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I certify that this thesis is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this thesis. Other writer's opinions or findings included in the thesis are quoted or cited with ethical standards.

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**PENGESAHAN SKRIPSI/TUGAS AKHIR**

Nomor: UIN.02/DA/PP.009/ 2437 /2015

Skripsi / Tugas Akhir dengan judul:

**The Portrayal of Son-Mother Relationship as Represented in Maher Zain's *"Number One for Me"***

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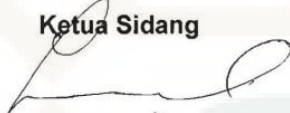
Telah dimunaqosyahkan pada : **Selasa, 22 September 2015**

Nilai Munaqosyah : **B+**

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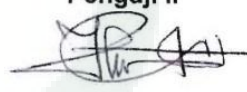
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# **THE PORTRAYAL OF MOTHER AS REPRESENTED IN MAHER ZAIN'S "*NUMBER ONE FOR ME*"**

By: Taufiqurrohman

## **ABSTRACT**

Mother is a human who is full of sincerity. Her sincerity that includes everything, especially in caring for and educating children makes her become an honorable people after Allah and Rosululoh. This is because of her big sacrifice, even she is willing to risk her life. A figure of mother is interesting to analyze because her existence can provide many lessons and reflections to every human being. Because of her noble existence, a figure of mother is widely used as the theme of literary works such as poetry and songs. One of them is the "*Number One for Me*" song sung by Maher Zain. This song depicts a figure of mother from the first-person point of view (the son). To find out how a figure of mother is portrayed, this research uses the New Criticism theory by John Crowe Ransom as a tool to analyze with qualitative methods.

From the analysis, it is found that the figure of mother as seen from the first person point of view. It is divided into five parts as follows; 1) the past experience, 2) the wishes, 3) present day, 4) empathy, and 5) final statement. The parts of this song create a chronological events that are described by the song through the child's behavior. And finally the figure of mother can be seen clearly from each behavior of the child, because every behavior of the child do not escape from a figure of mother.

Keywords: *Mother, figure, behavior, child, "Number One for Me", point of view.*

# THE PORTRAYAL OF MOTHER AS REPRESENTED IN MAHER ZAIN'S "*NUMBER ONE FOR ME*"

Oleh: Taufiqqurrohman

## ABSTRAK

Ibu adalah sosok manusia yang penuh dengan ketulusan. Ketulusannya dalam segala hal khususnya dalam mengasuh dan mendidik anak menjadikannya sebagai manusia yang patut dihormati setelah Allah dan Rosululloh. Hal tersebut karena pengorbanan seorang ibu sangat besar, bahkan dia rela mempertaruhkan nyawanya. Figur seorang ibu menjadi menarik untuk dianalisis karena eksistensinya dapat memberikan banyak pelajaran dan renungan kepada setiap manusia. Karena keberadaanya yang mulia, figure seorang ibu banyak dijadikan tema sebuah karya sastra seperti puisi dan lagu, salah satunya adalah lagu "*Number One for Me*" yang dinyanyikan oleh Maher Zain. Lagu ini menggambarkan figure seorang dari sudut pandang orang pertama (the son). untuk mengetahui bagaimana figure seorang ibu digambarkan, penelitian ini menggunakan teori *New Criticism* oleh John Crown Ransom sebagai alat untuk analisis dan kualitatif sebagai metode.

Dari analisis, penelitian ini menemukan figur seorang ibu dari sudut pandang orang pertama yang dibagi menjadi lima bagian yaitu, 1) pengalaman masa lalu, 2) permohonan, 3) masa kini, 4) empati, dan 5) statement akhir. bagian bagian ini menciptakan sebuah kronologi peristiwa yang digambarkan oleh lagu melalui tingkah laku seorang anak. Dan pada akhirnya figur seorang ibu dapat diketahui dengan jelas dari setiap perbuatan anak (the speaker), karena setiap kepribadian anak dipengaruhi oleh sosok seorang ibu.

Kata Kunci : Ibu, figur, tingkah laku, anak, "*Number One for Me*", sudut pandang.

