

## Literary Criticism in the Album *Selamat Ulang Tahun*—Nadin Amizah: An Expressive Approach

Nhaya Devina<sup>1</sup>, Sarah Nur Fitriyah<sup>1</sup>, Cecep Agus<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institut Prima Bangsa  
[nayyadvn@gmail.com](mailto:nayyadvn@gmail.com)\*

### ABSTRACT

The research examines Nadin Amizah's album '*Selamat Ulang Tahun*' through an expressive approach to literary criticism, focusing on how the artist's personal experiences and emotions are reflected in her songwriting. Born in 2000 in Bandung, Nadin's background as a child of divorced parents who primarily lived with her grandmother significantly influences her musical narratives. The album, consisting of nine songs including '*Bertaut*,' '*Kanyaah*,' '*Paman Tua*,' '*Kereta Ini Melaju Terlalu Cepat*,' '*Beranjak Dewasa*,' '*Taruh*,' '*Cermin*,' '*Mendarah*,' and '*Sorak Sorai*,' explores themes of maternal love, family dynamics, personal growth, and emotional healing. Through detailed analysis of each song's lyrics, the study reveals how Nadin transforms her intimate experiences into universally resonant stories. The research particularly highlights her masterful use of metaphor and imagery to convey complex emotions, as exemplified in songs like '*Bertaut*,' which uses the metaphor of intertwined heartbeats to describe the mother-daughter bond, and '*Cermin*,' which employs mirror imagery to explore self-reflection and healing. The study concludes that Nadin's ability to weave her personal narrative into accessible, emotionally powerful lyrics contributes significantly to the album's widespread appeal among Indonesian audiences. This analysis demonstrates how the expressive approach to literary criticism can reveal the deep connections between an artist's lived experiences and their creative output, particularly in contemporary popular music.

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### INTRODUCTION

Nadin Amizah is a prominent Indonesian singer-songwriter whose discography resonates deeply with listeners through its raw, autobiographical lyricism and emotional vulnerability. Her debut single, *Rumpang* (2019), which explores the profound loneliness of losing a loved one, earned her the Best New Artist award and established her as a voice for Indonesia's youth (Hartiningtyas et al., 2023). Nadin's two studio albums—*Selamat Ulang Tahun* (2020) and *Dunia, Cinta, dan Kotornya* (2023)—alongside her mini-album *Kala Bertaruh* (2022), are characterized by deeply personal narratives that blend poetic introspection with sociocultural commentary (Setiawati & Basir, 2024). As a self-composed artist, her works serve as artistic diaries, transforming childhood trauma, familial estrangement, and identity struggles into universal themes of longing and resilience.

The expressive approach in literary criticism posits that literature—and by extension, lyrical works—are manifestations of the author's psyche, reflecting their lived experiences, emotions, and worldview (Cole, 2021). This framework emphasizes the interplay between the artist's inner world and their creative output, particularly in contexts where personal trauma is sublimated into art (Showalter, 1975). A study, such as Sosrowijaya (2023), has applied this approach to analyze how artists channel sociopolitical dissent into their work. However, research gaps persist in examining how female Southeast Asian artists like Nadin Amizah transform personal trauma—rather than collective political struggles—into universally resonant narratives. Existing scholarship on Indonesian music has largely focused on male-dominated genres (e.g., dangdut or protest punk) or collective cultural identities (Daryana et al., 2023), overlooking the nuanced emotional landscapes of contemporary female singer-songwriters.

