CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses several points as an introductory section of this study. It covers the background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, research methodology, clarification of key terms, and the organization of the paper.

1.1   Background of the Study

The role of language as a medium of communication, especially in teaching and learning process, has great importance. One medium of its importance is manifested in song lyrics. A very basic observation regarding the importance of language in song lyrics is the fact that each language contains two systems rather than one; a system of sounds and a system of meanings. Bloch & Trager (1942:5 as cited in Ariyapitipun, 2007) state that language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group co-operates. Through music and its song lyrics, musicians share what is in their mind, their opinions, and their feelings.

Song lyric is an important form of communication, serving a variety of purposes as documented in psychology of language literature (Pettijohn II & Sacco Jr, 2009). It tells stories and communicates with audiences in a manner similar to how people have conversations with each other. Song lyric reflects the important changes of social concept and living styles. It is one of the main study

materials for the research of socio-cultural, economics, and political interaction (Hu, 2011). Song lyric contributes to the emotional interpretation of music.

Moreover, a study which has been conducted by Shen (2009) in China proves that songs can be used as an enjoyable and effective approach to English Language Teaching. Shen (2009) states that song lyric serves as a direct genuine source of teaching material in foreign language classes for its richness in culture and theme, its idiomatic and poetic expressions, recitability, and its therapeutic functions. Furthermore, the means to utilize song lyric as a teaching material can come in many ways for different language skills, such as in listening, speaking, creative writing, and memorizing vocabulary, structure, and grammar.

The study of language, linguistics, has developed frameworks to investigate and analyze the functions of language. Halliday (1973 as cited in Haratyan, 2011) explores three basic functions of language, which are *ideational* as an expression of contents or messages; *interpersonal* as a mean of sharing of one's feelings, ideas and emotions with others; and *textual* as a creation of a text, through which a link is made between language and situation. Each function has its own developmental framework as a tool for a deeper understanding of language. A framework that has developed to investigate and analyze language function, particularly interpersonal metafunction, is Appraisal framework.

Appraisal framework, which was put forward by James Martin at the beginning of the 1990s, is an extension of Halliday's Systemic Functional Linguistics. It serves as an analytical tool to get a better understanding of some

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issues which associated with evaluative resources and the negotiation of intersubjective positions, and opens a new area of interpersonal meaning (Liu, 2010). Evaluation plays an important role in the establishment and maintenance of interpersonal relationship, and Appraisal system, which deals with the language of evaluation, is a crucial part of interpersonal semantics to express viewpoints and attitudes.

The implementation of the Appraisal framework has been applied in practical research of various discourses. For instance, the applications of Appraisal analysis on the generic structures of English news editorial, on English football commentaries, and on political speeches have been conducted (New York Times, 2010). However, there are still few studies in analyzing song lyrics by using Appraisal framework, specifically the ones which correlate with English language teaching.

Thus, the main topic of this study is the implementation of Appraisal analysis on a song lyric which has its pedagogical implication. The verbal appraisal system deals with the investigation of attitude shared on the lyric. This study endeavors to reveal the meanings behind a particular song lyric by using a language evaluation tool called Appraisal framework which is derived from Halliday's SFL. To be more specific, this study focuses on the attitude shared on the lyric. This study is expected to contribute to teaching and learning process where teachers can make use of the framework to carefully select the songs as teaching media; considering the fact that song lyrics are ones of many language learning sources for students to develop their language skills.

The song investigated in this study comes from a Japanese rock band called L'Arc-en-Ciel, which began their musical career in 1991. In March to June 2012, this band was performing a concert tour in 14 cities of 10 countries all over the world to celebrate their 20th anniversary of musical career entitled "*L'Arc-en-Ciel 20thL'Anniversary World Tour*". In this concert tour, they have reached for about 450.000 audiences all over the world. Indonesia was one of the destination countries in their world tour where the concert took place in Jakarta and was successfully held with 13.000 total audiences (Oishi, as cited in Nikken Entertainment, 2013). The world tour and the enthusiasm of audiences all over the world show that L'Arc-en-Ciel is one of the most influential bands in the world, even Forbes labels the band as "*the richest rock band you've never heard of*" (Greenburg, 2012).

