

CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS

This chapter consists of the analysis and discussion of theme and how it is conveyed in Michael Jackson's songs.

4.1 The Theme in Michael Jackson's Five Selected Songs

According to Glenceo (1985:139), theme is the main idea of the story. By revealing the theme of Michael Jackson's songs lyrics, we can find the aim of the songs. There are several quotes in the lyrics that can be identified as the main ideas of the songs. All of them will be discussed one by one here.

“What about killing fields
Is there a time
What about all the things
That you said were yours and mine”
(*Earth Song*, line :5-8)

The first line tells about the killing fields or war which is frightening for everyone, but sometimes circumstances force people to feel the pain of losing their loved ones dying on the battleground. In the common term, Killing Fields is a place where Cambodians were massacred during the Pol Pot regime that came to power in 1975-1979. So, it can be interpreted that the meaning of killing fields is a place where so many people are dying. So this is a time when people must try to pay more attention with all that happen around them. If we call the world as yours and/or mine, we have to care with the other living things and do not to provoke hatred to one another.

“Did you ever stop to notice
All the blood we've shed before”
(*Earth Song*, line : 9-10)

Many people die because of various kinds of problems in the world: some die of hunger, cold, getting shot, exposed to air pollution and so on. However, the situation is not bad enough to make people sympathize, there are even people who merely watch without doing anything. Humans think of themselves and do not care about others although there are many things that can be done, from small things to big ones to help others in need. We can empathize not only by talking but to give a little of what we have for people in need, for example, decent clothes that we do not use, provide financial support, and so on. We will know that by sharing we can help them to survive.

“This crying Earth, these weeping shores”
(*Earth Song*, line :12)

From this line of the Earth Song, Michael Jackson describes the critical state of the world. The world is facing environmental destruction, some are caused by human, others are caused by nature itself. We can imagine how the destruction of the earth is and we are so passive in response to the worsening environmental condition.

Environmental degradation is one of the largest threats that is being faced by the world today. We can see there are so many alarming problems: global warming, pollution, forest fires, illegal hunting, civil conflict, and so on. We can not be silent about all that is happening to this earth. Therefore, we need to preserve our environment, because the earth is where we live.

“Did you ever stop to notice
All the children dead from war”
(*Earth Song*, line :21-22)

Michael Jackson talks about children in his song. Children are innocent. In war, children are among the worst victims. They live with fear all day, worry about what will happen in their lives and get killed easily. If people still do it for certain interests, then many ideals have been destroyed from the beginning. Children are our successors

to protect the earth. It is inappropriate for them to be involved and killed in war. They are just children who cannot defend themselves. Often though, children also become the victims of greed.

“What about the seas
(What about us)
The heavens are falling down
(What about us)
I can't even breathe”

(Earth Song, line :31-35)

In the lines above, the writer asks about the sea. We can see that the sea is now polluted by human activity. Humans do many things to be able to catch as many fish as possible, no doubt they use dangerous substances that can damage the lives of marine species. Not only in polluted seas, the ground and the air are also exposed to the same level of pollution caused by human activities: many factories, motor vehicles and so on that produce pollution and humans do not care about it. In the lyrics the songwriter uses the terms “the heaven are falling down”, because the world is such an uncomfortable place that it is difficult for humans to breathe, since in every corner of the city we breathe in polluted air. So it is as if the end of time was near that the sky would collapse and life would end.

“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, line : 5-12)

Through the songs lyric above, we are reminded of that if we do good, there will be a place with no hurt and sorrow. In the next line it is emphasized that to arrive at a peaceful place we must care enough to live and make a better place. However, doing good things is sometimes difficult for some people, and when someone starts doing good things there can be certain motives behind it: whether to show off, or to look good in others' view. The truth is that the most important thing here is to try to do the best, such as things that can protect the earth, use less disposable items that produce a lot of garbage, dispose of trash in its place, and so forth. These methods are enough to create a place that is comfortable for humans.

