

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background of the Study**

The title of my thesis is *Comparison between English Christian Songs and Their Indonesian Versions: A Study of Translation*. The reason I choose this topic is because first of all I am very interested in music. Basically, I am fond of any kind of music. In my opinion, in determining whether a song is good, it is very likely that a person will pay attention not only to the kind of music but also to the lyrics. That is what I do as well.

Now I would like to amplify the reason why my thesis deals with Christian songs. In Christianity, there are lots of songs as means of praising and worshipping God. The idea comes from the Bible, especially from Psalm, a book of praises to God. What is more, Christians believe that in heaven above they are going to sing praises and worship God. Therefore, many Christians compose Christian songs in various kinds of music. The songs are written to exalt God; in addition, the songs are sung in many churches.

Since I am a Christian, I know lots of Christian songs which I get both from the church I attend and from CDs, as well as cassettes. During these recent years I have found that there are hundreds of Indonesian Christian songs which are the translated versions of the English songs. This is not the case with non-religious songs, such as love songs.

As far as I know, there are only few Indonesian songs which have English versions. Nevertheless, the ideas are different. A good example is the song *Kaulah Segalanya*, which is popularised by Ruth Sahanaya. It has an English version but they have different ideas and content. It was sung in a foreign country for a festival. Accordingly, we cannot always say that a song is a work of translation only because it has the same tune.

My analysis deals with the English Christian songs which have been translated into Indonesian. I am curious whether there are differences between the English versions and the Indonesian ones and if there are, how they occur. Translation is the most appropriate tool in doing my thesis because firstly both versions have to be compared with each other and then I will analyse both the English and the Indonesian versions using the theory, principles, and procedures of translation. It means that in this thesis, I have to analyse more than just the literal meaning of the English words.

I come to a speculation first before doing the analysis. Since the data consist of songs, they cannot be separated from the elements of music itself, such as melody, rhythm, cadence, kind of music, notes, and tune. So I speculate that although the Indonesian Christian songs are the translated versions of the English ones, those elements have to be considered by a translator. Translating a song is

different from translating a text, an article, a book, a public notice, etc. because when translating a song into another language, a translator must maintain the melody as well as the message.

The explanation above leads me to the significance of my topic, which is to show that in translating English songs into Indonesian, a translator has to put many things into consideration. In other words, this thesis is to explore how a translator manages to translate English Christian songs into Indonesian. From the analysis, I will find how skillful the translator is both in conveying the idea or content and in maintaining the melody of the original. What is more, I want to know the factors that cause the differences, if there are any, in the translated version.

The approach I use is semantic approach. The area of study is translation, which is one of the branches of Applied Linguistics. I choose the semantic approach because in analysing my data, I have to compare the meaning of the words in both the English and the Indonesian versions and see if the Indonesian translations are equivalent to the original English versions.

**Statement of the Problem:**

1. What are the differences between the English and the Indonesian versions of the Christian songs that I analyse?
2. Which one of the three translation elements causes the differences?

**Purpose of the Study:**

1. to find the differences between the English and the Indonesian versions of the Christian songs that I analyse.
2. to find which one of the three translation elements that causes the differences.

**Methods of Research**

First of all, I search for the lyrics of the English Christian songs and then the Indonesian versions. I get them from cassettes, CDs, and the internet. Afterwards, I look for the differences between the original English versions and the Indonesian translations. Then I try to find the causes of the differences. What is more, after analysing the data I will find what translating procedures or principles the translators of the song apply.

## **Organisation of the Thesis**

This thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter, Introduction, includes Background of the Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Methods of Research, and Organisation of the Thesis. In the second chapter, I present the Theoretical Framework, which is the explanation of the linguistic area and the approach used in this thesis. In the third chapter, I present the discussion about the findings on the English Christian songs and their Indonesian versions, and the elaboration of the analysis. And in the last chapter, I present the Conclusion, which contains what is obtained from the research and my comments based on the discussion. After that is the Bibliography, which consists of the sources of information about the authors of the books that I read and the sources from which I get the songs. The last part is Appendix, which consists of the English Christian songs and their Indonesian versions that I analyse.