CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of study, research problems, research purposes, significance of study, scope and limitation of study and definition of key terms.

1.1. Background of the Study

Song is one of the tools of people to express their feeling, sadness, happiness, love, anger, abhorrence, thought, emotion, and experience, etc. People like for listening to favorite song for spending their time. Each kind of song represents its styles and character that make people have different interest in listening it. Song lyric is included as kind of literature because it is language creation (poem) which contains personal feeling expression. Song lyric is like poem but it is served in song form. Lyric which is written by author has destination that will be delivered to audience or listener. Song contains word system and good diction. It is created by author based on their life experience; tell about someone or another (Biladina, 2014: 1-2).

Song can show messages or advices for all people like as songs by Maher Zain. As we know, songs by Maher Zain contain of religion value that remind us about the Greatness of Allah. This research will use Maher Zain’s song lyric in New Album 2013 Rise up / Colors of Peace by the title “This Worldly Life” and Album “Forgive Me” 2012 by the title “Number One for Me”, “Love will
“Prevail” and “Freedom”. These songs will be analyzed by semantic theory especially in Associative Meaning field, then the writer will relate them with the hadith of the prophet Muhammad PBUH.

Semantics is the study of meaning in language (James, Brendan and Michael, 2007:1). It means that semantics is a part of linguistics field that focuses on changes of meaning and the relationship between words or sentences and their meaning. By studying semantics, we also study to understand human expression through language. The writer chooses the theory of Geoffrey Leech to identify the associative meaning. According to Leech (1983), there are seven types of meanings; they are conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflecting meaning, collocative meaning and thematic meaning. Here, the writer just focus five of them, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflecting meaning and collocative meaning those called by associative meaning (Leech, 1974: 31).

The associative meaning is unstable of meaning and has variants of individual experience (Leech, 1974: 21). It is divided into five types; connotative meaning, stylistic meaning, affective meaning, reflecting meaning and collocative meaning. Meanwhile, it is the meaning of words that has connection to the relationship of word with the condition beyond the language. Such as, the word “white” can associate with word “holy”, then the word “green” associates with “cold”, etc.
The writer found some examples of the song text of Maher in New Album 2013 Rise up / Colors of Peace by the title “This Worldly Life” and Album “Forgive Me” 2012 by the title “Number One for Me”, “Love will Prevail” and “Freedom”. One of the kinds of associative meaning is reflecting meaning, one of these examples is in song titled “This Worldly Life”, it is the word bridge in the sentence it’s just bridge that must be crossed. Bridge can be called by reflecting meaning because bridge is does not mean something made from by building material that use to connect one place to another place, but here it means contemporary place to live (the world), place that we pass to arrive in the hereafter.

Besides the writer analyze it by using theory of semantic in associative meaning, she also tries to relate it by the prophet hadith. The writer thinks that there are many lyrics that have connection with the hadith and it will make us more understand about values that exist in the song. The number of hadiths in this research are twenty three hadiths that related with the contents of the song lyric, those hadiths are stated by some great ulama’ such as Imam Bukhari, Imam Muslim, Imam Tirmidzi, Abu Darda’, Dailami, Ahmad, Baihaqi, Abu Daud and Nasa’i. For example, a song by the title of “This Worldly Life” tells about the life in this world is only for while. Worldly life is very beautiful but it has an end and the actual life is hereafter. It is like a journey in this world and we as human being must look for provisions to life after in this world that is our deed. It is supported by the Prophet Hadith:
"Be thou in the world as if a stranger or wanderer". (HR Bukhari)

“What is my problem with the world? Indeed my parable and the parable of the world are like a vagabond who slept during the day in the shade of a tree. He breaks away and left” (HR. Ahmad and Tirmidzi).

The writer chooses the song lyric of Maher Zain in New Album 2013 Rise up / Colors of Peace by the title “This Worldly Life” and Album “Forgive Me” 2012 by the title “Number One for Me”, “Love will Prevail” and “Freedom” because those contain religious value that we can take the wisdom from it. He is one of the best foreign musicians in religious music in the world. His songs is mainly in English and some of his most popular songs have been released in other languages like as in French, Arabic, Turkish, Malay and Indonesian versions. Besides, the lyric of his songs use the easy words in English but it has deep meaning to understand. That is why most of people like his songs.

The writer selects the song lyric of Maher Zain in New Album 2013 Rise up / Colors of Peace by the title “This Worldly Life” and Album “Forgive Me” 2012 by the title “Number One for Me”, “Love will Prevail” and “Freedom” because some reasons. Firstly, new album 2013 Rise Up / Colors of Peace was a musical project to turn poems and writings by Fethullah Gulen into songs. He is
a Turkish well-known Muslim preacher, scholar and author and founder of Hizmet also known as the Gulen movement. He had also written a number of Islamic spiritual poems throughout the years in Turkish language. A number of artists from various countries were contacted to perform adapted versions of his writings. The project took more than two years to realize and was released by Nil Production and Universal Music. In 2013, Maher Zain took part in this project constituting on the album Rise Up where he performs the single song titled “This Worldly Life”. In this song, it has the important meaning that reminds us about the worldly life that is only for. It also reminds us about the story of the Sleeper of the Cave that we have known in Islam as Ashabul Kahfi.

Then, in the song titled Love Will Prevail tells about the suffering of Syria when it is ruled by two big countries in the world, Russian and Chinese. Besides, in song titled Freedom teaches us to help each other. Through this song, the singer explores that we are created for freedom and we have to right to maintain our land. Furthermore, it tells about the struggle of best person that we must respect to her, our mother, in the song title Number One for Me. Secondly, inside these songs contain many associative meanings that become the focus for this research. Meanwhile, the writer relates them with the hadith of the prophet because it will make us more understand about the songs and religious value within them.
1.2. Research Problem

Based on the background of study, this study is undertaken to answer the question below:

1. What are the associative meanings of Maher Zain’s song lyric?
2. What does the relationship between Maher Zain’s song lyric with the hadith of the prophet?

1.3. Research Purposes

Related to the problems stated above, the research purposes of this study are as follows:

1. To identify associative meanings of Maher Zain’s song lyric.
2. To understand the relationship between Maher Zain’s song lyric with the hadith of the prophet.

1.4. Significant of the Study

This study is done to find out the types of associative meaning in Maher Zain’s Song Lyric in New Album 2013 Rise up / Colors of Peace by the title “This Worldly Life” and Album “Forgive Me” 2012 by the title “Number One for Me”, “Love will Prevail” and “Freedom”. This study gives two contributions: theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to be sources of studying meaning through the song’s lyric in semantic study, particularly in associative meaning and its relationship with the prophet of the hadith. Practically, it is hoped to be the references for the next researcher who interested
in the associative meaning and its relationship with the prophet of the hadith. Besides, it can be useful for the students in learning in associative meaning and its relationship with the prophet of the hadith.

1.5. Scope and Limitations

The scope of this research focuses on semantic study, particularly in associative meaning that contains of connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflecting meaning and collocative meaning. To avoid the broadening of discussion, the writer limit the research only use the song “This Worldly Life” and Album “Forgive Me” 2012 by the title “Number One for Me”, “Love will Prevail” “Freedom” and their relationship with the prophet of the hadith.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

There are some terms used in this research which need to be defined:

1. Semantics: the study of meaning, and since meaning is part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics (Palmer, 1976:1).

2. Associative meaning: unstable of meaning and has variants of individual experience (Leech, 1974: 21).

3. Song: music unity that consists of tone arrangement consecutively (Biladina, 2014: 6).

4. Song lyric: formed from language which is produced by communication between song authors to song lovers (Biladina, 2014: 6).