“Heal the world”

(*Heal the World*, line : 13)

Michael Jackson in his song *Heal the World* wants to motivate us to be more concerned with our environment. How can we heal the world if we are unable to care a little bit about the environment around us? There are so many disasters that killed humans, animals, and other species. It is because of greed, indifference and the bad habits of humans that indirectly kill people who are aware that we are slowly killing ourselves. So healing the world is not done by medicine, but by our way of life on earth, caring for the environment, people and the other species in the world.

“Love is strong
It only cares of joyful giving
If we try we shall see
In this bliss we cannot feel
Fear of dread”

(*Heal the World*, line : 23-27)

Love is a deep feeling of affection. Therefore, everything that is based on sincere love will create happiness. Not only that, in the lyrics it is also said that "we cannot feel fear of dread" because when

someone feels real happiness from the joy of sincere giving, there is no more place in their souls for fear toward anything. So, loving each other is the most important thing so that we get a life filled with happiness.

Somebody shakes when the wind blows
Somebody's missing a friend, hold on
Somebody's lacking a hero
And they have not a clue
When it's all gonna end

(*Cry*, line : 1-5)

The lines above belong to the lyrics to the song *Cry* by Michael Jackson. The author describes people who lost their loved ones and were lost. They need attention. They are people who should not be left behind because they have lost their purpose and guidance in life. We must learn to care about these people because they need help.

“You can change the world
(I can't do it by myself)”

(*Cry*, line : 11)

Through this song it is said that we can change the world. Sometimes we think that it is not possible for someone to change the world because the world is so vast with various living things in it, and with humans with the various ways of thinkings, it is impossible to change the world by ourselves. Then in the lyrics of Michael Jackson's song it is said that we need friends to change the world. If we cannot change the world as a whole, we can start with a small thing from our surroundings. We can stop using plastic because excessive use of plastic will produce plastic pollution, stop burning the forest, limit the use of carpooling and use public transportation, bike or walk in stead. There are so many little things that we can start from our surroundings, to change the world to be better.

“You're the chosen one
(I'm gonna need some kind of sign)”

(*Cry*, line: 13)

Through this lyric Michael Jackson also said that we are the chosen one who must change the world. This is one of the motivational sentences included in his song. Our environment is a very important part of our world, and if we want to be able to stay on this earth longer, we must learn to be sustainable. Our future as a race is going to be dependent on our focus now on the environment. Our current situation as a population of humans is very intertwined with the environment, so if we bring the environment to catastrophe through excessive dirty production and unnecessary waste, then we as a race will go down with it. The shift to a cleaner way of producing and sustaining ourselves is not as hard as once thought. So through the lyric of the song, Michael Jackson provides a motivation for us to protect the earth.

“And it's time to lend a hand to life”

(*We are the World*, line: 4)

The sentence above is taken from Michael Jackson's song's *Heal the World*. The lyrics are written because there are many problems in our world today, but we're not the only ones suffering. The problems that occur cause some populations in the world to be reduced and almost extinct. To reduce the amount of pollution produced, we could be cautious of our actions and think about the impacts of our actions. For example, use a reusable water bottle, go paperless, recycle, turn off the lights and tap when not being used, and cook your meals instead of dining out. Therefore this song invites all of us to help each other to save the earth, because who else can be expected if not humans who live in it. Saving the earth is the same as saving ourselves.

“We are the world”

(We are the World, line: 11)

The sentence is not just written just like that, but it is a motivational expression that is the core of the song. If it is said that we are the world, then the way we treat the world should be as good as the way we love ourselves. Loving ourselves is not about arrogance or selfishness, but the way we accept and care for ourselves so we do not feel sick, afraid, depressed about many things as well as how we protect the earth where we live today from being damaged, not polluted, and so on.

“So, let's start giving
There's a choice we're making
We're saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day
Just you and me”

(We are the World, line: 26-30)

This sentence “We're saving our own lives” sounds selfish at first because there are words that refer to themselves as if they just wanted to save themselves and not care about others. However, this is an ambiguous sentence, which can also be interpreted as self-motivation to do things in order to create a better place because changing human habits starts with each individual. Someone who lets himself change will change for the better. If someone does not want change and continue doing things that can cause the earth is on the verge of collapse, that change will never happen.

