



**THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CONCEPTS IN TAYLOR SWIFT'S
"BLANK SPACE"**

A FINAL PROJECT

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For S-1 Degree in American Cultural Studies
In English Department, Faculty of Humanities
Diponegoro University

Submitted by:
Novia Putri Anindhita
13020111130073

**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DIPONEGORO UNIVERSITY
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PRONOUNCEMENT

I state truthfully that this project is compiled by me without taking the results from other research in any university, in S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree and diploma. In addition, I ascertain that I do not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in the bibliography.

Semarang, 9 February 2016

Novia Putri Anindhita

APPROVAL

Approved by

Advisor,

Retno Wulandari, S.S, M.A.
NIP. 19750525 200501 2 002

VALIDATION

Approved by
Strata I Final Project Examination Committee
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University
on March 2016

Chair Person

First Member

Arido Laksono, S.S, M.Hum.
NIP. 19750711 199903 1 002

Dra. Christine Resnitriwati, M.Hum.
NIP.19560216 198303 2 001

Second Member

Third Member

Sukarni Suryaningsih, S.S., M.Hum
NIP. 19721223 199802 2 001

Drs. Mualimin, M.Hum.
NIP. 19611110 198710 1 001

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving (Albert Einstein).

You're lucky enough to be different, never change (Taylor Swift).

This final project is dedicated to my beloved parents.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Praise be to Allah, who has given strength and spirit to this final project on “The Psychological Concepts in Taylor Swift’s “Blank Space”” came to a completion. On this occasion, the writer would like to thank all those people who have contributed to the completion of this extended essay.

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3. All of the distinguished lecturers in the English Department, Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University who have shared their precious knowledge and experiences.
4. The writer’s beloved parents. Thank you for the irreplaceable love, pray, and support.
5. The writer’s beloved sisters and brother. Thank you for the love and support.

6. The writer's beloved best friends in Sasing C, Sixovoice and Inkai. Thank you for the support and incredible friendship.
7. To all of the writer's family, friends, and acquaintances. Each of them has given her something to be learned.

The writer realizes that this final project is still far from perfect. The writer, therefore, will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this final project better.

Finally, the writer expects that this final project will be useful to the readers who wish to learn something about psychoanalysis in works of literature, especially in American music work.

Semarang, 9 February 2016

Novia Putri Anindhita

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ABSTRACT

“Blank Space” is a song that is sung by a singer, Taylor Swift. The lyrics tell about the lonely woman who dates a lot but always fails to manage her relationship. However, it does not make her worry to start a new relationship. The purpose of this study is to analyze the elements of the poetry in the lyrics and to show the readers the psychological contents as portrayed in the music video. The study uses intrinsic and extrinsic theories to analyze the data and library research to compile the data. Library research is used to get literary theories and psychological theories of Sigmund Freud. The finding of this study is the existence of psychoanalysis contents in American pop music included *Id*, *ego*, *superego*, defense mechanism act, and symbolization reflected in lyrics and scenes in the song and in the music video of “Blank Space”

Keywords: psychoanalysis, defense mechanism act, symbolization

1. Introduction

Song is not merely determined as a criticism toward social phenomenon or great culture event in certain society. Song is also a medium for people to simply express emotion such as; happiness, sadness, anger, disappointment, etc or to reveal their hidden thought. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th Edition* (2010: 1419), song is "a short piece of music with words that you sing". The words in every song are called lyrics. Through the lyrics, songwriters can share their thought and feeling by using certain words. Taylor Swift is one of the songwriters who is also the singer. She always expresses her feeling and her experiences into songs. How people judge her characteristic and her love story results in many songs, which one of them is "Blank Space". The song tells about a woman who is considered to be a player because she dates a lot, yet, actually she is a passionate lover. She already has many ex-lovers but she does not worry if her new relationship does not go well and then ends up with extending her ex-lovers list.

The writer decides to pick "Blank Space" as the object due to the simple lyrics and the interesting music video. Although the lyrics seem so casual, it may create different assumption. Moreover, the lyrics are the result of the singer's personal thought and feeling. Meanwhile the music video as the visual object visualizes the song into more attractive as it shows unique scenes. The scenes in the music video support the idea of the lyrics and help the audiences to understand the song.

