

# THE PSYCHOANALYTIC AND INTERRACIAL VIEWPOINT IN “MY HUMPS” MUSIC VIDEO

YanlitaFrentyAyuningtyas – SiswoHarsono

English Department, Faculty of Humanities

Diponegoro University

Semarang

## Abstract

"My Humps" is a song by The Black Eyed Peas. The lyrics and the music video tell about the relationship between the man (Will.i.am) with the woman (Fergie), who Will.i.am always flirts with Fergie and always asks her for dating. Although Fergie always refuses him but she also flirts the man to show off her sexy body. The purpose of this study is to analyze the poetic elements in the lyrics and to show the readers the psychological contents, as portrayed in the music video. This study uses textual and contextual theories to analyze the data. Meanwhile, close reading, close listening, and close viewing as research method are used to compile the object of "My Humps" music video. The content of this study is the existence of psychoanalysis through Sigmund Freud's theory in American hip-hop music included *id*, *ego*, *superego*, defense mechanism, psychosexual, and interracial viewpoint reflected in lyrics and scenes in the music video of "My Humps".

**Keywords:** psychoanalysis, defense mechanism, psychosexual, interracial viewpoint

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Everyone has a taste of music. There are many ways that people can do to enjoy literary works, primarily, music. Based on *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* 3rd Edition (2008), the music video is a visual medium of short duration which is shown to promote a work of popular music.

Music in America is very different between in the era 90s and nowadays. For the example, The Black Eyed Peas is a group that presents popular hip hop music in America since 1995. They consist of two African-American male singers (Will.i.am and Apl.de.ap), one Mexican-American male singer (Taboo), and one American female singer (Fergie). "My Humps" is the third single from their fourth album entitled Monkey Business (2005) and it was written by William Adams and David Paylon (A&E Television Networks, 2016). This song feature elements of music, sexuality and an element of interracial viewpoint.

The writer decides to choose the "My Humps" music video as the object because this music video is very interesting and entertaining. It is also one of popular music in early 2000s. The uniqueness of this song is in the lyric which consists of ambiguous words.

### **1.1 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to know the content and the meaning of "My Humps" music video and to analyze the elements of Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic concept in "My Humps" music video.

### **1.2 Scope of the Study**

This study focuses on two aspects: textual and contextual. The textual aspects will discuss the narrative and cinematographic element. The contextual aspects will discuss Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic concept, especially in *id*, *ego*, *superego*, and *defense mechanism*.

## **2. RESEARCH OBJECTS**

### **2.1 Material Object**

The material object of this analysis is "My Humps" music video by The Black Eyed Peas that it was taken from Youtube. It was uploaded on 16 June 2009 by BlackEyedPeasVEVO. The duration is about 3 minutes 54 seconds.

### **2.2 Fomal Object**

Formal object on this analysis explains the elements that relate to the genre of this music video. "My Humps" is a America hip-hop music released in 2005 by American music group The Black Eyed Peas.

### **2.3 Paraphrase Lyric**

This song tells about the relationship between a black man (Will. I am) with a woman (Fergie) where the man is always asking intimate questions about pleasure and sex. The man is always curious what the woman has and always replies that with what she has, she would give and please the man. Therefore, basically, this song has a meaning that pleasure and love should not be paid with money or possessions, but spending time is already highly enough to give pleasure.

## **3. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **3.1 Textual Theories**

Goodwin's book explains that textual theory is the theoretical basis for analyzing the text of literary work. It also builds some elements such as the poetic

theory that is used to analyze the diction and figurative language, and also there is cinematic theory to explain the cinematic part of the music video (1992: 20).

### **3.1.1 Poetic Theory**

According to *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* 3rd Edition (2008), lyric is the words of a song, especially a pop song. These elements in the lyric are diction and figurative language.

#### **3.1.1.1 Diction**

In the book *A Handbook to Literature* by Holman, he found that diction words are chosen for a supposedly inherent poetic quality (1960: 361). Diction is divided into two types: denotation and connotation. Denotation is the specific, exact meaning of a word, independent in its emotional colorations or associations (1960: 134). Connotation is the implication that a cluster of words or phrases may carry with them, as distinguished from their denotative meanings (1960: 105).

