

THE AUTHORS' CRITICISM OF VIETNAM WAR SOCIAL EFFECTS IN FIVE SONG LYRICS

Sylvie Meiliana

English Department, Faculty of Letters,
Universitas Nasional Jakarta
Sylvie_surya@yahoo.com

ABSTRAK

Penelitian menggambarkan peran karya sastra dalam mengungkapkan fenomena sosial, khususnya efek sosial yang disebabkan oleh terjadinya perang Vietnam. Penelitian menggunakan metode studi pustaka dengan menerapkan teori pengetahuan negatif oleh Theodor Adorno. Sumber data adalah lima buah lirik lagu berbahasa Inggris : 'Blowin' in the wind' and 'Master of War' oleh Bob Dylan, 'Fortunate son' oleh Creedence Clearwater Revival, 'Eve of Destruction' oleh Barry McGuire, dan the last 'I Feel Like I'm Fixin' To Die Rag' oleh Joe McDonald dan The Fish. Analisis dilakukan dalam tiga bagian, yaitu analisis arti denotatif dan konotatif, latar sosial, dan kritik pengarang terhadap dampak sosial yang disebabkan oleh perang Vietnam. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pertama, kelima lirik lagu mengungkapkan kondisi selama perang terjadi. Kedua, latar sosial mengungkap efek sosial yang diderita oleh masyarakat sebagai akibat perang. Ketiga, peran karya sastra dalam mengungkapkan kritik pengarang terhadap efek sosial akibat perang Vietnam. Akhirnya, dapat disimpulkan bahwa karya sastra sangat berperan dalam mengungkap fenomena sosial yang terjadi di dalam masyarakat.

Kata kunci: Efek sosial, Perang Vietnam, fenomena sosial, teori pengetahuan negatif, karya sastra, lirik lagu.

INTRODUCTION

Most people have a relationship with song lyrics because they are potential in helping to stimulate emotions, cognitions and memories. Song lyrics always hold meaning beyond the songs themselves. They deliver spirit of freedom in expressions, encouragements, inspirations, and educations. According to that condition, song lyrics appear to be the most important part of popular cultures. It becomes a vehicle of free expression, a means to shout out its own voice including feelings, fears and discontents (Donnelly, 2005:42).

It seems clear that several song lyrics appear to be the reflection of a socio-cultural context. It becomes a medium to spread a society's voice. Those risings are caused by several factors such as politics and a general hard international situation (Donnelly, 2). The World Wars, the fear of nuclear conflicts, the risings of capitalist economy, and living standards seem to be connected to the context. Thus, a great number of songs begin to have different purposes. They are not made for fun anymore, but they carry messages.

The series of the messages conveyed in song lyrics usually stimulate the listeners in every way. Some song lyrics are able to reach the anger inside people's hearts and minds. Several American song lyrics in early 1960 have succeeded in raising the anger inside the listeners. The anger has become a protest movement as the songs carry messages of disagreement over Vietnam War. In other words, those song lyrics have brought people of America together contributing to the protest against the Vietnam War. This has made the Anti Vietnam War movement unique in the history of the United States of America.

The Vietnam War has been known as the longest and exhausting war ever fought. The war caused such a catastrophic tragedy both physical and social impacts has involved North and South Vietnam. The North is called Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the South is called the Republic of Vietnam supported by the United States. The War not only affects those in battles but also leaves long – term effects on people in Vietnam and the United States of America. Many Vietnamese soldiers, civilians, children, and American veterans have been affected by the war. So many people have died and wounded. They have suffered from various negative effects of Vietnam War.

“There are persistent stereotypes about Vietnam veterans as psychologically devastated, bitter, homeless, drug-addicted people who had a hard time readjusting to society, primarily due to the uniquely divisive nature of the Vietnam War in the context of U.S. History” (Tripod: 2014)

The Vietnam War also has social effects on the people living in Vietnam. The war effect is far beyond a human common sense. The war crimes that have happened during the war are unbelievable. It begins with massacre at several locations such as My Lai, Hue, and Thay Vinh. The United States of America's involvement in Vietnam War results in never-ending bombings and military draft that has kept deploying forces mainly American young people. This phenomenon is one of the reasons that ignite the Vietnam War protest march.

The local people feel the effects of the use of chemical weapon in Vietnam. The chemical weapon “Agent Orange” considered as the most

harmful is originally sprayed to draw out Viet Cong armed forces from their hiding places and to undermine their fighting morale. However, it contaminates the agricultural land and most of Vietnamese farmers fail in making their living. Even years after the end of the war the effect of Agent Orange still remains. Many children in Vietnam still have been affected by the chemical operations carried out by the United States of America during the Vietnam War.

