. To call public awareness, there are some social problems mentioned, such as poverty, world hunger, violence, and disease around the globe.

3.2 Covert Social Criticism

There are song lyrics written by Michael Jackson that can be categorized as covert social criticism. They are songs entitled *Earth Song* and *Heal the World*.

In *Earth Song*, there are two messages which are carried by Michael Jackson; one is about environmental problems and the other is war. This song was composed by Michael Jackson to make people more concerned about the world condition. People do not care about environment anymore and war in every part of hemisphere.

Meanwhile, *Heal the World* gives messages about children welfare, especially for needy children. This song is composed because of Michael Jackson’s awareness on poor children. This message may be similar to the message which is conveyed in *We are The World*. Different from overt social criticism, the messages in *Earth Song* and *Heal the World* are conveyed in covered way; consequently, these two songs are categorized as covert social criticism.

3.2.1 Environment

According to a survey reported by The American Lung Association State of the Air (2012), more than 127 million Americans, or about 41 percent of the country still suffer from pollution levels that can make breathing dangerous. Besides, there are other environmental problems in America, such as contaminated soil, polluted drinking water, and even the loss of the rainforests than they are about global warming (John Walker, 2012). This condition has been expressed in *Earth Song*. This song was composed with a purpose to make people concerned about the conditions of environment more. By singing these songs, Michael Jackson wants to remind people to remember others, and to keep environment healthy. He wants people to give more attention to environmental problem that would give terrible impact for the children in future.

Taraborrelli, in the biography of Michael Jackson entitled *The Magic, The Madness, The Whole Story of Michael Jackson* (2009) said that Michael is concerned with the environment which has developed to be worse and worse. He wants people to think more about this problem, so that it can be resolved together.

In his interview, he said:

I believe that I will provide a more stable environment for our children at this particular time. I believe that I have a responsibility to protect and be involved with my children's life and well-being until such time as a full investigation can be conducted to determine really what is in the children's best interests (Taraborrelli, 2009, p.679)

The statement shows that Michael Jackson dreams of a clean and healthy environment so that children will have a good place in future. It is similar to the

message in the song *Earth Song* which conveys the environmental problems happen in America.

What about sunrise
 what about rain
 what about all the things
 that you said we were to gain
 what about killing fields
 is there a time
 what about all the things
 that you said was yours and mine
 (*Earth Song* line 1-8)

These lyrics represent the world today, Michael Jackson wants people to consider that they need to clean and take care of the world. This song is sung for the people who have forgotten about the environment. The word “sunrise”, “rain”, and “fields” are chosen as the representation of “nature”. Nature is a public property, so that people should take care of them together. The “nature” here is said as “yours and mine”, it is the responsibility of all people throughout the world to aware of environmental conservation. But now, the condition has changed. The word “killing fields” is mentioned as the representative of the world’s condition. Michael Jackson says “killing” here to symbolize illness and agony which are suffered by the earth. Most likely, it is because of the people who do not keep the environment. For example, when the people do illegal lodging or littering.

There are some other lyrics in this song which express environmental problems in this world. They are: “What about the seas (what about us) / the heavens are falling down (what about us) / I can’t even breathe (what about us)” (*Earth Song*, line 30-33). These lyrics may persuade the listener that they should

consider about the problem of nature. The sentence “what about the seas” represents the water contamination, overfishing, the destruction of coral reefs, or other imbalance ecosystem. Even, Michael Jackson said, “I can’t even breathe” to emphasize that the air pollutions are severely increased throughout the world.

“What about nature’s worth / It’s our planet’s womb (What about us) / What about animals we lost their trust (What about us) / What about crying whales (What about us) / We’re ravaging the seas (What about us)” (*Earth Song*, line 36-40) have similar messages as the previous one. It reflects other environmental problems of the world. The sentence “It’s our planet’s womb” reveals that nature is basically the only one wealth in this world which should be protected together. Then, “What about animals we lost their trust” and “crying whales” describe that people have not cared for the animals anymore. “Ravaging the seas” represents the people’s carelessness in protecting water and sea. These words surely are not only used to refer the “seas”, but also to other aspects of the world, such as forests, rivers, animals, and others.

3.2.2 War

According to Campbell (1994, p.20), Michael Jackson realizes that “many of the world’s problem today, from inner city crime to large scale wars and terrorism and over crowded prisons are a result of the fact that children have had their childhoods stolen from them”. This signifies that Michael Jackson had awareness

on war and terrorism. It might be his inspiration for composing several songs which has criticism about war.

Earth Song is one of Michael Jackson's songs that highlights social problem as the impact of war. In the previous explanation, it has been discussed that *Earth Song* brings the message about environmental problem. But in other lyrics, it gives another message: war which is conveyed in a soft way. The messages are inserted in lyrics, with some other messages about environment, so that people can be interested and accept these messages well.

What about all the dreams
that you said was yours and mine
Did you ever stop to notice
all the children dead from war
Did you ever stop to notice
the crying earth the weeping shores
(*Earth Song* line 20-25)

These lyrics picture the situation of which people dreams of peaceful world. There will be no war or terrorism anymore. The lines "did you ever stop notice / all the children dead from war" signify that children are the weakest victim of war. That is why, children should be protected.

War is portrayed in lyrics "What about the bleeding Earth / can't we feel its wounds" (*Earth Song*, line 34-35). The word "bleeding" is mentioned because war always costs blood. The earth is bleeding because of war and terrorism in many places. People are hurting each other.

Michael Jackson wants people to remember and consider that war is really painful.

War is an armed and often a prolonged conflict carried on among countries. It has happened since thousand years ago. This message is not only for people in

America, but also for people around the world. For example, war between Palestine and Israel which had been happening when this song was composed, and now, it is still going on.