#### **3.1.1.2 Figurative Language**

Figurative language can be used in poetry to serve beautify and give emphasis on the sentences. This is not only a meaning but not an actual meaning. There are several types of figurative devices contained in the lyric of "My Hump". Firstly, *metaphor* is an implied analogy that identifies one object with another to the first one or more, with emotional or imaginative qualities associated with the second (1960: 281). Secondly, *hyperbole* is a figure of speech in which the conscious exaggeration is used without the intent of literal persuasion (1960: 231). Thirdly, *personification* is figure of speech in which things or animals can perform or act like human being (1960: 352).

### **3.1.2 Cinematic Aspect**

The aspects of the cinematic theory that is used by the writer in this analysis are audio aspect and visual aspect.

#### **3.1.2.1 Audio Aspect**

In *Film Art an Introduction* by David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson, there are some elements affecting the audio such as rhythm, fidelity, spatial condition, and the sound related to visual events that take place in a specific time, so it gives sound a temporal dimension (Bordwell, 2008: 275).

#### **3.1.2.2 Visual Aspect**

Visual aspect relates to the technique of shooting and *mise en scene* (things that are seen by the camera) on video. According to Pratista, there are several shots in the distance such as long shot, medium long shot, medium shot, medium close-up, close up, and extreme close-up (2006: 105). He adds that there are objects that are in the front of the camera and it can be seen by the viewer (2006: 61). It is divided into several aspects such as: Setting place that is to determine the appropriate space in the context of the story in the video (2006: 66); Costum is the thing (clothes or accessories) that is worn by the players (2006: 71); Lighting can form objects and space dimensions. Elements of lighting can be determined through the elements of quality, direction, source, and light color (2006: 75); and movement that relates to a behavior commonly done by humans. It is intended to express feelings and thoughts (Bordwell and Thompson 2008: 132).

### **3.2 Contextual Theories**

Contextual theories explain contextual aspects of the object of analysis (Goodwin, 1992: 23).

### **3.2.1 Psychoanalytic Theory**

Psychoanalytic theory is developed by Sigmund Freud (1896-1939). He develops three main ideas namely the unconscious (id), the conscious mind (ego), and the preconscious (super-ego) (Minderop, 2010: 11). *Id* is the psychological energy of man who presses people to meet their basic needs, such as eating, sex, refusing pain, etc (Freud, 2002: 349). The instinct of the human unconscious is divided into two: life instinct or *Eros* and death instinct or *Thanatos* (2010: 27). *Ego* is the main leader to make decisions the human desire, but the *ego* has limitations, namely the realistic principle (2010: 21). *Superego* is the highest position in this stage. It has the morality and defines the good and bad things (2010: 22).

Defence mechanism is an ego defence caused by tremendous anxiety (2010: 30). There is some kind of defence mechanism in the "My Humps" music video, such as; *repression, denial, displacement, reaction formation, and compensation* (2010: 38)

Based on Lahey's book, Freud also describes five stages of psychosexual development; oral stage, anal stage, phallic stage, latency stage, and genital stage. However, this study only applies the genital stage in the discussion because singers and dancers in "My Humps" video music are about 20 years old.

Associated with the symbol in this stage, the writer also analyzes phallic symbol in the lyrics and music video "My Hump". The definition of phallic symbol according to *Literary Terms and Definitions* is the symbols that represent

of male potency, power, or domination or penis("Literary Terms and Definitions: P". Paragraph 100).

### **3.2.2 Interracial Ethnicity**

Henry L. Tischler states that, America has no ethnic who becomes the majority group. It consists of some of the most racially and ethnically diverse countries in the world.

## **4. RESEARCH METHODS**

### **4.1 Close Reading**

Close reading method is used to observe the existing text in the video.

### **4.2 Close Listening**

Close listening method helps the writer to observe the lyric, music, and sound heard.

### **4.3 Close Viewing**

It helps the writer to see the visual data or image that is shown in any parts of the image or this video clip.