“Originally, the chemical was used to kill the forest and draw out the Vietcong, but its side effect is hard to ignore. Throughout the war, close to two million acres of agricultural land and forest were destroyed. The “Agent Orange” effect is still visible to human eyes. This toxic chemical also has the ability to cause mutation in human genes. Many children who were born in affected areas are deformed and have many disabilities.” (Phong Pham: 2014)

The U.S armed forces and The Viet Cong insurgents (The Liberation Army of South Vietnam/Vietnamese Communist) have been reported to be the parties who are responsible for such inhuman crimes. Hundreds, thousands, or even millions of people have lost their lives during this war. Actually, the war is supposed to harm the soldiers and leave the innocent unharmed, but the fact tells a different reality. An available study gives an account of the incident that makes civilians and children suffer heavy casualties.

“Clearly the available literature provides a very weak basis for an assessment of Vietnamese casualties during this war. The lowest estimate is 1,234,000 Vietnamese military consist of 222,000 Vietnamese soldiers, 666,000 communist soldiers (as note above he suggest that one-third of these deaths probably the civilians), 250,000 south Vietnamese civilians death from military operations, 39,000 civilians assassinated by communist forces, and 65,000 north Vietnamese civilian killed by American bombing. Lewy figure is only half the estimated.”(Hirschman, 1995:791)

Those factors have driven several musicians as Bob Dylan, Barry McGuire, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Joe McDonald and the Fish feel frustrated on what has happened. They find oppression, mistreatment, and destruction in the Vietnam War. This phenomenon makes Bob Dylan write his song “Blowin’ in the Wind” that generally emphasizes a direct challenge to American people to react to what has happened in the Vietnam War. He says that the song can be something to someone. However, people may interpret it differently.

"The song can be anything to anybody. It's critical and it's hard, this litany of questions about what's wrong with the world, OK; so if you're inclined, you know, to damn the establishment and the

prevailing authority, there's your song. If you're of a more positive nature, well, this song provides an answer, too, or it hits—it leans toward an answer. `The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind.'" (Dylan, 2014)

Each song writer has a different point of view in writing songs of the Vietnam War but the objective of the song is quite similar; they want the war to be stopped. Joe McDonald learns that the Vietnam War has been difficult. He witnesses a lot of casualties in the war. That experience inspires him to write "I Fell like I'm Fixin' to Die Rag". This song tells American people about the Vietnam War. The messages conveyed in its lyric contain criticism of Vietnam War effect on Vietnamese, American people and the involvement of the United States of America.

In order to reveal the authors' criticism I use the Negative Knowledge Model introduced by Theodor W. Adorno. The basic concept is one of the Marxism theories that include the sociology of literature. This study is the approach to *literary* works which involve society and social history.

Theodor W. Adorno, a Germany philosopher and social critics who was born on September 11, 1903 has presented The Negative knowledge. It is a knowledge that is able to undermine and negates a false condition. He argues that it cannot simply reflect social system, but it can act within that reality as an irritant which produces and indirect short of knowledge.

"Dialectics, the epitome of negative knowledge, will have nothing beside it; even a negative dialectics drags along the commandment of exclusiveness from the positive one, from the system. Such reasoning would require a nondialectical consciousness to be negated as finite and fallible." (Adorno, 1977:405)

Adorno says that art exists in the real world and has a function in it and yet, it is the aesthetic of what is the case. A literary work does not give a neatly shape of reflection and a knowledge of reality. It acts with reality to expose the social contradiction. The modernists represent reality in literary work as a coincidence of the past that have been fallen apart and anticipation of the future world. He emphasizes that Negative Knowledge describes the actual condition of the real world.

"Adorno holds that the validity of art is not fond with the social but in its autonomy and ultimately in its refusal of social..... Instead Adorno argues for a theory of *mimesis defined as the repetition of an autonomous from that seeks accidental rupture from its own past in the anticipation of an emancipated unknown future. For Adorno, the autonomy of artistic form makes it the negative knowledge of actual or real." (Makaryk, 1993:62)

The typical writings from modernist set a particular distance between a literary work and reality that allow the work to criticize reality. Although

Adorno doesn't describe precisely he does indicate as follows. Firstly, he mentions about the procedures and techniques which 'dissolve the subject matter and recognize' in modern art. Secondly, he says that the art is the essence and image of reality rather than its photographic reproduction. A figure of art comes from the artist (the subject) absorbing a creative process of what the artist perceives in reality. According to Adorno this critical distance comes from the fact that literature has its own 'formal laws'. The first law is the 'procedures and techniques' which is called in modern art 'dissolve the subject matter and reorganize it'. The second law is the essence and image of reality rather than its photographic reproduction. (Adorno, 1977:160)

Adorno enlightens the modernist writings by pointing out a different kind of relationships between the text and reality. It is a possibility of critical distance and negative knowledge. The Negativity of high modernism can express the idea of harmony negatively by embodying the contradictions and purity. This does not compromise on writing an inner structure that is the concern of his model. In his opinion art is negative knowledge that criticizes the administrated and antagonistic society, and it makes an uncompromising reprint of the society at the same time.