This essay aims to analyze the elements of poetry in the lyrics of "Blank Space" and to show the readers the psychological contents as portrayed in the

music video. Related to this matter, the writer chooses "The Psychological Concepts in Taylor Swift's "Blank Space"" as the title of the study.

2. Taylor Swift and Her Songs

Taylor Alison Swift whom people know as Taylor Swift was born on December 13, 1989. She is not only a singer but also a songwriter who often writes her songs based on her personal experiences. She is the first singer who has great albums selling records for three times consecutively, proven by following paragraphs.

Her performance at an event brought Swift met an independent label, Big Machine records, and signed the contract in her early teens. Swift was known as a new country music star when she released her first self-titled debut album in 2006. 2008 Grammy Awards as Best New Artist nomination marked her career journey as a new rising star in American music industry. Swift's second album, *Fearless*, released in 2008 became the best selling album of 2009 in the United States. The album made her received four Grammy Awards. Following the success of her previous album, Swift's third and fourth albums, 2010's *Speak Now* and 2012's *Red*, both got great record sales, with a total of more than one million copies sold within the first week of their release. Her fifth album, 2014's *1989*, also sold more than one million copies in their debut week ([www. biography. com/people/taylor - swift - 36908](http://www.biography.com/people/taylor-swift-36908)).

Although in her early career she was known as a country music singer, she started to leave country music genre and focused on pop music. Even in 2014, Swift became a nominee of *Female Vocalist of The Year* held by Country Music Association. Her winning raised controversy because of her status as a pop singer

(*Jawa Pos*, April 21st 2015). Releasing her fifth album, *1989*, which genre is pop music in 2014, confirmed her music genre transformation. The singles "Shake It Off" and "Blank Space" in album *1989* both reached number one on the *Billboard* Hot 100.

"Blank Space" is a minimalist electro pop song whose lyrics express how Swift responds people's judgment toward herself and her relationship. The song establishes her as the most successful singer during Billboard Music Awards' history by collecting 20 awards since 2011, defeating a country singer, Garth Brook whose record is 19 awards (*Jawa Pos*, May 19th 2015).

People expected that "Blank Space" would be the best pop song of 2014. As predicted, on May 17th 2015, "Blank Space" won an award in Billboard Music Awards as Top Digital Song. In Billboard Music Awards 2015, totally, Swift got eight awards for categories Top Artist, Top Female Artist, Top Billboard 200 Artist, Top Hot 100 Artist, Top Digital Song Artist, Billboard Chart Achievement Awards, Top Billboard 200 Album and Top Digital Song (*Jawa Pos*, May 19th 2015).

3. Object

The object of this study is the song "Blank Space" including its lyrics and certain scenes in the music video which prove the idea of psychological concepts. Intrinsic and extrinsic aspects as the components of a work of literature are analyzed. In the intrinsic aspects, the diction and cinematographic elements of the

music video will be discussed, while in the extrinsic aspect the writer will discuss the psychological aspects of the song based on the song and the music video.

3. 1. Paraphrase of Lyrics

The song tells Taylor Swift's experience about her love life. As she mentions at the beginning, it tells her first meeting with a new man. Once she loves a man, she will give everything that she has for that man. As a famous singer, Taylor Swift makes people interested in her love life, moreover, because her ex- lovers are some famous celebrities. Since she always fails to keep the relationship frequently and then it ends up with her dating a new man in the future, so people assume she is a woman who falls in love with new man easily. As she mentions in the lyrics, the man must have known the rumor about her. It is related with the rumor that Swift dating a boy just for the material of her new songs which are always based on her experience in dating.

Overall, the lyrics tell how her love relationship is going. She never knows whether it is going well or no. All she has to do is just enjoy it. Nevertheless, we can see that actually Taylor Swift is a passionate lover. She always gives her best to keep the relationship, yet the men always disappoint her. They cheat and then leave her until she is frustrated. Although she knows that sometimes love is hurt, she takes it easy. She always opens her heart to start a new relationship and she does not worry if in the end she just adds a new man in her list of ex lovers.

4. Theoretical Framework

In analyzing the lyrics and music video of "Blank Space", the writer uses Sigmund Freud's theories on psychoanalysis, defense mechanism, and psychodynamic dream and symbolization in dream. The element of poetry and cinematography are also used to support the analysis to reveal the psychological contents.