3.2.3 Children's Welfare and Poverty

Children's welfare has often been the topic of Michael Jackson's song. There are many songs written by Michael Jackson concerning with children's welfare. As identified by Campbell (1994) in Michael Jackson's biography, Michael Jackson has the understanding on taking care of children because they can teach us to be wiser and patient.

He said,

And that's why I love children and learnt so much from being around them... what we need to learn from children isn't childish, being with them connects us to the deeper wisdom of life which is ever present asks only to be lived (Campbell, 1994, p.20)

Heal the World has been described as the example of song about poverty. Yet, it delivers another message; it is related to the children welfare. By singing this song, Michael Jackson shows that he focuses on children aiming for their safe and healthy development to be the world's priority. It aims to make the world aware of the rights and needs of all children around the world, also to help improve the world we live in, without violence and free of diseases.

In general speaking, *Heal the World* is a song that describes a place where poor people and children need people's help to save their life. Given the title *Heal the World*, because Michael wants to help the needy children. This song tells a real story to human being that there is a place in the world that needs help.

Michael Jackson wants people to be concerned with starving and poor people and work together for saving their life. According to survey conducted by the Carsey Institute at the University of New Hampshire (2009), in America, 20.8 percent of children under 18 are poor, and 25 percent of children under age six live in poverty. This is twice the child-poverty rate of any other industrial country, and poverty is the leading cause of hunger in America. Besides, 900,000 children, some as young as seven, are engaged in child labor; many children are engaged in child prostitution; 131,000 are parentless; 27 kids die from causes associated with poverty, and three die from abuse or neglect. This fact is known as a miserable condition.

Heal the World is a picture of this situation. Michael Jackson composes this song to make people aware of poverty endured by children around the world. The lyrics in this song bring the message implicitly. This song is begun with lyrics spoken by a child "Think about the generations and to say we want to make it a better / world for our children and our children's children / So that they know / it's a better world for them; and think if they can make it a better place" (*Heal the World*, line 1-3). It can be seen clearly that this song is composed because of Michael Jackson's awareness of children as the upcoming generation. He persuades people to make a change in this world for the better future.

Heal the World contains moral messages, in which the singer reminds people there are still many people starving. This is their time to help and share. Here is the lyric:

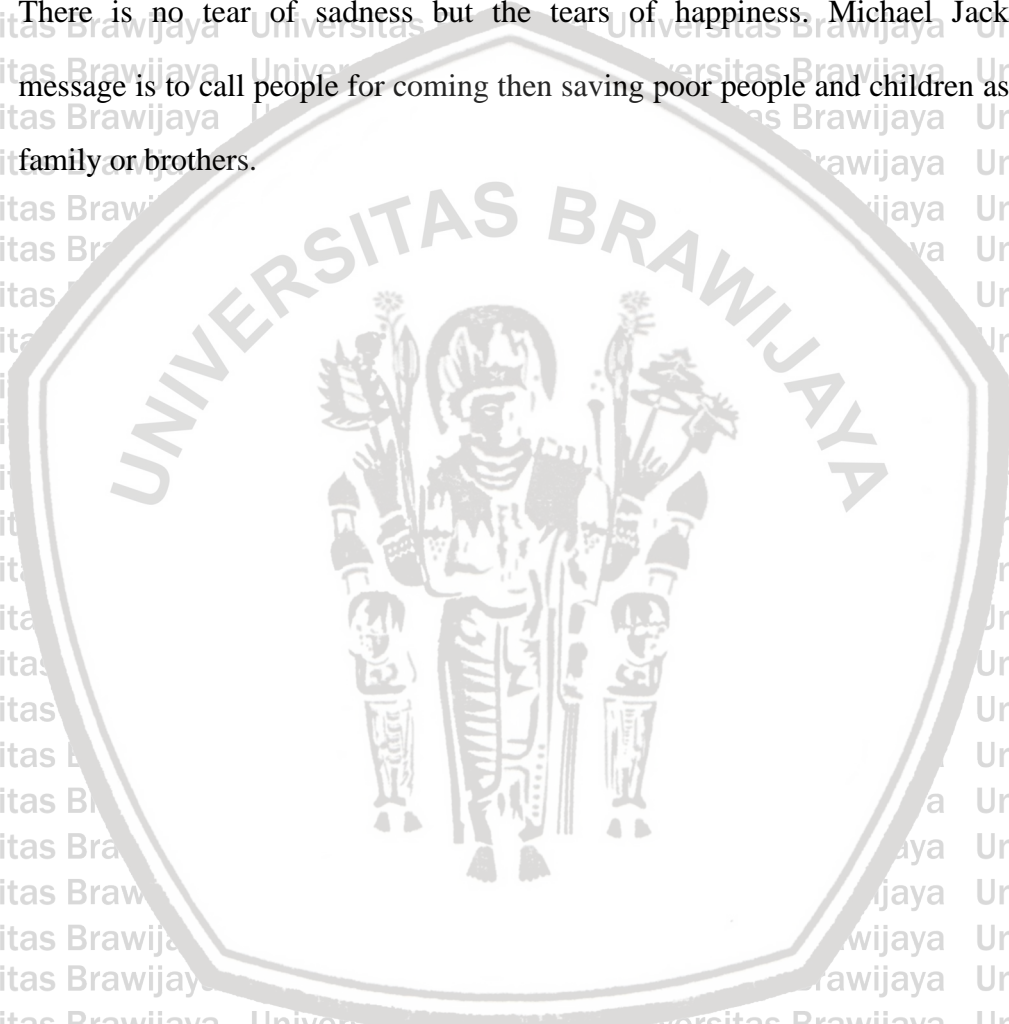
Heal the world
 Make it a better place
 For you and for me and the entire human race
 There are people dying
 If you care enough for the living
 Make a better place for
 you and for me
 (*Heal the World* line 15-21).

