



**THE CONSPICUOUS CHARACTERISTICS OF AMERICAN PUNK
REFLECTED IN THE LYRICS OF *PUNK SONG* BY FIFTEEN AND *PUNK
GUY* ('*CAUSE HE DOES PUNK THINGS*) BY NOFX**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Bachelor Degree Majoring American
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SEMARANG
2011**

PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this thesis by herself and without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3 and diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains also that she does not quote any material from other publications except from the reference mentioned.

Semarang, October 2011

Nawangsih Edynna Putri

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Some times I need to apologize, sometimes I need to admit that I ain’t right, sometimes I should just keep my mouth shut, or only say hello, sometimes I still feel I’m walking alone.”

(Billie Joe Armstrong, vocalist of Green Day)

“Every cloud has a silver lining.”

(Anonymous)

“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.”

(Mother Teresa)

“A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality.”

(John Lennon, The Beatles)

*I dedicate this thesis to anyone
who has trust in education and religion.*

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ABSTRAK

Sudah hampir setengah abad komunitas punk menunjukkan keberadaan mereka di kalangan masyarakat dunia. Sub-kultur yang berasal dari Inggris ini telah merambah ke seluruh dunia, tak terkecuali Amerika. Bahkan kurun waktu ini punk di Amerika dianggap sebagai budaya punk yang paling berpengaruh. Keberadaan mereka sangat mencolok di kalangan masyarakat umum karena gaya mereka yang terkesan unik dan tidak biasa. Pada kenyataannya masyarakat masih memandang punk sebagai budaya yang buruk dan masih banyak prasangka negatif terhadap punk itu sendiri. Dalam skripsi ini, penulis akan membahas tentang budaya punk, khususnya punk di Amerika, yang mencakup fesyen punk, ideologi anti-kemapanan, serta tindakan dan perilaku komunitas punk baik positif maupun negatif. Tujuan dari penulisan skripsi ini adalah untuk memaparkan beberapa karakteristik punk yang menonjol, khususnya punk di Amerika, yang tercermin dalam lirik lagu *Punk Song* karya Fifteen dan *Punk Guy ('Cause He Does Punk Things)* karya NOFX, sehingga masyarakat yang kurang paham mengenai punk akan dapat berpikir obyektif tentang punk sehingga mengurangi prasangka-prasangka buruk terhadap punk itu sendiri. Dalam menyusun skripsi ini penulis menggunakan pendekatan struktural untuk mengkaji unsur intrinsik lirik lagu tersebut dan pendekatan sosiologi sastra untuk menganalisa

karakter punk yang terkandung dalam kedua lirik tersebut.

Karakteristik punk itu sendiri mencakup sisi positif dan negatif. Secara fisik punk memiliki gaya yang sangat mencolok dan tidak umum, seperti gaya rambut mohawk, jaket kulit, tato, tindik, dll. Selain itu kelompok punk juga dikenal sebagai orang-orang yang kritis dan peduli terhadap permasalahan sosial, ekonomi, politik, dan budaya. Hal yang paling utama dalam budaya punk adalah ideologi anti-kemapanan atau DIY, yang mengedepankan hidup secara mandiri dan tidak menggantungkan hidup sepenuhnya pada orang lain, terutama dalam segi musik. Namun, mereka juga memiliki karakter yang negatif seperti cenderung anarki, sikap memberontak, dekat dengan alkohol, obat-obatan terlarang, dan seks bebas. Hal inilah yang membuat mereka masih kurang diterima dalam masyarakat umum.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Literature is written works of human beings which are very expressive with specific characteristics in language. It has many forms such as poetry, short stories, plays, novels, essays, autobiography, and song lyrics. As the development of music, song lyric or lyric becomes the very popular belles-lettres among people. The definition of lyric itself is large. According to *Collins English Dictionary*, lyric is “a short poem of songlike quality” (2005: 973). Lyric is basically similar to poem, but it has particular rhythm. Due to that, the way to reveal the content of lyric is the same with the poem, by analyzing the elements of the poem such as diction, imagery, figurative language, and theme.

