Effect of lighting with Softbox on Portraits at Sahid University Surakarta

Arif Yulianto
Visual Communication Design
Sahid University Surakarta
arifseni0@gmail.com

Evelyn Henny Lukitasari
Visual Communication Design
Sahid University Surakarta
evelynehenny@gmail.com

Ahmad Khoirul Anwar
Visual Communication Design
Sahid University Surakarta
ahmadkhoirulanwar@gmail.com

Yudi Wibowo
Visual Communication Design
Sahid University Surakarta
yudik3299@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The research entitled "The Effect of Lighting with Softbox on Face Portraits in Sahid University Surakarta", aims to explore portrait photos in the studio so that they are able to analyze with aesthetic studies to bring out the implied beauty of the photo.

This research is using descriptive method. Methods of data collection with literature study, observation, and interviews. By analyzing using Monroe Breadsley's theory of beauty.

The purpose of this study is to further explore the effect of lighting on portraits, especially on the model's face so that beauty and character are implied in the photo.

Keywords*: Lighting, Softbox and Portrait.*

Photography is an activity to convey messages visually from their experiences to others so that other people follow their thoughts.

Portrait photography is a type of photography that is mostly done by photographing a person's face and the area that surrounds it. This does not mean that photographers simply take pictures of the face in question and then finish, but portrait photography tries to capture the artistic side of a person's facial character accompanied by the appearance of feeling in the photos taken. Thus, the recorded photos look alive and tell a story like a literary work. Monroe Beardsley in his problem in the Philosophy of Criticism explains that there are 3 characteristics that make aesthetic objects beautiful, namely:

• Unity (unity): well structured or perfect shape
• Complexity: not very simple, rich in content or elements that contradict each other or contain subtle differences.
• Seriousness (intensity): has a certain quality that stands out and not just something empty. (Dharsono 2007:63)

Problem Formulation
In this study we can conclude the formulation of the problem, namely:
1. How does lighting with softbox affect portraits?
2. How to study the aesthetics of facial photos using a softbox?

Research Objectives
This research aims in general are as follows:

General Purpose
a. For researchers, this research is expected to be aimed at obtaining photo aesthetics with lighting using a softbox. The results of the research can help the process of further studies on portrait photos and studio photos.
b. For the community, it aims to increase public discourse in terms of portrait photography and studio photos.
c. For the world of science, it aims to add and develop the discourse of photography in Indonesia.

Research Outcomes
Overview of portrait photos and studio lighting photos for Design Photography courses and journals.

Portrait photos generally show humans with various expressions and backgrounds that show the image in taking the portrait photo. And not only photos that capture human faces as objects but various compositions, elements, and other objects can be considered.

Portrait photos are also photos that show the expression of an object in the photo. It is also intended to display one's personality and sometimes one's feelings. For portrait photos, this is not a photo that is spontaneous and has to wait for the moment to take a picture, but a photo that has been prepared in advance and is usually taken in silence. In portrait photography, any type of lens can be used because it comes back to the artistic purpose (what photo you want to produce) from the photographer who made the portrait photo.

In portrait photos, the background and context can be included in the portrait photo but the focus or emphasis must be on the face, expression and mood of the subject. Portrait photography is different from other styles of photography. The difference is that the portrait photo of the subject is a non-professional model. This means that ordinary people such as fathers, mothers, children, even people on the street can be used as subjects in portrait photos. In portrait photography there are no

limits or rules. This is what makes portrait photography easy and difficult at the same time.

This portrait is quite popular in Indonesia, usually used for graduation photos, wedding photos, family photos and so on (Nadilia Cp, 2019).

Data collection techniques used in this study include: literature study, observation, and interviews.

a. Literature review

This literature study was conducted in several libraries, including: the Regional Library in Surakarta and. With the aim of searching the literature and references and conceptual frameworks to sharpen the analysis in relation to this research. The books used as the main sources in this research are: portrait photos and the effect of lighting.

b. Observation

Observations were made to clarify the description and analysis of the data presented. The type of observation made by the researcher is full role observation. Researchers not only observe but can also ask questions (Sutopo, 2006:80). In addition, also documenting through photo shoots.

c. Interview

Interviews were conducted in an in-depth way with the aim of enabling the interviewees to define themselves and their environment using their terms, so that the phenomena studied did not merely answer questions. Researchers dig more into the research subject so that the answers are not only honest but also quite complete or described.

Interviews were conducted with questions on the subject matter that were intimately entwined, freely and flexibly. Allows honesty, and depth from resource persons according to their area of expertise, thus providing the information needed. Interviews were assisted with a tape recorder and recorded to find out their views.

Interviews with several Surakarta photographers including Johan M.Sn (40 years old), Drs. Soegeng Toekio (80 years) as an expert on Surakarta culture. .