This study's novelty lies in applying the expressive approach to *Nadin's Selamat Ulang Tahun*, positioning her as a case study for how personal trauma is reimagined as universal art in Indonesia's modern music industry. Nadin's childhood—marked by her parents' divorce, estrangement, and upbringing by her grandmother—serves as a thematic anchor for her lyrics. For instance, Bertaut (2020) interrogates the paradox of longing for an absent mother, while *Paman Tua* (2020) redefines familial bonds through the lens of a non-conventional guardian (Nugroho, 2021). Unlike prior studies that treat lyrics as biographical footnotes (Negus, 2012), this analysis reveals how Nadin's music transcends autobiography by embedding personal grief into broader discourses on identity, belonging, and healing. By synthesizing the expressive framework with feminist critiques of Southeast Asian artistry (Kang, 2002), this paper argues that Nadin's work exemplifies a generational shift in Indonesian music, where vulnerability becomes a tool for both personal catharsis and collective empathy.

## METHOD

The expressive approach in literary criticism positions literature as an outpouring of the author's soul, a manifestation of their inner world. This approach delves into how authors project their personal experiences, thoughts, and emotions onto their work. It often explores the interplay between the author's psyche and the societal forces that shape them.

Essentially, this approach highlights the importance of the author in understanding a literary work. It invites us to consider how the author's unique perspective and intentions influence the meaning and value of their creation.

The expressive approach is particularly suitable for analyzing or critiquing poetry, where authors often express their emotions directly. Since songs are essentially musical poems, this approach can also be effectively applied to analyze songs like those by Nadin Amizah, especially considering that she writes her own lyrics. This makes it easier to identify the author's unique perspective and intentions, which play a significant role in the meaning of her songs.

This critical analysis will focus on Nadin Amizah's album, 'Selamat Ulang Tahun,' which consists of nine songs, such as 1) *Kanyaah*, 2) *Paman Tua*, 3) *Kereta Ini Melaju Terlalu Cepat*, 4) *Beranjak Dewasa*, 5) *Bertaut*, 6) *Taruh*, 7) *Cermin*, 8) *Mendarah*, and 9) *Sorak Sorai*. These songs explore the love between a mother and child, as well as personal life lessons. Before delving into the critique, a brief biography of the artist will be provided. Afterward, each song will be analyzed individually to facilitate a more detailed understanding of the author's perspective and intentions in each piece. By examining each song separately, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the nuances and complexities of her work.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Nadin Amizah, a talented Indonesian singer, was born in Bandung on May 28, 2000. Growing up, she spent most of her childhood and teenage years with her grandmother in Bandung due to her parents' divorce and her mother's need to work in Jakarta. Nadin holds a bachelor's degree in Communication from the London School of Public Relations.

Nadin's musical journey began with her uploading cover songs on YouTube and Instagram. She gained significant recognition in 2016 after participating in the television show 'Media Sensation' aired on Trans TV, where she secured the third place. Her popularity has since soared, and she has released two successful albums: '*Selamat Ulang Tahun*' and '*Untuk Dunia, Cinta, dan Kotornya*'. Nadin also achieved a remarkable feat by holding a solo concert titled '*Selamat Ulang Tahun*' on Mother's Day, December 22, 2022.

The album '*Selamat Ulang Tahun*' consists of ten tracks, including an intro, and exudes a deeply personal atmosphere. The intimate and emotional quality of the songs is enhanced by Nadin's decision to record them in her own room, allowing listeners to connect with her on a profound level. The album features tracks such as 1) *Kanyaah*, 2) *Paman Tua*, 3) *Kereta Ini Melaju Terlalu Cepat*, 4) *Beranjak Dewasa*, 5) *Bertaut*, 6) *Taruh*, 7) *Cermin*, 8) *Mendarah*, and 9) *Sorak Sorai*.

### ***Bertaut***

Nadin Amizah's '*Bertaut*' is a deeply personal song that explores the complex dynamics of a mother-daughter relationship. Inspired by her own experiences of growing up with a single mother, Nadin paints a vivid picture of love, strength, and resilience.

*Aku masih ada sampai di sini  
Melihatmu kuat setengah mati  
Seperti detak jantung yang bertaut  
Nyawaku nyala kar'na denganmu*

The song's core theme revolves around the unbreakable bond between mother and daughter. The lyric '*Seperti detak jantung yang bertaut*' beautifully captures the intimate connection, emphasizing the idea that their lives are intertwined. This sentiment is further reinforced by the line, '*Nyawaku nyala kar'na denganmu*' which highlights the mother's role as a source of life and strength.