The sentence “heal the world” shows that this world is “sick”. There is something wrong in this world because of poverty and starvation. The singer wants people to make the world “better place” where all people can enjoy the prosperity and fairness of life. The line “And if you really try / you'll find there's no need to cry / in this place you'll feel there's / no hurt or sorrow” (*Heal the World*, line 8-11) reminds that if all people try to help the needy children, there will be no sadness or regret for the loss of someone or something loved. They need people's care, love, and attention. This song is written by Michael Jackson to remind people to willingly give their attention to those people, keep continuing their life.

In *Healing the Needy Children*, the phrase “Wound this earth, crucify its soul / though it's plain to see, this world is heavenly / be God's glow” (*Heal the World*, line 46-48) portrays the religious aspect “let God open people's heart as He sacrifice His life to the people and why should not you human being sacrifice for yourselves” (Ho, 2010). Michael Jackson tries to connect it to a religious value that helping others is an obligation. Because this life is actually a gift from God, so people should be thankful by giving something to others.

The next lyrics are “I feel you are all my brothers / create a world with no fear / together we'll cry happy tears / see the nations turn / their swords

into plowshares” (*Heal the World*, line 51-56). Plowshare is a part of a plow that cuts the furrow (Webster, 2009). It means that Michael urges people that the spirits of their hearts have no fear inside, and he wants to let all people together feel the tears of helping the needy people and children. There is no tear of sadness but the tears of happiness. Michael Jackson’s message is to call people for coming then saving poor people and children as their family or brothers.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

Michael Jackson has several visions showing his awareness about the society.

They are equality, better environment, spreading love and charity, children welfare, and peaceful world. Michael Jackson has some actions to actualize these visions. First, representing Black people in ways that are humanistic and antiracist, therefore “saving” black identification by emphasizing individual personhood and the intersectional qualities of identity. Second, giving support for the human rights, health, and protection of children. Third, donating money to poor populations. Fourth, it is artistically encouraging people to integrate their child selves into their adult worlds.

These four visions can be uncovered in Michael Jackson’s song lyrics which highlight some issues such as the problem of discrimination to Black people, environment, children’s welfare, poverty, and war. These issues indicate Michael Jackson’s social awareness which is conveyed in his songs implicitly and explicitly. They are composed in most of his lyrics and sung for people not only in America, but also for people around the world.

The songs entitled *We are the World* and *Heal the World* have messages about needy people and poverty. Then, *Earth Song* gives a message about environmental problem. Surely, these problems are not only experienced by

people in America but also by people in the whole world. Therefore, Michael Jackson's songs also touch the problem through the world.

It can be concluded that social awareness in Michael Jackson's song lyrics can be conveyed in two categories. They are overt social criticism and covert social criticism. This categorizing depends on the chosen words in song lyrics.

The messages that are conveyed in *Black or White*, *They don't Care About Us*, and *We Are the World* belong to overt social criticism, while *Earth Song* and *Heal the World* belong to covert social criticism.

Besides, it has already found that Michael Jackson has a different technique to deliver his criticism. Usually, people give a criticism by going on a strike or writing in magazine. Yet, Michael Jackson did a different way to deliver his criticism; it is by composing a song. His song does not only attract his fans, but also give some moral lessons which are really useful. Therefore, people can know Michael Jackson's awareness on social problem by listening his song.

4.2 Suggestion

Basically, Michael Jackson's awareness to social problem as seen through in his song lyrics shows several interesting cases to discuss. There are several phenomena which happen in the society, such as racism, environmental problem, children welfare and war, that are expressed in the chosen song completely. On one hand, by looking at these phenomena, it can be concluded that knowledge of common history and society in this world are needed to make better research.

On the other hand, there are still many approaches to conduct a study of Michael Jackson's song lyrics. The further researchers should use historical and

sociological approaches because these five song lyrics deal also with the social phenomenon in the past which influenced Michael Jackson in composing his songs.



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3. Program Studi : Bahasa dan Sastra
4. Jurusan : Sastra Inggris
5. Judul Skripsi : Michael Jackson's Social Awareness as Manifested in His Song Lyrics
6. Tanggal Mengajukan : 24 Mei 2012
7. Tanggal Selesai Revisi : 20 Juli 2012
8. Nama Pembimbing : I. Dr. Sri Herminingrum, M.Hum.
II. Aris Siwanti, S.S.
9. Keterangan Konsultasi :

No.	Tanggal	Materi	Pembimbing	Paraf
1.	28 Februari 2012	Draft BAB I	Pembimbing I	
2.	5 Maret 2012	BAB I	Pembimbing I	
3.	12 Maret 2012	BAB I	Pembimbing I	
4.	20 Maret 2012	BAB I, Draft BAB II	Pembimbing I	
5.	26 Maret 2012	BAB I	Pembimbing I	
6.	2 April 2012	BAB I, BAB II	Pembimbing I	
7.	8 April 2012	BAB I (ACC)	Pembimbing I	
8.	10 April 2012	BAB I	Pembimbing II	
9.	12 April 2012	BAB I	Pembimbing II	
10.	19 April 2012	BAB II	Pembimbing I	
11.	2 Mei 2012	BAB II	Pembimbing I	
12.	10 Mei 2012	BAB II (ACC)	Pembimbing I	
13.	12 Mei 2012	BAB I, BAB II	Pembimbing II	
14.	14 Mei 2012	BAB II	Pembimbing II	
15.	28 Mei 2012	BAB I, BAB II (revisi setelah sempro)	Pembimbing I	
16.	25 Juni 2012	BAB III, BAB IV	Pembimbing I	
17.	27 Juni 2012	BAB III, BAB IV	Pembimbing II	
18.	2 Juli 2012	BAB III, BAB IV	Pembimbing II	
19.	3 Juli 2012	BAB III, BAB IV (ACC)	Pembimbing II	