4. 1. Psychoanalysis

Theory of Psychoanalysis is developed by Sigmund Freud. According to Macionis (2006: 66), Freud combines basic drives and the influence of society into a model of personality with three parts: *id*, *ego*, and *superego*. The *id* (Latin for "it") is *the human being's basic drives*, which are unconscious and demand immediate satisfaction (2006: 66). The *ego* (Latin for "I"), *which is a person's conscious efforts to balance innate pleasure-seeking drives with the demand of society* (2006: 66). The *superego* (Latin for "above or beyond the ego") is *the cultural values and norms internalized by an individual* (2006: 66).

4. 2. Defense Mechanism

Defense mechanism found by Freud, and then developed by her daughter Anna Freud. Defense mechanism is a way to block impulse or release it into more acceptable form. There are many forms of defense mechanism, one of them is displacement. According to Boeree (2006: 48), displacement is the redirection of an impulse onto a substitute target.

4. 3. Psychodynamic Dream and Symbolization in Dream

Sigmund Freud in his book *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1900) believes that dream is a kind of wish fulfillment (Coon, 1983: 161). There are four dream processes that help us to reveal the hidden meaning of a dream, one of them is symbolization. Freud believes that dreams are usually expressed in images that are symbolic rather than literal in their meaning (1983: 161). In works of literature, sometimes, the author cannot describe sexual motives explicitly because it will be too vulgar or harsh. To disguise the actual meaning, the authors often use symbolization in their works. For example, when the authors want to describe male's and female's genital. Since mentioning the name of genitals explicitly is considered to be vulgar, they will use objects that represent the genitals.

The more ethical visualization for male's genital has many variations. According to Freud, male's genital is symbolized in many ways in dreams (2002: 159).

For both genitals, penis which is more noticeable and attractive, is often symbolized by the object which shape is closely related, long shaped and straight, for example stick, umbrella, tree, etc. Penis may also be symbolized with the other objects which can penetrate or hurt people's body, for example some kinds of sharp weapon like knife, stiletto, javelin or sword, or even kinds of gun like rifle, pistol and revolver...Pencil, pen, nail file, nail and other similar object are male's genital symbols based on assumption that male's genital is sensitive (2002: 159).

If the male's genital is symbolized by the long shape and straight object, Freud states that female's genital is symbolized by the closed shape objects (2002: 160).

Female's genital is symbolically represented by all objects which have closed shapes or like a container, for example tunnel, valley and cave, or jar, bottle, box

in many sizes, cupboard, case, pocket, etc...wood, paper or things which made from wood or paper also considered as the female's genital symbol (2002: 160).

Furthermore, besides the sexual genitals, the sexual intercourse is also visualized in other ways. Freud mentions that the sexual intercourse is represented by activities which have rhyme like dancing, horse riding, climbing or experience that implicates violence (2002: 161).

4. 4. Diction and Imagery

Diction is the chosen words to show the way of someone writing or speaking. Meanwhile, according to Holman (1960: 361), poetic diction is words chosen for a supposedly inherent poetic quality. There are two types of diction; denotation and connotation. Denotation is the specific, exact meaning of a word, independent of its emotional colorations or associations (1960: 134). Otherwise, connotation is the cluster of implication that words or phrases may carry with them, as distinguished from their denotative meanings (1960: 105). Connotation contains the hidden and deepest meaning about something.

Based on Holman (1960: 233), imagery is described as a term used widely in contemporary criticism, *imagery* has a great variety of meanings.

4. 5. Elements of Cinematography

Elements of Cinematography are used to help the writer to analyze the scenes in the music video that support the idea of the lyrics.

4. 5. 1. Shot

Pratista in *Memahami Film* describes distances as the dimension of distance between the camera and the object of the frame (2008 : 104). Mostly, the movie object is human, so technically distances are measured based on human scale. There are seven kinds of shot in camera distance: extreme long shot, long shot, medium long shot, medium shot, medium close-up shot, close-up shot, extreme close-up shot.

4. 5. 2. *Mise-en-scene*

Bordwell and Thompson describe *mise-en-scene* as the fact of putting into scene, applied to the practice of the stage direction. The four main aspects of *mise-en-scene* are setting, lighting, costume and make up and the behaviour of the figures (1986: 119)

5. Research Method

The writer used library research to collect some informations related to the topic. Library research is often used to get secondary information source. The information on library research can be found from articles, books, and journals.