## **5. ANALYSIS**

### **5.1 Tekstual Aspect**

In the textual aspect, the writer analyze "My Humps" music video by dividing into two parts: the poetic aspect and cinemactical aspect.

## 5.1.1 Poetic Aspect

### 5.1.1.1 Diction

"My Humps" song has some denotation and connotation words. The denotation meaning of *my humps* is the round raised part on a person's or animal's part. The connotation of *my humps* in this lyric means the part of the woman's sexy body (Fergie) or it may be referred to Fergie's genital where she always shows it like she is ready and want to have sex with the man.

### 5.1.1.2 Figurative Language

#### 1. Metaphor

*Milk* and *cocoa puff* in the sentence "I mix your milk wit my cocoa puff" mean female' and male's genital. Milk is indicated to white woman's vagina, while cocoa puff is indicated to black man's penis. Another example is in the sentence of "they buy me all these ices". This word indicates that they bought a lot of jewelry, because the shape of jewelry is indicated to shape of ice.

#### 2. Hyperbole

In the line "get you love drunk off my hump" Fergie said that her hump can make the man *drunk*. *Humps* do not contain alcohol or intoxicating drugs. It means that her humps (butts and breasts) can provide much pleasure.

#### 3. Personification

Followed by the lyric; "all their money got me wearin 'fly" in line 8 stanza

2. In this context, Fergie means that the money or wealth can make her feel very happy.







## 5.1.2 Cinematic Aspect

### 1. Setting

Visual	Audio
	 <p data-bbox="863 685 1185 719">i meet a girl down... at the dis co</p>

This scene shows close-up shot of the man in the disco. This is shown with dark lighting and disco music. In this section, the man (Apl.de.ap) said “he met that girl in the disco”. Based on this setting place, disco or club is an entertainment venue for the particular social class.

### 2. Costume

Visual	Audio
	 <p data-bbox="855 1435 1185 1469">Fan di andthen Don na</p>
	 <p data-bbox="855 1637 1185 1671">sev en jeans true re li gion</p>

Based on those scenes above, the audiences can conclude the expensive brand that is worn by the women. The scenes show the close up of a woman wearing a bracelet or jewelry and medium long shot of the woman wearing Se7en

Jeans brand, Fendi, Donna, Se7en Jeans, True Religion which are popular brands. From the accessories that is used by the women, this shows that they have luxurious lifestyle. The men also wear such as suit, hat, and sunglasses. It shows how the trend of fashion style in America in that time.

## 5.2. Contextual Aspect

### 5.2.1 Psychoanalytic Aspects

*Id* aspect appears on sexual desire in men who unconsciously want to spend their time and money with the woman and have sex with the woman. The men want to have sex with the woman without considering with their relationship. It is proved on the line "the boys they wanna sex me" line 2 stanza 7. The word "wanna" explains that men have sexual desire but they have never did sex with the woman, they only want it. This line is said by the woman consciously and it explains that there is *ego* in the woman who realizes the men's sex desire. This *ego* is based on reality so that the woman starts to be aware of men behavior. The *superego* aspect is the human principles that are based on morality that recognize the value of good or bad. Following to the sentence; "so do not pull on my hand, boy. You ain't my man, boy" in stanza 7, women do not regard the man as her boyfriend so they are just stranger and this is very bad to have sex with a stranger.

"My Humps" music video has some part showing the defense mechanism. First, *repression* shows when the man's behavior indicates that he want to have sex with Fergie but the fact is the man is not Fergie's boyfriend. This is proved in stanza 7 "The boys they wanna sex me. They always standing next to

me, always dancing next to me,.....you ain't my man, boy". Second, it seems in line 4 stanza 2 "they buy me all these iceys". This statement tells that there is a gift from the man to the woman. The woman considers that just keeping on dating is enough to make her happy and does not need to give a gift to attract her feelings. This is referred to a gesture of *denial*. Third, the *displacement* seems when the woman rejects the man's gifts, but then they switch to accept an invitation to spend time together. Fourth, *reaction formation* shows the attitude of women who pretend to accept the expensive gifts, but they also keep on taking. It proves in line "I say no, but they keep givin ', so I keep on takin' ". Fifth, an example of the attitude of *compensation* shows when the men who always show off their luxury goods to attract women in order to the woman want to have a date with them.

