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Research Article

## Neurotic Trends in Lana Del Rey Selected Song Lyrics: A Psychoanalytic Social Approach

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### ABSTRACT

Neuroticism is an automatic, unconscious effort to manage deep anxiety, they interfere with everyone's personal, professional, and romantic lives. A person experiences neurotic anxiety because of feeling like they are losing control over themselves, and their lives, or when their ego is threatened. This anxiety causes individuals to become "neurotic". Lana Del Rey's selected song lyrics share a philosophical significance with Horney's neurotic concept. In their defenses against basic anxiety, neuroses adopt one of three fundamental styles of relating to others: (1) moving toward people, (2) moving against people, and (3) moving away from people. The objective of this research is to identify the neurotic tendencies portrayed by the speaker in "Born to Die", "Blue Jeans", and "13 Beaches" song lyrics. This research is conducted under the scope of Psychoanalytic social theory, using the approach of Karen Horney. This research uses qualitative research with a content analysis method to identify the real purpose of the speaker's attitude as presented in the lyrics. The researcher reveals that the lyrics depict a complex of strategies of relating to others in an unproductive manner and compulsive behavior that creates an unavoidable intrapsychic conflict. The finding shows that the neurotic tendency of moving toward others is recurrently portrayed by the speaker. The researcher concludes that people desperately seek love or a companion who can provide affection and stability.

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## INTRODUCTION

Lana Del Rey is one of the American singer-songwriters, her music noted for being "one of the most influential singer-songwriters of the 21st century. She was peculiar to others, instead of being intense in her persona she embraced songcraft as a way of life. In 2011 at the dawn of her fame, she told Pitchfork an American online music publication, "I'm not trying to create an image or a persona. I'm just singing because that's what I know how to do".

During the interview, she talked about her struggle to debut in the music industry, from being unknown to a woman who spent more than 400 weeks on the US Billboard 200, with her first debut album *Born to Die* (2012). Since then, she had an extensive fanbase and has sold millions of albums, including her 2017 *Lust for Life* album, which topped the charts in numerous countries and was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Pop Vocal Album. However, this album was also criticized for having a different substance or a different story than the prior

albums. Whereas her previous three albums found her stressed and struggling to cope with shady boyfriends and feelings of dread, *Lust for Life* is a search for happiness in the midst of obstacles (Jenkins, 2017). As reported from the webpage of Song Meaning and Facts 2019, Lana's *Born to Die* album illustrated the concept of living life and loving your partner hard and fast. Lana's song is very philosophical in its approach, it is based largely on the concept of romantic love, though Lana also sings of loneliness and an insatiable desire for a man's love (Shelton, 2019). This assumption contends that Lana Del Rey's album depicts different themes in which the speaker's way of thinking or basic attitude influences their personal, social, and romantic relationships.

Speakers' attitudes, concerns, and situations are identified to reconstruct the context of lyrics that captivate our attention. Lyrics are a type of poetry that can be reviewed in the literature, John Stuart Mill (1833) stated that lyric poetry is utterance overheard. Now when we overhear an utterance that engages our attention, what we characteristically do is imagine or reconstruct a speaker and a context (Herman & Culler, 1999). People can analyze the poem based on the textual information and their general knowledge of the speaker and the context, and most importantly the basis of the speaker's attitude. It is also concerned with pragmatics, the study of meaning where it is communicated by the speaker or writer and interpreted by the listener or reader. Therefore, in this research, the researcher chooses the "13 Beaches" song lyrics from *Lust for Life* albums, along with the two songs "Born to Die" and "Blue Jeans" from *Born to Die* albums as the object of this research. In this research, the lyrics of the selected songs will be analyzed and referred to hereinafter as "BTD" for the *Born to Die* song, "BJ" for the *Blue Jeans* song, and "TB" for the *13 Beaches* song. The writer aims to answer: How does Karen Horney's psychoanalytic social approach identify the speaker's neurotic personality? and what is the neurotic tendency portrayed by the speaker on Lana Del Rey's selected song lyrics of "Born to Die", "Blue Jeans", and "13 Beaches"?

According to Horney (1939) the founder of Neo-Freudianism who contributed to the psychoanalytic theory stated that people who do not meet their basic needs for love and affection suffer from basic anxiety; to combat basic anxiety, many people overvalue love as the solution to all their problems. Nevertheless, she declared that the development of neuroses is caused by a desperate need for love. Neuroticism is an automatic, unconscious effort to manage deep anxiety, they interfere with everyone's personal, professional, and romantic lives. In his psychoanalytic theory, Freud stated that human behavior was the product of interaction between the conscious and the unconscious thoughts and feelings within the individual. Freud believed that people had to turn to the

unconscious to understand both human behavior in general and psychopathology in particular (Ro'ifah, 2009). According to Freud, a person experiences neurotic anxiety because of feeling like they are losing control over themselves, and their lives, or when their ego is threatened. This anxiety causes individuals to become "neurotic," which is a term used to characterize dysfunctional and rigid responses to stress or anxiety in a desperate effort to regain control (Shafir, 2021). However, Horney did not disregard the significance of genetic factors; on the contrary, she emphasized social factors as the fundamental basis for the development of neurotic as well as normal personalities. Therefore, she contends that cultural influence contributes to competitiveness between people, they pit themselves against one another to find paths and roles in society. It develops a basis for hostility, which leads to feelings of separation. Feeling alone in a potentially hostile world increases the need for affection, which causes people to prioritize love above everything else. Furthermore, Horney (1942) contended that they are incapable of changing their behavior through independent thought, and must continuously and obsessively protect themselves against basic anxiety. In their defenses against basic anxiety, she claimed that neuroses adopt one of three fundamental styles of relating to others: (1) moving toward people, (2) moving against people, and (3) moving away from people. Neurotics are limited to a single trend, they are unconscious of their strategies toward other people, and they are compelled to act and experience severe and unbearable conflicts (Feist & Feist 2008) .