People often use lyric to express their feeling and ideas because a lyric has very strong emotion of someone’s soul. The musicians can tell their ideas, feeling, protests, grievances, stories, and moral values in beautiful and emotional language. It is easily captured by people’s mind. Lyric is not only about having fun or singing but also understanding the social phenomena or history, giving the truth, criticizing, moreover fighting something.

For instance The McCalmans, a Scottish band, in its very popular song, Rise and Follow Charlie!, reminds the listeners to Bonnie Prince Charlie and Jacobite which are part of Scottish history. It can be said that The McCalmans can cherish the history by its song lyric. Another example is punk community. Almost all the punkers express their ideas and feeling in song lyrics. The lyrics mostly tell about punk community itself, social phenomena, rebellion, grievances, and a variety of anti-authoritarian ideologies. As the time goes by, there are many prejudices about punk.

The first impression about punk is only the negative aspect. People may think that the punkers are pretty odd, horrifying, trouble makers, scum of society, drugs addict, alcoholic, and have bad attitudes. Their style is so unique with boots, piercing, tattoo, Mohawk and feather cut, leather jacket, tight jeans, etc. What people think of them is not totally true. Some people do not really understand the definition of punk. The term “punk” has a large meaning.

Punk can be a genre of music, life style, and fashion. According to *Collins English Dictionary*, punk is “a youth movement of the late 1970s, characterized by anti-Establishment slogans and outrageous clothes and hairstyles” (2005: 1313). Punk also can be defined as an ideology called DIY (Do It Yourself), as the result of protest about social, economic, political, cultural, and religious problems. The Punkers think that they do not need to follow the rules and laws and make some rebellious movements against the government with its controversial authority.

Based on the explanation above, the writer chooses two song lyrics as the object of this thesis entitled “*Punk Song*” by Fifteen and “*Punk Guy (‘Cause He Does Punk Things)*” by NOFX. Those lyrics contain many characteristics of punk both in positive and negative aspects. By understanding those lyrics, people may change their perspective about punk. It can be learnt that behind punk anarchism, people will find many brilliant ideas of punkers. They finally will understand how special punk is by its great movement.

B. Scope of The Study

In the discussion of the lyrics of “*Punk Song*” by Fifteen and “*Punk Guy (‘Cause He Does Punk Things)*” by NOFX, the writer needs to make limitations so that the discussion can be focused on the main track of the material. The writer focuses on the intrinsic aspects of “*Punk Song*” and “*Punk Guy (Cause He Does Punk Things)*” lyrics which contain diction, imagery, figurative language, and theme. Besides, the writer also analyze the extrinsic aspects which contain the discussion about the condition of punk in society including the general facts about it and the characteristics.

C. Aims of The Study

Having made a research and found information about punk, the writer wants to explain the characteristics of punk through the lyrics of “*Punk Song*” by Fifteen and “*Punk Guy (‘Cause He Does Punk Things)*” by NOFX in order:

1. to analyze the intrinsic aspects in the lyrics through the poetic elements such as diction, imagery, figurative language, and theme in order to get the deeper meaning of what the lyrics tell about.
2. to reveal all about punk in the society in order to understand both the positive and negative characteristics of punk itself.
3. to diminish prejudices about punk so that people will objectively think about punk culture.

D. Method of The Study

To discuss this topic, the writer applies some methods to collect data related to the material. Those are:

1. Method of Research

The writer used library research as the method of research. The writer collects the data by reading books as the references. Besides, the writer also takes some information from the internet like getting from the articles, fanpage, website, and blog.

2. Method of Approach

The writer used structural and sociological approaches. The structural approach is used to analyze the structural aspects in the literary works containing theme, diction, imagery, and figurative language. The writer uses sociological approach to relate the contents of those lyrics to the characteristics of punk. The sociological approach can be defined as the relation between literature and society. Wellek and Warren, in their book, *Theory of Literature* states that,

Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Such traditional literary devices as symbolism and metre are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature 'represents' 'life'; and 'life' is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary 'imitation'. (1956: 94)

It means that the condition of society in particular time gives the influences on literature.

