

# The Psychological Aspect of Woman as Reflected in “Wrecking Ball” Music Video

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## ABSTRACT

“Wrecking Ball” is a song that sung by American singer, Miley Cyrus. The lyric tells about a woman who feel so sad, depressed and frustrated. Wrecking ball symbolizes the phallic symbolism. The purpose of the study is to know the content of music video and to analyze the elements of poetry inside the lyric of Wrecking Ball. The study used intrinsic and extrinsic theories and library research method to compile the data. Library research is used to get literary and psychological theories. The finding of the study is the connotation of Love, Sex, and Psychosexual Stage inside of Wrecking Ball.

Keywords: wrecking ball, music video, psychoanalysis

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## 1. Introduction

Music video is a filmed or videotaped rendition of a recorded song, often portraying musicians performing the song or including visual images interpreting the lyrics (*The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language*, 2000).

Most singers in the world using music video to introduce their song to be more attractive and acceptable in the market. But, only a few of them who become phenomenal, one of them is Miley Cyrus music video for Wrecking Ball song which published in 2013. Miley Cyrus is American singer who brave showing a controversial music video. Miley seems to have asserted a change inside her, from Disney teenager artist has changed to be an adult female figure. Yet, she is not only showing her sexiness in her music video, she also tries to tell people what the content of the song.

The writer chooses “Wrecking Ball” because the music video is very interesting to analyze. The song meaning in the music video is so deep, but also contains of hot issue about Miley’s experience with her ex-boyfriend. While the music video is full of controversy which shows how Miley’s licking the sladgehammer and swinging naked on a wrecking ball.

## 2. Paraphrase lyrics

The lyrics told about woman who felt so sad, depressed and frustrated because of her relationship. The relationship was not only filled with love, but also sex. She felt the pain of sexual violence. Yet, on the other side, she was still need the sex. She was very confused in the middle of relationship like that.

She didn't want her man to blame the breakup on her. She was never going to get over him, because she would always want the man and also the sex, though it very hurts her. For her, the relationship was a lie but also her part of life. She was always definitely putting high the man into it, but he didn't do the same way. She couldn't hold back her feelings anymore. Then, she realized that all the things that she did turn out to be in vain.

Finally, she left her man who had ruined her life, but she changed and stronger than ever. But, she hoped that someday her man realized about her feeling—how much she loved him, because her man was still inside her heart.

## 3. Literary Review

### 3.1 Intrinsic Aspects

There are two kinds of intrinsic aspects that the writer used to analyze the music video, namely elements of poetry and cinematography. First, the elements of poetry:

#### 3.1.1 Diction

According to Holman in *A Handbook to Literature*, diction on poetry is words chosen for supposedly inherent poetic quality (1960: 361). There are two kinds of diction: denotation and connotation. Denotation is the specific, exact meaning of a word (1960: 134). For example, "Wrecking Ball" is a heavy steel ball, common used for demolishing large buildings. Meanwhile the connotation is the cluster of implications that words or phrases may carry with them, as distinguished from their denotative meanings (1960: 105). For example, "Wrecking Ball" connotes the genital on male.

In this study, the writer also uses the phallic symbol to analyze the connotation. As stated in *Literary Terms and Definitions: P* phallic symbol has a meaning,

A phallic symbol is a sexualized representation of male potency, power, or domination--particularly through some object vaguely reminiscent of the penis. Common phallic symbols include sticks, staves, swords, clubs, towers, trees, missiles, and rockets ("Literary Terms and Definitions: P". Paragraph 100).

#### 3.1.2 Figurative Language

Figurative language is not literal; the meaning is not truly meaning of the word or phrase itself, but a different meaning implied by using an analogy or illustrate. Holman describes that,

Figurative language is intentional departure from the normal order, construction, or meaning of words in order to gain strength and freshness of expression, to create a pictorial effect, to describe by analogy, or to discover and illustrate similarities in otherwise dissimilar things (1960: 202).

There are some elements of figurative language:

1. Simile is a figure of speech in which similarity between two objects is directly expressed (1960: 460).
2. Metaphor is an implied analogy that identifies one object with another and ascribes to the first one or more, with emotional or imaginative qualities associated with the second (1960: 281).
3. Hyperbole is a figure of speech in which conscious exaggeration is used without the intent of literal persuasion (1960: 231).
4. Symbolism is the use of one object to represent or suggest another; or, in literature, the use of symbols in writing, particularly the serious and extensive use of such symbols (1960: 479).

Second, the elements of cinematography. As stated in *Memahami Film*, besides recording a scene, a movie maker must control and manage how the scene is taken such as the distance, height, angle, duration, etc (Pratista, 2008: 89). In this study, the writer only uses the camera distance to analyze the music video. Pratista describes the distance means the dimension of distance between the camera and the object in the frame (2008: 104). There are seven kinds of shot in the distance:

1. Extreme long shot is the distance between the camera and the object in this kind of shot is so long that the physical appearance of the object is small (2008: 105).
2. Long shot is the physical appearance of the object can be seen clearly but the background around it is still dominant (2008: 105).
3. Medium long shot is the body of the object only appears from the knee until head and the body is relatively balanced with the environment around (2008: 105).
4. Medium shot shows the object from the waist to the head so the expression of the face begins to appear (2008: 105).
5. Medium close-up shot shows the object from the chest to the head and it is usually used for shooting normal dialogue scenes (2008: 105).
6. Close up shows a part of the object such as face, hand, foot, or other parts to show the expression in a more detailed way (2008: 105).
7. Extreme Close-Up is the closest shot that can show the details of part of an object, for example, part of a face such as ears, eyes, or nose (2008: 105).