As a review for this research, the researchers included several findings from previous studies related to Lana Del Rey's song lyrics. The researcher found related studies using a similar approach of psychoanalytic, namely "Holly's Childhood Basic Hostility as The Triggers of Her Adulthood Conflicts: An Intrinsic Study on Cecelia Ahern's *P.S. I Love You*" by Pramudana Ihsan (2008). This thesis discusses the issues of the personality of the main character of the novel *P.S. I Love You*, who is described as dependent, selfish, and has a fragile heart. The writer chooses Karen Horney's basic anxiety to get a profound understanding of psychological development. To analyze the main character's personality portrayed in the novel, the writer uses Horney's basic hostility and basic anxiety concept, the basic hostility that is repressed into basic anxiety. Holly's basic anxiety starts when she is five years old and is mostly cured at twenty-three-three when she marries Gerry (Ihsan, 2008). In the recent research, the researcher presented a current approach by analyzing the speaker's basic attitudes or personality through their neurotic tendencies. In addition, through this research, the researcher hopes to recognize people around us who have neurotic tendencies, contribute to observing the neurotic

needs based on the behavior, and according to those findings, they can provide the appropriate treatment.

The research by Adhitya & Lasari (2020) who analyzed Lana's album of *Ultraviolence* (2014), focused on analyzing the lyrics of songs compiled in Del Rey's *Ultraviolence* album through post-feminism. In this research, postfeminists address male dominance differently than prefeminists. From a postfeminist standpoint, each person in a relationship has the right to set their domestic norms as long as there is mutual agreement. Women also have the freedom to determine their role and position in every relationship they're involved. The shifting viewpoint to men's dominance emphasizes advanced postfeminism concepts that protect one's freedom to be oneself and have rights over their choice. The finding shows that the female speaker of the lyrics comprehends if her men's conduct is dominating her, yet she receives them in a manner full of desire (Adhitya & Lasari, 2020). It is possible to conclude that the previous study suggested the female speaker's response was reasonable through the postfeminist concept. However, if analyzed toward Horney's psychoanalytic approach, the female speaker's response through male domination can be considered neurotic. The discussion in the research reveals that subordination is a kind of male domination. As mentioned in the song *Shades of Cool*, the female speaker is dependent on her partner, and her feelings and opinions are ignored for the sake of his ego. Femininity traits are such ways of behaving that the culture usually relates to being a girl or woman, which were associated with dependent, emotional, passive, sensitive, quiet, graceful, innocent, weak, flirtatious, nurturing, self-critical, soft, sexual, submissive, and accepting (Ali Saiful & Setyorini, 2015). Thus, this research is aligned with Horney's standpoint, similarly submissiveness, she claimed that in their attempts against the feeling of being alone in a potentially hostile world neurotics may submit themselves either to people to gain affection (Feist, Jess & J. Feist, 2008).

Other research was conducted by Feighn (2019), who analyzed each song from the first four Lana Del Rey albums of *Born to Die: Paradise Edition*, *Ultraviolence*, *Honeymoon*, and *Lust for Life* through a social constructivist perspective. In this research, the writer uses Lev Vygotsky's social constructivism to analyze the specific structures and institutions that are relevant to female identity in America. This approach has similarities with Horney's Psychoanalytic social theory, whereas she stressed that psychoanalysis theory emphasizes the importance of cultural influences in shaping personality. Horney (1939) claimed that neuroses are formed by the person's attempt to find paths in society. Lana Del Rey is a product of her society. She is a persona, a living human being who symbolizes an image. The prevailing model of society represents the daily responsibilities that women in

the United States experience (Feighn, 2019). In the conclusion of this research, the writer discusses Del Rey's lyrics about how girls stick together because they prioritize love—and suffer as a consequence of it. The pain causes them to "hate those guys." Suffering, on the other hand, can be an indication of devotion to a relationship, a type of self-sacrifice valued and fostered in American Christian patriarchy. As a result, it is possible to conclude that the delusional love fostered by this society might lead to conflict on both personal and intrapersonal.

This study is a literary analysis conducted under the scope of Psychology, from the viewpoint of Karen Horney's Psychoanalytic social theory. This study concept emphasizes the influential role of society in personality development. Early psychoanalysis intent on biological sources as the main factors in shaping personality, the Freudian concept of humanity based on innate impulses and personality traits. Horney criticized Freud's theories, she developed a critical hypothesis based on her therapeutic and nonclinical experiences. "Man is ruled not by the pleasure principle alone but by two guiding principles: safety and satisfaction" (Horney, 1939). Additionally, she asserted that neuroses are the consequence of an individual's effort to find paths through a wilderness full of unknown dangers. This wilderness is a product of society, not innate abilities or biology. According to Horney (1937), society creates competition among individuals. It generates a sense of isolation and causes people to overvalue love, as they respond to a potentially vicious society. Therefore, many people resolve their personal issues mostly through love and affection. These intensified the need for attachment leading to the development of neuroses. In addition, it represents the current phenomenon of how love is perceived as an escape or a way to deal with reality in a chaotic and competitive society.