E. Organization of Writing

To discuss this topic, the writer arranges the contents into:

CHAPTER I : this chapter is Introduction containing Background of the Study, Aims of the Study, Scope of the Study, Method of the Study, and Organization of Writing.

CHAPTER II : this chapter contains Biography of the Group Bands, the song lyrics, and paraphrase of song lyrics.

CHAPTER III : this chapter is Literary Review that contains Intrinsic and Extrinsic element.

CHAPTER IV : this chapter is Analysis

CHAPTER V : this chapter is Conclusion

BIBLIOGRAPHY

CHAPTER II

BIOGRAPHY OF THE BAND GROUP, THE LYRICS, AND PARAPHRASE

A. Biography of The Band Group

1. Fifteen

The biography of Fifteen is taken from www.mp3.al/fifteen/biography.html (accessed on October 10, 2010). This punk-pop band was formed in 1988 after the demise of the Bay Area punk band Crimp shine with strong social messages in its songs. The vocalist/guitarist, Jeff Ott's, told that lyrics focused on social justice and issues such as homelessness, drug abuse, environmental destruction, and government strong-arm tactics. Many of the themes that the songs seem to be pulled from his own experience; sexually abused as a child, leaving home at 13 and living the life of a gutter punk on the streets for 11 years. Fifteen released their first record in 1991 on Lookout Records. Other band members had their own struggles; their 1999 album *Lucky* was named after a former bassist who killed himself after suffering from an amphetamine addiction.

Other albums included three apiece for Grass and Lookout Records, as well as its self-produced album, *Extra Medium Kickball All-Star*. In the summer of 2000, the band released an EP with Sub City Records, *Hush*. Fifteen followed up several months later with the full-length *Survivor*. *Kickball All-Star* was reissued in fall 2003 with appended tracks as a benefit for the organization Any Positive Change, which worked to prevent the transmission of HIV and hepatitis C through needles.

After four records on Lookout, two on Grass Records, three on Sub City Records, and three more on indefinite self-published labels, Fifteen was known as the leaders in the political-punk music scene. Fifteen tackled some burning issues as homelessness, drug abuse, needle exchange, environmental destruction and the government's use of counterintelligence measures to violate activist's civil rights. Fifteen first broke up in 1996 after the self-released *Extra Medium Kickball All-Star* album. It reformed in 1998 and released *Hush* and *Survivor* then disbanded in 2000 with Jeff Ott stating that the anti-commercial DIY ethics of punk rock made it too expensive for him to have a band while raising a family. This band had a total of fifteen members during its existence including Jeff Ott, Jack Curran, Mikey Mischief, Mark Moreno, Jean Repetto, Lucky Dog, Chris Flanagan, John Ogle, Jessie Wickman, Joe Cable, John Quintos, Scott Pierce, Jim Prior, Lisa D and Vanessa Bain.

2. NOFX

The biography of NOFX is taken from www.nofxofficialwebsite.com/history.html (accessed on October 10, 2010). NOFX is a Californian punk band formed in 1983 in Los Angeles. The current members are Fat Mike (vocalist, bassist, and keyboardist), Eric Melvin (rhythm guitarist), Eric Sandin (drummer), and El Hefe (lead guitarist, trumpet). They released their debut EP NOFX on Mystic Records in 1984, which later resurfaced in 1992 on the *Maximum Rock and Roll* CD. In 1988, NOFX recorded an album entitled *Liberal Animation* with Brett Gurewitz from Bad Religion and later that album was re-released in 1991 on Gurewitz's label, *Epitaph Records*. On Epitaph Records, NOFX also released another album entitled *S&M Airlines* in 1989. In 1999, this band released *The Decline* which had duration of 18 minutes and 23 seconds. It might be the longest punk song at that time. It was about a fiery and pessimistic social commentary.

In 2003, NOFX released a political album entitled *War on Errorism*. It was the beginning of NOFX's anti-Bush campaign and rallying point of liberal punk. Since that album had been released, Fat Mike organized a website called *punkvoter.com*, compiled *Rock Against Bush* CD on the Fat Wreck label, and kicked off *Rock Against Bush* nationwide tour. NOFX also released some Eps such as *Fuck the Kids*, *The Longest Line* on Fat Mike's own

label, *Fat Wreck Chords*.

