

CHAPTER 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECT OF THE STUDY

Based on The International Cyclopedia of Music and Musicians (1958 : 807), music is a document of human experience which is recorded in sound and movement, and dependent on its complex changing rhythm for its variety of effect. It has travelled along two main roads : the sacred and the secular. Before he had intelligible speech, pre-historic man gave vent to feelings of joy, fear and grief in bodily motions accompanied by rhythmic noises. His grunts, shouts, stampings, hand clappings and pantomime gradually became song and dance. As the savage developed a spoken language, he also invented a crude chant with which he related his adventures in the hunt or in battle, wooed his mate, propitiated his gods for fair weather, fertility, health and protection, or merely amused himself and his clansmen. This is the origin of music, and together with the development of human civilization, there are many changes in musical thought, for examples : there are many kinds of music -- such as jazz, blues, rock, heavy metal, rap, alternative, and so on -- and many kinds of music instruments -- such as organ, keyboard, electric guitar, or maybe with a

computer program and others -- nowadays.

According to The International Cyclopedia of Music and Musicians (1958 : 1755), song is a vocal composition and a personal artistic creation. It began in the earliest years^o of the Christian era. Besides, songs that have the sacred theme, there were many secular songs that were introduced by troubadours and the love theme assumed an art expression in that kind of songs. For the troubadours, the words were considered the most important part of the song. And in its eventual development, this kind of music should probably be considered as the basis of all modern secular songs. About song itself, every era and every country or culture gives its own contribution to the development of this kind of arts, for example : the development of a new musical instrument (1600s) gave the influence in forming an art song with an accompaniment.

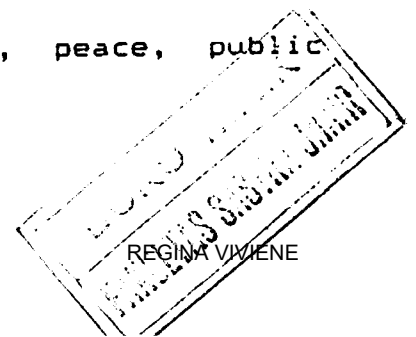
Religious music or in general music with a sacred theme, as one kind of music, is a kind of music that brings the theme of spiritual life. And a spesific kind of songs of this music is gospels, songs that praise God which are known well by Christians.

As a kind of arts, music and songs that have two important elements : imaginations and feelings, must have some beauty aspects. The beauty aspects of each song are relative for each person. If two persons hear a piece of music,

it is possible that both of them have different opinions on the aesthetics of that music. Although the listeners are people of the same race, nation, generation, environment, with the same educational and cultural opportunities, there are no two people who respond emotionally, imaginatively or physically alike ; therefore an absolute aesthetic standard is not possible (Bauer qtd. in Slonimsky, 1958 : 19).

The aesthetic aims have been variable, eventhough people grant that beauty is an absolute quality reflected in greater or lesser degree by the object, or work of art, and recognized in greater or lesser degree by the subject of an aesthetic experience. In the case of music and songs, the judgement of beauty is usually based on intellectual or the spiritual experience of the listener toward the composer and the composition. In fact, the percentage of this affinity between composer and listener is the deciding factor in individual criticism in liking or disliking a work.

Nowadays, the words that accompany music arrangement is called lyric. In The International Cyclopedia of Music and Musicians (1958 : 1051), it is stated that a lyric is the verses to which popular melodies are set, and it is a contemplative, singable, a commentary on a single situation or object. Based on that definition, a song lyric will bring the idea of many things, such as love, peace, public



opinion, criticism, social condition, spiritual life, about person and so on.

Lyrics of song as a commentary on a single situation or object will bring the idea of many things, such as love, peace, public opinion, criticism, social condition, about person, spiritual life, and so on. If a song is wellknown broadly, it is possible if the producer wants to expand the market by translating that song lyrics into other languages, or if it is a gospel song, somebody translates that song lyric into his mother-tongue language in order to introduce a 'new' song that can be sung together fluently and easily. However, that translated song lyric must still have its basic idea or theme.

In general, it seems that gospels can be grouped into two kinds of gospels, based on the moment they are sung : all-season gospels and gospels for special time, like Christmas songs and Easter songs. Actually, the language of Gospels are so varied, in Latin, English, French, German, Dutch, Indonesian, Javanese, Japanese, Korean, and, maybe, all languages that exist now.

Nowadays, gospels are not sung only in religious ceremonies in the church, but they are also heard outside. A great number of cassettes that record those songs are sold. Besides, there is an award, in this case 'Grammy Award', for this kind of songs. So, now gospels are not strange to.

people, including those who are non-Christians. This is due to the fact that the cassettes are sold freely in the market dan sometimes they are heard in malls, plazas, shopping centers, radios, and so on, especially at Christmas time. All people can hear those gospels, such as *Silent Night* or *Malam Sunyi*, *Joy to The World*, *Hark ! The Herald Angels Sing* or *Gita Surga Bergema*, *Mary's Boy Child*, and many others in many different language versions, at least in English and in Indonesian.

Because nowadays gospels are also recorded in cassettes or compact discs so that they can be sold, it is possible that we can find several Indonesian versions of the composition of lyrics for one single gospel. Several people can translate a gospel based on his ability, his experience and his music taste. Actually, the phenomenon of translating gospel lyrics happened long time ago. Sometimes we never know the translator of a gospel which is originally in English or other languages like Latin, German, and so forth. And this phenomenon happens with many other gospels, the translators are anonymous, but their works have already accepted by many people.

CHAPTER III
PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS
OF THE DATA