METHOD

In conducting this research I apply descriptive qualitative and the library research methods in order to collect related references and collect the data of five song lyrics by Bob Dylan, Barry McGuire, Joe McDonald and The Fish, and Creedence Clearwater Revival. First, I analyze the song lyrics' meanings to extract the messages and what the criticisms are conveyed within each song lyric. Second, I make a brief description of the social setting divided into two social settings in Vietnam and America during the Vietnam War. Third, I describe the Authors' criticism of Vietnam War social effects on Vietnam and America using The Negative Knowledge by Theodor W Adorno.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

The Analysis of Meaning

The first song "Blowin' in the Wind" delivers a series of question on what has happened during the Vietnam War. The song argues the necessity of the U.S. of America's involvement in Vietnam War. The second song "Master of War" describes how the U.S. Government uses all of their resources to destroy Vietnam. It also describes the horror of the American people in facing military draft. The third song "Fortunate Son" describes American men and women would do anything to help serve their country. This song represents the American low – class and labor – class people that

are unfortunate to be drafted in U.S military. The fourth song “Eve of Destruction” describes the destruction of the Vietnam War. The bombs and chemical weapons have caused destruction and killings in the Vietnam War. The fifth song “*I Feel Like I’m Fixin’ To Die Rag*” describes the willingness of the U.S. Government to win the war. It also describes that the American people joins the military draft but they have been sent to a certain death.

The Analysis of Social Setting

The social setting in the song lyrics shows the effects and consequence of the Vietnam War. The first song “Blowin in the Wind” describes the harmonic life and society in Vietnam will be wiped out by the war. The bombs and chemical weapons have caused heavy casualties. However, the U.S. Government ignores the war casualties and continues to fight in war. The second song “Master of War” describes the bombs and chemical weapons have destroyed the infrastructures in Vietnam. It also describes that military draft has created a deep concern to American parents. The third song “Fortunate Son” describes the rich's achievement in social and economic statuses that could put a man off being drafted. It also describes the practice of bombing campaigns and chemical weapon spraying which have destroyed everything in Vietnam. The fourth song “Eve of Destruction” describes the military draft that recruits young teenagers to fight in war. More than one million tons of bombs have been dropped and chemical weapons have been sprayed in Vietnam. The fifth song “I Feel Like I’m Fixin’ to Die Rag” describes the U.S. Government’s willingness to kill all of their enemies. The bombs and chemical weapons have killed a lot of innocents. The song also describes military draft during the Vietnam War becomes a popular trend.

The Analysis of Authors’ Criticism of Vietnam War Social Effects on Vietnam

The Vietnam War inflicts effects on Vietnam. Some of the effects in Vietnam are Vietnam’s infrastructures that have been destroyed, people of Vietnam living in poverty, and the war casualties. The Vietnam War effects not only happened in Vietnam but also have reached America. The numbers of American soldiers’ death and the military draft have created protest movement in the United States of America.

The Authors’ Criticism of Vietnam War social effects on Vietnam

Vietnam War is literally destroying Vietnam both physically and mentally. Vietnam has suffered great loss in the process. The war has destroyed countless buildings, cities, bridges, houses, and farmlands. This

catastrophic event makes the Vietnamese become homeless, jobless, starving and live in poverty because they have no capability in making their living. It is because every infrastructure has been destroyed by the bombs and their farmland has been contaminated by chemical weapons.

The Song “Blowin’ in the Wind” describes that many of Vietnamese suffered from the destruction in Vietnam. Their life has been ruined by the war and it makes them depressed in this situation. The song asks how the war is literally destroying life in Vietnam and realizes that it’s not worth it for the loss suffered by Vietnamese. The writer criticizes the effect of Vietnam War that has made Vietnamese people become jobless and starving. The poverty has spread throughout Vietnam because they are incapable to make a living in contaminated farm land.

Yes, and how many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry? (Dylan, line 19-20)

The Song “Master of War” describes how the U.S. Government builds a lot of things to destroy Vietnam. The writer criticizes that U.S Government should not be proud of the destruction of buildings, cities, houses, and farms that are the consequences of the war. The results of the massive destruction are Vietnam infrastructures obliterated; many people have been dead, fractured, wounded, jobless, homeless, and starving. It also causes most of Vietnamese fail to make their living because their farmlands are destroyed. As the result they live in poverty.

You that build the big guns
You that build the death planes
You that build all the bombs (Dylan, line 2-4)

In the Song “Master of War”, the writer criticizes what the U.S. Government has done nothing to preserve the world but only create any reasons to destroy Vietnam. They treat Vietnam like a toy which they can play whatever they want. The writer criticizes the U.S Government who has started the war and destroyed the infrastructure in Vietnam as they wish. The result just make more Vietnamese dead, homeless, jobless and starving because they could not make their living.