20.	15 Juli 2012	BAB I, BAB II, BAB III, BAB IV	Pembimbing I
21.	16 Juli 2012	BAB II	Pembimbing I
22.	17 Juli 2012	BAB II, BAB III	Pembimbing I
23.	18 Juli 2012	BAB III, BAB IV	Pembimbing I
24.	19 Juli 2012	BAB I, BAB II, BAB III, BAB IV, ABSTRAK, COVER	Pembimbing II
25.	20 Juli 2012	BAB I, BAB II, BAB III, BAB IV, ABSTRAK, COVER	Pembimbing II

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Malang, 26 Juli 2012

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Appendix 2. Michael Jackson's Song Lyrics

Black Or White

I Took My Baby
On A Saturday Date
Boy Is That Girl With You
Yes We're One And The Same

Now I Believe In Miracles
And A Miracle
Has Happened Tonight

But, If
You're Thinkin'
About My Baby
It Don't Matter If You're
Black Or White

They Print My Message
In The Saturday Sun
I Had To Tell Them
I Ain't Second To None

And I Told About Equality
And It's True
Either You're Wrong
Or You're Right

But, If
You're Thinkin'
About My Baby
It Don't Matter If You're
Black Or White

I Am Tired Of This Devil
I Am Tired Of This Stuff
I Am Tired Of This Business
So When The Going Gets Rough
I Ain't Scared Of Your Brother
I Ain't Scared Of No Sheets



I Ain't Scared Of Nobody
Girl When The Goin' Gets Mean

[Rap Performance]

Protection
For Gangs, Clubs And Nations
Causing Grief In Human Relations

It's A Turf War On A Global Scale
I'd Rather Hear Both Sides Of The Tale
See, It's Not About Races Just Places
Faces Where Your Blood Comes From
Is Where Your Space Is I've Seen The Bright Get Duller
I'm Not Gonna Spend My Life Being A Color

Don't Tell Me You Agree With Me
When I Saw You Kicking Dirt In My Eye

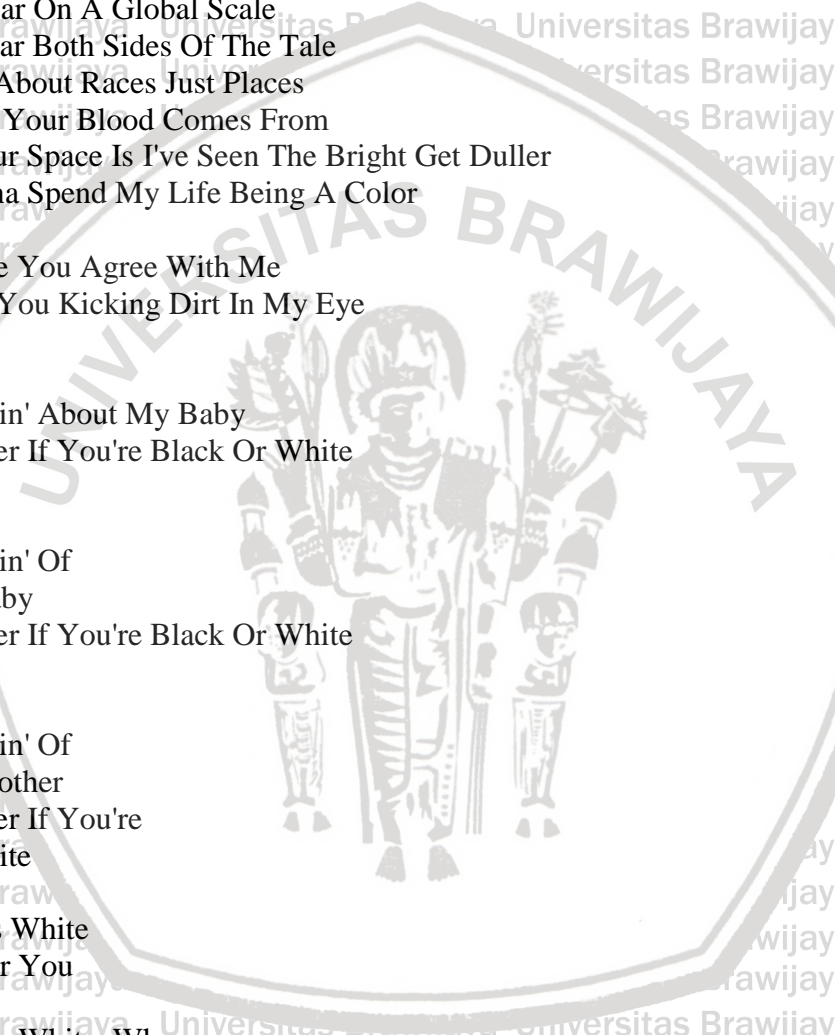
But, If
You're Thinkin' About My Baby
It Don't Matter If You're Black Or White

I Said If
You're Thinkin' Of
Being My Baby
It Don't Matter If You're Black Or White

I Said If
You're Thinkin' Of
Being My Brother
It Don't Matter If You're
Black Or White

It's Black, It's White
It's Tough For You
To Get By
It's Black , It's White, Whoo

It's Black, It's White
It's Tough For You
To Get By
It's Black , It's White, Whoo



They Don't Care About Us

Skin head, dead head
Everybody gone bad
Situation, aggravation
Everybody allegation
In the suite, on the news
Everybody dog food
Bang bang, shot dead
Everybody's gone mad