Therefore, based on the preceding elaboration of arguments, this study has taken a song of L'Arc-en-Ciel to be investigated by using Appraisal framework. The song title is "*CHASE –English ver-*" which was first released as a single song in 2011 in Japanese language. It is the latest song of the band before they went to perform *L'Arc-en-Ciel 20thL'Anniversary World Tour* and it has been used as the ending song of a movie entitled "*WILD 7*". This song has marked the band's twentieth year of musical career. Even though this song is originally in Japanese, later on the song has the English version and is included in their best album "*World's Best Selection*" which was distributed globally since 2012.

Utilizing the Attitude system, one of three main systems of the Appraisal framework, this study analyzes the attitude and the interpersonal meaning in the

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selected song. The Attitude system is used to analyze whether a person, thing, situation, action, event or state of affairs is viewed either positively or negatively. Attitude consists of three sub-systems that is *Affect* which is concerned with the emotional stance; *Judgment* which is concerned with the evaluation of human behaviour with respect to social norms; and *Appreciation* which is concerned with the evaluation of objects and products by reference to aesthetic principles and other systems of social value. This study also uses Graduation system to help determining the grade of its attitude.

1.2 Research questions

This study is intended to analyze the interpersonal meaning in the lyric of a song entitled "*CHASE –English ver-*", written by L'Arc-en-Ciel, which is described by answering these two research questions:

1. What is the attitude of the persona as expressed in the lyric?
2. What interpersonal meaning can be gained from the lyric?

1.3 Aims of the study

Based on the statements and the formulation of problems, this study is aimed to reveal these two main concerns, and they are

- To investigate the attitude shared in the lyric
- To investigate the interpersonal meaning in the lyric

1.4 Scope of the study

This study attempts to reveal the interpersonal meaning and the attitude shared in a song lyric which has its pedagogical implication. The selected lyric

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comes from a song of a Japanese rock band named L'Arc-en-Ciel titled "*CHASE–English ver-*" that is taken from their best album "*World's Best Selection*" which was released in 2012. The investigation concentrates on the Appraisal framework of interpersonal meaning which is evaluated in three aspects of Attitude system; emotive, aesthetic, and ethic, with Graduation system to determine the grade of its attitude.

1.5   Significance of the study

This study is an attempt to investigate the interpersonal meaning which shares the persona's feelings and emotions in the lyric by investigating its attitude. This study is expected to contribute to increase the listeners and readers' awareness on the meanings behind a song by informing the meaning-making process of its lyric, therefore teachers, for instance, can carefully select songs to be used in teaching and learning process. Moreover, regarding the theoretical benefits, this study is expected to contribute in English Language Teaching by suggesting the integration of songs and using song lyrics as a language resource to improve students' language skills development. Furthermore, it is also expected that this study will provide a reference in the area of discourse analysis, specifically in the area of interpersonal metafunction of language.

In relation to practical benefits, this study and its finding are expected to be useful for writer and readers for building critical awareness toward hidden ideology manifested in a song lyric. The critical awareness of language is one of the requirements to create democratic or effective citizenship (Fairclough, 1992,

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1995). For the writer, this study is hoped to develop knowledge and make the writer to be used to the research study, specifically in linguistics study.

1.6 Research methodology

This study is conducted in form of qualitative study. Qualitative study is designed to understand a social phenomenon and individual perspective being analyzed (McMillan & Schumacher, 2001, as cited in Syamsudin & Damayanti, 2007). According to Best & Kahn (1989), qualitative study can describe events, persons, and so forth scientifically without the use of numerical data. It is a method applied to explain, analyze and classify something through various techniques, such as survey and observation. This study analyzes the data collected using Appraisal framework in several steps which is elaborated in data analysis.

1.6.1 Data Collection

The data used in this study is a song from a band named L'Arc-en-Ciel. The selected song is "*CHASE -English ver.-*" which was first released in Japanese language on December 21st, 2011 and later on included in L'Arc-en-Ciel's 12th studio album "*Butterfly*" which was released on February 8th, 2012. In the next following months after that, the band went to do a concert tour to celebrate their 20th years of musical career around the world by visiting 10 countries on three continents. On the world tour, the band re-released the song in English version in L'Arc-en-Ciel's best album "*World's Best Selection*" which was released on March 3rd, 2012. The song lyric is taken from this L'Arc-en-Ciel's original best album, *World's Best Selection* (2012).