B. The Lyrics

1. Punk Song Lyric

Who's the coolest band?
Who's got the best hair?
Who's the most punk rock?
Can you tell me who really cares?

I heard so and so's a poser 5
I heard so and so's a hypocrite
I've never done anything in my whole life
but I sure do talk a lot of shit

He's got a Mohawk
He's got a pierced cock 10
His head goes talk talk talk talk ...
She's got a mohawk
They travel in flocks
Her head goes talk talk talk talk...

That band put out their own record 15
I think that's so fucking cool
Even though their songs are sexest
They're DIY so I guess they change the world

I got into punk rock
So I could say fuck all the rules 20
So long as I do what all the T-shirts say
then everyone will know I am cool

The only thing that matters if your in a band
can you successfully divert the next generation
from accepting white racism 25
from accepting misogyny and male domination
from accepting homophobia and heterosexism
from believing that their first priority is their occupation
from believing the lie of a middle class is falling for unintentional division
from believing the lie that the earth's rightful role is under human subjugation

2. Punk Guy (Cause He Does Punk Things) Lyric

Crazier than GG, yet more PC than Ian
Got colored teeth like Johnny
Exudes a Vicious disposition
His hair sticks out like Colins' did,
he jumps similar to Spring a, yeah, 5
he points his middle finger

Not just a singer in the band
Voted biggest asshole and role model of the year
Got a face like Charles Bronson
Straight outta Green Bay Wisconsin 10
Not just a singer in the band

He'll puke on you
He'll fuck your mom
He'll smoke while huffing gas
He was the punkest mother fucker I ever did see 15
Ah, hell he was even more punk than me
He should've been on the cover of Punk and Disorderly

C. PARAPHRASE

1. Punk Song Lyric

It is the impressive song about punk performed by Fifteen. This song tells about punkers in a band and community who really cares about many problems in their country. They think that their band is the coolest band in the world. They assume that their punk hair style is the best style. They judge their band as the most punk rock band among others. They also cares about society around them.

They often hear a poser and hypocrite in life. They feel like never doing anything well in their life. What they do is just nonsense. As the punkers, they are also identical with punk style like having Mohawk hair style. They even do the strange and odd thing like getting a pierced cock. They always utter their ideas about their disappointment. Like other punk community, they prefer travelling in flocks to alone. As a punk band, they do not take the major label because punk is independent so that they take minor label to record their songs. They think that choice is really great and brilliant. They assume that DIY ideology or anti-establishment slogan can change the world without following the rules. They are in the punk rock stream so they think they do not need to follow the rules or laws.

On the other hand, they are very critical people and really care about many problems in their country. The only thing that matters in a punk band is that they should be able to successfully divert the next generation from accepting white racism in America. They also should divert the next generation from accepting misogyny and male domination. It means that they really care about gender equality. They should divert the next generation from believing that their first priority is their occupation. They are disappointed of unemployment in America and hope that the government serves many opportunities of occupation for the

citizens. They should divert the next generation from believing the lie of a middle class is falling for unintentional division and believing the lie that the earth's rightful role is under human subjugation.

2. *Punk Guy (Cause He Does Punk Things) Lyric*

This is a dauntless song performed by NOFX. This song tells about how a man being a punker. He does everything about punk which can express his character. The lyrics describe the way of this man acts, behaves, and duplicates many famous and influential punkers. First, he acts like GG Allin (a crazy American punk rock singer and song writer). Moreover, he is crazier than GG. In other words, he is strange, pretty odd, and ridiculous. Then he colours her teeth like Johnny Rotten's. Johnny Rotten is a member of the phenomenal British Punk Band, Sex Pistols. He exudes a Vicious disposition in order to make the stronger character of punk. He shows the rampageous face like Sid Vicious from Sex Pistols too who had a rampageous look and disposition. Then he cuts his hair a la spiky like Colin's hair style. Colins is a member of punk band, Dag Nasty so that this man wants his style is punker in outlook. He does not only duplicate the style of many punkers but also their action or behaviour. He jumps similar to Springa's jump in his stage performance. Springa is a member of SSD band. He is used to saying reckless word such as "fuck" while pointing his middle finger.

