

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the problem of the study, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study and the definition of key terms.

A. Background of Study

Song is a heave tones and sound that can be listened by man anyplace lies. Song constitutes tone art composition or voice in order, combination, and temporal relationship (usually is escorted by bagpipe) and resulting music composition that have unity and continuity (containing rhythm). Song as a universal and effective media can pour ideas, messages, and expression of the creator to his audience through lyrics, music composition, selection of music instruments, and how he brought her.

The idea of the song can be an expression of love, protest against something, anger, anxiety and so on, all of which were assembled with the words beautiful, poetic, and not always straightforward. Lyrics cannot be denied is the dominant factor in the delivery of the message as part of the framework of the song that eventually enjoyed by the audience.¹

In a piece of song, there is an important element in addition to musical arrangements, musical works contained in a sentence structure that contains

¹Nyoman Kutha Ratna, *Estetika Sastra dan Budaya* (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2011), 152.

certain purposes. Through the lyrics, songresearcher wanted to convey the message that is expressing itself based on the experience of the phenomena occurring around the world, in which he interacts in it. The lyrical content is a verbal communication medium that has a meaning, a song when the right to vote has the same value with thousands of words or events are also able to attract the attention of individuals who listened to the lyrics. Song that contains a text (lyrics in the song) will communicate some of the concepts. The concept was to tell them something, the impression and experience of the author, and pose comments or social opinion. Song is used as a vehicle for bringing the idea of the author (messages) that are perceived by the author. The interaction between song and drama (stories) in the text is often a contributor important in the overall performance of the delivery system or the message of this information.²

Through the lyrics are written by the composer, the listener is invited to interpret through the brain that stores the experience and knowledge, and process it as a basic foundation in digesting the beauty of song lyrics. In other words capable of inflicting a lot of songs that perception is strongly influenced by the level of understanding that comes from someone who had experience of life. Play on words in a song to create a work that can be enjoyed as a whole. Or in other terms a song that was created intelligently to bring the listener to appreciate and take in the positive meaning of a lyric, regardless of the genre that brought. And also, the language becomes a very

² <http://yogifajarpebrian13.wordpress.com/2011/03/14/musik/>. Accessed on March 6, 2011

important thing in a piece of song, because it summarizes the language codes for the representation of the most easily digested, captured, and understood by the audience. Language in the lyrics of the song also brings various complexities of visual depictions, symbols, and metaphors.

Message delivered by a songresearcher through his songs that will certainly not come from outside of the songresearcher himself, in the sense that the message comes from the patterns of thought and from *the frame of reference* and *field of experience* that formed from the surrounding social environment.

In the development of music, song also has some types. There are pop, jazz, reggae, blues, rock, classic, and another song type. The content of the song are also miscellaneous, depends on the message that existed in the song. The messages are about culture, social, politic, religiousness and etc. And in the development of music, song is not only performed with one type of music, for example only pop song but it can be created from various music and produces a beautiful song.

One kind of the song that discuss in this thesis is religious song. Religious song has aim to increase faith because contain contemplation audience or beneficiary is excited and then aware for closing to God. Religious song lyric is inspired from environment instance particularly culture and society way of living, individual experience, namely personal composer or composer is that religious song alone and experience of trip or ordinary trip but full of religious experience which is plucked and

improvisation of knockabout life. Color of religious song comes from improvisation of pop type song, jazz, reggae, blues, rock, classic, and another song type.³

Today so many songs that launched in the world but not all give messages for the listener. Some of them unreservedly ask to do free sex, dishonest, affray, murder, etc that not give good usefulness and advice to the listeners. And recently, some artist appear in media try to convey Islamic advice through religious song.

In the past, Islamic religious song is called *nasyid*. The language of the song is using Arabic, and is only understood by Arabian person. But today, Islamic Religious song is introduced by all the singers in this world by using their language to sing the song. If the singer comes from Indonesia, he will sing using Indonesian language, if he comes from Arabian land, he will use Arabic in his song and another singer in this world.

But at odd moments the singer comes from Arabian land, Indonesia or another country although, he does not use his language in his song. He uses language from different country or mixing between two languages as languages in his song's lyrics. One of them is Maher Zain. Maher Zain comes from Lebanon. And basically, Lebanon uses Arabic language as the main language in daily conversation. He become popular in 2009 until now.

As a singer, Maher Zain likes to convey Islam taught, advice and pilgrim messages through song. It is really a pride for us especially for

³ Indriya, *Kekuatan Musik Religi, Mengurai Cinta Merefleksi Iman* (Jakarta: Gramedia, 2010), 3.

Muslim. His songs are known by local and international society and become interesting when the song is not only in Arabic language, but also English, Indonesian, and Urdu.⁴ As a singer he is included as success singer in sending Islamic and peace message through songs. Until 2012, Maher Zain has created two albums, *Thank You Allah* and *Forgive Me* album. He also gets some awards from local or international event and organization.