## MOTTO

من سار على الدرب وصل

Where is a will, there is a way



## DEDICATION

This final project I dedicated to:

- ❖ My beloved mother and father
- ❖ My beloved sister
- ❖ My big family
- ❖ The beloved institution, English Department UIN Sunan Kalijaga  
Yogyakarta





## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*Assalamu'alaikum wr. wb.*

All praises be to Allah who has created the heavens and the earth, who has been giving me mercies and blessings to complete the graduating paper. Peace be upon to the prophet Muhammad SAW who introduced Islamic Religion. During process and finishing of this research, I really give thanks and appreciation for people who have helped me; they are:

1. My big family; *mimi, mama, nok* Ina, my uncle and my aunt.
2. The Dean of Adab Faculty and Cultural Sciences Faculty, Dr. Zamzam Afandi, M. Ag.
3. The chairman of English Department, Mr. Ubaidillah.
4. Mr. Fuad Arif Fudiyartanto, S. Pd, M. Hum, as my academic advisor.
5. Mr. Danial Hidayatullah, M. Hum, as my advisor, who has given his best guidance to finish this research.
6. Mr. Bambang Hariyanto, M.A and Miss. Witriani, M. Hum as my examiner.
7. All lectures of English Department, UIN Sunan Kalijaga
8. All of my beloved new families in English Department, especially chapter 2011.
9. My craziest friend, Alfandy. Thanks for every gret moment and support.
10. Thanks to my special person, Ati Ayati who brings a new beautiful color of my life.
11. The Families of SA SINGA, Faqih, Yudi, Nazmi, Barru, Al, Aziz, Rinda, Buyung, Duta, Bima, Lulu, Haida, Linda, Lina, Riska, *Mba* Risa, *Mba* Nana,

Deby, Ummi, Ningrum, Tiyas, Fahrur, Nur. Mega, Alin, and Nina. Thanks you for the best moment and also the lesson to be a better person.

12. The member of The Explorer: Linda, Lina, Lulu, Faqih. Thank you for the best moment for exploring the great place of Jogja.

13. The families of PSM Gita Savana: *Mas* iping, *Mas* Adit, *Mas* Dana, *Mas* Ucok, *Mas* Jovi, *Mas* Bibil, *Mas* Ranu, *Ka* Irul, Ubay, Vicky, Eyo, Jawad, Atto, Fuad, Joni, Said, *Mba* Lulu, *Mba* duri, *Mba* Ay, *Mba* Dibti, *Mba* Khana, Laila, Mega, Dita, Cimcim, Anif, Dilah, Nana, Tiayu, and many others. Thank you for being the best friend and the best singing partner. And all of the singers of PSM Gita Savana.

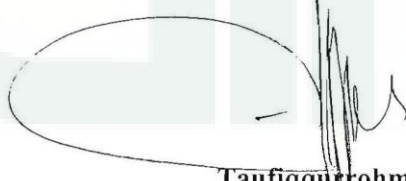
14. Thanks to Haida, Riska, Lulu, and Lina for the idea, consideration and discussion. Your great support ideas become a good inspiration for me.

And those I cannot mention in every single name. Thank you for being the part of mine, may Allah love you as always.

*Wassalamualaikum Waromatullohi Wabarokatuh*

Yogyakarta, September 15, 2015

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

Song is one of popular culture's product (Storey, 2009: 04). According to dictionary.com, song is "a short metrical composition intended or adapted for singing, especially one in rhymed stanzas; a lyric; a ballad".

Moreover, now a song becomes an important thing through people's daily activity. Some people say that "I can't live without listening to the song". A song is not only for the individual necessity, but also for the community necessity. When the people have an agenda such as wedding, seminar, bazar, and religious event, there must be a song to beautify the situation.

One of Popular song is Religious Song, it is well known as Nasheed. Nasheed become a symbol of peace of youth in some countries with Muslim majority such as Indonesia and Malaysia. Religious song is defined as genre of music composed for performance as part of religious ceremonies (<http://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/religious%20song>). However, religious song does not only take a role in Religious ceremony nowadays, it also becomes part of people's life style, for instance Nasheed or religious song.