All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us
All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us

Beat me, hate me
You can never break me
Will me, thrill me
You can never kill me
Jew me, sue me
Everybody do me
Kick me, kike me
Don't you black or white me

All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us
All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us

Tell me what has become of my life
I have a wife and two children who love me
I am the victim of police brutality, now
I'm tired of bein' the victim of hate
You're rapin' me off my pride
Oh, for God's sake
I look to heaven to fulfill its prophecy...
Set me free

Skin head, dead head
Everybody gone bad



Trepidation, speculation
Everybody allegation
In the suite, on the news
Everybody dog food
Black male, black mail
Throw your brother in jail

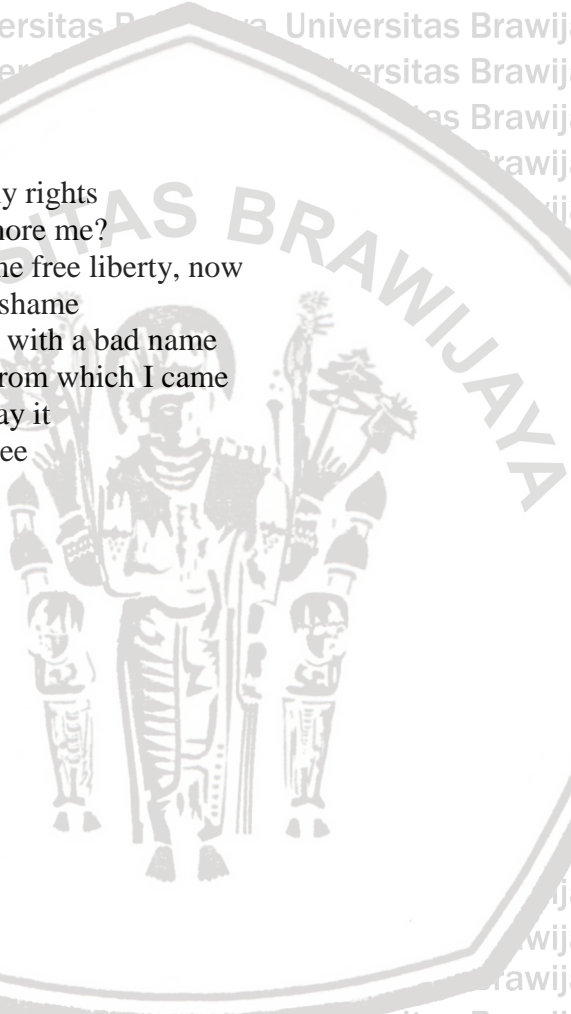
All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us
All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us

Tell me what has become of my rights
Am I invisible because you ignore me?
Your proclamation promised me free liberty, now
I'm tired of bein' the victim of shame
They're throwing me in a class with a bad name
I can't believe this is the land from which I came
You know I really do hate to say it
The government don't wanna see
But if Roosevelt was livin'
He wouldn't let this be, no, no

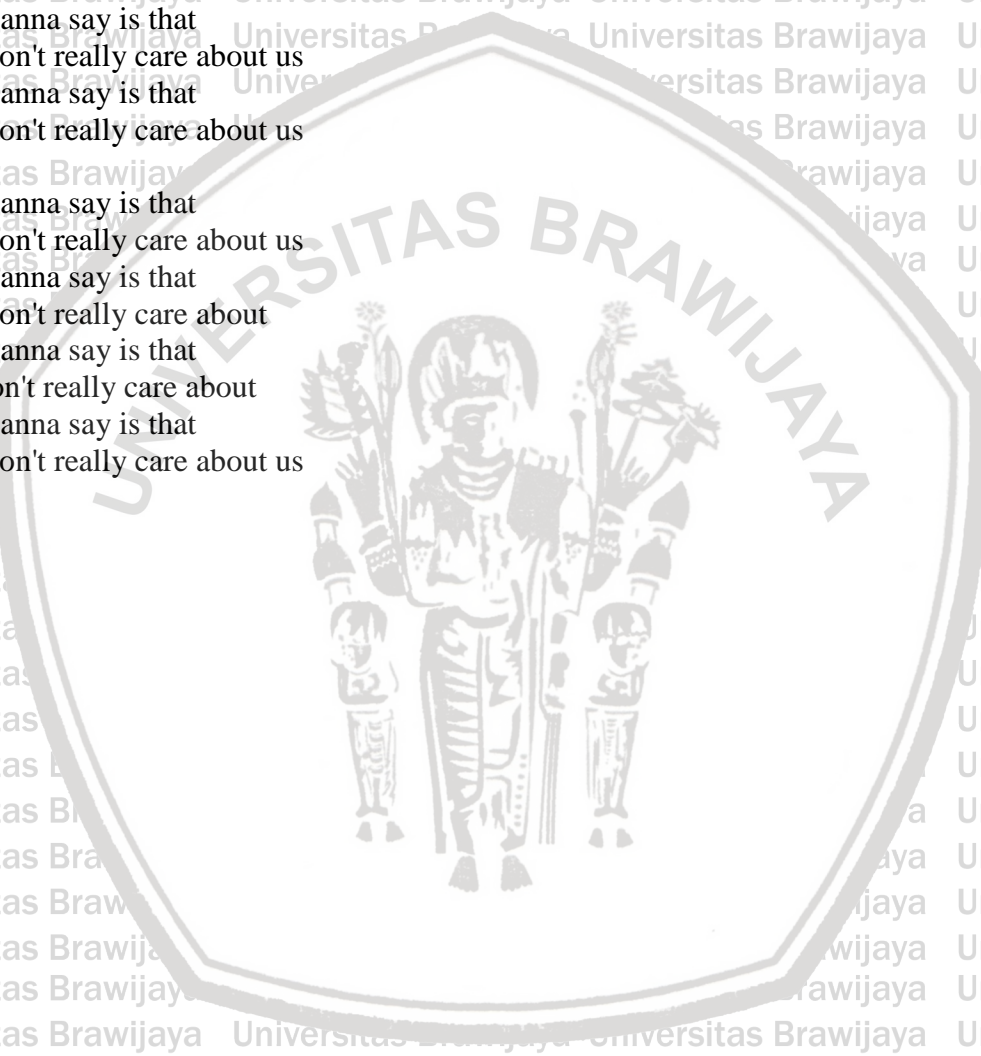
Skin head, dead head
Everybody gone bad
Situation, speculation
Everybody litigation
Beat me, bash me
You can never trash me
Hit me, kick me
You can never get me