As a research, the researcher takes five of his songs to be analyzed about the contents and which appropriate with the research that must be English songs. So, the researcher chooses that as object of the study. This study is done because the researcher wants to know about moral values that expressed in the Maher Zain's songs through its lyric. The moral values which will be studied by researcher itself are not only about Islamic moral value but moral value which applied generally in society. The five of them are *Always Be There*, *Awaken*, *For the Rest of My Life*, *Freedom*, and *Thank You to Allah* which is taken from *Thank You Allah* and *Forgive Me* album.

Therefore, the researcher chooses this study with the title: *Moral Value Expressed through Maher Zain's Songs*, because as the religious song, the Maher Zain's songs have beautiful lyric with several of language, especially English language. The other reason is Maher Zain's songs have good moral values content that can be applied in general society so the listener of his songs and his fans to can take knowledge and can be applied in their daily life.

⁴ <http://www.islamiclyrics.net/maher-zain/html>. Accessed on December 10, 2011

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the reason above the researcher has a problem to be discussed through this study, that is:

“What are the moral values reflected in the songs of Maher Zain?”

C. The Objectives of Study

There are objectives of the study that will be discussed in the study, there is:

To describe about moral values reflected in the songs present by Maher Zain

D. The Significance of Study

The significance of the study is getting clear description about the moral values from his songs, based on the songs presented by Maher Zain. Those songs will be a reflection moral value which will be taught to the young men.

For the listeners, they are expected to get more understanding about how to choose and determine which bad and good songs. Also using those songs they can learn about moral value, and improving motivation and faith into God. By using songs the listeners can teach their children also, and it is more interesting than teaching using conventional methods, as like using religious proselytizing.

For the readers and after reading this thesis, they will get more advice and some good message in order to build their abilities to have a good attitude. Through these songs also, the reader can improve their knowledge in education and religious knowledge so they will become good persons with good attitude.

For teacher, they can use English songs as one of method to teach their students to have good attitude. And the song of course use religious song .Teacher also can get more understanding how to be good teacher with good attitude and to be leader for his students.

E. Scope and Limitation

In this study there are many things that could be analyzed by the researcher. There are diction, rhymes, rhythms, figures of speech, and moral message or values contained on it. In this thesis, the researcher studies Maher Zain's songs. Furthermore, the researcher describes about moral values in Maher Zain songs. To make this study more effective, the researcher only focuses on five songs and chooses five songs from two album, *Thank You Allah* and *Forgive Me* with moral message that can be applied in general society, not only in Islamic society. Those songs are "*Always Be There, Awaken, For the Rest of My Life, Freedom, and Thank You to Allah.*" The researcher also only chooses songs with domination of English language to make appropriate with the theme and the basic of the study which must uses English literature as the main object.

F. Definition of Key Terms

Definition of key terms is very important in this thesis. It is aim to avoid misunderstanding term and misinterpretation. Within exist in the study. The terms are necessary be defined as follow:

1. Maher Zain

Maher Zain is a singer and a song author comes from Lebanon. His first album in a title "*Thanks to Allah*" and become popular in the world in 2009. He also got some awards from entertainment event. His language's song is not only in Arabic but also English, African, Indonesian, Urdu (India) and French.⁵ In early 2012, he launched his new album with title *Forgive Me*. song in the title "*Always Be There, Awaken, For the Rest of My Life, Freedom, and Thank You to Allah*" which is chosen from the two albums with domination of English language are his some popular song that will be describe in this thesis.

2. Song

Song is a communication language that is expressed via tone. Song has relationship to music since song always being escorted by music as background. Song is a heave tones and sound that can be listened by man anyplace lies. Song constitutes tone art composition or voice in order, combination, and temporal relationship (usually is escorted by bagpipe) and resulting music composition that have unity and continuity (containing rhythm). Song as a universal and effective media can pour ideas,

⁵ "<http://www.islamiclyrics.net/maher-zain/html>. Accessed on December 10, 2011"

messages, and expression of the creator to his audience through lyrics, music composition, selection of music instruments, and how he brought her.

Song can also be useful to human being as health of body keeper and also spiritual. A lot of type music that makes human being fell in peace and relax. A lot of type music too that make human being remember their creator.

3. Moral Value

Moral values are the standards of good and evil, which govern an individual's behavior and choices. Individual's morals may derive from society and government, religion, or self. When moral values derive from society and government they, of necessity, may change as the laws and morals of the society change.⁶ Moral value constitutes guidance for human being facing their life with good behavior and is not doing enhance themselves and also others. The main aim from it is getting happiness and eternity the world safety.

⁶ "<http://www.allaboutphilosophy.org/moral-values-faq.htm>", accessed at December 14, 2011.