“When you're down and out
There seems no hope at all
But if you just believe
There's no way we can fall”

(We are the World, line: 31-34)

In the quotation above, the author once again provides motivation and sentence is emphasized on trust. In this case the author can refer to God, because such belief can only be submitted to God. There's no human who can guarantee that a person's life will be fine if he is given trust. This belief refers to faith. Faith is a strong religious belief. A person with religion certainly believes in a God. Therefore, as long as he keeps his faith faithfully, he should never find himself in despair. When he starts losing hope, then only to God must he believe and he will not fall.

“Let's realize that a change can only come
When we stand together as one”

(We are the World, line: 36-37)

These words are a reminder that everything will change when we are united. If humans have one goal in common to protect the earth, there will be a big change in the future. The next generation will feel the fresh air without pollution, live healthy all the time, and be a lesson for them to continue protecting the earth.

“So long, bad times
We are going to shake it up and break it up
We are sharing a light brighter than the sun
Hello, good times
We are here to simulate, eliminate
And congregate, illuminate”

(We are Here to Change the World, line: 5-10)

This quotation shows the extraordinary enthusiasm of a group of people who want to destroy the dark times and want to welcome a good time to make a change. The world needs people who have a great passion for change because we are God's most different creations: created with the inner consciousness, so that we are able to think what is best for this earth. We gain power over nature, so we must not consider ourselves superior, and use we have the power to

destroy the nature. We are conquerors of the earth. However, that does not mean we have the right to ruin what God has made good.

“(We are here to change the world)
Going to change the world”

(We are Here to Change the World, line: 11-12)

This sentence encourages us to start moving and creating change in this world because we are part of the change. There are so many people who have used their authority over nature to seize their preservation to fulfill their personal interests. Therefore, we are the most important part to stop the greed. If we do not make changes early on, the future of this earth can no longer be saved.

“So do surrender
Because the power is deep inside my soul”

(We are Here to Change the World, line: 15-16)

At this time it is still very difficult to have a comfortable earth. However, through these lyrics we are reminded not to give up because we have strength in our souls and we can start everything from within ourselves to be an example for others.

Based on the analysis, it is found that the theme of Michael Jackson’s *Earth Song, Heal the World, Cry, We are the World, and We are Here to Change the World* is human beings should keep the earth to be a better place for living. It implies a message to safeguard the earth and everything in it. This is the way of a songwriter to convey his concern for an increasingly damaged world. He also uses figures of speech to make the song beautiful, so it is pleasant to hear and hopes that the messages can be conveyed.

4.2 Figurative Language in Michael Jackson's Five Selected Songs

In this subchapter, the discussion will be focused on how the theme “human beings should keep the earth to be a better place for living” is conveyed. It is found that the theme is revealed through the use of figurative language.

4.2.1 Metaphor

4.2.1.1 *Earth Song*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	I used to dream, I used to glance beyond the stars	7	25-26

The data number 1 is “I used to dream, I used to glance beyond the stars”. This line is a metaphore because it contains an analogical comparison. The writer dreams of seeing the stars, which if we connect with the song, meaning of the sentence is he has a big dream or high ambition about a better earth and hope is represented by many stars. Michael Jackson's words could also be interpreted in the way that he argues that there are no ideals at all, or at least no ideals that allow a close connection to nature. There are lots of people who just make a notification about the problem that is happening and do nothing. Many people voice a peaceful world but still damage the habitats of other living things. Everything is like a dream that still can not be reached.