The significance of the research is to provide an overview of how a person with neurotic tendencies, how neurosis emerges, and how neuroses affect one's life. On the one hand, the current study contributes to identifying the symptoms of neuroticism or personality disorders and increasing awareness of mental health issues. Even so, there is inappropriateness in how it's utilized in society; Neurotic individuals, or what is today known as a personality disorder, often get unacceptable treatment. For millennia, society did not treat persons suffering from depression, autism, schizophrenia, and other mental illnesses much better than slaves or criminals: they were imprisoned, tortured, or killed (Rossler, 2016). It's pathetic to see how this method is still applied in society. Even though, with an improvement in public awareness, many of these approaches have been abandoned. However, unfairness could still be found all around us. Nowadays, people with neuroticism tend to be bullied, disregarded,

dumped, mocked, regarded as peculiar, and stigmatized as insane or abnormal. This judgment is typically due to a lack of understanding and knowledge. The media, culture, society, and personal views may all contribute to reinforcing it. In reality, these stigmas are false and hurtful to those who have these mental health disorders. Many people who suffer from anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder, and so on hesitate to seek help (Valentino & Barson, 2022). In addition, through this research the researcher hopes to make a concrete change in society, Karen Horney's psychoanalytical approach helps to provide better treatment and understanding for people who have neurotic tendencies. If someone needs to be near other people, people around him will do their best to understand his neurotic demands without passing judgment. Karen Horney's psychoanalytic social theory itself focuses on the concept that social and cultural contexts play a significant role in shaping personality. She emphasized, in particular, the experience of childhood, in which the child develops basic hostility toward their parents due to the absence of affection and attention. In a period, this situation will grow into a basic anxiety that affects a person's psychological development and disrupts their relationships with others and their surroundings. However, in this study, childhood experiences were excluded, because the focus of this research was on later development or when anxiety arises and interferes with one's relationships with those around them. Since the data chosen for the research are song lyrics that are classified as poetry and are not associated with the speaker's life, the area of Horney's theory of childhood experiences is unable to be utilized to analyze the data or object of this research.

Horney (1937) suggested that people cope with basic anxiety by relating to others in one of three ways: (1) moving toward people, (2) moving against people, or (3) moving away from people. **Moving toward people**, or Horney also termed as a philosophy of life, is the concept of living life by striving relentlessly for love and approval. In their attempts to protect themselves against feelings of helplessness, they desperately attach themselves to other people, even subordinate themselves to sustain their needs. Meanwhile, **in moving against people**, they adopt the strategy of domineering by appearing tough or ruthless. They are driven by a strong desire to take advantage and exploit others for their benefit. And rarely recognize their flaws, yet, are obsessed with being perfect, powerful, and superior. Lastly, in combat against the feeling of isolation, they are supported by a strong need to withdraw themselves from society. Since associating with others gives them excessive stress, they feel compelled to maintain emotional distance between themselves and others. This adopted strategy is called **moving away from people**. Anyone may use any of these trends to solve the basic conflict, but those remedies are regarded as either

insufficient or neurotic. In some way or another, each of these trends is followed by neurotic needs which Horney identified as **neurotic needs**. In a certain manner, these needs are related and likely to influence one another; one person may possess more than one (Feist, Jess & J. Feist, 2008).

1. The neurotic need for love and acceptance. Neurotics want to please everyone in their search for attachments. They attempt to live up to other's expectations and are extremely sensitive to the resentment of others.
2. The neurotic need for a remarkable partner. Neurotics aim to attach themselves to a dominant partner because they lack self-esteem. It involves a false sense of devotion along with a fear of being lonely or abandoned.
3. The neurotic need to isolate one's life within constrained boundaries. Neurotics generally attempt to be invisible to remain inferior and ultimately live with lesser pleasure. They underestimate their capabilities and have apprehension about enforcing the standards of others.
4. The neurotic need for dominance. The most prevalent neurotic needs are power and affection. The need for power is often combined with the desire to rule and own, and it appears as an impulse to gain authority over others while preventing emotions of vulnerability and foolishness.
5. The neurotic needs to take advantage of others. Neurotics commonly judge others solely upon how people are susceptible to being exploited or manipulated, but additionally, they also avoid being used by others.
6. The neurotic need for recognition from society or prestige. Normally, people deal with basic anxiety by striving to be the most prominent, or greatest, or to gain the spotlight on themselves.
7. The neurotic needs to receive exclusive adulation. Neurotics prefer to be recognized for who they're becoming rather than their abilities. Their excessive self-worth must be constantly sustained by compliments and acceptance of others.
8. The neurotic need for aspirations and prosperity. The desire for achievement is usually strong among neurotics. To validate their supremacy, they must surpass others.
9. The neurotic need for autonomy and self-reliance. Most neurotics experience an overwhelming desire to escape from society to prove their independence.
10. The neurotic need for reassurance and reliability. Neurotics seek "confirmation" of their sense of self-

worth and superiority by unrelenting flawlessness. They desperately struggle to hide their insecurities from others as they are afraid of making mistakes and getting failures.

In 1945, Horney categorized the 10 neurotic needs into three broad categories, all of which related to a person's neurotic tendencies toward themselves and other people. She classifies them based on the root of their basic conflict, neurotic needs, and the personality they become. People with the **neurotic trend of moving toward others** characterize the compliant personality, in their attempts to protect themselves against feelings of helplessness, they desperately seek love and acceptance, a remarkable partner, as well as isolate their life within constrained boundaries. Meanwhile, people with the **neurotic trend of against others** characterize the aggressive personality, in their protection against the hostility of others they need for *dominance, taking advantage of others, recognition from society, exclusive adulation*, and a need for *aspirations and prosperity*. Lastly, people with the **neurotic trend of moving away from others** characterize a detached personality, in their combat against the feelings of isolation they desire *autonomy and self-reliance*, along with *reassurance and reliability*. The root of neurotic tendencies is basic anxiety, which accumulates from culture and interpersonal conflict. Horney was unwilling to disregard the role of intrapsychic factors in the development of personality. Therefore, she continued focusing on the interpersonal experiences that provide intrapsychic conflict, but as they took place as a person's belief system, they developed an identity of themselves.

