



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**A COMPARATIVE MELODIC ANALYSIS ON POP COUNTRY
SONGS BETWEEN TWO SONGWRITERS OF DIFFERENT
ERAS**

**CASE STUDY: *DIANE WARREN, HOW DO I LIVE &
TAYLOR SWIFT, LOVE STORY***

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**A COMPARATIVE MELODIC ANALYSIS ON POP COUNTRY SONGS
BETWEEN TWO SONGWRITERS OF DIFFERENT ERAS**

CASE STUDY: Diane Warren, 'How Do I Live' (1998), Taylor Swift, 'Love Story' (2008)

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Each and every one of us lived our everyday lives with skills. Some skills are naturally given and some skills are required through study and practice, such as cooking, playing sports, and learning to speak a new language that requires studying. However, there are skills that not all of us have or given. This skill is songwriting. The combination of two skills which is to practice and perhaps through the genetics.

When listening to music, many people do not know the difference between a composer and a songwriter. Firstly, a composer does both, writes and arranges the music and a songwriter is a person who writes the music and lyrics to individual songs.

At times, songwriting can be very challenging. It may be long or a fast process. It can come in different sorts of styles and genres. Many things were created during the process of songwriting that includes the melody, lyrics and arrangement. These are the main things that most songwriters develop during writing music. Music can describe anything whether it is love, hatred, and other emotions. Mostly, majority of songs were written by the songwriters' comes from their own personal experiences in life.

Popular music genre is not the only genre that took over the charts, whereas pop country songs are also dominating today's charts. Pop country can determined by its arrangement and melody. This genre is similar to adult contemporary genre and it usually mainstream through the United States.

A good songwriter usually creates a very memorable and a catchy melody. It is important to do so because that is one of the main criteria and to catch the listeners' with their "hook". With all the variety of music and singers of today, everyone has someone to look up to and inspire them. Whether it is from the 80's, 90's or present. The most successful songwriters' from two different eras are Diane Warren and Taylor Swift. Diane Warren's songs have transcended genres. Her famous number one songs are *Because You Love Me*, *How Do I Live*, and *I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing*. As for Taylor Swift, a famous singer songwriter that has more than the country style, she has a way of making music that everyone easy to listen to.

1.2 Problem Statement

When writing a song, it actually depends on the composer or a songwriter on how long will the process be. Sometimes, it may be a very short or a long process. If once the idea is in mind, the songwriters' may start writing. But to make a really good music, the best thing to do is to arrange the layout the music elements of one's song, which is the instrumentation, texture, arrangement and melody. For example, the melody. A melody begins, moves, and ends; it has direction, shape, and continuity. The up-and-down movement of its pitches conveys tension and release, expectation and arrival (Kamien 2004).

Some songwriters and composers hold on to songwriting principles. For example, a song needs a strong form. A song must have some level of contrast so it will not sound uninteresting. In general, to maintain the energy of a song is important. Harmony on the other hand is vital to support the melody. Chorus usually uses stronger progression because the listeners' anticipates "the hook".

In songwriting, generally we would say that melody is the most important part. When you find yourself humming in your mind that may best to describe a melody. Melodies can make us either both happy and sad. The main two basic elements that define melody are pitch and rhythm. Besides the basic elements, there are other components as

well, for example the rise and fall of the notes which we call the shape or contour of melody, the intervals that is used whether it is moved by stepwise, leaps or maybe both. Moreover, structure and phrasing also completes the musical testimony. A good melody is the most memorable aspect of a song, the one the listener remembers and is able to perform (Perricone 2000)

These days with an advance technology, anyone can be a songwriter. Various types of software are available to help people who love writing music without a proper studio. Whether you would like to notate or record your music. Even though anyone can write music, but not all good melodies catches the listeners'. An excellent songwriter writes quality music. There are a few famous songwriter and singer songwriter that write best pop country songs such as Diane Warren and Taylor Swift.

1.3 Objectives of Study

The objectives for this study are as follows:

1. To differentiate melodic characteristic of pop country music in two different eras.
2. To analyze the melodic structure of the selected songs.
3. To study the interaction of melody and harmony of Diane Warren's and Taylor Swift's songs.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the differences of melodic characteristics in both songs?
2. How did the melodic structure construct?
3. How does the melody interacts with the harmony?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This is a study as a means of discovering ways on how good songs were written by successful songwriters. It will be stressed upon melody and how they relate to the