The aforementioned stanza is beautifully written. It employs an A-A-B-B rhyme scheme, making the song sound melodious and cohesive. The lyrics are written in simple language, yet they successfully convey complex emotions such as love, support, and concern. Furthermore, the lyrics contain imagery, as seen in the line '*Seperti detak jantung yang bertaut*'. This imagery visualizes the close connection between two people (Nadin and her mother).

If we only look at this one stanza, its meaning could be universal. One might wonder whether the lyrics are about family, friendship, or a romantic partner (Loginova, 2020). However, when viewed in the context of the entire song and the singer's background, we understand what Nadin wants to convey through '*Bertaut*'.

*Keras kepalaku sama denganmu  
Caraku marah, caraku tersenyum*

The song also delves into the similarities and differences between mother and daughter. The lyric, '*Keras kepalaku sama denganmu*' acknowledges the inherited traits and shared behaviors. This honest portrayal of a mother-daughter relationship adds depth and authenticity to the song.

Emotionally, '*Bertaut*' is a rollercoaster of feelings. The opening lines evoke a sense of loneliness and isolation, while the subsequent verses transition to tenderness and gratitude. The song's raw and vulnerable lyrics, coupled with Nadin's soulful vocals, create a powerful emotional impact on the listener.

Through '*Bertaut*', Nadin Amizah has crafted a timeless piece that celebrates the enduring power of maternal love. By sharing her personal experiences, she has connected with audiences on a profound level, reminding us of the importance of cherishing our loved ones.

## ***Kanyaah***

*Kanyaah* is a song composed by Nadin specifically for her mother. Nadin, who has had experiences that many people consider less than ideal, created a general song about mothers. She wanted to tell about how her mother embraced her sadness and supported her to rise again. Through the song, Nadin portrays a mother who raised her with love, was non-judgmental, and did not demand anything from her. Additionally, Nadin wants to convey that her single mother was able to raise her very well, and she feels that love is enough. This song seems to be an expression of gratitude for having a mother who always allows and permits her to do and feel anything that is within her. This is evidenced by the following lyrics.

### **[First verse]**

*Bunga merah menjemput yang lelah  
Dibuai-nya basah*

### **[Second verse]**

*Bunga merah memanggil yang lelah  
Dibuatnya rekah*

These two lines are repeated twice in the same verse, indicating an emphasis on the meaning of the lyrics. Nadin likens her mother to a '*Bunga merah*', where the word '*bunga*' symbolizes beauty and the word '*merah*' describes warmth and love. While Nadin herself is described as '*lelah*' to depict her helplessness. The second line in the first verse conveys the emotions of a mother's love and affection for her child. While the second line in the third verse describes how her mother always supports and accompanies Nadin until she feels better and can rise again.

### **[Second verse]**

*Seperti lembut yang mengizinkan  
Lebih kuat dan tak lemah  
Seperti lembut yang memperbolehkanku  
Lebih lemah dan tak gagah*

The second verses contain contrasting lyrics, where each pair of lines describes two opposing things. However, verse explains how her mother allows and permits Nadin to express all feelings.

*Kanyaah* is written very well by Nadin, perhaps because she wants to describe her mother who plays a big role in her life. This song is quite popular and widely listened to by those who have similar experiences as the singer. However, this song doesn't tell much about her mother. This is evidenced by the repeated lyrics in each verse, so the message conveyed is still very general and doesn't sound special. The choice of meaning and words may be because Nadin wants her song to represent many people by telling about the role of a mother that is generally known with simple tones and words. This is also the reason why this song is widely listened to, because the lyrics are made very deep and touching to the listeners (Edisti, 2024).