### **3.2 Extrinsic Aspects**

#### **3.2.1 Theory of Psychoanalysis**

Psychoanalysis is theory of personality by Sigmund Freud. It shows about mental functioning and development. Brenners in *Psikologi Sastra* defines,

Psychoanalysis is a scientific discipline which was begun some sixty years ago by Sigmund Freud ... What we call psychoanalytic theory, therefore, is a body of hypotheses concerning mental functioning and development in a man. ... It is a part of general psychology and it comprises what are by far the most important contributions that have been made to human psychology to date (Minderop, *op.cit.*, 11)

According to Lahey in *Psychology an Introduction*, Freud classifies three types of personality structure: Id, Ego, and Superego. Id is the inborn part of the unconscious mind that uses the primary process to satisfy its need and that acts according to the pleasure principle (Lahey, 1986: 427). The ego operates according to the reality principle. This means that it holds the id in check until a safe and realistic way has been found to satisfy its motives (Lahey, 1986: 427). Superego is the part of the mind that opposes the desires of the id by

enforcing moral restrictions and by striving to attain a goal of “ideal” perfection. (Lahey, 1986: 429).

The theory of personality is a development theory, which formed by some developmental stages from infancy to adulthood. Lahey explains that,

Freud’s theory of personality is a developmental theory. He believes that our personalities are formed as we pass through a series of developmental stages from infancy to adulthood. The developmental stages represent a shifting of the primary outlet of id energy, particularly sexual energy, from one part of the body to another. For this reason, they are called psychosexual stages (1986: 431).

There are five stages of psychosexual development:

1. Oral Stage (birth to one year), the infant’s earliest source of id gratification is the mouth. The infants gets pleasure from sucking and swallowing (Lahey, 1986: 431).
2. Anal Stage (one to three years), in which gratification is focused on the anus (Lahey, 1986: 431).
3. Phallic Stage (three to six years), in which gratification is focused on the genitals. The child begins to enjoy touching his or her own genitals and develops a sexual attraction to the parent of the opposite sex (Lahey, 1986: 431).
4. Latency Stage (six to eleven years) is that period of life from about age 6 to in which sexual interest is relatively inactive (Lahey, 1986: 432).
5. Genital Stage (eleven years on), there is renewed interest in obtaining sexual pleasure through the genitals (Lahey, 1986: 432).

#### **4. Analysis**

##### **4.1 Intrinsic Aspects**

In “Wrecking Ball” lyric there is diction that described woman’s emotions. Every word has different meaning for each reader. There are two kinds of diction that used in this lyrics, which called denotation and connotation.

##### **4.1.1 Diction:**

1. Denotation and Connotation

In a real world, “Wrecking Ball” is a heavy steel ball, common used for demolishing large buildings—as shown on the picture left below. Meanwhile in the music video, “Wrecking Ball” portrays the male genital.



Sledgehammer is common used to destroy something that hard. Yet, in this music video, the sledgehammer is connotation of masculine penis. From this picture below, she kisses the sladgehammer softly, she looks very enjoy to do that.



#### 4.1.2 Figurative Language:

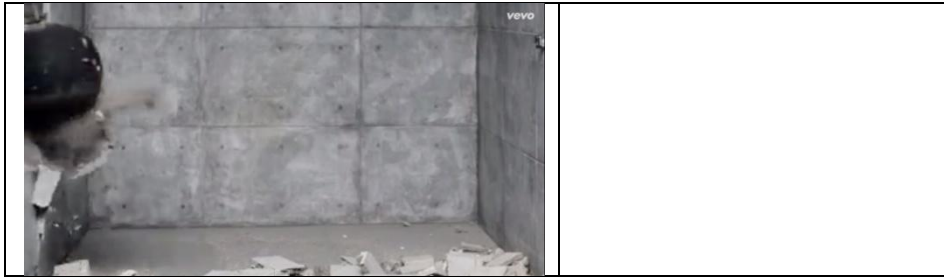
##### 1. Simile

Visual	Audio
	<p data-bbox="874 1070 1198 1140"><i>I came in like a wrecking ball</i></p>

“I” in the lyric, means for a man. So the man came in like a wrecking ball which means that he has taken the virginity of the woman. As in the picture, the wrecking ball is a man and the wall is the vagina of woman, she portrays the song into the music video.

##### 2. Metaphor

Visual	Audio
	<p data-bbox="874 1731 1198 1798"><i>All I wanted was to break your walls</i></p>



“Break your walls” means the man try to penetrate the vaginal wall of woman as shown in two pictures above, which the wrecking ball begins to penetrate until the walls are wrecked.