You that never done nothin'
But build to destroy
You play with my world
Like it's your little toy (Dylan, line 9-12)

The song “Fortunate Son” describes that the American people will follow and obey the U.S. Government to go to war. The writer describes they are willing to fight against God if it is necessary to accomplish the mission

given by U.S. Government. It shows the writer criticism of the U.S Government that they will assign their armed forces to destroy to fulfill their interest. The writer criticizes how American soldiers go to war without thinking about the consequences. They will destroy everything in Vietnam with all cost to win the war. The result is a fatal destruction in Vietnam's cities, residences, and farmlands. He criticizes the destruction in Vietnam during the War and the effects on its local people.

And when the band plays "Hail to the Chief"
Oh, they point the cannon at you, Lord (Revival, line 3-4)

In the song "Eve of Destruction", the writer criticizes the U.S. Government for making the Vietnamese frustrated and depressed because of the consequences of the Vietnam War. The writer criticizes the U.S Government by stating if the war starts in Vietnam there will be no place to hide because everything in Vietnam will be destroyed. The writer says that if Vietnam is destroyed, soon enough everything in it e.g. buildings, cities, residences, and farmlands will follow. And the people of Vietnam will be dead, jobless, homeless, and starving. Thus, their population will decrease. Those aspects indirectly describe the war effects on Vietnam.

But you tell me over and over and over again my friend,
Ah, you don't believe we're on the eve of destruction (McGuire, line 6-7)

The negative effect on Vietnam War becomes a consequence that the Vietnamese have to deal with. The war casualty of Vietnam War is suffered by combatants or non combatants. Vietnam War produces heavy casualties which have increased from the first day it begins until it reaches millions. The victims are the North Vietnamese soldiers as well as South Vietnamese, American soldiers, the innocent Vietnamese civilians, and children. The situation above is described in the song "Blowin' in the Wind" which criticizes the number of deaths in Vietnam War. The U.S. Government ignores the numbers of Vietnamese and American casualties that have increased exponentially but they keep continuing the war.

Yes, 'n' how many deaths will it take till he knows
That too many people have died? (Dylan, line 21-22)

In the song "Master of War", the author criticizes the U.S. Government who has not tried something to prevent the war. They are hiding in a secure place far from the battlefield and sitting back while the war casualties has inflicted numbers of death. He criticizes the U.S Government who is responsible for the million deaths of Vietnamese in the war.

Then you set back and watch
While the death count gets higher (Dylan, line 27-28)

In the song “Eve of Destruction”, the writer says that the number of deaths in Vietnam has increased dramatically. In the Vietnam War more than one million tons of bombs have been dropped. This is a phenomenon when massive deaths are inevitable if people start to declare war. The writer criticizes that all of the destruction will lead to death.

There'll be no one to save with the world in a grave,(McGuire,
line 11)

The song “Eve of Destruction” describes the heavy casualties on Vietnam War. The writer criticizes the meaningless deaths that have been caused by the war. The writer argues that if one declares a war, even in beautiful and peaceful place will be full of dead bodies. The writer also criticizes the unnecessary Vietnam War casualties suffered by both Vietnamese soldiers and peasants.

And even the Jordan river has bodies floatin', (McGuire, line 5)

The song “I Feel Like I’m Fixin’ to Die Rag” tells that the U.S Government determines to win the war by killing those Vietnamese Communists. The writer criticizes the U.S. Government who considers that the Communists are good if they’re all dead. It means that if those Vietnamese Communists are still alive, they are all bad. It is because Communism is not an area that the U.S. Government is willing to compromise. The writer criticizes the willingness of U.S. Government to wipe to every last one of them out by series of bombing campaigns and military operations. It can be seen in line:

Your big chance has come at last.

Now you can go out and get those reds

'Cause the only good commie is the one that's dead

And you know that peace can only be won

When we've blown 'em all to kingdom come (Chumbawamba, *line 30-34*)

The next negative effects on Vietnam War are the number of bombs that has been dropped and the chemical weapons that have been sprayed in Vietnam. Those have destroyed everything during the war. The never ending bombing has reformed the entire shape of Vietnam. From city to ruins, from farm to bushes, and life to death those factors have seriously affected the Vietnamese. They used to be healthy but after the bombing and chemical weapon operation they are dead. The Vietnamese people who have survived the bombs and chemical weapon operation are not completely saved from the effects of bombs and chemical weapons. They have to fight against the radioactive effects caused by the bombs and chemical weapons. Many children born in affected areas are deformed and have many disabilities. It is

also believed to have affected a new generations of Vietnamese, creating a wide range of disabilities among the children and grandchildren of those who have been exposed. The condition Vietnam during the bombing campaigns and the chemical warfare is described in the song “Blowin’ in the Wind”. The song shows that the never ending bombing have lasted for years in Vietnam. The writer states most casualties are caused by bombing campaigns and chemical weapon spraying in the Vietnam War. The author criticizes the use of bombs and chemical weapons which has long – run effects on Vietnam people. He criticizes when the use of bombs and chemical weapons will be banned. It can be seen in line:

Yes, and how many times must the cannonballs fly
Before they are forever banned? (Dylan, line 5-6)

In the song “Master of War” the writer states the use of bombs and chemical weapons in the Vietnam War. The America Air Forces have conducted series of bombing campaigns. They deploy numerous bomb carrier planes armed with a lot of bombs and chemical weapons which bring the destruction to Vietnam infrastructures and its people. The author implicitly criticizes the use of bombs and chemical weapons that have harmed a lot of things. The survivors will live with the long-run effects of the chemical weapon contamination. Furthermore the author is worried that the chemical weapon will bring about effects on Vietnam people and their future generations. It can be seen in line:

You that build the death planes
You that build all the bombs (Dylan, line 3-4)

In the song “Eve of Destruction”, the writer criticizes the use of bombs and chemical weapons in the Vietnam War. He says there will be no place to escape because everything in Vietnam is destroyed. He criticizes the U.S Government who has dropped a million tons of bombs and more than 19 million gallons of herbicides over 4.5 million acres of land during the war. This is a phenomenon when the great numbers of death is inevitable if people start to use bombs and chemical weapons. The author indirectly criticizes the long-run effects of the chemical weapon that have contaminated Vietnamese at that time. Their future generations will inherit the effects. It can be seen in the line:

If the button is pushed, there's no running away,
There'll be no one to save with the world in a grave, (McGuire, line 11-12)

In the Song “Eve of Destruction”, the writer shows his criticism of the use of bombs and chemical weapons. The bombs dropped and chemical weapons spraying in Vietnam War destroyed a lot of buildings, bridges,

farms, houses in Vietnam. Those aspects of life in Vietnam are in balance before the war. It is recorded that during the war there is an Operation called “Rolling Thunder” executed by U.S Armed force that have destroyed a lot of things in Vietnam. There is also Hanoi Christmas Bombing in 1972 which has devastated Vietnam and the neighbor countries. He also criticizes the effects of chemical weapons that will affect Vietnamese next generations.

The eastern world it is explodin',
Violence flarin', bullets loadin', (McGuire, line 1-2)

In the song “I Feel Like I’m Fixin’ To Die Rag” the writer describes the U.S. Government that spent a lot of money in bombing and chemical weapon operation during the Vietnam War. The use of bombs and chemical weapons are great. The effect of bombing operation is still happening after the war. There are a lot of bombs dropped in Vietnam War which fail to explode. Vietnamese farmers or children have unintentionally detonated these bombs which killed them instead. The long – run effects of chemical weapon will also affect the Vietnamese future generations. They can be probably born with defects. The writer ironically criticizes how the U.S. Military forces will endanger the lives of the innocents, Vietnamese peasant, and children to win the war. It is shown in line:

There's plenty good money to be made
By supplying the Army with the tools of its trade,
But just hope and pray that if they drop the bomb,
They drop it on the Viet Cong (Chumbawamba, line 17-20)

The song “I Feel Like I’m Fixin’ To Die Rag” criticizes the U.S. Government and the U.S. armed forces who intend to destroy the declared enemy, North Vietnam by series of bombing campaigns. The writer shows that the U.S. Government is willing to drop a lot of bombs to annihilate the entire North Vietnamese Communist if it is the only way to win the war. It is reported that U.S. military have confirmed that the bombs dropped during the Vietnam War exceed the number of 6,162,000 million tons. The author criticizes the bomb effects on Vietnam people and their land. Moreover he criticizes the effects of chemical weapons that possibly contaminate Vietnam people for years to come.

And you know that peace can only be won
When we've blown 'em all to kingdom come (*Chumbawamba, line 33-34*)

The Authors’ Criticism of Vietnam War Social Effects on America

The Vietnam War effects have also reached America, the soldiers are the ones who have suffered most from the effect while the society protest against the U.S. Government to stop the war. The American soldiers who have served in Vietnam dominated by teenagers who had been recruited by

military draft during the Vietnam War. An estimated 640,000 American soldiers are teenagers from the military draft. The draft unfortunately aims the poor and the labor-class teenagers in America. The rich American teenagers are able to avoid the military draft with their money and connections. The condition in America during the military draft is described in the song “Blowin’ in the Wind”. It raises the perpetual question of how much sorrow one should go through before every man in America is given respect. The writer criticizes the necessity of the life experience that American teenagers should have undergone in order to be considered a man. The writer is questioning the U.S Government whether the war should be part of it. The writer criticizes the intention of American pro – war people who try to gain respect and equality from the public by joining the armed forces to go to war. This attitude is reflected in American society when the U.S. military draft recruits teenagers to be soldiers.