## ***Paman Tua***

Nadin Amizah's '*Paman Tua*' is a poignant ode to the unsung heroes of family life: fathers. Through her heartfelt lyrics, Nadin paints a vivid portrait of a man who tirelessly provides for his family, his face etched with the weight of responsibility.

The title itself, '*Paman Tua*,' is a curious choice. While it might seem to refer to a paternal uncle, it's clear that Nadin intends it as a tribute to her stepfather. This linguistic nuance adds a layer of complexity to the song, highlighting the non-traditional family dynamic and the depth of her bond with her stepfather. The word '*Paman*' suggests a sense of kinship, a connection forged through love and shared experiences rather than blood.

*Paman tua  
Berlarian dengan tangan di bahunya  
Berharap cepat sampai tujuannya  
Bergumam letih menunggu kereta  
Senyummu perlahan pudar  
Digantikan dengan sesak  
Meraih 'tuk cepat pulang  
Melingkar di meja makan*

The lyrics delve into the emotional turmoil that often accompanies the role of a provider. The fading smile and the growing weariness are universal symbols of a father's sacrifice. Yet, the simple act of returning home to the dinner table is portrayed as a source of solace and rejuvenation. This seemingly ordinary scene is imbued with profound significance, underscoring the power of family bonds.

While '*Paman Tua*' is a deeply personal expression of love and gratitude, it also resonates with a broader audience. The themes of family, sacrifice, and love are timeless and transcend cultural boundaries. However, the song's unconventional title and its personal nature might limit its wider appeal. To truly appreciate the depth of emotion and the nuanced storytelling, one must delve into the artist's personal life and the context behind the song.

In conclusion, '*Paman Tua*' is a heartfelt tribute to a loving and hardworking father. Nadin Amizah's ability to capture the essence of a complex relationship through simple yet powerful lyrics is a testament to her artistry. By sharing her personal story, she invites listeners to reflect on their own familial bonds and appreciate the sacrifices made by their loved ones (Amukti et al., 2023).

### ***Kereta Ini Melaju Cepat***

Nadin Amizah's '*Kereta Ini Melaju Terlalu Cepat*' emerges as a manifestation of a soul grappling with the complexities of human emotions. Through poignant and poetic lyrics, Nadin successfully frames the universal experiences of love, loss, and the passage of time into a captivating ballad.

*Masih takut untuk dicinta  
Masih takut untuk saling menerima*

The lyrics of the song are like a mirror reflecting the depth of emotional wounds. The fear of love and acceptance depicted in the opening verse seems to be a protective wall built to avoid further pain. Yet, behind this wall lies a longing for the warmth of human connection.

*Tawa yang telah pudar dan tua  
Digantikan dengan takut dan gundah*

The lyrics are a powerful metaphor. Nadin successfully presents a heart-wrenching contrast between a past filled with happiness and the bitter reality of the present. The slow process of erasing a name and forgetting further emphasizes that emotional wounds take a long time to heal.

Overall, '*Kereta Ini Melaju Terlalu Cepat*' is a deeply personal work. Nadin successfully voices feelings that are often difficult to express, namely the profound feeling of loss. Through melancholic tones and touching lyrics, this song manages to create a strong emotional connection with the listener.'

### ***Beranjak Dewasa***

'Beranjak Dewasa' is a song that once again delves into the experience of growing up too quickly. Written based on Nadin's personal experiences, stories, or observations, the song aims to convey a message, a purpose, and a deeper meaning through its lyrics.

*Berbaring tersentak tertawa  
Tertawa dengan air mata  
Mengingat bodohnya dunia  
Dan kita yang masih saja  
Berusaha  
Kita beranjak dewasa  
Jauh terburu seharusnya  
Bagai bintang yang jatuh  
Jauh terburu waktu  
Mati lebih cepat  
Mati lebih cepat*

This song describes adolescence. At that time, we had many friends and shared laughter and happiness. Until finally, we can only remember those times with laughter accompanied by tears. Nadin says that adult life is full of challenges and wounds, so we have to try so hard. She feels that past experiences have passed so quickly like a theatrical performance. Where we are only spectators and return to continue the hard life after the show is over. Nadin describes adulthood as so harsh that she uses the emphasis of the lyrics '*Mati lebih cepat*' repeatedly in her lyrics.