### 3. Hyperbole

“Wrecking Ball” is also hyperbole, because unreasonable exist a big male genital like that.

### 4. Symbolism

“Wrecking Ball” symbolizes phallic symbolism, because the shape is like a “ball” which is intended for male genital.

## 4.2 Extrinsic Aspects

From intrinsic elements analysis above the writer classified the character of woman into several aspects of personality, namely Id, Ego, Superego and Psychosexual Stage.

### 4.2.1 Love and Sex

From “Wrecking Ball” lyrics, the aspects of Id, Ego and Superego contain in character of woman. The Id is sexual desire, like Freud on his psychoanalysis theory that Id is only to indulge the desire without considering whether it is good or bad. *We clawed* means sexual violence, which the woman and the man are so enjoy with claw each other. The woman feels like *under his spell* which doesn’t think about anything else includes the pain of sexual violence. *Walked away* tells that the woman want to walk away from that way. But, she will always want to have sex with the man again and again, as noted in the lyrics: *wanted you. Let me in* means that let the man to have sex with her. She knows that her relationship is a lie and hurt so much for her, but why is she still survive with the condition like that? The only thing that she always want is to have sex with the man, though she very hurts. It shows about the Id, because she only follows what she want without thinking of anything else, or whether it is good or bad for her.

The aspect of Ego is love. Ego works on the principle of reality, which seeks to satisfy the sexual desires of the Id in that corresponding ways. At first lyrics, shown the sexual violence is exciting, but eventually the woman feel pain and want to stop it. The woman begins to fulfill her sexual desire with consider the reality. Like on the lyrics: *walked away*, in the perspective of Ego means she want to walk and go away from the man, though that she always also said *wanted you* which means that she wants the man in her life, and *let me in*—let to love the man with an affection. She realizes that the relationship is bad for her. So, she doesn’t let the man for wins again. Although she never wants to breakup, but she do.

Superego is moral concept of love. Good love is treat people right, which filled by an affection and sincerity. But in this lyric, there is a damage of moral concept of love, because the relationship have no moral which filled by the sexual violence by the man. It makes the woman get hurt, so the value of love becomes broken and meaningless. This is not suitable with social norms. The good love is supposed to be filled with an affection and love each other, rather than filled with sexual violence.

Sex influences inside the woman self. One side, she feels the pain because of sexual violence, but on the other side, she also needs the sex. This leads to the main conflict which Id met with Superego. The Id is expressed that she wants and needs to have sex, but the Superego is, she is in pain and feel that is not like supposed to be. She also feel guilty if constantly do it without thinking about the worse impact that will happen. It all causing the character of woman to depressed and frustrated, because the sex is so messed up.

#### 4.2.2 Psychosexual Stage

##### 1. Oral Stage



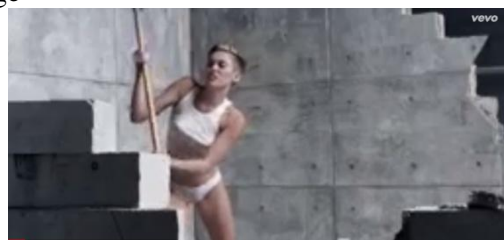
This picture is shot by close up shot which represents of Freud's theory, the oral stage; focus of pleasure is the mouth. It seen of the sexual connotation, when she licks the sledgehammer and expresses it with face full of passion.

##### 2. Anal Stage



This picture is taken by medium shot which connotes of the anal stage; focus of pleasure is the anus. In this picture, seems that the woman is posing sensual on above of the concrete rubble, yet very protrudes from this picture is she accidentally focus shows on her ass. She looks enjoy to show off her ass.

##### 3. Phallic Stage





This picture is taken by medium shot, and connotes a phallic stage. The focus of pleasure is the genitalia. The phallic stage shows on how she destroy the wall with sledgehammer.

#### 4. Genital Stage



Long shot is the shot of this picture, which shows of the genital stage; focusing of pleasure in sexual intercourse. She sits nude on the wrecking ball. She also poses in an extremely sexual way in this shot, implying that she has fulfilled her sexual desire and pleased to have sex with man.

#### 5. Conclusion

“Wrecking Ball” music video which published in 2013 is very controversial but also has very deep meaning inside the lyrics. Based on the analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic aspects on music video, the writer found some findings. “Wrecking Ball” meaning is about a woman who feel so sad, depressed and frustrated. It happens because there is sexual violence in her relationship. “Wrecking Ball” also symbolizes the phallic symbolism.

In music video of “Wrecking Ball” has connotation about Love, Sex, and Psychosexual Stage. Love and Sex are two things that built the character of woman so she has three aspects of personality structure from Freud’s theory: Id, Ego, and Superego. The Id is sexual violence, the Ego is love and Superego is the moral concept of love. Meanwhile the writer also found some several psychosexual stage that appears in this music video namely oral, anal, phallic and genital stage. Oral stage is expressed when the woman licks the sladgehammer. Anal stage is expressed when she poses sensual on above of concrete rubble. Phallic stage is expressed by showing on how she destroys the wall with sledgehammer. Genital stage is expressed when she sits nude on the wrecking ball.

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