

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the general outlines of the present study. It begins with background of the research, research question, research objectives, research significance and conceptual framework.

### **A. Background of the Research**

In building communication there must be an understanding between the speaker and the listener. The goal is that the listener does not misunderstand the meaning expressed by the speaker so that the meaning is conveyed correctly. In linguistics, the study of meaning is semantics. Griffith (2006:15) states that “Semantics is the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from context of use, is a descriptive subject”. Based on these quotes, it can be seen that semantics is the study of the meaning of words and sentences. In addition, he explained that in order to know a meaning, he tried to describe the meaning into the language that people use, then they must understand to know the language.

Semantic is also at the center of the study of the human mind-though processes, cognition, and conceptualization – all these are intricately bound up with the way which can classify and convey in experience of the world through language (Leech, 1981:xi).

There are two main types of meaning in words: denotation and connotation. Denotation is the meaning of a word, which refers to the actual word, or based on a dictionary definition. A denotation identifies the central aspect of word meaning, which everybody generally agrees about. Connotation refers to the personal aspect of meaning, the emotional association that the word raise (Kreidler, 2002:45). Based on the opinion of Yule (2010:113), it is revealed that connotative meaning is food that is specifically owned by an individual that may be attached to words.

It can be exemplified, "The moon shines brightly at night" (1) you can define the moon (1) I mean a large object that shines on the earth at night when it is perfectly spherical, but if I look at the handsome man then I say "I saw the moon in the crowd" (2) Both sentences use the same word, but do they have the same meaning? The word Moon in the sentence "I saw the moon among the crowd" has meaning. The word Moon (2) here has a connotative meaning (positive connotation) that men are like the moon that shines brightly. It means that the man is very handsome, even though he is in a crowd, he is still the most prominent one that I can see.

When meet a new word or sentence, most people want to know the meaning of the word or sentence. This shows that human have an interest in meaning. To express thoughts, emotions and can be done with inner interactions both directly (oral) and indirect (written) communication. Oral means the process of expressing ideas and feelings or providing information that is done orally. Writing is the representation of language in a text, such as signs and symbols. This is done in writing activities, such as in short stories, articles, poems, lyrics, etc (Rizki, 2021:1).

Song lyrics and meaning are two things that are always side by side. Lyrics are the words of a song that express one's feelings and thoughts (Oxford, 2015: 906) Lyric writers usually listen beautiful words or language when writing a song that aims to create attraction for the listener. Lyrics are also a form of communication media. This means that song lyrics are the media used by speakers for listeners.

Music is an important part of human life. Our reactions to music entwined in the brain may be very complicated. Music is a global form of communication that affects human survival, the attraction and harmony of partners play a role. Music is related to language, and its meaning usually focuses on semantics. As for the question of how instrumental music has meaning without any propositional content, the language and meaning of music must address the extent to which music is semantically meaningful.

Because it has become a part of human life, many people use music for various purposes, including as a means of entertainment, communication media, educational facilities, expressing emotions, increasing concentration, media to preserve the culture of an area, or even being used as a medium to spread religion. As in Islam, music or songs can be used as a means for da'wah. There are several musicians who create music or songs that have Islamic nuances in their lyrics. The religious elements contained in the lyrics are intended so that in any situation humans always remember Allah the Almighty.

As time goes by, slowly there are international musicians who are grounding Islamic songs, one of whom is Raef. Raef Haggag or commonly known as Raef is an American Muslim singer and songwriter. The songs have many meanings and are related to the values of the Qur'an. Because, Raef is a singer under the label Awakening Records along with Maher Zain, Humood Alkhuder, Ali Magrebi, Mesut Kurtis and Sami Yusuf. Raef signed to Awakening Records and released his debut album "The Path" in 2014.