To analyze the data related to the topic, the writer used the objective and psychological approaches. The objective approach is portrayed through close reading method to comprehend the lyrics, close listening to comprehend the music,

and close viewing to analyze the visual in the music video. To support in analyzing the objective and psychological contents from both of the lyrics and the music video, the writer also used the cinematography elements. Psychological approach is used to understand the extrinsic aspect of the song and the music video. The approach determines the relationship of the work with the psychological concept of human being.

6. Discussion

In “Blank Space” lyrics and music video, there are some dictions and scenes that contain certain meaning. Every words in the lyrics and every scenes in the music video may give different meaning for the readers.

6. 1. Textual Analysis

The textual aspects that will be analyzed included diction and imagery and elements of cinematography.

6. 1. 1 Diction, Imagery and Elements of Cinematography

The music video is opened with a scene in picture 1.1 that shows a man driving a car heads to a big house but looks empty and deserted. This scene is taken in long shot mode to portray how big and luxurious a house in the video as the setting, however the lighting technique tries to make it looks gloomy. It turns out that the big house belongs to a woman who lives alone. In the picture 1.2, the audiences can see a medium shot of a scene shows that she is only accompanied by her cat. Through these two scenes in picture 1.1 and 1.2, the music video tries to tell the audience that the woman feels lonely. The proof is from the line that is sung at

this scene, which is "Nice to meet you where you been". At this scene, medium shot is used to express that the woman feels lonely and she waits for a man in her life for a long time from her body gesture. She wakes up alone and looks so tired by stretching out her hand. Then, after knowing a man is about to come to her life, she welcomes him nicely.

"Blank Space" uses imagery both in the lyrics and in the music video. We can see from the line "I could show you incredible things", the music video in picture 1.3 shows a scene at 00:00:12, the woman sits on her bed with two tame horses at both sides of the bed. According to *buildingbeautifulsouls.com*, tame white horse is interpreted as service and trusting relationship. Therefore, we can conclude that the woman is going to give the man an extraordinary love that he never felt before. This scene also exaggerates that she is really lonely, only accompanied by animals in her big luxurious house, and she craves for love.



Picture 1.1. 00:00:05



Picture 1.2. 00:00:08

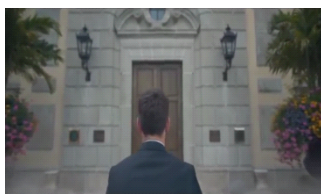


Picture 1.3. 00:00:12

The man heads to a big house The woman wakes up alone The woman and white horses

At scene 00:00:13 in the picture 2.1, the audiences can see medium close up shot of the man walks to a door of the woman's house. Door has a meaning that the genital is open. From this point, we can assume that the woman has sexual desire to make love. It is proven by at scene 00:00:14 and 00:00:15 in the picture 2.2 and 2.3, which the line is "Magic, madness, heaven, sin". The scene shows

close up shot of a white horse and then the long shot of the woman walks out of the door. When she says "madness, heaven", the scene is the white horse, which means her crazy love and when she says "sin", the scene is the woman walks out of the door that can be interpreted that she "opens" her genital to make love. In society, if we are not married yet, we are prohibited to make love. Therefore, she considers it as a sin.



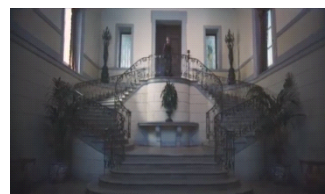
Picture 2.1. 00:00:13

The man walks to a door



Picture 2.2. 00:00:14

A white horse



Picture 2.3. 00:00:15

The woman walks out of a door

In "Blank Space" lyrics, there is a line that says, "Grab your passport and my hand". In real world, "passport", according to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 8th Edition* (2010: 1073) means an official document that you may have to show when you enter or leave certain country, or according to *thefreedictionary.com* passport is a quality, asset, etc that gains a person admission or acceptance. Since "passport" also has a meaning as an acceptance, so passport in "Blank Space" lyrics is connotation of woman's acceptance. It means that the woman accepts and allows the man to have sexual intercourse with her.