Nasheed is a religiously themed song, much like a song of praise, but usually sung without any musical instruments accompanying the performance. Often background tone is derived from numerous people

mimicking instruments by humming in tune (<http://www.islamic-dictionary.com/index.php?word=nasheed>). Nasheeds used to have meanings of faith, jihad and knowledge. Nasheed also have overtaken other kinds of educational and beneficial audio material and nasheed groups have proliferated in the Muslim world (<http://islamqa.info/en/91142>).

The lyric (words) of songs, in this case is nasheed, are typically of a poetic, rhyming nature, though may be religious verses or free prose. A form of song can not far from its base, the poetry. Dickinson says, "If I read a book and it makes my body so cold no fire ever can warm me, I know that is poetry;" and Dylan Thomas defined poetry as what makes him laugh or cry or yawn, what makes him toenails twinkle, what makes me want to do this or that or nothing". A good song can give the inspiration and motivation to make the people emotion gets better.

A song also uses linguistic devices, such tension, ambiguity, paradox, and irony. However this research focused on the character analysis. Abrams (2009: 21) defines the character as the person, in a dramatic or narrative work, endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say—the dialogue—and what they do—in action. Character and characterization in the song or poetry also have the important roles; there is the actor who becomes the subject in the song.

Character also found in Nasheed. One of famous nasheed singer is MaherZain. He is the one of international religious singer who is well-known in the Muslim country in the world. He is a composer and song writer also. He combines the beautiful lyrics with a melodious rhythm in all of his song, that makes his songs are liked by all of the circle of people.

Maher Zain released his debut album *Thank You Allah*, an internationally successful album with strong Muslim religious influences, in 2009. He released his follow-up album *Forgive Me* on 2 April 2012. In January 2010, Maher Zain won Best Religious Song for 'Ya Nabi Salam Alayka', on Nogoum FM, a major Middle East mainstream music station, beating other prominent singers including Hussein Al-Jismi, Mohammed Mounir and Sami Yusuf. (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24920208> In March 2011,).

In March 2010 Maher Zain released "Freedom", a song inspired by the events and the actions of the people taking part in the Arab Spring. (<http://thejakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/archive/a-portrait-of-the-artist-as-a-young-muslim/438684/>). Maher Zain was chosen as a Muslim Star of 2011 in a competition organized by Onislam.net. (<http://www.onislam.net/english/culture-and-entertainment/music/456364-insha-allah-.html>). In July 2011 he featured on the cover of the UK Muslim lifestyle magazine *Emel*. ([http://www.emel.com/article?id=89&a\\_id=2421](http://www.emel.com/article?id=89&a_id=2421)) Maher Zain has appeared in a 40-episode Indonesian TV drama, entitled *Insya-Allah*. The show was aired on Malaysian satellite TV channel, Astro Oasis and Mustika HD, starting from 17 July 2012, concurrent with the broadcasting of the show on Indonesia's SCTV.

(<http://www2.hmetro.com.my/articles/MaherZainbintangisinetrn/Article>) And in 2015 he will release his new album *Ramadhanto* to sustain his existence in religious music. ([http://www.radikal.com.tr/hayat/baris\\_icin\\_muzikal\\_birlik-1124369](http://www.radikal.com.tr/hayat/baris_icin_muzikal_birlik-1124369))

Maher Zain's songs is not only describe the almighty of God and his Messenger, but also describe the relation between God and people, the relation between Messenger and people, the relation between people and each other, and describe the beautiful creatures of God.

"*Number One for Me*" is one of the popular songs of Maher Zain. This song was on the second rank on YouTube after "inshaallah" and has more than thirty-five million views. The song tells about the patient mother that never becomes angry when her child does something naughty and silly. It is interesting to be analyzed. The "*Number One for Me*" is worth to be analyzed for several reasons. The first reason is viewed from the mother. Nowadays, many mothers do not know how to face their naughty child. Sometimes they become angry and hit their child. The figure of the mother in the song is a good example to the entire mother in the world in treating the child. The second reason is to describe the role of mother to child according to Islamic values. The third reason is to give the children the understanding how to respect their mother.