How many roads must a man walk down
before you can call him a man (Dylan, line 1-2)

In the song “Master of War”, the writer criticizes the U.S. Government who has armed the youth. Implicitly the writer criticizes The U.S. Government who has conducted military draft across the country. They recruit American youth to be soldiers during Vietnam War from lower – class and poor people. And the U.S. Government asks them to fight their war while the U.S. Government not in the battlefield.

You put a gun in my hand
And you hide from my eyes (Dylan, line 13-14)

The song “Master of War” describes how the U.S. Government has created a deep concern of fear. The greatest fear that people could never be forgotten by American couples is fear to have children. They are afraid if they have children, their sons will only become soldiers used by the U.S. Government as a tool to fight in war. Dylan also describes American future generations who have not been born are being threatened by the U.S. Government. It is a criticism of the writer on the U.S. military draft during the Vietnam War.

You've thrown the worst fear
That can ever be hurled
Fear to bring children
Into the world
For threatening my baby
Unborn and unnamed (Dylan, line 33-38)

The song “Fortunate Son” tells about what can be achieved in social and economic statuses. The rich and senators are the types of people who

achieved those statuses. Wealth is used as an example of social status in the song. The writer criticizes the unfairness of the military draft in America during the Vietnam War era that there are several regulations and conditions that could put a man off being drafted. The rich Americans have such privileges that protect them from being drafted. They can buy the official with their money to avoid the drafting process or they can have their family doctor to release a letter of deferment because of being physically incapable of military duty.

Some folks are born silver spoon in hand
Lord, don't they help themselves, oh
But when the tax men come to the door
Lord, the house look a like a rummage sale, yes (Revival, line 9-12)

In the song "Fortunate Son", the writer describes the unfortunate sons of America, who have not inherited wealth or privilege to protect them. The draft is likely to send them off to the jungles of Vietnam to fight in war and maybe die in a seemingly pointless war against an intractable enemy. The writer criticizes the U.S Government, senators, millionaires who have got America entangled in Vietnam, but it is the sons of the powerless disproportionately poor, black, and brown who have to pay the consequences. The writer criticizes how the U.S Government greedily recruits soldiers using military draft.

Yeah, some folks inherit star spangled eyes
Ooh, they send you down to war, Lord
And when you ask them, "How much should we give?"
Oh, they only answer, more, more, more, oh (Revival, line 17-20)

In the song "Eve of Destruction" the writer criticizes of the military draft that recruits young teenagers, who ineligible to vote in election, to fight the war. This is a condition where the writer does not agree with the military draft that has been practiced during the Vietnam War.

You're old enough to kill but not for votin',
You don't believe in war, but what's that gun you're totin', (McGuire,
line 3-4)

The song "I Feel Like I'm Fixin' to die Rag" describes American youth, particularly those who are willingly drafted. The writer challenges and encourages them to question the involvement of the United States of America in the war. The writer criticizes the American teenagers who are drafted without any resistance. He argues if the U.S. Government is still capable to drop more soldiers the Vietnam War will still continue. The song describes the condition of Vietnam War that has forced the U.S. Government to recruit

any capable American men to fight in war. The writer criticizes the necessity of dropping more soldiers in Vietnam War.

Well, come on all of you, big strong men,
Uncle Sam needs your help again.
He's got himself in a terrible jam
Way down yonder in Vietnam (Chumbawamba, line 1-4)

The song "I Feel like I'm Fixin' to Die Rag" describes that the military draft during the Vietnam War has become a popular phenomenon. It has required the entire American young students to put down their books, stop to study, and start to join the military draft. The writer sarcastically criticizes the U.S Government who has put American soldiers in a war. The writer says that American soldiers have a lot of fun; the word 'fun' sarcastically refers to the war. This line is a criticism of the U.S. Government who recruits American teenagers to be soldiers and sends them to Vietnam.

So put down your books and pick up a gun,
We're gonna have a whole lotta fun (*Chumbawamba, line 5-6*)

The song "I Feel like I'm Fixin' to Die Rag" describes the social condition in America during military draft. The writer criticizes the American parents who enroll their boys in the military draft. They are dressed and armed as soldiers. The writer describes this social phenomenon as a competition of patriotism that has become a social trend throughout America in Vietnam War era. He states that American parents are racing to have their sons killed in Vietnam War. He also criticizes American parents to stop this social trend and to reevaluate what they have done by sending their sons off to war. The writer assumes if U.S. Armed Forces are still capable to drop a lot more soldiers the Vietnam War will never end.