Psychosexual stage on My Humps music video is on the genital stage because the players (singers and dancers) of this music video are on average around 20 years old. This music video shows some of erotic parts of the woman and man's body. This is related to the sexual desire of women and the man in the "My Humps" music video. There are some scenes that show sexy body parts and how the man and the women in this music video is ready to do the genital stage;



The scenes above are clearly seen that the woman (Fergie) is touching her breast and her butt. Those are woman's sexy body part that can attract the

men. When she is holding and showing her sexy butt, it relates to the anal zone where it can make a pleasure for the men when having sex.



00:03:3000:03:01

In the first picture above, the woman poses under the man pointing the middle body of the man. She is showing the position of the male genital or penis. This indicates that the man is ready to have sex with the woman. In the second picture, it represents the readiness of a woman and her partner in a way to pass the genital stage. The focus of pleasure is in sexual intercourse. It shows how the woman puts her *humps* or *butt* in front of the man.



00:00:39

In addition, "My Humps" music video also shows the phallic symbol. For the example, in the picture below, there is a microphone necklace. It is taken by a close-up shot. As it is known that it has the similar shape with penis.

### 5.2.2 Interracial Aspect

"My Humps" music video generally tells about the relationship between a man and a woman that it orientated to the sexuality. Some elements contain in this

analysis are:sexual desire, wealth, psychosexual stage and interracial relationship.The *id* aspect is about their sexual desire, the *ego* is about their relationship, and the *superego* is the moral concept of the relationship. Besides, "My Humps" music video also has some scenes that express defense mechanism acts which are called as repression, denial, displacement, reaction formation, and compensation. Meanwhile, the writer also explains how the singers and the dancers in the music video go through the genital stage. In addition, there is interracial relationship aspect that occur in this music video.For the example the main singer, Will.i.am who is African-American man and then his partner, Fergie who is American woman. There are also several couples with different race such as Mexican-America and Asian-American people.

## 7. REFERENCES

- A&ETelevisionNetworks.Fergie Biography, from The Biography.com website. 24 February 2016.  
<<http://www.biography.com/people/fergie-253711#the-black-eyed-peas>>(8 August 2016).
- Bordwell, David. and Thompson, Kristin. Film Art an Introduction Eight Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill Companies, 2008.
- Freud, Sigmund. Pengantar Umum Psikoanalisis. Trans. Ira Puspitorini. Yogyakarta: IkonTeralitera, 2002.
- Holman, G. Hugh. A Handbook to Literature. New York: The Odyssey Press, 1960.
- Lahey, Benjamin B. Psychology an Introduction. 2nd Edition.Unites States of America: Wm. C. Brown Publishers, 1986.
- “Literary Terms and Definitions: P”. 14 March 2008.  
<[html://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit\\_terms\\_p.html](http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/lit_terms_p.html)> (8 August 2016).

Minderop, Albertine. Psikologi Sastra: Karya Sastra, Metode, Teori, dan Contoh Kasus. Jakarta: Yayasan Pustaka Obor Indonesia, 2010.

“Music Video of My Humps”. 16 June 2009.  
<[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEe\\_eraFWWs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iEe_eraFWWs)> (20 February 2016).

Pratista, Himawan. Memahami Film. Yogyakarta: HomerianPustaka, 2008.

“Music Sheet of My Humps”. 2009.  
<<http://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/my-humps-digital-sheet-music/20269756>>(30 August 2016).

“Music Video”. Cambridge Advanced Learner’s Dictionary. 3rd ed. 2008.

“Song Lyrics of My Humps”. 2009.  
<<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/blackeyedpeas/myhumps.html>>  
(20 February 2016).

Tischler, H. L. Introduction to Sociology 9th Edition. Belmont: Thomson Wadsworth, 2007.