In essence, Nadin pours out the story of adulthood that she has experienced and seen in real life. This song is quite popular because the choice of words and the meaning of the lyrics are very easy to understand. In addition, for Indonesian people, this song is very relevant to real life, where in the past we only thought about assignments and playing, now it has changed to having to think about various things such as work, economic problems, politics, and so on (Dhenggo et al., 2023). The sudden change makes her feel suffocated as if she were about to die. That is why Nadin emphasizes the lyrics '*Mati lebih cepat*' repeatedly to express her tiredness with adult life.

### ***Taruh***

Nadin Amizah's song *Taruh* delves into the complexities of love and the challenges that come with it, reflecting a profound understanding of emotional vulnerability and resilience. The lyrics encapsulate a journey of learning about love from a young age, emphasizing that love is not an invincible experience but one fraught with risks and uncertainties.

The song begins with lines that set the tone, asserting that love is inherently challenging and far from easy. Nadin expresses that her understanding of love has been shaped since childhood, revealing a foundation built on lessons learned through observation and experience. This acknowledgment of early lessons in love resonates with listeners, as many can relate to the notion that love is often complicated and full of struggles.

*aku sudah tau dari awal  
mencintai bukan perkara kebal  
jauh dari kata mudah dan asal  
kupelajari sedari kecil*

The next lines paint a vivid picture of emotional turmoil. The imagery conveys a sense of conflict and pain, illustrating how easily things can fall apart compared to the effort needed to maintain them. The use of harsh language, such as 'curses,' underscores the rawness of these

experiences, reinforcing the idea that love often coexists with suffering.

*Berteriak di atas tenggorokan  
Hujan serapah dan makian  
Hancur lebih mudah dari bertahan*

As the song progresses, Nadin introduces a glimmer of hope, reflecting her aspiration for a future filled with optimism despite external doubts. This highlights a theme of optimism in relationships, showing that even when faced with skepticism from others, there is faith in the potential for growth and connection between partners.

*Aku punya harapan untuk kita  
Yang masih kecil di mata semua*

The song's chorus portrays the struggle between fear and commitment. Here, Nadin acknowledges the presence of fear in her relationship but chooses to embrace it as part of her journey. These lines resonate with many who have experienced similar emotions in their relationships, demonstrating her willingness to face challenges head-on while committing to her partner.

*Walau takut kadang menyebalkan  
Tapi sepanjang hidup 'kan ku habiskan'*

Closing lines reinforce a powerful message and serve as a statement of strength and unity against external judgment. Nadin asserts that despite the disbelief or misunderstanding of others, the bond she shares with her partner is strong enough to endure any hardship. This sentiment elevates the song from a personal reflection to an anthem of love's resilience.

*Walau tak terdengar masuk akal  
Bagi mereka yang tak percaya  
Tapi kita punya kita  
Yang akan melawan dunia*

*Taruh* by Nadin Amizah is more than just a song about romantic love. It is an exploration of emotional depth, vulnerability, and perseverance. Through its poignant lyrics and evocative imagery, Nadin invites listeners to reflect on their own experiences with love the joy, the struggles, and the courage required to endure. The song beautifully encapsulates the idea that while love can be daunting, it is worth fighting for, making it deeply relatable to those navigating their emotional landscapes.

### ***Cermin***

*Cermin* is a profound journey of introspection, exploring the relationship between one's outward appearance and the wounded soul within. Through its lyrics, Nadin Amizah paints a complex portrait of self-acceptance and healing, infused with vulnerability and courage. The song invites listeners to delve into the emotional struggles of understanding, accepting, and healing oneself amidst inner wounds and societal expectations.