Come on mothers throughout the land,
Pack your boys off to Vietnam.
Come on fathers, and don't hesitate
To send your sons off before it's too late.
And you can be the first ones in your block
To have your boy come home in a box (*Chumbawamba, line 43-48*)

The Vietnam War has also affected American soldiers. Their death count is unbelievably accepted by the American people. Around 58,000 Americans are dead or still missing and over 150,000 are wounded in the battlefield. Many Americans have been affected by the war. According to data account from officials the deaths of American soldiers are classified into two categories. The first category is "hostile death" which reaches at amount

of more than 47,000 soldiers and “non – hostile death” which reaches more than 10,000 soldiers (Tripod, 2014)The condition above is explained in the song “Blowin’ in the Wind”, the writer indirectly criticizes the number of deaths of American soldiers in Vietnam has increased. He criticizes the U.S. Government not paying attention to the numbers of American casualties.

Yes, 'n' how many deaths will it take till he knows
That too many people have died? (Dylan, line 21-22)

The song “Blowin’ in the Wind” criticizes the U.S. Government who has dropped American soldiers off to Vietnam War to fight for in war, instead of allowing them to do what they please. Dylan also criticizes the U.S. Government for ignoring the casualties of American soldiers in Vietnam. And for proceeding to recruit and send soldiers off to Vietnam.

Yes, 'n' how many times can a man turn his head,
Pretending he just doesn't see? (Dylan, line 13-14)

In the song ”Master of War”, the writer criticizes the U.S. Government who are hiding in a secure place far from the battlefield while the blood of young American soldiers that flows out from their bodies in the battlefield. Dylan criticizes the U.S Government who has been neglected the number of deaths suffered by American forces that have increased in Vietnam War. But it seems that the U.S. Government doesn’t care about it. and the U.S. Government continues to draft more teenagers.

You hide in your mansion
While the young people's blood
Flows out of their bodies
And is buried in the mud (Dylan, line 29-32)

In the song “Eve of Destruction”, the writer criticizes the U.S Government by stating that the American pride is decreasing by the involvement in the Vietnam War. It is a war that they don’t urgently need to fight and this phenomenon will bring disgrace to the United States of America in the world, with the number of deaths that has increased from the beginning of the Vietnam War. The writer also criticizes the U.S. Government and U.S military because they don’t publish the American casualties during Vietnam War as a tribute to those who has lost their lives serving their country until 1982 when the Vietnam War Victim Commemorate Wall has been constructed.

The poundin' of the drums, the pride and disgrace,
You can bury your dead, but don't leave a trace,(McGuire, line 28-29)

In the Song “I Feel Like I’m Fixin to Die Rag”, the writer mentions that the American soldiers should have not questioned the war cause. The writer criticizes the U.S Government who has sent their American soldiers to

a certain death. The result is the number of deaths of American soldiers that is getting higher as long as the war continues. It can be seen in line:

Well there ain't no time to wonder why,
Whoopee! we're all gonna die (*Chumbawamba, line 55-56*)

Furthermore the writer criticizes the U.S Government about how useless the American soldiers live because they are killed by their bombs. As a firsthand experience in Vietnam War the writer has seen so many American soldiers being killed by 'Friendly Fire'. This line is an expression of the American bombing forces who have dropped the bombs to their own soldiers.

But just hope and pray that if they drop the bomb,
They drop it on the Viet Cong (*Chumbawamba, line 19-20*)

The Vietnam War has created distrust in almost all American people toward their own government. The United States of America involvement in the Vietnam War leads to the idea of the protest movement to stop the Vietnam War. I will analyze the Authors' criticisms that represent the protest against the Vietnam War. They are shown by several lines within the song lyrics. Those lines have inspired the protesters in the entire America. In the song "Blowin' In the wind" the writer states a simple metaphorical truth that the answers are all around us and easy to perceive if we try. It describes that the answers are not always easy to grasp like things cast upon the wind, but it is not impossible for those who have committed. It emphasizes that the answers of all the reasons behind the Vietnam War is in the hands U.S Government. It is up to them to stop the war or make it worse. Yet again the writer wants to make the listeners stop the Vietnam War. These following lines ignite the protest movement that they have to stop the war.

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind,
The answer is blowin' in the wind (*Dylan, line 23-24*)

In the song "Master of War" the writer criticizes the involvement of the U.S. Government during the Vietnam War. He expresses his anger to the U.S. Government by stating that they are just like Judas of old who is a deceiver and liar. The U.S Government tries to assure the people of America that Vietnam War can be won. The U.S Government creates a false belief that the war can be won while many American soldiers are dead in the battlefield. The writer has seen that the U.S. Government is trembling to learn that they are losing too many soldiers against North Vietnam forces. The writer knows that he has been deceived all along because the in fact the Vietnam War has inflicted too many casualties and loss. These messages have inspired the protesters to march and stop the Vietnam War.