4.2.1.2 *Heal the World*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	There's a place in your heart	1	1
2.	Heal the World	2	13
3.	Will shine again in grace	5	43
4.	Wound this earth crucify its soul	5	45
5.	Be God's glow	5	48

6.	Let's our spirit never die	6	50
7.	Create the world with no fear	6	52
8.	See the nations turn their swords into plowshares	6	54

Data number 1 is "There's a place in your heart". This line is a metaphor because it contains an analogical comparison. The sentence does not lead to the organs of human body even though they are compared with the heart. But in this case place is a feeling by humans which one can give character to someone in how they take the behavior to another person.

The data number 2 is "Heal the World". This line is a metaphor because it contains an analogical comparison. The sentence literary means to restore the world. In actual concept we might think how the world can be healed. The world is a non living thing that cannot feel pain and so on, but in it there are living creatures, therefore what we want to restore is the survival of living things. So the the word "heal" is how the humans give a solution for the environmental damage. As we know, the world experiences many incidents that directly and indirectly damage it. Through this line, the writer wants to give his expression to the listeners to heal the world with peace and integration.

The data number 3 is "will shine again in a grace". In this sentence the song writer compares the words "shine" and "grace". The word shine in this sentence refers to the world. So in this song he is confident that the world will return in a good condition. He also believes that the earth will still be blessed by the grace of God.

The data number 4 is "Wound this earth, crucify its soul" In this sentence the song writer compares the words wound and the earth. Same as the data number 2, it is imposible that the world can be hurt because it is a non living thing that has no feeling. But in this case the song writer put more emphasis on what happens to humans who are described with the sentence "crucify its soul" it means the earth we live in today is beginning to put us in danger, because of our actions which cannot protect our environment and love each other.

The data number 5 is "Be God's glow". This sentence is a metaphor, since being God's glow means we as a creation of God must show the way of life desired by God. As people with religions we learn to be good people who love each other and all the other creations of God. Those who believe in God know that everything on this earth is God given that must be preserved.

The data number 6 is " Let's our spirit never die". This is a metaphor because the word "spirit" is a person's thoughts and feelings or soul. Therefore the word "die" in the sentence is more leading to feelings, so it can be interpreted as humans who lose their spirit. Then it should be noted that the spirit of humans should never disappear and stop because that spirit must exist to support human life in this world.

The data number 7 is "Create a world with no fear." It is so impossible that we can create the world with no fear because we are human beings who can feel anxiety and fear. The sentence means the song writer wants to invite us to become human beings who do not cause problems or disputes, because there are too many things that can make people feel scared: war, natural disasters, and so on. There are so many people who feel unsafe in their neighborhood because of it.

The data number 8 is "See the nations turn their swords into plowshares". This sentence is a metaphor, because he describes a nations in an abstract form. A nation must always renew itself so that it can protect the people and gain prosperity.

4.2.1.3 *We are the World*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	When the world must come together as one	1	2
2.	We are the world	3	11
3.	We are the children	3	12
4.	Send them your heart	4	19

The data number 1 is "When the world must come together as one". This line is categorized as a metaphor because on this line there is an analogical comparison. The world is the earth itself, then there is only one world as we know. But the words "come together as one"

shows that the world is not only one but more than one. Its figurative interpretation is the humans. So the songwriter wants to convey the message through the song that if humans can unite with one good goal for this world, this world will become peaceful.

The data number 2 is “we are the world”. This line is categorized as a metaphor because on this line there is an analogical comparison. In this song humans are interpreted as the world, because humans are the most important part in this world. Humans are in greater control than other creatures. Then the songwriter does not hesitate to declare that we are the world. So he hopes that humans can do the best for this world as for themselves.

The data number 3 is “We are the children”. This line is a metaphor because it contains an analogical comparison. This is impossible if we think about it with common sense because as we know it isn't just children who listen to the song. However, that's not the main point that the songwriter wants to convey. There is an implied message through this lyric that as human beings whose lives are still dependent on the world we live in today, we are like little children who depend on their parents to live.

The data number 4 is “Send them your heart”. This line is also included as a metaphor. Heart in the literal meaning is an organ that pumps blood around the body. Then it is impossible if someone can send his heart to someone else. What is meant by the songwriter is a feeling, where everyone can share their love and attention to others because heart is the center of people's feelings.