In reality, neurotic individuals have the same problems that affect normal people, but they experience them in an even more comprehensive manner. They are unable to alter their manners through free choice; instead, they must obsessively and continuously defend themselves from basic anxiety. In response to their compulsive drive, neurotic individuals perform actions that lead them to recurring problems, which cause them to obstruct their self-belief, normalized intrapersonal conflict, excessive competition for power, false sense of superiority, and continual worry that contribute to profound anxiety. In addition, their compulsive behavior creates an unavoidable intrapsychic conflict, which can manifest as either an idealized self-image or self-hatred. To survive in a society of competition, people who feel alienated from their surroundings develop a self-idealization, an extremely positive self-image that only lives in one's belief system. Some of them endow themselves with endless powers and talents and proclaim themselves as "a hero, a genius, a supreme lover, a saint, a god." And when neurotics start to believe in the reality of their idealized self-image as it solidifies. They lose touch with their authentic selves, appraise themselves according to the standards of their

self-images, and strive to become that identity. To actualize the ideal self-image they need to include three aspects of (1) the neurotic search for glory, (2) neurotic claims, and (3) neurotic pride. In reaching the ideal self-image, a neurotic search for glory is accompanied by a relentless pursuit of perfection, and neurotic ambition, along with the drive toward a vindictive triumph. In their claims for their standardized self-image, they assert that they are remarkable and deserving of attention that corresponds with their idealized self-image. They fail to realize that their claims of special privilege are unreasonable, even worse unwilling to appreciate why others have rejected their claims. Meanwhile, neurotic pride is based on an unrealistic imagination of self, which stems from a person's fake satisfaction to guard and fulfill one's idealized self-perception. Furthermore, when their neurotic search for glory does not meet their expectation, begin to hate and despise themselves, thus, what Horney identified as self-hatred. Horney (1950) acknowledges that self-hatred may result in relentless demands on the self, merciless demands on the self, self-contempt, self-frustration, and even self-torment and self-destructive action.

## METHOD

From this understanding, this research uses Horney's Psychoanalytic Social Approach to study the neurotic trends portrayed in Lana Del Rey's selected song lyrics of "Born to Die" and "Blue Jeans" from the 2012 *Born to Die* album, and *Blue Jeans* from the 2017 *Lust for Life* album. This research used qualitative research with a content analysis method to identify the real purpose of the speaker's attitude as presented in the lyrics. Quantitative content analysis is used widely in mass communication as a way to count manifest textual elements, and to examine meanings, themes, and patterns that may be manifest or latent in a particular text. It allows researchers to understand social reality in a subjective but scientific manner (Weber, 1990). The writer conducts this research by analyzing the underlying issues as the speaker presented through the lyrics. Furthermore, the precise album that featured the selected song's lyrics is taken from the CD that Emile Haynie produced in 2012 for the Interscope Record. Considering that the objective of this study is to describe and comprehend the implied meaning in the text, regardless of the songwriter's background. This method also corresponds with the theory that the researcher adopts, the psychoanalytic social theory, in line with content analysis which is generally used to examine communication patterns with the main purpose of analyzing social phenomena. In qualitative content analysis, meanings, themes, and patterns that may be explicit or implicit in a text are analyzed rather than just counting words or gathering objective information from

texts. It enables scientists to understand social reality while maintaining subjectivity (Zhang & Wildemuth, 2005). The selected song lyrics of the Born to Die album: "Born to Die" "Blue Jeans" and Lust for Life album: "13 Beaches" by American artist Lana Del Rey were utilized as the main source of this research. The data will be referred to as "BTD" for the Born to Die song, "BJ" for the Blue Jeans song, and "TB" for the 13 Beaches song. The neurotic concept proposed by Karen Horney was employed to preserve the research's aim. The steps conducted in collecting data are listening to the album, and identifying and classifying the selected song based on the theory used. In the data analysis, the writer categorizes the lyrics according to Horney's theory of neurotic personality. The categorization was based on three categories of neurotic tendency: moving toward people, moving against people & moving away from people. The evaluation and interpretation are based on the basic attitude shown by the speaker throughout the lyrics, this also determines the relationship between the findings' description and the theory. The data is presented as language features, such as words, phrases, sentences, lines, and verses, that reflect the speaker's basic attitude toward other people.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### *Analysis of the neurotic trends in "BTD", "BJ", and "TB" in Lana Del Rey's selected song lyrics based on the Psychoanalytic Social Approach:*

#### 1. The neurotic tendency of moving toward people in "BTD" lyrics:

*Feet don't fail me now*

*Oh, my heart, it breaks every step that I take*

*But I'm hoping at the gates, they'll tell me that you're mine*  
(BTD, Born to Die 4-6)

In the successive line of the "BTD" intro, the line Feet don't fail me now (FDFMN, BTD, Born to Die, 4) reveals the speaker's weariness toward a series of events in the past that leads the speaker through disappointment, the speaker hopes that this moment will no longer make the speaker despair. It shows the speaker's self-doubt and insecurity. A lack of confidence and feelings of uncertainty is indicated as neurotic. Horney (1942) insisted that neurotics experience severe and insoluble conflict, in coping with fears, or defenses against anxiety. These can be characterized based on how certain somebody believes about the probabilities, timing, or nature of a possible threat. Uncertainty about a possible future threat disrupts our ability to avoid it or to mitigate its negative impact and thus results in anxiety (Lin & Scott, 2012). Intensify, it contributes to making it more challenging for people to appropriately prepare for future events.

The speaker's inability to save itself is strengthened by the intensified need for power. In the *Oh, my heart, it breaks every step that I take* (OMHIBESTIT, BTD, Born to Die, 6) the speaker indicates the distress of the journey of wandering alone on the challenging path of life. They are unable to alter their behavior through individual freedom; instead, they must obsessively and continuously defend themselves from basic anxiety (Horney, 1950).