All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us
All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us

Some things in life they just don't wanna see
But if Martin Luther was livin'
He wouldn't let this be, no, no
Skin head, dead head



Everybody gone bad
Situation, segregation
Everybody allegation
In the suite, on the news
Everybody dog food
Kick me, strike me
Don't you wrong or right me
All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us
All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us
All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us
All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us
All I wanna say is that
they don't really care about
All I wanna say is that
They don't really care about us



We Are the World

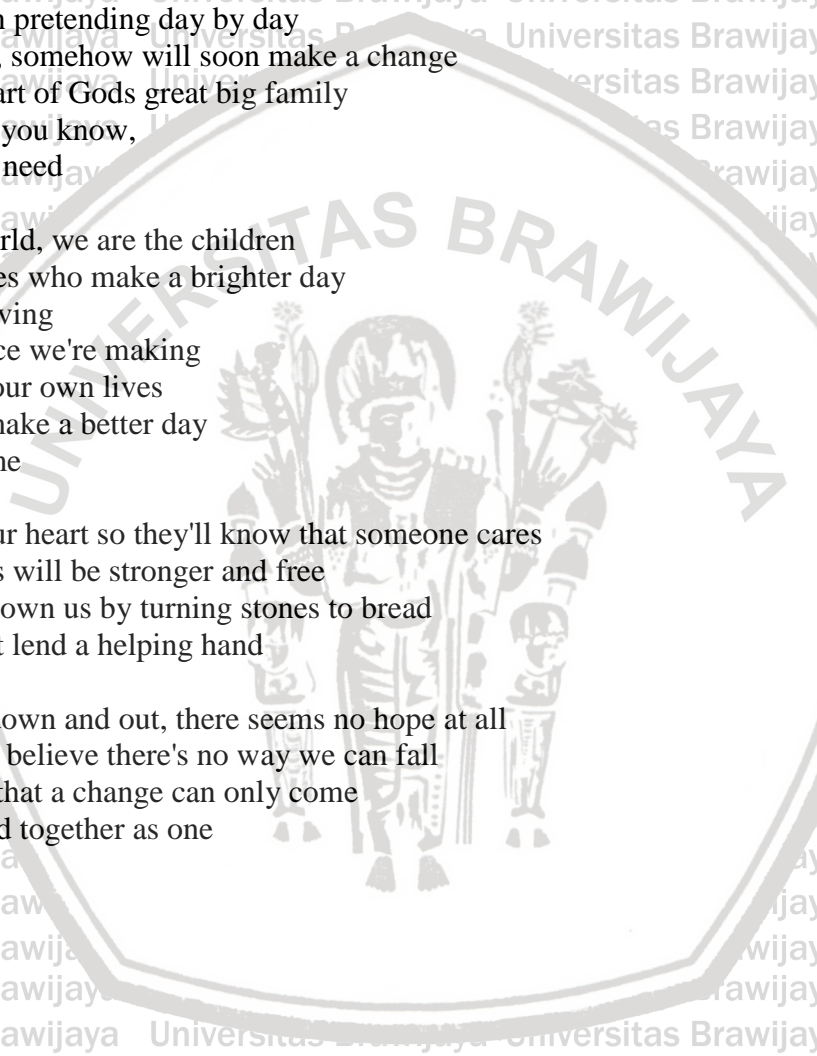
There comes a time when we heed a certain call
When the world must come together as one
There are people dying
And its time to lend a hand to life
The greatest gift of all

We can't go on pretending day by day
That someone, somehow will soon make a change
We are all a part of Gods great big family
And the truth, you know,
Love is all we need

We are the world, we are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day
So lets start giving
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
Its true we'll make a better day
Just you and me

Send them your heart so they'll know that someone cares
And their lives will be stronger and free
As God has shown us by turning stones to bread
So we all must lend a helping hand

When you're down and out, there seems no hope at all
But if you just believe there's no way we can fall
Let us realize that a change can only come
When we stand together as one

