

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Islam as the path of truth must be shared and disseminated to all mankind, therefore a foundation of knowledge is needed to ground His teachings. Some social theories ensure that relationships between individuals are contradictory and hostility, the relationship between individuals and authority is always a compulsory relationship.

Another case with Islam which establishes the relationship between all individuals in society is a relationship of love, loyal friends, mutual help, a relationship of peace and tranquility. Islam also establishes the rules that underlie life, namely the compatibility and balance between rights and obligations, fortune and loss, and the balance between hard work and reward. Meanwhile, the purpose determined is to preserve, grow, improve and advance life by directing all activities to Allah ﷻ, the creator of nature and the arranger of this life, with the intention of working and doing good deeds sincerely.¹

In the Islamic concept, the relationship between the individual and the nation is one of peace. The Qur'an teaches that God's purpose in creating human beings of different ethnicities and nations is to know each other and relate to one another peacefully. As stated in the Qur'an surah Al-hujarat: 13²

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا
وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ
خَبِيرٌ

Meaning: "O mankind, indeed We created you from a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes so that you may know each other. Verily, the most

¹ Sayyid Qutub, *Islam Perdamaian Dunia*, (Jakarta: Pustaka Firdaus, 1987), 77.

² Abizal Muhammad Yati, "Islam dan Kedamaian Dunia", *Islam Futura*, Vol. VI No. 2, (2007): 13.

honorable of you in the sight of Allah is the most pious of you. Verily, Allah is Omniscient and All-Knowing.”

Peace and tolerance will not be realized if humans do not know each other, one of the tools that can convey humans to know each other is through art. Since the beginning of the development of Islam, art has played an important role in Islamic *da'wah*, especially the art of language and sound art. The Qur'an itself has provided support for the importance of art in preaching. Allah ﷻ created the Qur'an in Arabic which is very artistic, extraordinary in *uslub* and its meaning so that it cannot be imitated by humans.³

For Muslims, art is a behavior that creates beauty in both hearing and sight. Art that leads to beauty for hearing, focuses more on art forms that come from language, also relates to hearing songs or music. Allah ﷻ is beautiful and loves beauty. Ibnu Mas'ud narrated that Rasulullah ﷺ said:⁴

إِنَّ اللَّهَ جَمِيلٌ يُحِبُّ الْجَمَالَ (رواه مسلم)

Meaning: "Verily Allah ﷻ is Beautiful and loves beauty."
(HR.Muslim).

Music is something that is familiar with human daily life. In one's life cannot be separated from music, because listening to music has become a special need or lifestyle. Music is also one of the media that can be used as a medium to convey messages that are easily accepted by the audience. Its entertaining nature can be used by singers or artists to include peace and tolerance messages in it, so that indirectly the audience has accepted it with pleasure and it is not boring to be heard repeatedly and even imitate it, because music is an art that is very attractive to humans and it is a human instinct to like things that are aesthetic and beautiful⁵

³ A. Hasjmy, *Dustur Dakwah Menurut Al-Qur'an* (Jakarta: Bulan Bintang, 1974), 274.

⁴ Rania Wildan, "Seni dalam Perspektif Islam", *Islam Futura*, Vol. VI, No. 2, (2007): 84.

⁵ Sidi Gazalba, *Islam dan Kesenian* (Jakarta: Pustaka Al-Husna, 1998), 186.

Islam does not prohibit us from spreading *da'wah* through songs, as Yusuf Qardhawi has explained in his book *Halal dan Haram* that singing is a form of entertainment that can entertain the soul and please the heart. Islam allows singing as long as it does not contain dirty words, obscenity, and invites sin.⁶ *Da'wah* and art are essentially an attempt to influence someone in acting and behaving. Through both, it is hoped that individuals or groups can become good individuals and respect others. Even the use of music as a medium of *da'wah* has been done since ancient times.

Preaching using songs has become a classic history of the spread of Islam in Nusantara, which is a country that has such great cultural wealth. Since ancient times, Nusantara people have always loved the arts, including: literature, music, fine arts, performing arts, and sound arts. Walisongo has proven that Islamic teachings can be translated flexibly and tolerantly in the midst of the common people in Nusantara, even though it contains firm and uncompromising values.⁷ Among them is Raden Makdum Ibrahim or better known as Sunan Bonang who preaches using the art of gamelan music to attract public sympathy. In addition, there are also Sunan Kudus who preaches through songs, and Sunan Kalijaga who uses puppet shows.

In line with the development of the world of *da'wah* music, of the many religious musicians in the world, one of them is Maher Zain. Maher Zain does *da'wah* through music and song lyrics which he uses as a medium and an approach in spreading *da'wah* messages. His smooth voice, friendly personality, and a smile that always blooms on his face are his strengths to steal the attraction of everyone who sees and listens to his songs. He always seemed wholehearted in reciting his religious poems. Not surprisingly, the sung poems are able to thrill anyone who wants to listen and live their meaning. Religious music has become an inseparable part of a man whose full name is Maher Mustafa Maher Zain (Arabic:

⁶ Yusuf Qardhawi, *Halal dan Haram*, (Jakarta: Robbani Presss, 2005), 345-346.