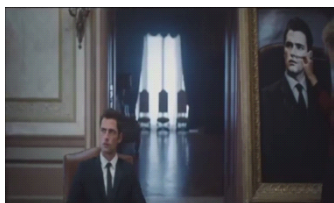
Picture 3.1. Passport



Picture 3.2. Brush

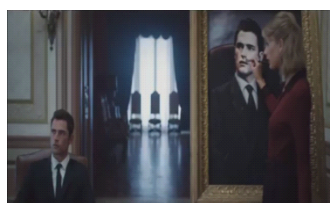
Similar with passport, "brush" is connotation of male's genital. Meanwhile, "canvas" is considered to be the connotation of female's genital symbol. Although Freud only said that female's genital is symbolically represented by things that are made from paper or wood, here, "canvas" has the possibility to be interpreted as the female's genital too. The function of the paper and the canvas is the same, as the media to pour something out like writing or drawing using tools like pencil or brush.

When Taylor Swift sings the line, "Grab your passport and my hand", in the music video, there is no passport portrayed, yet it is replaced with two medium shot scenes at 00:00:43 and 00:00:44 in picture 4.1 and 4.2, show the man as the object of her painting and the woman paints the man's portrait on the canvas. Then at line "I can make a bad guys good for a weekend" which is portrayed in the picture 4.3, a close up shot scene shows the woman holds a brush and shows flirty expression. It can be interpreted that the woman is about to have sexual intercourse with the man.



Picture 4.1. 00:00:43

The man as an object of her painting



Picture 4.2. 00:00:44

The woman paints the man's portrait on the canvas



Picture 4.3. 00:00:48

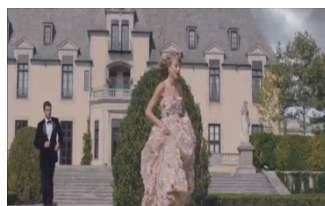
The woman holds a brush and shows her flirty face

By watching the music video, we can see that the main aspects of *mise-en-scene* which are setting, lighting, costume and make up, and behaviour of the figures also applied in this music video. The setting of the music video is the big

luxurious house to show that the woman is rich. The costumes also show the social status of the actors. The dresses and the suits define that the figures are well off. The make up of the woman supports her behaviour. When she is happy, the make up is nice and makes her beautiful, but when she is depressed, the make up is like a 'messy make up'. The scenes when the woman is depressed show the woman's face with smudged mascara.



Picture 5.1.
The setting



Picture 5.2.
The costumes



Picture 5.3.
The messy make up

6. 2. Contextual Analysis

From "Blank Space" lyrics, the character of woman reflects the concept of *Id*, *Ego*, and *Superego*. The *Id* is the human being's basic drive, which is unconscious. It seeks for the pleasure and satisfaction. From the line "I'm dying to see how this one ends", we can see that the woman is just curious about her relationship without thinking the bad or good effect for her. She just needs an immediate pleasure and satisfaction to fulfill her desire about man and sexual contact. She enjoys a relationship without thinking the risk because she assumes that love is just a game as stated in the line "love is a game, wanna play?" In picture 6.1, the woman reaches out her hand to the man like offering him to join in her love game. Then in picture 6.2 and 6.3 show that she spends her time by playing and having fun with the man.



Picture 6.1. 00:00:25
The woman reaches out her hand to the man

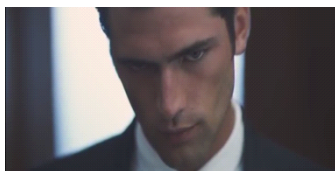


Picture 6.2. 00:00:39
She looks fun riding bicycle

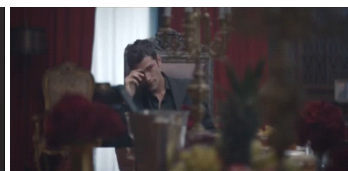


Picture 6.3. 00:01:13
They play running and chasing

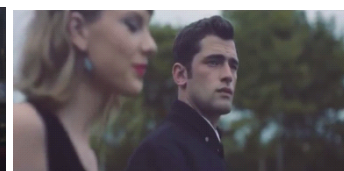
The *ego* covers her sexual desire to be with the man into the realistic one that is acceptable for society. It is called love. In the earlier part of the song, it shows that the woman is interested with the man. Then, she decides to be in a relationship with the man. In this state, the consciousness of the woman appears in the song lyrics. We can see from this line "Oh my God, look at that face, you look like my next mistake", the woman already knew that the man is not good for her. We can see the facial expression of the man, which is taken in close up shot mode. His eyes and his facial expression do not reflect that he is a good man. From the whole scenes, the man shows flat facial expression and never smiles when he is with the woman. It looks like he does not really love her. Picture 7.2 and 7.3 show the man does not look happy when he spends his time with the woman. However, the woman's ego about having a love relationship makes her still dating him.