Character portrait of mother is very important to discuss because every human being has the maternal instinct. Mother is the symbol of sincerity because she takes care her children honestly. Mother nurses the children without hope for reward or salary. Khalil Gibran said that the mother is everything-she is



our consolation in sorrow, our hope in misery, and our strength in weakness. She is the source of love, mercy, sympathy, and forgiveness. He who loses his mother loses a pure soul who blesses and guards him constantly.

Our prophet Muhammad peace be upon him also said:

عَنْ أَبِي هُرَيْرَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُ قَالَ جَاءَ رَجُلٌ إِلَى رَسُولِ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ فَقَالَ: يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، مَنْ أَحَقُّ النَّاسِ بِحُسْنِ صَحَابَتِي؟ قَالَ أُمُّكَ، قَالَ ثُمَّ مَنْ؟ قَالَ أُمُّكَ، قَالَ ثُمَّ مَنْ؟ قَالَ أَبُوكَ

It means: Abu Hurairah (radi Allahu anhu) reported that a person came to the Messenger of Allah (sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam) and asked: “Who among people is the most deserving of my fine treatment?” He (sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam) replied: “Your mother.” He then asked, “Who next?” The Prophet (sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam) replied: “Your mother.” He asked again: “Who next?” He (sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam) said again, “Your mother.” He again asked, “Then who?” He (sal Allahu alaihi wa sallam) said: “Your father.” [Sahih Bukhari]. *(Translated by Azkar)*

This Hadith explains about the people who came to Rosululloh and ask about who among people is the most deserving of his fine treatment, and Rosululloh answered your mother, your mother, your mother, and than your father. This hadiths shows that the mother is the most honorable people after Allah and Prophet Muhammad. The son should respect her and obey what she

says. Therefore, the “*Number One for Me*” song is reasonable to be the subject of this research because it has good moral values about the relation between mother and children. So the researcher will analyze the character of mother by using new criticism theory.

## **1.2. Research Questions**

Based on the background of study the writer has a problem statement as follow: How does the behavior of the son shows the figure of mother as interpreted in the song?

## **1.3. Objective of Study**

The objectives of the research in this graduating paper are to analyze the intrinsic element of the poetry in the “*The Number One for Me*” song, and to find how the song describes the character of the mother. The research also gives the reflection of the mother today how to be a good mother.

## **1.4. Significance of Study**

Based on the objectives of the study, this research certainly has several significance, they are:

1. Theoretically, this research can be a helpful reference in order to understand the application of New Criticism theory in literature. This research also can be used by the students, especially for English

Department students, lectures, literary, or anyone who love the poem and the song.

2. Practically, this research has several intension, they are:
  - a. For students, it is hopeful that this research can encourage them to know more about the poem and the song and challenge them to analyze the poem.
  - b. For lectures, it can also be used as an additional source to teach the students.
  - c. For literature, this research can entice them to analyze some similar song/poem or even more other song/poem.
  - d. For common people, this research can attract them to study about moral values from the song.

Furthermore this research has significance for Muslims who will attract them to analyze more songs which possibly contain any inappropriateness for the Qur'an.

### **1.5. Literature Review**

The writer has searched in the library of UIN SunanKalijaga, the library of other university, digital library, article, jornal, and other media but there is no research with the same material and object, it is Maher Zain's "*Number One for Me*". So this research is the first research for this object.

## 1.6. Theoretical Approach

This research will discuss intrinsically how the son and the figure of mother portrayed in Maher Zain's "*Number One for Me*". Therefore the writer will analyze this research by using New Criticism Theory, "this term, made culler by the publication of John Crowe Ransom's *The New Criticism* in 1945, came to be applied to a theory and practice that remained prominent in American literary criticism until late in the 1960s (Abrams, 2009: 216).

The New criticism argues that "sometimes, a literary text does not live up to the author intention" (Tyson, 2006: 136). So generally New Criticism sees a text as "text itself" (RohadiApri, 2015: 9). By this term, it can be concluded that The New Criticism theory doesn't see author biography, history, and other. The basic element of the New Criticism also becomes the important way to explore the meaning/message of the text, as the tension, ambiguity, irony, and paradox.

As cited in (Gunawan, 2013: 7), The new criticisms mentioned by Culler are John Crowe Ransom, W. K. Wimsatt, and Cleanth Brooks. The latter, according to Ryan (2011:22), is the critic who established 'close reading' as the dominant form of literary study in the American academy from the 1940s through the late 1960s.