The next line *But I'm hoping at the gates* (TNLBIHATG, BTD, Born to Die, 7) clarifies the speaker's intention of having somebody to complete the solitary journey. Somebody that able to protect the speaker against the feeling of helplessness, a powerful partner that they can depend on. They may acquire desirable sex partners, high-paying jobs, and the personal admiration of many people (Feist, Jess & J.Feist, 2008). "The gates" phrase refers to a certain condition or situation that the speaker needs to achieve, the speaker's favorable condition (warm, affection, and loving environment). This kind of intention is a neurotic need, proven by the sentence "you're mine" which describe the speaker's need to exploit other, the possession of controlling others' life. The neurotic need for dominance can be conceptualized as the dominance behavioral system (DBS), which indicates the pursuit of power by monitoring cues in the social environment that pose opportunities or threats to the goal of power (Johnson et al., 2012). Asserting one's dominance, authority, rights, or competence; expressing confidence in one's strengths, values, and opinions; preventing others from fighting over; and verbally threatening others until power is restored are all examples of dominance behaviors. The sentence which is augmented by the speaker on the line *they'll tell me* in the line *they'll tell me that you're in* defines the neurotic need for social recognition, an acceptance or validity from society. This has a similar concept to the need for self-pride, which is triggered by the perception that one is successful if one meets the social standards so that one would garner respect and attention. In humans, Gilbert (1997) referred to this ability to garner others' respect and attention as "social attention holding potential.

The results of the analysis shows that the lyrics above portrayed the speaker self-doubt and fear of inadequacy which is common to neurotic tendencies. Can be shown as the inability to deal with the present, cope with difficult emotions, and endure heartbreak or loss. Horney (1942) insisted that neurotics do not enjoy misery and suffering, she stated that their basic attitude toward others or neurotic trends of moving toward people consist of the neurotic needs of (1), (2), and (3). Meanwhile, the speaker also implied the neurotic needs

of (4), (5), and (6) which shape the personalities of an aggressive personality. The speaker's negative attitudes or neurotic trends of moving toward people are illustrated by the speaker's desire to gain affection and to live up to the expectations of others. The other indicative neurosis of an aggressive personality appears as the need for power or dominance in taking over the partner's life.

*Don't make me sad, don't make me cry*

*Sometimes love is not enough and the road gets tough*

*I don't know why*

*Keep making me laugh—let's go get high (BTD, Born to Die, 12-15)*

In the chorus of the successive line of "BTD" song lyrics, the line *Don't make me sad, don't make me cry (DMMSDMMC, BTD, Born to Die, 12)* the speaker reveals their prerequisite of happiness on others. Whereas, happiness from others is not very reliable. If they don't succeed in making you pleased, you'll get disappointed and frustrated. This kind of need to be treated by their idealized self-image is considered neurotic. It can be seen through the speaker's claims for perfection and neurotic ambition, which appear as the need for a remarkable partner. Many people think that they will be happy when they find "true love," but that, it is not romantic relationships that are required for happiness. Feelings of happiness and fulfillment in life will be affected just as much by having great friends who support and encourage you (White, 2020). The auxiliary verb "don't" here shows up as the speaker's desire to gain happiness and safety, or neurotic need for love and acceptance. Continued by the next line, *Sometimes love is not enough and the road gets tough, I don't know why (SLISNEATRGT, IDKW, BTD, Born to Day, 13, 14)* portrays the speaker's inner conflict. Horney emphasizes that intrapsychic conflict originates from interpersonal experience. Their compulsive behavior generates a basic interpersonal conflict, that may take the form of either an idealized self-image or self-hatred. Inner processes are experienced as going on outside the self. If the idealized image means taking a step away from the actual self, externalization represents a still more radical divorce (Horney, 1946). The word "sometimes" here doesn't mean occasionally or every once in a while. Rather it justifies the period that is every so often. Therefore, most of the time the speaker is aware that love is not enough. Depending on happiness or what the lyrics portrayed as love, toward other people is hurtful, but, on another hand, the speaker realizes that the speaker can't control the need for love and acceptance. Thus, the speaker has the neurotic need for a powerful partner, who can give

infinite joy and happiness. Because the speaker feels helpless to earn it by themself.

The last of these sequential lyrics complements and reinforces the statements of the previous two lines. *Keep making me laugh—let's go get high (KMML-LGGH, BTD, Born to Die, 15)*, these lines "*Keep making me laugh*" emphasize the further neurotic claims of the speaker. According to Feist & Feist, intrapsychic conflict consists of two ambivalent self-images the idealized self-image and self-hatred. As the idealized self-image becomes solidified, they begin to believe in the reality of self-image and actualize the ideal self through the neurotic search for glory (Feist, Jess & J.Feist, 2008). The demands to be pleased are the speaker's idealized self-image substantially followed by their neurotic ambition. The speaker asserts that they are special and, accordingly should be treated appropriately by others. Especially, with the powerful partner on whom the speaker depends. This attitude also can be characterized as the criteria of narcissism, indicated by an exaggerated feeling of self-worth, a need for admiration, a sense of superiority, and a belief that one is "special" and should associate with other "special" people. It also requires elevations on two pathological personality traits: grandiosity (i.e., entitlement, egotism) and attention seeking (i.e., need for admiration and attention) (Crowe et al., 2019). The last snippet line *Let's go get high (LGGH, BTD, Born to Die, 15)*, represents the speaker's intensified need for affection. The phrase "Get high" here is an idiomatic that is similar to "get stoned" or "get wasted". Which has a meaning of getting oneself intoxicated in alcohol or drifting off to something else. From the previous line, it can be concluded that the speaker wanted to be drunk in love, fascinated by touch, and captivated with affection. However, not every one of oxytocin's (the chemical compound your brain produces when you are crazy in love with someone has positive effects. It can also create aggression, jealousy, and selfishness, which increase the amount of trust you feel for another person which, if misplaced, could be dangerous (Moore, 2015).