Picture 7.1. 00:00:19
Close up shot of the man



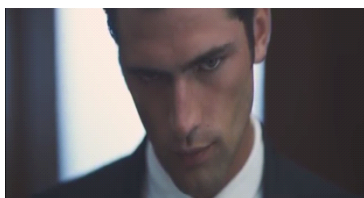
Picture 7.2. 00:00:33
The man looks anxious



Picture 7.3. 00:00:53
The contrast facial expression between the woman and the man

Boeree said that *Superego* consists of the conscience and ego ideal communicate their requirements to the ego with feelings like pride, shame, and guilt. Marriage as a cultural value and norm that people, in general, believe to have sacred love is the embodiment of *Superego*. In "Blank Space", the woman feels guilty for doing something that breaks cultural value and norm. It is stated at line "magic, madness, heaven, sin". The word "sin" refers to her intention of making love with the man while they are not married. It causes her feeling guilty by stating that as a sin.

Another kind of *Superego* in "Blank Space" is when the woman prefers to have relationship with the men who have tendency as players rather than with the good men. Therefore, she always wants similar type of men and proud of it. The problem is the ideal man that she has in mind is the man that is described in magazines. Indeed, the man who often appears in magazines must be handsome and elegant, as stated in the line "new money, suit and tie. I can read you like a magazine". In the end, the consequence is that she is always being hurt. The proves are in picture 8.1 at 00:00:19 and in picture 8.3 at 00:03:52 scenes in the music video show the same type of men; both of them drive luxurious cars, wear suit and tie and have handsome faces.



Picture 8.1. **00:00:19**
The first man



Picture 8.2. **00:00:07**
The first man's car



Picture 8.3. 00:03:52
The second man



Picture 8.4 00:03:49
The second man's car

6. 2. 1. Love Turns to Hate in "Blank Space" and Displacement as The Defense Mechanism Act

In the earlier part of the lyrics and the earlier scenes in the music video, we can see that the woman is nice to the man and she shows that she loves the man very much. It is proven by lines "Nice to meet you, where you been. I could show you incredible things". However, when it comes to the middle until the end part, the conflict arises. We can see it in line "Wait, the worst is yet to come, oh no". The fact that the man cheats makes the women angry, as stated in lines "Oh my God, who is she? I get drunk on jealousy".

To deal the conflict towards the man, she shows her anger into some objects as symbolic target to substitute the man. According to Boeree (2006: 48), displacement is the redirection of an impulse onto a substitute target. Defense mechanism is how ego defends itself when humans feel anxious as they try to communicate with the reality, *id* and *superego*. In "Blank Space" music video, we can see some scenes, which are considered to be displacement acts.

1. Cutting the tree



Picture 9.1. 00:03:37
The woman tries to cut the tree



Picture 9.2. 00:03:39
The woman looks annoyed with the tree



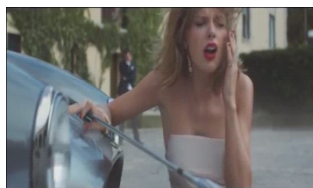
Picture 9.3. 00:03:40
The woman gets angrier

At 00:03:37 then 00:03:39 and 00:30:40, the camera shows the scenes in medium long shots. This medium long shot mode helps the director to give clear visualization of the woman cuts a tree, which has her name and the man's name written on its trunk. Tree is also the symbol of phallic. It can be interpreted that actually the woman wants to cut the man's genital, as it is an impossible thing to do, she substitutes her desire by cutting the tree since the tree is defenseless.