## 1.7. Method of Research

Research methodology is systematically way to solve the problem. It describes the type of this research, the source of data, the method of collecting the data, and the method of analyzing data.

### **1.7.1. Type of research**

This research uses qualitative research. According to Natasha mack in her book *Qualitative Research method: A Data-Collector's Field Guide* (2005: 4), this kind of type is typically more flexible-that is, they allow greater spontaneity and adaptation of the interaction between the researcher and the study participant. The research also uses library research because it takes some texts as the object of study and other books to support the subject matter of the study (Ratna, 2013: 39)

### **1.7.2. Data Sources**

The data in this research is divided into the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data is the main source used in the research, and the secondary data is the supporting data used to help the research. The main data of this research is taken from lyric of maherZain's song "Number One for Me"

The supporting data are obtained from the books and electrical sources that are related to the research. The written source includes books, journal, and any references from the internet that are relevant and supporting the research.

### **1.7.3. Data Collection Technique**

In this research, the writer applies the close reading method as technique to collect data. According to Abrams (2009: 217), close reading is "the detailed analysis of the complex interrelationship and ambiguities of the verbal and figurative components within a work". It means the writer should pay

attention to each detail which occurs in the works. The writer applies this technique to reveal the sign as the part of the mind of song's narrator and collect them as the data that is analyzed.

#### **1.7.4. Data Analyzing Technique**

This step is the most important in the research. In this research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method to analysis data. This research is divided into two steps. The analyzing data steps are:

The first step is the in-depth analysis. In this step, the writer identifies every sign of the diction of the Maher Zain's "*Number One for Me*" song through the close reading. Thus the mind of the narrator of the song can be understood well.

The second step is analyzing the basic element of the song. After analyze all matter of the song as before, the writer concludes the research based on the problem statement. Finally, the relation with all matter shows the figure of the mother as the mind of the narrator of the song.

#### **1.8. Paper Organization**

This research consists of three chapters. The first chapter presents the introduction of this paper that consist of background of study, problem statement, objective of study, significances of the study, literary review, theoretical approach, method of research and paper organization. The second chapter presents the analysis of Maher Zain's "*Number One for Me*" through close reading and the

basic elements of New Criticism. Then the third chapter provides the conclusion of the analysis and the suggestion for another research.



## CHAPTER III

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 3.1. Conclusion

From the analysis, there are several points to be concluded. According to the lines of the song, there is a character in the song. The character is the son. To show how the figure of the mother is built, the writer describes the son's behavior to the mother through his days. The son tells him self as the main character. In this song, the son drawn as the child filled with some bad attitudes to the mother. The son used to does something naughty and makes the mother pain. After the son pass the life phases, and one of the precious moment through his day is having a child. Having a child makes him realize how he is was, and finally he understands the life and makes promise to be a better person.

From the behavior of the son, the writer can find out the figure of mother from the behavior change of the speaker. The behavior changes of the speaker caused by the implicit message of mother's behavior to the son. It can be known by close reading on chapter two.

Finally, the figure of mother in this songis drawn as the good figure of mother with all kindness inside her. The figure of mother in this song can change the bad behavior of the son to the good behavior. Therefore, finally the speaker becomes a wise and responsible people.



The lines that show the change behavior of the son that can draw the figure of mother can be seen as follow. The 4<sup>th</sup> line of the first stanza (mama now I'm here for you), the 7<sup>th</sup> line (now it's time for you to rise). The 8<sup>th</sup> line (for all the things you sacrificed), and the lines after until the last line. Those line show the responsible attitude of the son that caused by the good treatment of mother. Thus the figure of mother in this song can be seen as the good mother with the perfect love.

Maher Zain's Number One for me also shows the good relationship between mother and son. It can be seen from the whole of the song that explains the behavior of the son with all the kindness of the mother. For a mother, to get a beautiful statement from the son as "the mother is the number one for me" is not easy. It needs the fight and sacrifice until the son understands the role of mother. And this song shows the mother's sacrifice through caring the son as mentioned on line 8 "for all the things you sacrifice". The good relation between mother and son implies the figure of mother who always shows the precise attitudes to the son in every situation. The precise attitude to the son makes him feel cherished and tries to imitate all of the kindness of the mother for the better days.