The results of the analysis shows that the lyrics above portrayed neurotic trends of moving toward people, which derive from the following needs; (1)The neurotic need for love and acceptance, (2)The neurotic need for a remarkable partner. The speaker's basic attitude in approaching people to resolve life's conflicts is neurotic. Relying on others not only for the increased need for affection but also for the ambition that comes from their self-idealization.

## 2. The neurotic tendency of moving toward people in "Blue Jeans":

*I told you I wanted more,*

*But that's not what I had in mind*

*I just want it like before*

In the successive line from the bridge of the song lyrics of "BJ", the line *I told you I wanted more* (ITYIWM, BJ, *Born to Die*, 49) the speaker demands affection that indicates the speaker intensified the need for love and approval. The two greatest neurotic needs are presumably power and affection (Horney, 1937a). Affection is the feeling of fondness or attachment toward others, but the intensified need for affection includes the desire to be liked, to please other people, and to meet the expectations of others. According to Theories of Personality written by Feist and Feist, power is a defense against the real or imagined hostility of others and takes the form of a tendency to dominate others. The sentence *I wanted more* (IWM, BJ, *Born to Die*, 49) here refers to speaker dissatisfaction which grew from basic anxiety. True love has the potential to be a positive experience that promotes growth, but love that is fueled by a desperate need for attention can promote neuroses. Unfortunately, the speaker intensified the need for love is considered neurotic because it originates from the speaker's attempts against anxiety. HPD is a conscious or unconscious attempt with the goal of getting the attention of a person to become the center of attention, to gain validation or admiration (Erzen & Çikrikci, 2018). This attention-seeking behavior or what is recently known as Histrionic personality disorder may stem from jealousy, low self-esteem, loneliness, or as a result indicated by dramatic or inappropriate behavior to get attention. The phrase "I told you", indicates the speaker's possession of the right to make a demand which reveals the neurotic need for dominance. Neuroses are accompanied by a strong tendency in their quest for power and affection, which leads to ideal self-actualization.

Horney (1950) recognized three aspects of the idealized self-image: (1) The neurotic search for glory, (2) neurotic claims, and (3) neurotic pride. People with dominant personalities are characterized by their underlying search for power and a sense of pride, which sometimes involve manipulation and aggression. But in relationships, dominant tendencies are always about power and control which may lead someone to engage in abusive and toxic relationship behaviors. To exert control over others and prevent feelings of inferiority and ignorance, the need for power is typically combined with the need for prestige and possession. This condition is not only a personality type but can be a sign of a mental health condition (Rodriguez-

Santiago et al., 2020). Continuing the next line *But that's not what I had in mind* (BTNWIHIM, BJ, *Born to Die*, 50) portrays the speaker's expectations toward others, which are irrational and excessive. In the endeavors, the speakers believed that the speaker is entitled to every demand that the speaker needs to accomplish. To fulfill the neurotic demand the speaker needs a remarkable partner. However, in the process, the speaker chooses the wrong partner for his/her lover. If traced by the situation, it seems like the speaker is unaware of their neurotic ambition. Which causes the speaker to fail to see things based on reality. The speaker demands everything to their high standard, in accordance with their self-idealization. However, the speaker's compulsive drive toward superiority causes the speaker's unconscious of their personal flaws. As a result, the speaker fails to see that their claims of superiority are preposterous. Even worse, the speaker blames others for the incompetent treatment that the speaker receives. The speaker expresses hatred and intolerance against others in response to their claims that they have been disregarded. Yet the speaker implied that others are responsible for the speaker's demands, and the situation becomes more complicated.

As illustrated in the last line *I just want it like before* (IJWILB, BJ, *Born to Die*, 51), the word 'before' here represents the certain condition that the speaker desired, likely describing the beginning of a relationship. Where the speaker experiences attraction, which typically involves the physical attributes of the partner, the appearance, body type, and personality traits. The speaker's initial attraction was based on the neurotic need for a remarkable partner, and expectations from the idealized self-image. In the search for glory, neuroticism generates a comprehensive drive toward superiority (Horney, 1937). Nevertheless, neuroticism believes that they are entitled to be treated in accordance with their idealized self-image. According to the LMFT (licensed marriage and family therapist) experts, "the first stage of a relationship is the initial, sweeping romance that often consumes a couple when they first get together, including an all-consuming joy in the presence of our partner and insatiable, passionate sex (Carrol, 2022). Nevertheless, when the honeymoon phase is over, the speaker is shocked and unable to accept the situation.

The results of the analysis shows that the lyrics above illustrated categories of neurotic needs: (1) The neurotic need for love and acceptance, (2) The neurotic need for a remarkable partner, and (3) The neurotic need for dominance. The speaker's attempt to overcome anxiety is the main cause of the speaker's negative attitude towards others, which also appears as an endless ambition for love and attention. This neurotic



ambition also leads to domination, which manifests as a need to control others. The speaker's expectation influences their neurotic ambition, which at some point leads the speaker to demands in accordance with the idealized self-image. The speaker portrays themselves as a remarkable, angelic person. Which is entitled to be heard, noticed, obeyed, and treated accordingly. The speaker assumes that they are special and deserve the privilege of being showered with affection and endowed with authority. The speaker's deliberate neurotic tendency toward others as described by Horney, in attempts to fulfill the expectation of the idealized self-image, and in indignation and possessiveness, the speaker reveals the demands to the lover.