On the other hand, this man is not an ordinary man. He is not only a singer in the band or the biggest scoundrel. He could be a role model like Charles Bronson who becomes a role in entertainment industry. He is like Greg Graffin (lead singer of Bad Religion) who is not only a singer in the band but also a brilliant punker, punk professor, and an author. Besides, he has a rude and anarchist attitude. He can behave rudely and unpredictably to everyone. He also has sexual intercourse with anyone. He is used to smoking while he is huffing gas. People can say that he is the scoundrel who got the most punk alike ever. He even becomes more punk alike than any other punkers. He should have been on the cover of punk and disorderly.

A. Intrinsic Elements

Basically, a lyric is similar to poem. Perrine, in his book *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry*, states that “Initially, poetry might be defined as a kind of language that says more and says it more intensely than does ordinary language” (1969: 3). If we want to totally understand about a poem or the meaning contained, we need to analyze what that poem says. Like a poem, to analyze lyric the writer uses the structural approach by identifying intrinsic elements containing diction, imagery, figurative language, and theme.

1. Diction

Diction is about selecting words in order to tell the meaning, idea or desire in the very clear words. To get the right diction, we should be able to differ the nuance of meaning from the ideas. Besides, we need to find out the right form which is appropriate with the situation and feeling. Diction is very important in writing because it can diminish misconception and get the effective communication. Diction symbolizes ideas or feeling which is verbally expressed so that we can create the good and right situation. Diction also impresses the right expression style of idea or thought.

In a poem, diction is very important. A poet has to be clever in selecting words and combine them to make a beautiful poem. S.H. Burton in his book *The Criticism of Poetry Second Edition*, states that “In selecting the words which he will use, a poet is concerned with their meaning, their sound, and their association” (1974: 82). Those meaning and association can impress the beautiful poem with strong emotions and the reader can feel the soul in that poem. Diction itself consists of two aspects, denotation and connotation.

a. Denotation

Denotation means lexical meaning of word or can be explained in dictionary. In his book entitled *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry*, Perrine says that “The basic part of this meaning is its denotation or denotations: that is, the dictionary meaning or meanings of the word” (1969: 38). We can see the meaning of star for example. In dictionary star means any of a vast number of celestial objects that are visible in the clear night sky as points of light.

b. Connotation

Different from denotation meaning, connotation meaning of word can not be found in dictionary. It depends on the someone’s interpretation and context of word itself. It is supported by Perrine’s statement, “The connotations are what it suggests beyond what it expresses: its overtones of meaning” (1969: 38). Connotation comes as the result of social situation. Connotation meaning of a word may be different in some places based on kind of society, social norms, culture, or rule. As the time goes by, connotation meaning of a word also changes based on situation of age. Besides, connotation meaning has both positive and negative impression.

Connotations is very important in writing a poem. Based on Perrine statement, “Connotation is very important to the poet, for it is one of the means by which he can concentrate or enrich his meaning—say more in fewer words” (1969: 39). For example the using of paradise. It can be a very beautiful place where people can find happiness, bliss, or comfort and it does not have to be in heaven.

2. Imagery

Imagery is a kind of figurative language used to tell the reader about the belles-lettres idea by several ways based on human experience by five senses. Perrine states, “Imagery may

be defined as the representative through language of sense experience” (1969: 54). Through imagery, a poet can let the readers feel the sensation of the poem and explore their imagination without directly seeing or hearing. Imagery is an essential thing in a poem because it gives special effect of the poet’s experiences. Imagery makes the experiences become real and live in the readers’ mind. Depends on human senses, imagery is divided into visual (sight), olfactory (smell), gustatory (taste), tactile (touch), auditory, kinesthetic (movement), and organic (internal) imagery. In this thesis, however, there are only two imageries which are going to be discussed.

a. Visual Imagery

It is a mental image appearing from the eyes and does not requires the object to be actually there. In other words, someone sees an object in his mind as if that object were right there. We can see an example from a poem *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost (Perrine, 1969: 82)

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood

By visual imagery, Robert Frost let the reader imagine what he saw. There are two roads diverged in a yellow wood. The reader can visualizes those in his mind without directly seeing.

b. Kinesthetic Imagery

It is a mental image appearing from body movements, physical action, tension, or something related to motion. We can take an example from a poem *The Lake Isle of Innisfree* by William Butler Yeats (Samekto, 1976: 136)

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree

Arise and go show the kinesthetic imagery.