Like Judas of old
You lie and deceive
A world war can be won
You want me to believe
But I see through your eyes
And I see through your brain (Dylan, line 17-22)

In addition the writer mentions that he directly curses the U.S. Government die soon. The writer will delightfully walk the casket from behind. He will stand at the grave as an act of relief that those 'masters of war' are dead. He stands at the U.S. Government grave to make sure that they are dead. These lines ignite the anti-war protesters to be more active in protesting the U.S. Government.

And I hope that you die
And your death will come soon
I'll follow your casket
On a pale afternoon
And I'll watch while you're lowered
Down to your deathbed
And I'll stand over your grave
'Til I'm sure that you're dead (Dylan, line 57-64)

The song "Fortunate son" criticizes the military draft for creating a U.S armed forces that is disproportionately composed of minorities and the poor. It is an incredibly angry statement to the condition that has happened in United States of America during the military draft. These unfortunate sons lacked the resources to obtain educational or medical deferments. This situation is quite common among the rich draftees. This song criticizes the U.S military draft regulations that make the labor – class and the poor Americans unable to avoid the draft. These lines show the discrimination in American society during the Vietnam War. However, these lines are able to ignite the protesters to stop Vietnam War.

It ain't me, it ain't me
I ain't no Senator's son
It ain't me, it ain't me
I ain't no fortunate one, no
It ain't me, it ain't me
I ain't no millionaire's son, no, no
It ain't me, it ain't me
I ain't no fortunate one, no (Revival, line 5-8)

The song “Eve of Destruction” addresses the influence of American society and the U.S. Government’s inability to solve any problems. McGuire criticizes the U.S. government for doing nothing to understand the different groups of people that rally and protest against the Vietnam War. He also criticizes the U.S Government for having their time to conduct space shuttle program while the realistic problem lies in American soil. The song states that march alone will not be able to break through the involvement of the United States of America in Vietnam War. The song has also awoken the passion of American people to join the Anti – war movement.

Then take a look around to Selma, Alabama!
Ah, you may leave here, for four days in space,
But when your return, it's the same old place, (McGuire, line 25-27)
Handful of Senators don't pass legislation,
And marches alone can't bring integration,
When human respect is disintegratin',
This whole crazy world is just too frustratin' (McGuire, line 18-21)

The song “I Feel like I’m Fixin’ to Die Rag” criticizes those American soldiers for having no idea on what they are fighting for. The writer criticizes the American soldiers who willingly accept the draft without resistance. They are being dressed, armed and then deployed to Vietnam to fight in war. He adds that taking step into a Vietnam and fight the war is a sacred duty. This is a criticism of the necessity of the U.S. Government’s involvement in the Vietnam War. One thing they have to consider is killing the Viet Cong. In the last stanza, the writer describes that those American soldiers have been sent to a certain death. These lines become a symbol of protest against the Vietnam War. The war has caused the loss of many Americans lives in vain and soon the song becomes the Anthem of the Anti – war movement.

And it's one, two, three,
What are we fighting for?
Don't ask me, I don't give a damn,
Next stop is Vietnam;
And it's five, six, seven,
Open up the pearly gates,
Well there ain't no time to wonder why,
Whoopee! we're all gonna die (Chumbawamba, line 49-56)

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the five song lyrics, it comes to the conclusion that the authors' criticism of the Vietnam War effects is revealed in the five songs. The first song "Blowin' in the Wind" criticizes the necessity of America's involvement in the Vietnam War. Bob Dylan criticizes the use of bombs and chemical weapons, the Vietnam War casualties, and the military draft. He questions about the Vietnam War effects in his song lyrics. The second song "Master of War" criticizes the U.S Government's involvement in Vietnam War. Bob Dylan states it is the U.S. Government who is responsible for the casualties in the Vietnam War. Bob Dylan also criticizes the use of bombs and chemical weapons during the conflict. He also cites the military draft that makes American parents fear to lose their children in Vietnam War. The third song "Fortunate son" criticizes the U.S Government for destroying Vietnam's infrastructures. John Fogerty states the socioeconomic aspect which affects the military draft. He mentions that only the labor – class and poor people who have been drafted during the Vietnam War. The fourth song "Eve of Destruction" criticizes the U.S government for the destruction and casualty in the Vietnam War. Barry McGuire states Vietnamese will suffer the long-run effects of chemical weapon. The fifth song "I Feel like I'm Fixin' To Die Rag" criticizes the U.S Government for recruiting American teenagers in military draft. Joe McDonald criticizes those American parents for sending their boys off to Vietnam. Joe McDonald criticizes the necessity of U.S government's involvement in Vietnam War.

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