*Promise you'll remember that your mine*

*Baby, can you see through the tears*

*Love you more*

*Than those bitches before (BJ, Born to Die, 16-19)*

In the successive line from the chorus of the song lyrics of "Blue Jeans, the line *Promise you'll remember that your mine* (PYRTYM, BJ, Born to Die, 16), the speaker explicitly conveys dread. It originates from the speaker's lack of self-confidence, stemming from an exaggerated need for devotion and a fear of feeling isolated or abandoned. According to Horney 1937, the feelings of isolation in a potentially unsafe situation based on competition, result in intensified needs for affection, which in turn leads people to place an excessive value on love. The word "promise" refers to the forced agreement that the speakers create for the lover. The speaker initiates binding the lover, to acknowledge the relationship. But if analyzed throughout the line, genuinely is the speaker's fear of losing. A dread of losing someone is normal, it becomes neurotic if followed by extreme negative thoughts. The unhealthy fear of losing loved ones is more like rising anxiety, the more we think about losing the loved person, the more profound the anxiety and the worse we feel (Jacobson, 2023). In the same line, the word "mine" also portrays the speaker's neurotic need for love and acceptance, which is strongly associated with a desire for possession, and manifested as a desire to get a whole feeling of love and undivided. The word "mine" refers to things belonging to or associated with the speaker, when used in a relationship to express commitment, fidelity, and certainty. As in the following sentence "He's mine and I'm his, we know this for a fact, we belong to each other and no one else".

As identified by Horney, the speaker creates protective devices in submissiveness and striving for power & possession. Anxiety and depression are related to

subordination and submissiveness, as well as a desire to avoid subordination (Johnson et al., 2012). Excessive fear triggers submissive behavior in normal individuals, especially neurotics who live with the perception of self-powerlessness and will instead engage in more submissive behavior during interactions with other people. This defensive strategy consequently leaves people paralyzed in a vicious circle, where their persistent efforts result in a continuous excessive need for love and affection. Power is everywhere, power is a term for a complex strategic situation in a particular society (Rahmah et al., 2019). In addition, a circumstance that leaves people feeling isolated and inferior leads individuals to desperately need a stable sense of identity. This may also contribute to the creation of an idealized self-image, or an outrageously optimistic version of themselves that exists only in their personal belief system. They see themselves as "a supreme lover, a hero, a genius, a saint, a god" (Horney, 1950). The next line *Baby, can you see through the tears* (BCYSTTT, BJ, Born to Die, 1) reveals the speaker's desire to convince the lover or to see the speaker's sincerity. The word "tears" here expresses the speaker's genuine feelings toward the lover, which are based on the overvaluation of love and fear of abandonment. Blue Jeans is mainly about having the desire to find a lover to adore, and pride in love (Feighan, 2019). However, an excessive need for love and affection that is accompanied by feelings of isolation triggers basic anxiety.

As presented in the other lyrics of the song "Blue Jeans", the lyrics *I will love you 'til the end of time, I would wait a million years* (IWLYTTEOT, IWWAMY, BJ, Born to Die, 14, 15) portrayed the speaker's protective devices of affection and submissiveness. From the same line, the word "can you see" reflected the speaker's need to be recognized and to be approved for what the speaker experienced. The speaker needs to receive exclusive adulation as a supreme lover. Adulation or admiration is beneficial for the development of human growth, but when it stems from a need for recognition or approval from society it becomes neurotic. Admiration and adoration can occur in connection with or turn into negative emotions, especially when attention gets focused on the self. Concerning admiration or adoring others, people may perceive themselves as lacking important qualities or skills, inferior to the other, or dependent on the other's benevolence, which may give rise to feelings of sadness, fear, or shame (Schindler, 2014). The last line *Love you more than those bitches before* (LYM, TTBB, BJ, Born to Die, 18,19), discloses the speaker's neurotic need for aspiration and prosperity. That's proven by the

speaker's attitude of compliance, as described in the previous line. The word "bitches" illustrated the speaker's hatred which is inflated due to the expectations that are not in accordance with the speaker's experience. Neurotics typically have a strong desire to excel, they must defeat others to prove their superiority.

The results of the analysis illustrated the speaker neurotic tendency toward others, with the neurotic needs of (2) *The neurotic need for love and acceptance*, 7) *The neurotic need to receive exclusive adulation*, and (8) *The neurotic need for aspirations and prosperity*. The speaker enables protective devices namely affection and submissiveness. In the attempts to find love, the speaker forms an attitude of self-effacing obedience/compliance, and to gain affection, the speaker submits themselves to the lover. The speaker's fear of losing is the speaker's defensive strategy against the feeling of being alone in a potentially hostile world.

As portrayed by the speaker throughout the line, the speaker appraises itself as the most capable of loving. The speaker's neurotic needs for personal adulation must be constantly fed by others' appreciation and approval.

### 3. The neurotic tendency of moving away from people in "TB":

*I don't belong in the world*

*That's what it is*

*Something separates me from other people*

*Everywhere I turn*

*There's something blocking my escape (TB, Lust for Life, 1-5)*

In the successive line from the verse of the song lyrics of "TB", the line *I don't belong in the world, That's what it is (IDBITW, TWII, TB, Lust for Life, 1, 2)*, the speaker discloses the feeling of being isolated from society. Besides that, the speaker also describes the feeling of inferiority, a self-image of being small and of lesser importance, ignored, and helpless. Horney (1939) explicitly emphasizes the importance of culture in shaping personality; accordingly, she claims that neuroses are the consequence of a person's attempt to find paths through a wilderness full of unknown dangers. This wilderness is the product of society, which includes individual relationships with other people as well as the surrounding experiences, primarily based on their interests and goals (motives). The word "I don't" illustrates the speaker's self-hatred which stems from interpsychic conflict. The speaker expressed merciless self-accusation and self-contempt, which take the form of underestimating, doubting, and insulting one's

self. Self-hatred is an important interpersonal conflict that is an interrelated yet equally irrational and powerful tendency to despise one's real self (Horney, 1946). Whereas, the word "belong" refers to a deep relatedness and acceptance, or fitness toward a condition, place, or community. To be human is to belong because people are born in a community, and attached to someone else (Agrawal, 2018). Horney also claims that cultural factors shape personality and, as a result, society contributes to the development of intrapsychic conflicts. Cultural factors cause intrapsychic conflicts that affect normal people's mental health and generate practically insurmountable challenges for neurotics (Horney, 1939). As a result, a person develops low self-esteem and a growing sense of alienation from themselves. Unfortunately leaves them in situations with feelings of isolation, inferiority, insignificant, deserted, threatened, and helpless in a world conceived as potentially hostile. The sentence "*That's what it is*" emphasizes the modern world that is inappropriate for the speaker to live in, which is filled with competitiveness among individuals.