4.2.2 Personification

4.2.2.1 *Earth Song*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	This crying earth, this weeping shores	6	24

The only data from this song for personification is “This crying earth, this weeping shores”. We can not deny that this earth has been increasingly damaged. The inordinate pattern of human life that ignores natural conditions only makes the earth worse. The sentence

in the song lyric reminds us that this earth must be preserved. Don't wait too long, but start from small things like to avoid the worst effects by changing how to produce what we consume, from food and energy to how we handle waste better.

4.2.2.2 *Heal the World*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	There's love that cannot lie	3	22

The data is “there's love that cannot lie”. It is personification because love is a feeling, so it cannot lie, while humans are creatures that are created with the mind, so that lies come from humans not from feelings. In this context, the writer wants to convey that a lot of love or caring comes not with sincerity but because people only want to attract sympathy from others, to be seen as good people.

4.2.2.3 *We are Here to Change the World*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	A revelation, of the truth in chapters of our minds	1	3-4

The data is “A revelation, of the truth in chapters of our minds”. This line contains a personification, because human mind does not have chapters like a book. In this sentence it is clearly conveyed by the songwriter that humans believe in revelation, which at this time we can see that in the Bible. The word "mind" refers to people who believe in these writings.

4.2.3 Hyperbole

4.2.3.1 *Earth Song*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	The heaven are falling down	8	33
2.	I can't even breathe	8	35

The data number 1 is “The heaven are falling down”. This line is hyperbole because it so impossible that the heaven will collapse. What the songwriter wants to say can be interpreted that the earth is in critical condition. There so many things happen: wars and natural disasters everywhere. So we need to care more and preserve our environment, because the earth is where we live.

The data number 2 is “I can't even breathe”. The statement sounds imposible, how can someone not be able to breathe, except if he does have a disease that makes him unable to breathe. But the songwriter through the lyric of the song wants to tell the listeners that the air we breathe today is not healthy for human body because it is polluted.

4.2.3.2 *Heal the World*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	Love's enough for us growing	3	30
2.	We could fly so high	6	49

The data number 1 is “Love's enough for us growing”. This sentence is a hyperbole because a human can not live only with love. But in this sentence the songwriter wants to tell that if somebody has love in their heart, they will also be able to love each other. For example, they will help the needy, feed the hungry, and so on.

The data number 2 “We could fly so high” is a hyperbole because human cannot fly without any aids. However, that's not what the songwriter means. This lyric means we can do something big for this earth when we can be one of the pioneers for world peace starting from the smallest things, from our surroundings to become a good influence for the people around.

4.2.3.3 *Cry*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	You can touch the sky (Gonna take somebody's help)	3	12

2.	If we all cry at the same time tonight	3	14
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The data number 1 is “You can touch the sky (Gonna take somebody's help)” is a hyperbole because we cannot touch the sky. However, this sentence is same as the data number two, a motivation to the people that they can make something good for our environment. Someone cannot do everything alone, so it is hoped that others can support every movement for world peace and preservation.

The data number 2 is “If we all cry at the same time tonight” this sentence is a hyperbole because it is impossible that we can cry together at the same time. It actually means that we are equally concerned with the state of our earth now.

4.2.3.4 *We are the World*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	Love is all we need	2	10
2.	But if you just believe, there's no way we can fall	6	33-34

The data number 1 is “Love is all we need”. This line is a hyperbole because humans have unlimited needs. They cannot live only with love; humans need food, drinks, clothes, air and so on. But what the writer means is that with love we can live side by side in peace. Where there are people who need us to care more then we will lovingly help. Therefore there are no more people who grieve at the thought of what he must do to stay alive.

The data number 2 is “But if you just believe, there's no way we can fall”. This sentence is a hyperbole because it contains excessive meaning. All things cannot be based solely on trust. If someone almost falls, he must try to survive, not just believe. If someone does not do anything to save himself, it is useless to believe in something. We believe that there will be situations where the world will improve, and we try to continue to change ourselves, and use all natural products properly.