The results of data collection from various sources in order to be tested for truth, used source triangulation techniques (Sutopo, 2006:93). For more details, the data source triangulation technique can be described as follows.

Several interviewees finally sought their common perception as a temporary conclusion. To answer the second and third problem formulations, in the sense of interpreting the analysis with an emic approach to find the common thread.

Discussion

In this increasingly advanced era, the field of photography has finally expanded its role in all disciplines of science, this is because photography is not only used as a means of documentation, but has also entered the world of commercial and non-commercial industries.

Studio photography is needed today as a place for portrait photos so that the appearance of the model looks character. With adequate equipment, namely a digital camera and a softbox as a light source.

Making photos will be interesting if we use a softbox as a light aid in shooting.

The Effect of Lighting with Softbox on Face Portraits at Usahid Surakarta, I focus on the Rembrant lighting technique that can emphasize the character of the photo.

Rembrandt lighting technique (Rembrandt Lighting) is actually a lighting technique that imitates the paintings of a painter from the Netherlands, Rembrandt Van Rijn. This lighting technique will create a triangular shape on the model's cheeks to compensate for the shadows of the nose and jaw.
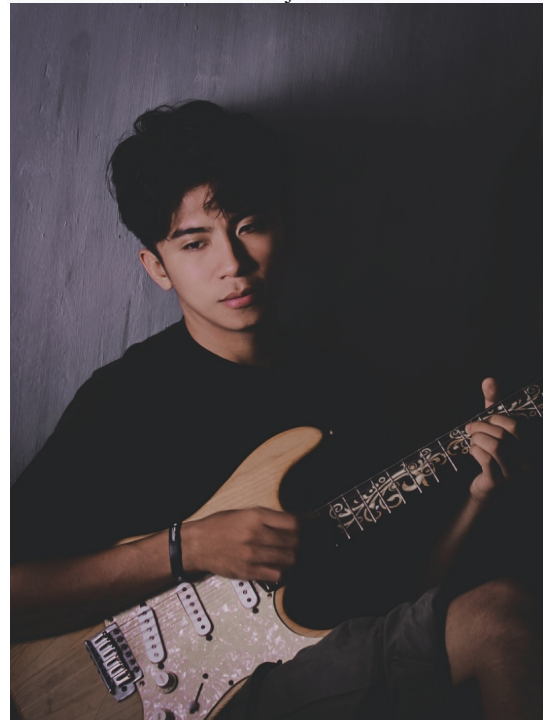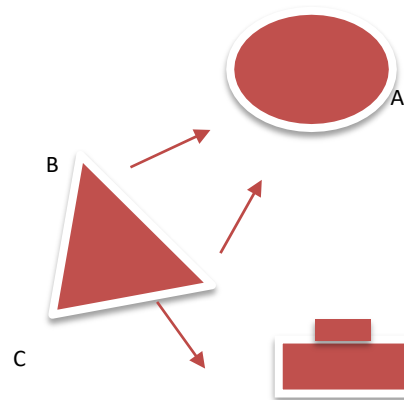

Photo : Filipus Jakobus L.W , 2021

Design : Sayid M S, 2021. A: Object, B: Softboxs C: Camera

This lighting technique uses one main light source that is placed to the left or right of the model's head. The direction of the light is sideways downwards so as to allow the effect of a triangular shape on the cheeks. The image below shows a lighting layout using Rembrandt's lighting technique.

Photo : Rose Merry, 2020.

Conclusion

Rembrandt's lighting technique illuminates one side of the model's face, producing the opposite light-dark effect. Light on one side and dark on the other. It is on this dark side that the triangular shape effect appears. Place this triangle shape under the eyes. This triangle should not be longer than the nose and should not be wider than the eyes. This effect creates the impression of a mature and dramatic portrait photo.

The result of this Rembrandt lighting technique gives a soft feel even though the shadow looks sharp. The use of soft light is highly recommended in this lighting technique. The position or pose of the model's face also really determines the result.

References

[1] Ardiansyah, Yulian,2005, *PHOTOGRAPHY Tips & Tricks*, Jakarta: PT. Grasindo.

[2] Christhoper Grey, 2010, *Studio lighting : Techniques for Photography*, Amherst Media, USA.

[3] Dharsono, 2007, *Aesthetics*. Bandung: Science Engineering.

[4] John Child and Mark Galler,2008, *Photographic Lighting : Essential Skills*, Focal Press, Inggris.

[5] Nadilia CP,2019, *Portrait (Portrait Photography*), photography.upi.edu.com.

[6] Nugroho, Amien,2006, *Dictionary of Photography*, Yogyakarta: Andi Publishers.

[7] Sutopo, H. B.2006, *Qualitative Research Methodology Basic Theory and Its Application in Research.* Surakarta: UNS.