CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of this paper which contains *Background of The Study*, *Purposes of The Study*, *Statements of The Problem*, *Clarifications of Terms*, *Scope of the Study*, and *Significance of The Study*.

1.1 Background of The Study

Lyrics have significant contribution to the music, though they play a role of a secondary element of the whole music. Song lyric gives the listeners a profound understanding about the message delivered by the song. In other words, lyrics also clarify the messages contained in a song. According to Dallin (1994), lyrics are written as a form of interaction between the writer and the listeners. Most of the times, they carry a message –whatever it might be—with the aim to motivate the listeners, or at least, to think about it any deeper. In writing, starting a sentence is especially useful in helping the writer to communicate their ideas successfully. Theme is the element of clause structure which serves as the point of departure of the message, it is with which the clause is concerned (Halliday, 1985). The Theme then becomes the most prominent element because it provides the environment for the remainder of the message, which is known as the Rheme, in the Theme-Rheme organization (Halliday, 1994).

Theme and Rheme organisation is the most significant factor of a text (Halliday and Matthiesen, 2004). Thematic organisation is termed by Danes as Thematic progression because it is one of the organising principles in the ordering information in discourse beyond the clause level, though different scholars give differents terms for such a refferent (1970, 1974, as cited in Nwogu and Bloor, 1991).

Thematic Progression is mostly studied under Systemic Functional Linguistics developed by Halliday (1985, 1994). Bertolli-Dutra and Bissaco (2006) conducted the Theme and Rheme in U2's songs. They find that the most frequent Theme is "I", followed by "you" which implies the desire of the author to have a conversation with the listeners. Their studies mostly focus on Themes used in the song lyrics. Gusrayani (2008), who conducts thematic progression research on children story and song, discovers that the songs provide a lot of chances to give physical responses. It gives the teacher and the children the opportunity to act or demonstrate the words and, consequently, creates an enjoyable learning atmosphere. Li

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Jian (2001) states that patterns of Thematic Progression (TP) are important devices to construct literary texts. He shows that patterns of Thematic Progression are more complicated in literary texts than in other types of texts, and in most cases several patterns of Thematic Progression are combined to produce a literary text, among which Thematic Progression with a Constant Theme, Thematic Progression with derived themes, Thematic Progression with a Split Rheme and Simple Linear Thematic Progression are the most frequently employed ones.

Patterns of Thematic Progression play an important role both in writers' construction of and in readers' analysis of literary texts. Concerning the text type being investigated, song lyrics becomes the main concern of this study for several reasons. First, the text has significant position in daily context. Secondly, song lyric is also common in academic life, especially in language and literature class. Finally, song lyrics seem to get less attention from the linguists and researchers in terms of their Thematic Progression. It appears that there has not been a Thematic Progression analysis on song lyrics particularly in which written by Indonesian and English songwriters. Therefore, this study is encouraged to fill the gap, Thematic Progression on song lyrics, with specific focus on English song lyrics written by English and Indonesian songwriters.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

This study attempts to answer the research questions formulated as follows.

1. What Thematic Progression patterns are found in song lyrics written by Indonesian and English songwriters?
2. Are the lexico-grammatical features found in the Thematic Progression patterns of the lyrics written by Indonesian and English writers similar or different?

1.3 Aims of The Study

Based on the description in the Background, by applying the Thematic Progression analysis, this study aims to:

1. Reveal the Thematic Progression patterns found in English song lyrics written by Indonesian and English songwriters.

2. Discover whether or not the lexico-grammatical features found in the Thematic Progression patterns of the song lyrics written by English and Indonesian songwriters are similar.

1.4 Research Methodology

The study applies a qualitative approach. As stated by Fraenkel and Wallen (1990), qualitative approach is employed when a researcher wants to acquire a holistic depiction of what actually happens in particular circumstances or situation. Further, this research also employs descriptive method. According to Arikunto (1996), descriptive method has no intention to prove any hypothesis, but to examine and describe the representation of social events that are found in the data sources.

The data used in this study are in the form of ten English song lyrics written by Indonesian and English songwriters. Concerning the data collection technique, several steps were taken:

1. First five *All Time Best English* songs written by English songwriters are chosen based on the number of weeks they stood on the first chart of *Hot 100 Peak* since 1958 to 2011. These five songs generally peaked First Hot for certain weeks and stay on Top Ten for a longer period of time. As for the five English songs written by Indonesian songwriters, the data were chosen based on the number of views they got on *YouTube* since 2003 to 2015. Out of every English song ever uploaded on *YouTube*, these five songs reached the most views compared to other English songs written by Indonesian songwriters.

2. The lyrics of the songs are downloaded from *Metrolyrics.com*.

The selected data are analyzed using Theme and Rheme and Lexico-grammar analytical framework proposed by Halliday (1994) and Thematic Progression analytical framework proposed by Danes (1974). The analysis then involves the identification and classification of Theme, Thematic Progression, and Lexico-grammatical features. Therefore, the analysis goes through several steps:

1. Construing every clauses into Hallidayan Theme-Rheme nexus, including marking the ellipsed subjects by using brackets.

2. Identifying the Thematic Progression based on the relation of the Topical Themes whether to the ones in another clause or to the Rheme in another clause.

3. Marking the differences and/or similarities of Lexico-grammatical features found in the Thematic Progression patterns of the song lyrics written by English and Indonesian songwriters.

1.5 Organization of the Paper

This paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction. It contains introduction of this paper which discusses Background of the Problem, Statement of the Problem, Aims of the Study, Research Procedures, and Organization of the Paper. The second chapter is Thematic Progression in Systemic Functional Grammar Studies. To date this chapter contains reviews Studies of Thematic Progression is Systemic Functional Grammar, which serve as a basis for investigating the research problems and other related literatures. The third chapter is the Research Methodology. This chapter elaborates the procedures of the study that focuses on objectives of the study, data collection, and framework of the data analysis. The next chapter is the fourth chapter which discusses findings and discussion. This chapter reports the results of the study. The last chapter, Conclusion, contains the conclusion of the data analysis and recommendations for future related studies.