4.2.3.5 *We are Here to Change the World*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	We are going to shake it up and break it up	2	6
2.	We are sharing a light brighter than the sun	2	7
3.	We are here to simulate, eliminate, and congregate, illuminate	2	9
4.	We are here to change the world	3	11

The data number 1 is “We are going to shake it up and break it up”. The line is categorized as a hyperbole. The sentence refers to a bad time, in this case it is the earth. The songwriter describes people's enthusiasm through these sentences, where they want to move the world and shake everyone's hearts to stop the gloomy period when the earth has been destroyed.

The data number 2 is “We are sharing a light brighter than the sun”. This line belongs to hyperbole this sentence is really exaggerated. As we know, the brightest light that can illuminate the earth is the sun and therefore it is very unlikely if humans distribute light brighter than the sun. However, we can explore this sentence further, that the light in the sentence is a clue from everyone, where when they share with each other, they find the good things that can be done to maintain our survival on this earth.

The data number 3 is “We are here to simulate, eliminate, and congregate, illuminate”. Related to the data number 1 and 2 this sentence concludes that their existence is to find a good strategy to preserve the earth. The sentence clearly describes people who want to unite to eliminate the bad things that have damaged the earth and start new things for a better life.

The data number 4 is “We are here to change the world”. This sentence is a hyperbole. This sentence explains that there are a group of people who want to change the world. People who are aware of the terrible things that happen on earth, thus encouraging them to change the world. They are the ones who will talk about world peace and nature conservation. They are those who want to persuade others to protect the earth together.

4.2.4 Irony

4.2.4.1 *Earth Song*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	We've turned kingdoms to dust	8	46

The data number 1 is “We've turned kingdoms to dust”. This line contains an irony because it is a satire. The songs writer describe the kingdom which has become dust caused by our own, where the kingdom in question is the earth. Humans become the main actors who destroy the earth, when the environmental preservation is echoed by several groups, there are other groups who deliberately damage the earth.

4.2.4.2 *Cry*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	You're the chosen one (I'm gonna need some kind of sign)	3	13

The data is “You're the chosen one (I'm gonna need some kind of sign). This line is an irony because it contains a satire. The lyric states that we have choices but if we have choices he wants to see what we can do for this world. Whether we just keep silent or start to do something good as a choice to protect the earth, by preserving nature, reducing pollution and so on.

4.2.5 Paradox

4.2.5.1 *Heal the World*

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	This world is heavenly	5	47
2.	Together we cry happy tears	6	53

The data number 1 is "This world is heavenly". This line is a paradox because there are two opposite facts: there are the words world and heavenly. So the meaning of this sentence is the world is so beautiful. The song writer describes this beautiful earth like heaven.

The world is full of peace, there is no war, global warming, or environmental damage.

The data number 2 is "Together we cry happy tears". This line is categorized as paradox because there are two opposite facts that contradict each other. The word "tears" usually symbolizes sadness, but here the happiness is expressed through the tears. Crying does not just express sadness, but also happiness. People often cry when they are happy, it is part of the expression of their emotion.

4.2.5.2 Cry

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	People laugh when they're feeling sad	4	15

The data number 1 is "People laugh when they're feeling sad". This line is categorized as a paradox because there are two opposite facts that contradict with each other: laugh and sad. It means they try to be strong, never give up even though they have a lot of pressure. They are people who cannot escape from the fact that they are in a place that is not safe for them, but they must survive and fight all the odds.

4.2.5.3 We are Here to Change the World

No.	Phrase / Sentence	Stanza	Line
1.	Because the power is deep inside my soul	4	16

The data is "Because the power is deep inside my soul." This line is a paradox. Before this line, there is one sentence that is very related to this, "so do surrender" so it can be seen that the intended power is the desire not to give up on the situation. When our world is destroyed, it is not appropriate for us to just surrender, we must continue to strive and fight as long as the world is not over yet.