2. Hitting the car



Picture 10.1. 00:03:14
The woman hits the car



Picture 10.2. 00:03:16
The woman looks sad and depressed



Picture 10.3. 00:03:18
The woman hits the car again

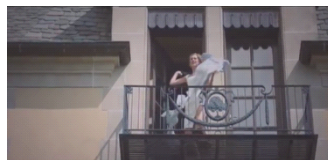
Rather than hitting the man whom she thinks is more powerful, the woman chooses to hit the man's luxurious car using golf stick. Since the car is very expensive, she considers that it may cause long term pain for the man. At 00:03:14, the shot is medium long shot and it shows the man stands from a

distance. He looks shocked but he cannot do anything. The focus of this scene is how the director tries to show the gesture of the woman hitting the man's car through this shot. At 00:03:16, the shot is medium close up shot and it shows the woman's face. It seems that actually hitting the car cannot placate herself completely. However, at 00:03:18, she chooses to hit the car again to release her anger.

3. Scissoring the man's clothes and burning the man's suit



Picture 11.1. 00:02:31
The woman scissors
the man's clothes



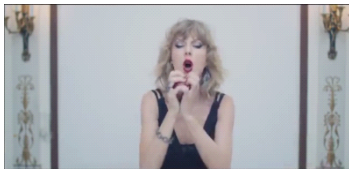
Picture 11.2. 00:02:43
The woman throws the clothes



Picture 11.3. 00:02:46
The burning suit

Not only hitting the car, to release her anger towards the man, she also scissors the man's clothes, throws them and then burns the man's suit. The purpose is to humiliate the man. As we know that one of this man's prides is his clothes and suit. At 00:02:31 and 00:02:43, the shots are taken in medium long shot to show how annoyed the woman towards the man. We can see from how she scissors and throws the clothes. Then, at 00:02:46, it is the close up shot of burning suit. The fire resembles the woman's anger.

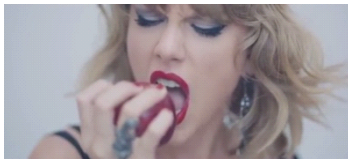
4. Squeezing and biting an apple



Picture 12.1. 00:02:56
The woman squeezes an apple



Picture 12.2. 00:02:57
The man is in pain



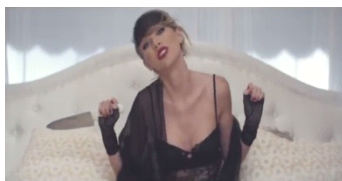
Picture 12.3. 00:03:10
The woman bites an apple



Picture 12.4. 00:03:11
The man is choked

From some scenes above, we can see that the apple has relation with the man. Apple as a symbolic substitute of the man's genital. The man shows that he is in a pain when the woman squeezes and bites the apple. Picture 12.1 at 00:02:56 and picture 12.2 at 00:02:57 are taken in medium close up shots to visualize the body gesture of the woman and man. When the woman squeezes the apple, the man looks getting certain pain. Then, picture 12.3 at 00:03:10 and picture 12.4 at 00:03:11 are taken in close up shots to show the facial expression of the woman and man. The woman looks annoyed and angry when she bites the apple, while the man is choked and then he is thrown up.

5. Stabbing a cake



Picture 13.1 00:03:17
The woman holds a knife



Picture 13.2 00:03:21
A cake is in front of her



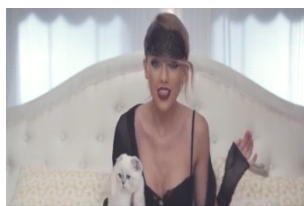
Picture 13.3 00:03:23
The woman stabs the cake

The woman stabs the cake until it bleeds shows that she wants the man knows that he really hurts her. We can see the phallic symbol from the knife that she holds to stab the cake. The knife as a symbolic substitute of the man's genital or simply a representation of a man. Picture 13.1 at 00:03:17 is taken in medium close up shot to show the expression of the woman while she holding a knife. Picture 13.2 at 00:03:21 is taken in medium shot to show both the woman's facial expression and the situation in her bedroom. It seems that she becomes alone again since nobody is in the room but herself. Picture 13.3 at 00:03:23 is taken in close up shot to visualize how she 'bleeds' after the man hurts her.