3. Figurative Language

Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with different meaning from the literal interpretation. Meanwhile, Perrine states that “*Figurative language—language using figures of speech—is language that can not be taken literally*” (1969: 65). Figurative language is essential thing in a poem because a poem can be more beautiful or meaningful without ordinary words. There are many kinds of figurative language such as symbol, metaphor, personification, metonymy, synecdoche, allegory, paradox, overstatement or hyperbole, understatement, irony, and simile. In this thesis, however, there is only symbol which will be discussed.

a. Symbol

A song lyric or poem often uses symbol to express the imagination. It does not have to explain clearly but only with a symbol because symbol has larger meaning than the word’s itself. It is explained by Perrine that states “*A Symbol may be roughly defined as something that means more than what it is*” (1969: 83). Symbol represents something

large in a simple word. Symbol could be a person, object, action, or situation. We can take an example from a poem entitled *A White Rose* by John Boyle O'Reilly (Perrine, 1969: 84).

The red rose whispers of passion
And the white rose breathes of love

O'Reilly uses red rose to symbolize the physical desire and white rose to symbolize the spiritual attachment. Those symbols describe a man who prefers his physical desire or passion to his feeling in a relation with a woman. On the other hand, a woman prefers to interpret this relation as a feeling of love or smooth feeling from her heart rather than to show passion or physical desire.

The other example can be found in flag. A flag can symbolize a country and it is very identical with its country.

4. Theme

Theme is the important component in belles-letters and represents the whole meaning of belles-letters. According to Collins English Dictionary, theme *means* “*A unifying idea, image, or motif, repeated or developed throughout a work*” (2005: 1670). Theme leads the reader understands the whole parts of the issue and aims in belles-letters. The reader can identify a theme by analyzing every single line. Each line is connected to the other lines so that this theme will be determined.

B. Extrinsic Elements

1. The Definition of Punk

Punk can be a genre of music, life style, and fashion. According to Collins English Dictionary, punk is “*a youth movement of the late 1970s, characterized by anti-Establishment slogans and outrageous clothes and hairstyles*” (2005: 1313). Punk also can be defined as an ideology called DIY (Do It Yourself), as the result of protest about social, economical, political, cultural, and religion problem. Meanwhile, punk definition as a life style is supported by Billie Joe Armstrong, a punk musician and vocalist of Green Day. According to Billie Joe Armstrong's quotation taken from <http://thinkexist.com/quotation/punk-is-not-just-the-sound-the-music-punk-is-a/536975.html> (accessed on January 7, 2011),

Punk is not just the sound, the music. Punk is a life-style. There are a lot of bands around who claim to be punk and they only play the music, they have no clue what it's all about. It's a life-style I chose for myself.

2. History of Punk

Punk was a sub-culture coming from London in 1970s as effect of economical problems. Punk in England had the economical and political root. The history of punk itself is compiled from an article of Christina Pomoni entitled *How the DIY ethic of punk rock influenced indie record labels* taken from www.helium.com/knowledge/top_item/182794-how-the-diy-ethic-of-punk-rock-influenced-indie-record-labels.html (accessed on January 8, 2011) and www.acesandeighths.com/punk.html (accessed on January 8, 2011). The condition of economics in the United Kingdom at that time was miserable with high rate of

unemployment. The English youth were very angry and made rebellion movements such as demonstration and going out of work. One of their actions was “glue sniffer”. They sniffed the glue as the protest of the very expensive alcohol and beer so that they could not buy these. They substituted alcohol and beer with glue in order to make them drunk or “fly” with cheaper thing.