⁷ Ilmiah Kasyaf (Khazanah Santri Salaf), *Trilogi Musik*, (Kediri: Lirboyo press, 2017), 276.

(ماهر زين). The lyrics of this religious song, sung by a man born in Lebanon, July 16, 1981, no wonder if not only like by Muslims, even non-Muslims also like him.⁸

Maher Zain is a 40-year-old Swedish national who has received many awards. Among them, in January 2010, Maher Zain's song "Ya Nabi Salam Alayka" was awarded as the best religious song from a radio broadcast from the Middle East, Nogoum FM. Not only that, he was also named a Muslim Star in 2011 in a competition organized by "Oniislam", an Egyptian news site. Maher Zain started his music career in January 2009 with the music company Awakening Records, working on his first music album project, which was released on November 1 under the name Thank You Allah. The album contains 13 songs and 2 additional songs. Maher Zain's work is well known among Muslim youth in both the Middle East and the West. Besides Europe, Maher has also achieved success in Asia with his debut album, especially in Malaysia and Indonesia. Maher also regularly gives concerts in several countries including the UK, USA, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Malaysia and Indonesia. He also has fan clubs all over the world such as Malaysia, Morocco, Egypt, and others.

Maher does not only sing in English, but he also releases some of his songs in different languages. The song "Insha Allah" on his first album he sung in various languages including: Arabic, Turkish, French, Malay, and Indonesian. In April 2012 he released his second album entitled "Forgive Me". In this album, Maher includes songs that are more dynamic and modern compared to the previous album.⁹

This study takes one of the songs from Maher's second album "Forgive Me" entitled "One Big Family". The lyrics of the song "One Big Family" have a powerful message about the importance of mutual respect between individuals. This song teaches people to always be at peace, because peace is beautiful. In this song explains that, we are one on this earth. We are all human, there is no difference, even though we are different in ethnicity, different in nation, different in language,

⁸ Wikipedia, "Maher Zain", date accessed: 5th October 2021.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maher_Zain.

⁹ Wikipedia, "Maher Zain", date accessed: 5th October 2021.

different in skin color, even different in religion, we are still one big family bond.

Some comments written by netizens on the video clip of the song "One Big Family" on the Awakening Music youtube channel said as: (1) "I'm not Muslim, but I really love that kind of music. I think this is the most pure love that you can feel about your God or the humanity. Maher Zain taught me so much things about love for each other, to love the live, to respect all of people and all belief. I really love this guy".¹⁰ (2) "We are big family. We are equal. No one is competing against each other but we all the same".¹¹ (3) "That's what I always wanted to tell the people. That there is no difference among races, nations or skins and all of us are like a big family. It doesn't matter if I am from Afghanistan or you are from Lebanon, but in fact the important matter is that we are all Muslims and humans".¹²

We know that people in the world are diverse, including different ethnicities, languages, religions, cultures, skin colors, and social statuses. Diversity can be an integrating force that binds society but can be the cause of clashes between cultures, ethnicities, religions and life values. Cultural diversity is a natural event because of the meeting of various cultures, the interaction of various individuals and groups carrying cultural behavior, having different and specific ways of life. The diversity of cultures, religions, and ethnicities interacts with each other in the world community.¹³

Ethnic diversity, religion, and language differences that occur in all parts of the world often lead to various conflicts. Conflicts in society that originate from violence

¹⁰ Monica Galindo, comment box at Awakening Music Youtube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ckXdWzINTw>. Date accessed: 18th October 2021.

¹¹ Banoo Gani, comment box at Awakening Music Youtube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ckXdWzINTw>. Date accessed: 18th October 2021.

¹² Sara Mostamand, comment box at Awakening Music Youtube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ckXdWzINTw>. Date accessed: 18th October 2021.

¹³ Agus Akhmedi, "Religius Moderation in Indonesia's Diversity", *Jurnal Diklat Keagamaan*, Vol. 13, No. 2, (2019): 45.

between groups that explode in various regions of the world show how vulnerable the sense of togetherness that is built in a country is, how thick prejudice between groups is and how low mutual understanding between groups is.

The reason why the writer researched this song is because of the many phenomena of racism, intolerance, and discrimination between humans around the world. Racism is a factor that triggers social discrimination, social violence, and even triggers acts of genocide. The author hopes that the writing of this thesis can provide insight and make us aware as a world community about the importance of creating a sense of unity and oneness without any racism or discrimination.

So in this case, based on the background above, the author gives the title of this research "Religious Moderation Values in the Song "One Big Family" by Maher Zain".