In the same year, Raef performed to rebuild Gaza, on the show 'Sound of Light', in the UK, and Australia. The four concerts became the biggest Islamic concerts today. Since joining Awakening Records, Raef has performed at 100 concerts and has completed five tours in four different countries (Hasanah & Habibullah, 2020:53) In 2019, Awakening Records released Raef's second album, "Mercy". The album features a new sound for Western Muslim art using country-rock music.

The researcher intends to analyze the connotative meaning of Raef's songs in the Mercy album so that we know the implied meaning conveyed by Raef, so that listeners understand the meaning of the song, and know the values of the Qur'an related to Raef's songs. Based on this description, the researcher is interested in conducting study on "Connotative Meaning of Raef's Song Lyrics Related to the Qur'anic Values." The researcher chose Raef because he is one of the Muslim musicians who ground Islamic songs with a fresh rock atmosphere that makes listeners excited but does not forget Allah the Creator.

There are several studies that have discussed the connotative meaning. The first thesis was done by Armawansyah (2016) entitled "An Analysis of Connotative Meaning in Selected Maher Zain's Songs Lyrics." The researcher focused on analyzing the lyrics of the song by Maher Zain in the album "Forgive me and Thank You Allah". In the conclusion, he found the connotative meanings and explained the connotative meanings in the lyrics. In addition, he explained the message contained in each connotative meaning.

The second, was the thesis done by Rizki (2021) entitled "Semantic Analysis on Harris J's Song Lyrics as Related to the Holy Qur'an Values". Her research discussed types of word classes are used in the choice of words for song lyrics and discussed vocabulary and contextual meanings in the lyrics and found the value of the Qur'an in them. The researcher paid attention to the vocabulary and contextual meaning of the song lyrics chosen by Harris J in the album SALAM and used five songs in the data, namely, Salam Alaikum, Rasool Allah, I Promise, The One, and You Are My Life.

The third, was the thesis done by Nuralifa (2020) entitled "Semantics Analysis on Connotative Meaning in Moral and Religious Song Lyrics of Harris J." The object of her research was moral and religious song lyrics of Harris J. Her research was aimed to show the kinds of connotative meaning and the meaning of connotative words and phrases of the moral and religious songs of Harris J.

Based on the three studies above, in the first study, the researcher got the idea to examine the connotative meaning of religious songs. Then in the second study, the researcher analyzed religious songs related to the Qur'anic values. Meanwhile, in the third study, the researcher analyzed the connotative meaning of religious songs by using Cruse's theory.

From the explanation above, the object of this study is the connotative meaning associated with the values of the Qur'an from Raef's song lyrics. Therefore, this study aims to show the types of connotative meanings of words and phrases from

Raef's song lyrics are related and constructed in the perspective of Quranic values by using Cruse's Theory.

## **B. Statement of Problem**

Religious songs are songs that make listeners feel close to the Creator, namely Allah. This is considered by the researcher to be only positive and provide comfort to music listeners. However, when the researcher reads the song lyrics to find the data, it turns out that the lyrics of religious songs have meanings that are related to the values of the Qur'an which enable the listeners to apply the values of the Qur'an in their daily lives. Therefore, connotative meaning is the right theory to be used in this study.

Based on the background of the study above, the following questions can be formulated as follows:

1. How is the connotative meaning of Raef's song lyrics constructed in the perspective of Quranic values?
2. What types of connotative meaning of the Raef's song lyrics are related in perspective of Quranic values?

## **C. Research Objectives**

Based on the research questions above, the research objectives are formulated as follows:

1. To find ways to construct the connotative meaning of Raef's song lyrics in the perspective of Quranic values.
2. To know types of connotative meaning of the Raef's song lyrics are related in perspective of Quranic values.

## **D. Research Significance**

This study is important because it is believed that it will increase knowledge in the field of linguistics, especially the semantic meaning and connotation of song lyrics. Hopefully, the results of this study will add to the understanding and insight of the reader about the connotative meaning related to the values of the Qur'an, and can contribute to the teaching and learning of English linguistics especially for

connotation subjects, besides that it can provide inspiration for other students who interested in developing similar study in the future.