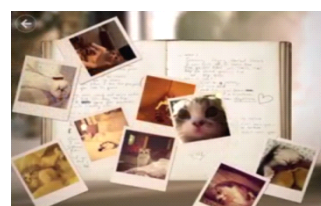
6. Having cats as pets



Picture 14.1. 00:00:08
The woman wakes up with



Picture 14.2. 00:00:17
Close up shot of the woman



Picture 14.3. 00:04:08
Photos of cats

In the beginning and the last scenes of the music video, shows that the woman loves cat. In the act of displacement, this act means that the woman does not have a chance to love man properly, instead, she has cat as pet to express her desire to love. Picture 14.1 at 00:00:08 is taken in medium close up shot to show that she lives with the cat. Picture 14.2 at 00:00:17 and picture 14.3 at 00:04:08 are taken in close up shot to show the face of her cats. The role of the cats is being her love object, displacing a man.

7. Conclusion

"Blank Space" is a song about a woman who has complicated feeling toward her love relationship. From the song and the music video of "Blank Space", we can see that the psychoanalysis concepts of Sigmund Freud are applied.

To prove the *Id* (the woman's sexual desire), *Ego* (love relationship), and *Superego* (the woman's preference about ideal man) in the lyrics, the music video shows some scenes that help the audiences to catch that idea in the song easier. Meanwhile, the reason of using words "Blank Space" as the title of the song also can be related to the *Id*. From the character of the woman as portrayed in the music video, her *Id* is to get sexual pleasure. From the analysis of both the lyrics and the music video, the writer finds that "Blank Space" can be concluded as the woman's longing for always having sexual intercourse with the man. It means "Blank Space" referring to the woman's genital when she does not do sexual activity.

"Blank Space" also has some scenes that express one of defense mechanism acts, which is called as displacement, such as: cutting the tree, hitting the car, scissoring the man's clothes and throwing them, and then burning the man's suit, squeezing and biting an apple, stabbing a cake, and having cats as pet. Displacement helps the woman to release her anger and love desire towards her man by using other objects as the targets.

Theory of psychodynamic dream with the symbolization process is also applied in this music video through the symbols of the brush, tree and knife which represent male's genital to disguise the vulgar messages.

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APPENDIX I

"Blank Space"

Nice to meet you, where you been?

I could show you incredible things

Magic, madness, heaven, sin

Saw you there and I thought

Oh my God, look at that face

You look like my next mistake

Love's game, want to play?

New money, suit and tie

I can read you like a magazine

Ain't it funny, rumors fly

And I know you heard about me

So hey, let's be friends

I'm dying to see how this one ends

Grab your passport and my hand

I can make the bad guys good for a weekend

So it's gonna be forever

Or it's gonna go down in flames

You can tell me when it's over

If the high was worth the pain

Got a long list of ex-lovers

They'll tell you I'm insane

'Cause you know I love the players

And you love the game

'Cause we're young and we're reckless

We'll take this way too far

It'll leave you breathless

Or with a nasty scar

Got a long list of ex-lovers

They'll tell you I'm insane

But I've got a blank space baby

And I'll write your name

Cherry lips, crystal skies

I could show you incredible things

Stolen kisses, pretty lies

You're the king baby I'm your Queen

Find out what you want

Be that girl for a month

Wait the worst is yet to come, oh no

Screaming, crying, perfect storm

I can make all the tables turn

Rose gardens filled with thorns

Keep you second guessing like

"Oh my God, who is she?"

I get drunk on jealousy

But you'll come back each time you leave

'Cause darling I'm a nightmare dressed like a daydream

So it's gonna be forever

Or it's gonna go down in flames

*You can tell me when it's over
If the high was worth the pain
Got a long list of ex-lovers
They'll tell you I'm insane
'Cause you know I love the players
And you love the game*

*'Cause we're young and we're reckless
We'll take this way too far
It'll leave you breathless
Or with a nasty scar
Got a long list of ex-lovers
They'll tell you I'm insane (Insane)
But I've got a blank space baby
And I'll write your name*

*Boys only want love if it's torture
Don't say I didn't say I didn't warn ya
Boys only want love if it's torture
Don't say I didn't say I didn't warn ya*

*So it's gonna be forever
Or it's gonna go down in flames
You can tell me when it's over
If the high was worth the pain
Got a long list of ex-lovers
They'll tell you I'm insane
'Cause you know I love the players
And you love the game*

'Cause we're young and we're reckless

We'll take this way too far

It'll leave you breathless

Or with a nasty scar

Got a long list of ex-lovers

They'll tell you I'm insane

But I've got a blank space baby

And I'll write your name

Songwriters

SWIFT, TAYLOR / MARTIN, MAX / SHELLBACK, JOHAN

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