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1.6.2 Data Analysis

The data is investigated by using Appraisal framework proposed by Martin and his colleagues (Martin, 1997, 2000; White, 1998, 2005, 2006, 2011; Martin and White, 2005; Martin and Rose, 2007). The framework is more focused on the analysis of Attitude which consists of *Affect* (the emotions shared on the song), *Judgment* (the ethics), and *Appreciation* (the aesthetic side).

The main step of this study is analyzing a song by using Appraisal framework. The first step in the analyzing the song is a detailed reading of data collected and exploring its general sense. Then, analyzing and classifying the data by using a coding system based on the Appraisal framework. The final step is interpreting and reporting findings of the study.

1.7 Clarification of key terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the following explanationsare clarification of key terms used in this study:

1) *Linguistics* is the scientific study of language (Ariyapitipun, 2007). It tries to observe language and to describe them accurately; then to find generalizations within what has been described; and finally to draw conclusions about the general nature of human language (Hana, 2006).

2) *Interpersonal function / Interpersonal metafunction*is one of the language functions which concerns the use of language to set up and sustain interaction between people using language (Halliday, 1975; Christie &

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Unsworth, 2000; Bloor & Bloor, 1995 as cited in Emilia, 2005:54-55).
It is through the interpersonal metafunction that users of language
establish, negotiate and assume their position in social relationships
(Halliday, 1994:68 as cited in Ye, 2010).

3) *Appraisal framework* is a system of interpersonal meaning; concerned
with evaluation – the kinds of attitudes that are negotiated in a text, the
strength of the feelings involved and the ways in which values are
sourced and readers aligned (Martin & Rose, 2007). Appraisal is
understood as a particular approach to explore, describe and explain the
way language is used to evaluate, to adopt stances, to construct textual
personas and to manage interpersonal positioning and relationships
(White 2001:1 as cited in Page, 2003).

4) *Attitude* has to do with evaluating things, people's characters and their
feelings. It may be the writer's own or it may be attributed to some
other sources (Martin & Rose, 2007). Attitude itself is divided into
three regions: Affect, Judgment, and Appreciation (Martin & White,
2005).

5) *Affect* is the means by which writers/speakers positively or negatively
evaluate the entities, happenings and states-of-affairs. It is concerned
with registering positive and negative feelings (Martin & White, 2005).

6) *Judgment* is the region of meaning construing our attitudes to people and
the way they behave – their characters, and how they measure up. It is
concerned with resources for assessing behavior according to various
normative principles (Martin & White, 2005).

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7) *Appreciation* looks at resources for construing the value of things, especially things we make and performances we give, but also including natural phenomena and semiosis– what such things are worth; how we value them (Martin & White, 2005).

8) *Graduation* attends to grading phenomena whereby feelings are amplified and categories blurred (Martin & White, 2005). It establishes resources for intensification (force) and for adjusting boundaries (focus), makes it possible to compare things – to say how strong the feelings are (Martin & Rose, 2007).

1.8 Organization of Paper

The study covers five chapters in which the general description of each chapter is elaborated as follows:

1)   T

he first chapter: Introduction

This chapter provides background of the study, research questions, aims of the study, the scope of the study, significance of the study, research methodology, clarification of key terms, and organization of the paper.

2)   T

he second chapter: Theoretical Foundation

This chapter deals with the theoretical framework of the study to reveal the Attitude shared and the interpersonal meaning on the lyric. In doing so, this chapter discusses the theories and concepts which are employed to answer the research questions.

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3)   T

he third chapter: Research Methodology

This chapter deals with the procedures taken in undertaking the study. It also presents the analytical tools and the reason of choosing it.

4)   T

he fourth chapter: Findings and Discussion

This chapter consists of result of the study and the answers of research questions as well as the discussion and interpretation of findings.

5)   T

he fifth chapter: Conclusion

This chapter contains conclusions of the study. It also includes several suggestions for future studies.

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