Social acceptance is closely linked to a person's sense of self-worth, which frequently results in less interpersonal connection and social support. When we reflect on the numerous demands placed upon us to succeed in our society. People may face even greater external pressure to succeed in their careers and personal lives (Projects & Kayhan, 2003). Then the next line *Something separates me from other people (SSMFOP, TB, Lust for Life, 3)*, refers to the speaker's way of thinking in evaluating social relations. The speaker determines a relationship between people based on the sense of belonging, deep relatedness, and acceptance. Society defines relationships based on interests and needs. Meanwhile, according to Horney (1937), the freedom of most people is greatly restricted by genetics, social position, and the competitiveness of others. Tylor and Mill stated that individuals are permitted to pursue their abilities and freedom, provided that they do not harm and hinder others during the process (Sakinah & Setyorini, 2022). People can't fulfill these needs without the cooperation of their fellow beings. Psychological safety, social recognition love, and self-actualization needs are only fulfilled only within the course of living in society. Humans were dependent for their survival upon the existence of society (Hossain & Ali, 2014). The interpersonal conflict that the speaker experiences leads the speaker to separate from society. Remarkably, the speaker establishes the neurotic need for self-sufficiency and independence. In the last line *Everywhere I turn, There's something blocking my escape (EIT, TSBME, TB, Lust for Life, 4, 5)* the speaker experiences intrapersonal conflict, where the speaker chooses to follow the neurotic need to become independent and not rely upon others, but the speaker encounters prevailing challenges. All of us can feel

disconnected from others, miss interacting with people in person, and experience loneliness. It is a logical consequence of social human beings who are constantly evolving and require communication, for some reason (association, trade, education) (Rachman & Yunianti, 2017).

The results of the analysis shows the lyrics above portrayed prior response regarding this song reflects the need for separation from society which relates to Horney's concept of the neurotic trend of moving away from people. As emphasized by Horney, intrapsychic conflict processes originate from interpersonal experiences; but as they become part of a person's belief system, they develop a life of their existence separate from the interpersonal conflicts that gave them life. This defines the environment that causes the speaker to experience excessive anxiety and low self-esteem, to solve this condition the speaker develops a detached manner. Because the speaker feels unworthy and strives to remain unseen, the speaker needs to restrict one's life within narrow borders. In the solitary struggles with nobody to lean on, the speaker eventually surrenders, realizing that the speaker cannot stand alone.

## CONCLUSION

The song lyrics by Lana Del Rey that the researcher selected contained neurotic elements, as demonstrated by the analysis above. It validates the researcher's presumptions about the selected song lyrics and their association with Karen Horney's psychoanalytic social approach. The two songs from Lana Del Rey's Born to Die album "Born to Die" and "Blue Jeans" share a philosophical significance with Horney's neurotic concept, it illustrated the issues of attachment, depression, and ambition. As they portray characters who strive for belonging and safety, these can be considered neurotic personality traits. In "Born to Die," the speaker indicates the neurotic's sense of helplessness and despair, but in an impulsive manner. The speaker's solutions in solving the life conflict are essentially neurotic, it's shown by the speaker's attitude in finding a partner. Instead of true love, the speaker desires to attain attention and protection against the feeling of helplessness. In "Blue Jeans", the speaker represents a similar tendency to approach others with neurotic desire. The main difference is in their attempts to protect against anxiety. The speaker characterizes the compliant personality, showed by self-effacing obedience or surrender toward the partner. Rather than genuine love, the speaker needs to gain affection and dread of being neglected. Both "Born to Die" and "Blue Jeans" are powerful song lyrics that explore the dark side of love and relationships. They can be seen as expressions of the neurotic personality, and they offer a glimpse into the inner world of people who are struggling to find security and belonging.

Meanwhile, the song's meaning of "13 Beaches" is associated with the Karen Horney neurotic trend of moving away from people. The speaker is feeling isolated and alienated from others, which is derived from the speaker's interpersonal experience. In response to every negative influence that the speaker has experienced, a set of values is formed and becomes a belief system. These belief systems form the speaker's self-image, an idealized or self-hatred. The speaker's self-idealization resulted in their neurotic need to restrict their life within narrow borders and avoid human contact. However, the solution chosen by the speaker is irrelevant because it will generate a profound conflict; in another aspect, the attitude selected by the speaker never resolves the interpersonal conflict. Although society certainly contributes to creating an unfriendly and safe environment, solitude is not an effective approach. Humans need others to live; they just need to find people who can accept and love them for who they are. This statement is supported by Horney's theory, which contends that basic hostility originates from feelings of isolation in a competitive society.

Karen Horney's psychoanalytical approach presents an overview to help the researcher identify neurotics, their causes, and tendencies toward their behavior toward others. The research conducted for this paper contributes to providing better treatment and understanding for people who have neurotic tendencies. As portrayed by the speaker on Lana Del Rey's selected song lyrics, people's basic attitude in relating to others is determined by the circumstances or basic conflict that currently exists. The inner conflict stems from interpersonal conflict, which subsequently evolves into a more serious conflict in those with neurotic tendencies. These findings can be studied further by using other psychological approaches in subsequent research.

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