*Dengan tanganku, kubantu aku  
Tumbuh membaru, dengan lukaku*

Nadin illustrates her efforts to support herself in the process of transformation, with the mirror symbolizing introspection and the attempt to mend and renew forgotten parts of herself. The theme of self-acceptance is also evident in the lyrics:

*Dengan lukaku, ku sisir halus  
Rambutku yang lusuh*

These lines emphasize the importance of both physical and emotional self-care, highlighting self-acceptance as a vital step in healing.

*Bergantian aku, dengan dia yang di cermin*

The song touches on the theme of duality, suggesting two sides of her identity: one that struggles and another that is wiser. The mirror serves as a place to confront and strive toward becoming the best version of oneself. Despite the difficulties,

*Yang lebih pandai tersenyum, tertawa,  
bernyanyi tetap di kala terpuruk*

Nadin still shows a determination to be positive, reflecting the spirit to fight life's challenges cheerfully. On the road to recovery, Nadin realizes the challenges she faces, as illustrated in the lyrics '*ini aku yang kau tahu, dengan beratku, tarik lemahku.*' She emphasizes the importance of personal responsibility in maintaining emotional health.

Nadin's attempt to meld sadness is depicted in the lyrics '*kusulam senyum, meleburkan yang pilu,*' which shows her attempt to replace pain with better self-acceptance. This message reminds us that although sadness cannot be completely eliminated, we have the choice to deal with it. The song closes on a hopeful note, with the lyrics '*demi menjadi, aman tuk yang butuh,*' showing Nadin's desire to improve herself in order to have a positive impact on others. Overall, *Cermin* is a moving piece that touches on themes of self-reflection, acceptance, and the courage to face emotional wounds. Nadin creates an emotional journey that relates not only to herself, but also to many other listeners.

### ***Mendarah***

*Mendarah* by Nadin Amizah is a profound exploration of acceptance and courage in facing life's realities. Through her poetic lyrics, Nadin shares personal experiences while inviting listeners to reflect on the meaning of every '*luka*' in life and how those '*luka*' shape one's identity. The song portrays an emotional journey that resonates with many, especially in understanding the processes of self-acceptance, bravery, and healing.

In the opening lyrics, '*Setiap luka yang kau tinggalkan, adalah warna dalam hidupku,*' Nadin embraces painful experiences as an inseparable part of her life journey. Here, '*luka*' is not merely pain but a valuable lesson that enriches the soul and adds color to life. This reflection becomes central to the song's message, emphasizing the importance of understanding and accepting the past as a step toward growth.

Next, Nadin conveys courage in facing reality through the lyrics, '*Aku takkan mundur, meski terjatuh.*' These words reflect her determination to keep moving forward despite hardships. The song highlights a strong fighting spirit and the bravery to rise after falling. Nadin asserts that resilience is a crucial element in the healing process, where each challenge becomes an opportunity to grow stronger.

The song also reveals the duality of emotions as an inseparable part of life. In the lyrics, '*Di antara tawa dan air mata,*' Nadin implies that life is a blend of joy and sorrow. This duality not only mirrors reality but also illustrates how contrasting emotions complement each other, creating balance in one's life journey.



The healing process takes center stage in the lyrics, '*Setiap detik adalah langkahku, menuju cahaya.*' These lines depict Nadin's efforts to move forward toward healing. Although the journey is not always easy, every small step taken represents hope for reaching a better state. In this context, *Mendarah* serves as a reminder that while healing takes time, even small progress is meaningful.

The song's conclusion delivers a message of hope and transformation. In the lyrics, '*Kini aku berdiri, lebih kuat dari sebelumnya,*' Nadin emphasizes that every bad experience can bring forth newfound strength. This reflects personal growth after overcoming various challenges and difficulties. Such transformation becomes a symbol of hope that from '*luka*' and sorrow, one can find greater strength. Overall, *Mendarah* is a heartfelt work with profound themes of self-acceptance, courage, and the healing process. Through its meaningful lyrics, Nadin Amizah creates an emotional journey that inspires listeners to reflect on their own life experiences.