B. RESEARCH FOCUS AND SCOPE

The research title is about Religious Moderation in the song "One Big Family" by Maher Zain. Then the researcher scrutinized the value of religious moderation contained in the song. Thus, the study's focus was analyzing the religious moderation values in the song "One Big Family" by Maher Zain.

C. RESEARCH QUESTION

Based on the research focus above, the research question that will be the object of research is as follows:

1. What are the messages of peace contained in song "One Big Family" Maher Zain?
2. What are the religious moderation values contained in song "One Big Family" Maher Zain?

D. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Based on the research question above, the research objectives to be achieved by this research are:

1. To know the messages of peace contained in song "One Big Family" Maher Zain.
2. To know the religious moderation values contained in song "One Big Family" Maher Zain.

E. RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCES

Based on the research objectives above, the benefits of this research are:

1. Theoretical Benefits
 - a. This research is expected to deepen knowledge about the value of religious moderation contained in the lyrics of the song "One Big Family" Maher Zain.
 - b. It is hoped that it can increase knowledge about text content analysis in song research.

2. Practical Benefits

With this research, the researcher hopes that this research will be useful for:

- a. Researcher, The result are expected to enrich insight, knowledge, and practice in everyday life what has been studied in this research, especially in spreading the message of peace and unity to act on religious moderation.
- b. Institution or Faculty, The results of this study are expected to provide information and knowledge to Tarbiyah faculty students, especially the English Education Department students, regarding the study of religious moderation values in song lyrics, specifically for literature studies.
- c. Community or Public general, The results of the study are expected to explain to the public that the art of music can be used as a tool in spreading peace and unity message, can add insight to readers, and can provide motivation for musicians who concentrate on *da'wah* through music.

F. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Definitions of key term are definitions of keywords or phrases that are used explicitly in research to clarify concepts and avoid misinterpretation. The purpose of the definition of key terms is to explain the context of the sentence or research variables contained in the research title so that there is no misunderstanding in the meaning of the research.

1. Religious Moderation

In brief it may be defined that “moderate” is an adjective, a derivative of the phrase moderation, which means not excessive or means moderate/average. In Indonesian, this word is then absorbed into *moderasi*, which inside the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) defined as the discount of violence, or the avoidance of extremes. Inside the KBBI it is also explained that the word moderation comes from the Latin *moderatio*, this means moderate (no extra and no shortage). So, whilst the phrase moderation is juxtaposed with the word religion, it turns into religious moderation, the term approach relating to a mind-set of reducing violence, or avoiding extremes in religious practice.¹⁴

2. Song Lyrics

Song is a musical composition meant to be executed by the human voice. That is often complete at distinct and glued pitches (melodies) the usage of styles of sound and silence. Songs incorporate various forms, inclusive of those including the repetition and variation of sections.¹⁵

Lyric is expressing the writer's feelings, typically in short and in stanzas or identified forms.¹⁶ The meaning of a lyric can either be explicit or implicit. A number of lyrics are composed in poetical composition which makes it comparable with poetries that there are many phrases written using figurative languages. Most of the authors express their ideas of reality, social existence of their point of view, and their experiences through their own imaginative and intense perception of their own world. The authors cause to makes an awesome reaction from the listeners. So, the song could make the listeners more inquisitive about listening to it.

¹⁴ Kemenag RI, *Moderasi Beragama*, (Jakarta: Badan Litbang dan Diklat Kementerian Agama RI, 2019), 1-2.

¹⁵ Wikipedia, “Song”, accessed on 25th October 2021.
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Song>.

¹⁶ Cambridge Dictionary, “Lyric”, accessed on 25th October 2021.
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/lyric>.

G. ORGANIZATION OF THESIS

To describe more clearly in the discussion of this research, the researcher will describe the organization of the thesis. The thesis organization in this study is as follows:

The front page is the opening part, which consists of cover, approval sheet, statement of work's originality, abstract, motto, dedication page, acknowledgment, table of contents, and Arabic-Latin transliteration guidelines.

Chapter I Introduction, is the initial chapter which contains the research background, that is the social phenomena that underlie this research. Research questions which is the root of the problem whose answers will be found after conducting research, research objectives, research significances, definition of key terms, and thesis organization.

Chapter II Review of Related Literature, is a description of the theoretical perspective, which contains theoretical description of the keywords that discusses literature theory related to research titles, theoretical framework, relevant previous research as references and comparisons to current research.

Chapter III Research Methodology, is a research method that explains how the procedures carried out by researchers in conducting research, which consist of research methods, research settings, research subjects, instrument and data collection techniques, research data validity, and data analysis techniques.

Chapter IV Research Findings and Discussion, contains the general description of the object. This chapter also presents an analysis of the value of religious moderation in Maher Zain's song "One Big Family". Researcher also describe the data obtained, both primary data and secondary data. After that, data analysis will be carried out using the appropriate theory.

Chapter V Conclusions and Recommendations, this chapter contains the conclusions, implications and recommendations.

And the last Chapter is the part that contains the references, appendices and curriculum vitae.