From the explanations above the writer can find out how the song represents the figure of the mother from the son's behavior. Firstly, the mother is kind people and very honest. This can be seen when the son doing something crazy, and the mother does not make any violence to the son, such as hitting, pinching, and make some denigration. The mother treats the son with soft heart and she has a good way to give learning to the son.

Secondly, the song represented the mother as sacrificing woman. The mother sacrifices anything to the son. Even though sometimes she feels hard because of son's behavior, but she will always becomes a good mother and love the son sincerely without any weakness.

Thirdly, the song represented the mother as the mother with pure love. The mother loves the son in every situation and condition. She never hates the son when the son doing something foolish and she love the son without hoping any reward and anything.

And the last, the song represented the mother as the good figure of mother to the son. The mother takes care the son with good ways, and the way the mother caring the child will be adopted by the son when the son had a child. And the last, the song represented the mother as the modern mother that allows the child doing anything to increase the creativity of the child.

By the relation of the four basic elements of the new criticism, it can be concluded that the focus of the speaker is about loving the mother. Since the speaker reminds his past, it shows that the speaker regrets his past misbehavior and he wants to change it with the good thing. And finally he understand that how precious the figure of mother for him because he has a child. Having a child is the main cause of the speaker's behavior change. It is because the speaker can feel the sense of take caring the child.



“fie on you”, nor rebuke them, but speak to them with words of respect (Al-Isra : 23). *(Translated by parsquran.com)*

This Ayah told us to have good behavior to the parents with full of respect, and be kind in every situation to both of them. Do not make any bad words to them, and treat them as they treat us sincerely.



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## APPENDIX

### Basic Elements Classification

Number One for Me					
No	Data	Tension	Ambiguity	Paradox	irony
1	I was a foolish little child				
2	Crazy thing I used to do				
3	And all the pain I put you through				
4	Mama now I'm here for you				
5	For all the times I made you cry				
6	The days I told you lies				
7	Now it's time for you to rise				
8	For all the things you sacrifice				
9	Oh if I could turn back time rewind				
10	If I could make it undone				
11	I swear there I would				
12	I would make it up to you				
13	Mum I'm all grown up now				
14	It's a brand new day				
15	I'd like to put a smile on your face every day				
16	Mom I'm all grown up now				
17	And it's not too late				
18	I'd like to put a smile on your face every day				
19	and now I finally understand				
20	your famous line				

21	about the day I'd face in time				
22	'cause now I've got a child of mine				
23	and even though i was so bad				
24	I've learned so much from you				
25	now I'm trying to do it too				
26	love my kid the way you do				
27	you know you are the number one for me				
28	you know you are the number one for me				
29	you know you are the number one for me				
30	oh, oh, number one for me				
31	there's no one in this world that can take your place				
32	oh, I'm sorry for ever taking you for granted, ooh				
33	I will use every chance i get				
34	to make you smile, whenever I'm around you				
35	now I will try to love you like you love me			√	√
36	only god knows how much you mean to me				



## CURRICULUM VITAE



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#### EDUCATION

MI Miftahul Huda	2001 – 2006
SMP Islam Al-IshlahTajug	2006 – 2009
MAN Karangampel Indramayu	2009 – 2011
UIN SunanKalijaga Yogyakarta	2011 – 2015

#### ACHIEVEMENTS

3<sup>rd</sup> winner of *Festival Lagu Maher Zain*, Bandung 2012

2<sup>nd</sup> winner of *LombaLaguReligi Radio*, Yogyakarta 2013

2<sup>nd</sup> winner and got Gold Medal with PSM Gita Savana on 6<sup>th</sup> FPS USM 2014

Got Silver Certificate with PSM Gita Savana on Brawijaya Choir Festival 2014

Got 2 Silver Medals with PSM Gita Savana on 5<sup>th</sup> SDGNCF UNDIP 2015

#### ORGANIZATIONAL EXPERIENCE

OSIS MAN Karangampel	2009 – 2010
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