Later punk spread over the world including America. In America, punk firstly appeared in New York in the mid 1970s. The influential bands at that time were The Ramones, Wayne County, Johnny Thunders and The Heartbreakers, Blondie and The Talking Heads. They used to play music regularly in Bowery District and were unified by their friendship and location. They shared musical influences. Furthermore, punk had developed as disaffection of underground musicians because the music industry was almost dominated by the phenomenal rock musicians such as The Beatles, Rolling Stones, Elvis Presley, etc (Sabin, 2002: 2).

Punk had developed in America since 1980’s as the result of Reaganomic failure and defeat of America in Vietnam War. It affected the anger of punk community in America. The second wave punk bands all over the world such as Crass, Conflict, and Discharge from England, The Ex and BGK from Netherland, MDC and Dead Kennedys from America had changed the punk community to be rebellion thinkers. Anarchism ideology pioneered by the first wave punk bands (The Pistol and The Clash) was convinced as the only choice for them who distrusted society, government, and even music industry.

3. Characteristics of Punk

a. The Unconventional and Noticeable Style

The punkers are distinguishable from another community because they have unique style. According to an article taken from www.acesandeighths.com/punk.html (accessed on January 8, 2011),

Over time, tattoos, piercings, and metal-studded and -spiked accessories became increasingly common elements of punk fashion among both musicians and fans. The typical male punk haircut was originally short and choppy; the Mohawk later emerged as a characteristic style.

They cut their hair with Mohawk a la Indian or feathers cut style and color it to make their hair more colorful. For fashion, they enjoy to wear boots, sneaker, leather jacket, tight jeans, chain and spike. They use a lot of piercing in specific part of body to add some accessories. They are also identified with tattoo. We can see the drummer of Blink 182, Travis Barker, for the example. His half body is almost covered by many tattoos and he uses piercing in his nose, auricle of ear, and tongue.

b. Critical and Caring People

The punkers are also known as critical people. They criticize the government with the controversial authority. They make protest about social phenomena. It can be found in

some lyrics. According to an article in www.acesandeighths.com/punk.html (accessed on January 8, 2011), Punk rock lyrics are “*typically frank and confrontational and they frequently comment on social and political issues*”. In general, the musicians write their songs to express rebellion, drug and marijuana, and grievances. Beside that, they also tell about a variety of anti-authoritarian ideologies. We can take the example from a song lyric *American Idiot* by Green Day.

Don't want to be an American Idiot.... Don't want a nation under the new mania...

In this lyric, Green Day tells about rebellion as the protest about political problem in President Bush era.

c. Anti-Establishment

The punk musicians prefer taking minor label to major one in recording their songs. The ordinary people can not enjoy punk songs because these are categorized as hard listening songs. Only specific people can enjoy these songs. That's why many musicians do not cooperate with the famous major label such as Sony BMG, EMI, etc. It is supported by an article in www.acesandeighths.com/punk.html (accessed on January 8, 2011),

They created fast, hard-edged music, typically with short songs, stripped-down instrumentation, and often political, anti-establishment lyrics. Punk embraces a DIY (do it yourself) ethic, with many bands self-producing their recordings and distributing them through informal channels.

Besides, the punkers are identical with DIY ideology. DIY is the abbreviation for Do It Yourself. DIY is about being individual, self reliant, and anti-establishment. It means that they do not count on other people to do everything in life. That's why many of them decide to leave home and live along the street with other punkers.

d. Bad Attitudes

Many of punkers appear from the broken family background so they decide to leave home due to the depression and suffering they get in family. They feel like no one cares and loves them so that they become frustrated. They wreak their anger with bad attitudes, immorality, reckless words, vandalism, and anarchism. Besides, they are used to smoking cigarette and consuming alcohol, drugs, and marijuana. We can see in a song lyric *Geek Stink Breath* by Green Day which tells about a kind of drug, methamphetamine, which affects to human body.

I'm on a roll, no self control

I'm blowing off steam with methamphetamine,

If they have no money to buy those, they inhale gasoline or glue. They are also close to free sex. Some people are disturbed by their behaviour so that there are many negative assumption about punk.