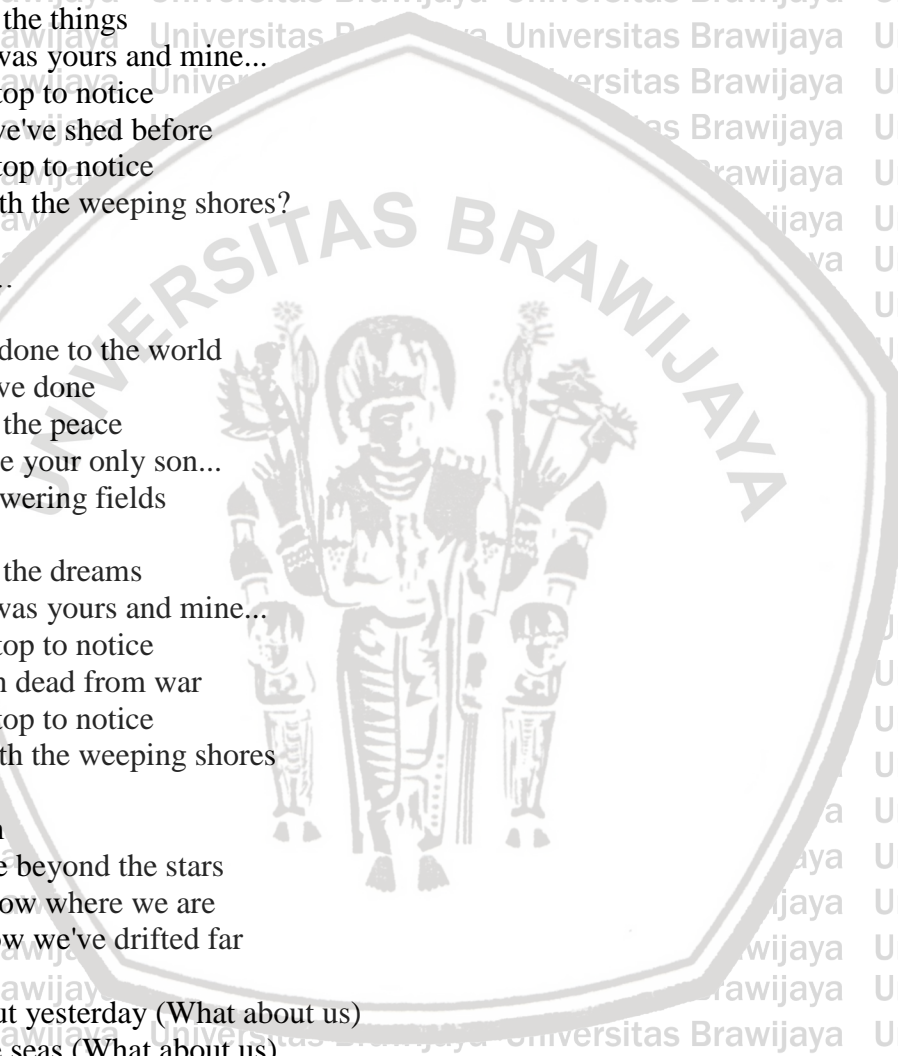


Earth Song

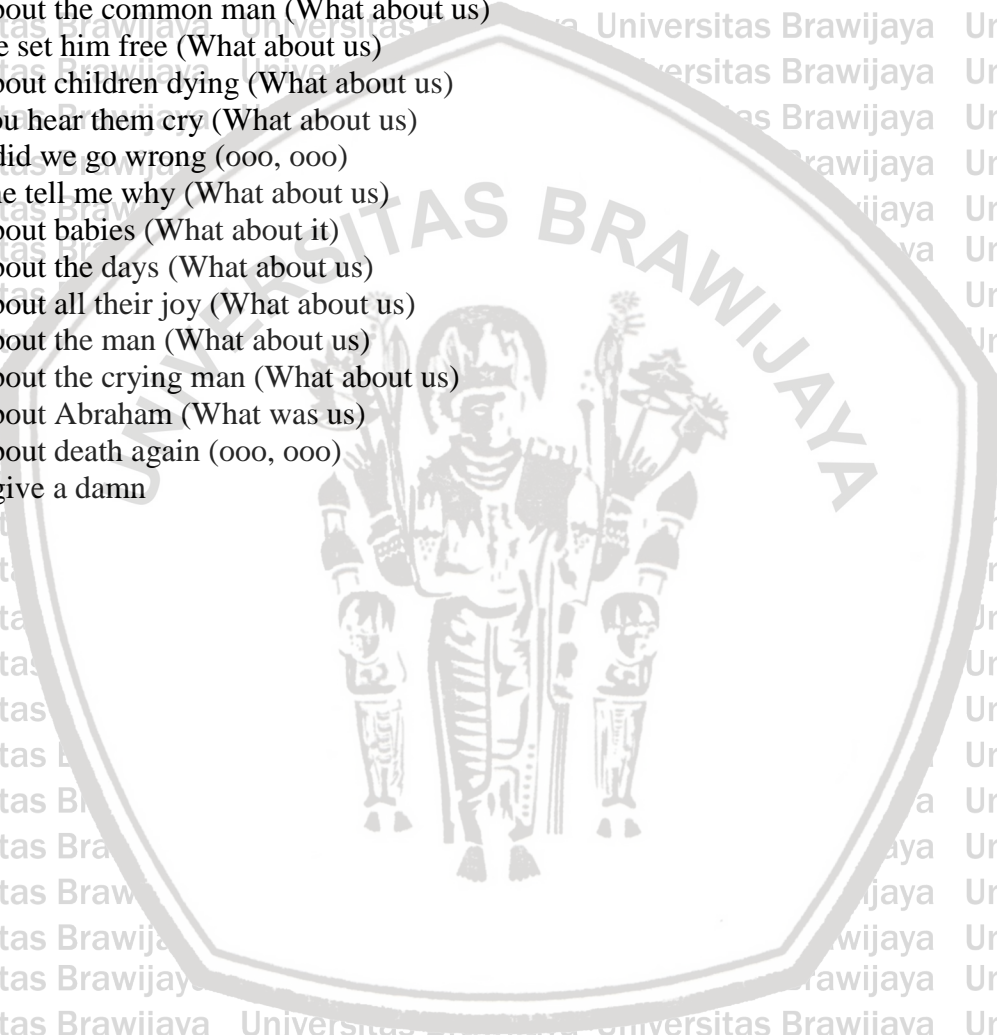
What about sunrise
 What about rain
 What about all the things
 That you said we were to gain...
 What about killing fields
 Is there a time
 What about all the things
 That you said was yours and mine...
 Did you ever stop to notice
 All the blood we've shed before
 Did you ever stop to notice
 The crying Earth the weeping shores?
 Aaaaaaaaaah....