### ***Sorak Sorai***

*Sorak Sorai* by Nadin Amizah is a celebration of resilience and joy, portraying a journey from darkness to light. Through its spirited lyrics, Nadin invites listeners to feel the power of hope and the happiness that emerges after overcoming difficult times. The song is a testament to human strength and the importance of finding joy even in challenging moments.

In the opening lyrics, '*Aku masih ada sampai di sini, melihatmu kuat setengah mati,*' Nadin reflects on the resilience and presence of someone who continues to fight despite hardships. This conveys an unyielding fighting spirit and highlights the significance of mutual support in navigating life's challenges. These lines serve as a reminder of the strength that can be found in enduring relationships.

The symbolism of strength is further explored in the lines, '*Seperti detak jantung yang bertaut, nyawaku nyala kar'na denganmu.*' Here, the heartbeat becomes a metaphor for life and deep connection between individuals. It suggests that the presence of loved ones gives meaning and vitality to existence, emphasizing the transformative power of close relationships.

Nadin's use of simple yet impactful language makes the song's messages accessible and relatable. For instance, the phrase, '*Keras kepalaku sama denganmu,*' underscores the shared stubbornness and character between the singer and a loved one. This creates an emotional closeness that resonates deeply with listeners, strengthening the song's universal appeal.

*Sorak Sorai* takes listeners on an emotional journey from sorrow to joy. Through its vivid lyrics, the song paints a picture of rising above adversity, implying that behind every difficulty lies hope for a brighter future. The imagery in the lyrics conveys a sense of renewal and optimism, inspiring listeners to persevere through their own struggles.

The song delivers a message of hope, underscoring the idea that life, despite its challenges, always offers reasons to cheer and celebrate. With its uplifting melody and motivational lyrics, Nadin Amizah crafts a song that not only entertains but also inspires. *Sorak Sorai* is ultimately a tribute to the strength of hope and love, urging its listeners to find happiness amidst hardship. Through her poetic and meaningful lyrics, Nadin Amizah touches the hearts of many, making the song deeply relevant across various phases of life.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The album '*Selamat Ulang Tahun*' by Nadin Amizah is a profound exploration of emotions and personal relationships, especially between parent and child, conveyed through deeply meaningful lyrics. This album, consisting of nine songs, portrays themes of familial love and life experiences in a simple yet touching way, making it highly relatable for listeners in Indonesia. The expressive approach in literary criticism, which emphasizes how writers convey their experiences and emotions through their work, is highly relevant in analyzing this album. As both a singer and lyricist, Nadin transforms each song into a direct reflection of her feelings. Songs like '*Bertaut,*' which explores the unbreakable bond between a mother and child, '*Kanyaah,*' a heartfelt

expression of gratitude to her mother for unconditional support, and 'Beranjak Dewasa,' which narrates the journey into adulthood with its challenges and beauty, all encapsulate profound emotions. Each lyric serves not just as entertainment but also as a reflection of life and human relationships. Through the expressive approach, it can be concluded that this album is a deeply meaningful emotional journey where Nadin's personal experiences not only shape her lyrics but also touch the hearts of listeners through universal stories of love and life.

Beyond this specific album, the application of the expressive approach offers a broader lens for understanding contemporary Indonesian music. It reveals how personal narratives can transcend individual experiences to become collective cultural expressions. This approach invites further exploration of other Indonesian artists' works, encouraging a deeper understanding of how personal emotions and social contexts shape musical creativity. By examining music through this critical framework, we can appreciate how artists like Nadin Amizah contribute to a richer, more nuanced representation of contemporary Indonesian emotional landscapes.

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