What have we done to the world
 Look what we've done
 What about all the peace
 That you pledge your only son...
 What about flowering fields
 Is there a time
 What about all the dreams
 That you said was yours and mine...
 Did you ever stop to notice
 All the children dead from war
 Did you ever stop to notice
 The crying Earth the weeping shores
 I used to dream
 I used to glance beyond the stars
 Now I don't know where we are
 Although I know we've drifted far

Hey, what about yesterday (What about us)
 What about the seas (What about us)
 The heavens are falling down (What about us)
 I can't even breathe (What about us)
 What about the bleeding Earth (What about us)
 Can't we feel its wounds (What about us)
 What about nature's worth (ooo,ooo)



It's our planet's womb (What about us)
 What about animals we lost their trust (What about us)
 What about crying whales (What about us)
 We're ravaging the seas (What about us)
 What about forest trails (ooo, ooo)
 Burnt despite our pleas (What about us)
 What about the holy land (What about it)
 Torn apart by creed (What about us)
 What about the common man (What about us)
 Can't we set him free (What about us)
 What about children dying (What about us)
 Can't you hear them cry (What about us)
 Where did we go wrong (ooo, ooo)
 Someone tell me why (What about us)
 What about babies (What about it)
 What about the days (What about us)
 What about all their joy (What about us)
 What about the man (What about us)
 What about the crying man (What about us)
 What about Abraham (What was us)
 What about death again (ooo, ooo)
 Do we give a damn



Heal The World

spoken:

Think about the generations and to say we want to make it a better world for our children and our children's children. So that they know it's a better world for them; and think if they can make it a better place.

There's a place in your heart

And I know that it is love

And this place could be much

Brighter than tomorrow.

And if you really try

You'll find there's no need to cry

In this place you'll feel

There's no hurt or sorrow.

There are ways to get there

If you care enough for the living

Make a little space, make a better place.

Heal the world

Make it a better place

For you and for me and the entire human race

There are people dying

If you care enough for the living

Make a better place for

You and for me.

If you want to know why

There's a love that cannot lie

Love is strong

It only cares for joyful giving.

If we try we shall see

In this bliss we cannot feel

Fear or dread

We stop existing and start living

Then it feels that always

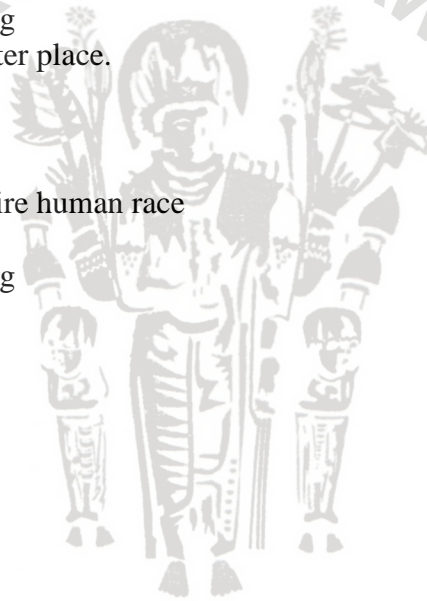
Love's enough for us growing

Make a better world, make a better world.

Heal the world

Make it a better place

For you and for me and the entire human race.



There are people dying
 If you care enough for the living
 Make a better place for
 You and for me.

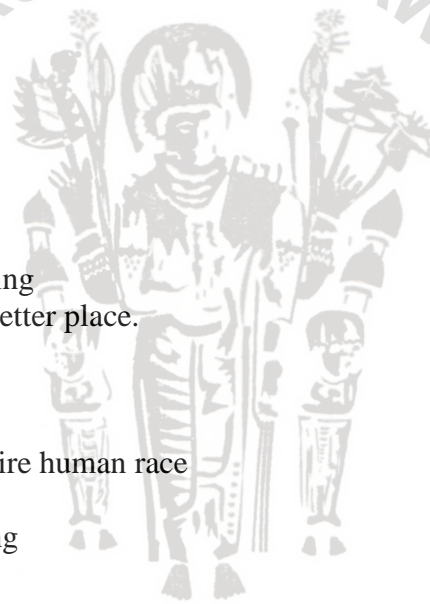
And the dream we would conceived in
 Will reveal a joyful face
 And the world we once believed in
 Will shine again in grace
 Then why do we keep strangling life
 Wound this earth, crucify it's soul
 Though it's plain to see, this world is heavenly
 Be God's glow.

We could fly so high
 Let our spirits never die
 In my heart I feel
 You are all my brothers
 Create a world with no fear
 Together we'll cry happy tears
 See the nations turn
 Their swords into plowshares
 We could really get there
 If you cared enough for the living
 Make a little space to make a better place.

Heal the world
 Make it a better place
 For you and for me and the entire human race
 There are people dying
 If you care enough for the living
 Make a better place for
 You and for me.

There are people dying if you care enough for the living
 Make a better place for you and for me.
 There are people dying if you care enough for the living
 Make a better place for you and for me.

You and for me / Make a better place
 You and for me / Make a better place
 You and for me / Make a better place



You and for me / Heal the world we live in
You and for me / Save it for our children
You and for me / Heal the world we live in
You and for me / Save it for our children
You and for me / Heal the world we live in
You and for me / Save it for our children
You and for me / Heal the world we live in
You and for me / Save it for our children



Appendix 3. Michael Jackson's Picture

