

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are five sub-chapters presented in this chapter. The first sub-chapter of this chapter presented the background of the selection of study with brief introduction to figurative language and the study of Semantics. Then proceed with an explanation the research questions, and the objectives of the study to be developed. After that, the researcher discussed the significance of the study, and scope and limitations of study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is one aspect of human life that plays a significant part in the transmission of expressions, demands, or delivers intentions. According to Douglas (2000), language is a conventional system of vocalizations, writings, symbols, or signs with authority that allows some groups to interact intelligently with others. Language can communicate a variety of meanings as a means of expressing human emotions. However, sometimes the language that is used to convey information does not utilize terms that directly relate to the content being conveyed. What is spoken or written can mean something very different, or they are using figurative language.

Figurative language according to Croft & Hellen (2000) is a symbolic or metaphorical language and not mean to be taken literally. For example, we can find the use of figurative language in daily life, like when someone said “*That boy is tiger*” which does not mean that the boy is tiger literally. This sentence is used to describe the nature, actions, or other things between the boy that are similar to tiger. Figurative language also has other use based on its types, such as metaphors that compare two unrelated things, or hyperboles that exaggerate something.

Figurative language is used in novels, song lyrics, poetry, and even in everyday conversations. The use of figurative language in songs becomes interesting because songs is a way of expressing the purpose, intent, or feelings of

human life using language that can be enjoyed by all of people. Besides that, the vocabulary of the song is similar to poetry, which is why the author chose this album as the subject of research. 'Ain (2013) stated that song lyrics are poems that are sung, but poetry is a collection of brief phrases that reflect emotion. The use of figurative language in song can help the illustration process of feeling or intentions conveyed by the singer or song writer to feel more real and attractive. This makes research on figurative language in song lyrics become important, so that the messages to be conveyed through songs can be delivered to listeners or readers properly.

Dewi (2022) mentioned that song and education are intimately connected, since a song can be a great instrument for increasing the uniqueness and creativity of teaching a student. The song may be an effective medium for teaching key lessons and keeping student entertained while they learn. Additionally, figurative language is a language sentence that employs uncommon word expressions. Figurative language demonstrates how situations and conditions work in an indirect manner. Because figurative language re-creates meaning, language objects have various meanings in genuine translations and contextual translations. As a result, if figurative language is used with persons who do not know the interlocutor well, a misunderstanding may occur.

In this research, the author attempts to find the figurative language used in the *Montgomery Ricky* album sung by Ricky Montgomery. This is done to find out the hidden intentions or the hidden meaning in the lyrics of the songs on the album. For example, one of the songs in this album title is *Line without a hook* that using figurative language to portray the song. This album contained ten song to be examined.

The research on figurative language has been done a lot before, for example "Analysis Of Figurative Language Used In The Song Lyrics Of Lady Gaga's Album" by Darmayasa & Kadek (2015). In this analysis, forty data of figurative language were found with the most use of hyperbole using theory proposed by Knickerbocker & Reninger (1963). Another research on figurative language also carried out by Yunanda et al. (2021) on song lyrics by Indina Menzel. In this study,

it was concluded that songs have connotative and denotative meanings, while the use of figurative language is also found. Moreover, the most widely used type is also hyperbole.

The use of figurative language made the ways of delivering language more interesting. One of the use of figurative language is in the lyrics of the song, in this study is the famous *Montgomery Ricky* album that used a lot of figurative language. However, figurative language cannot be interpreted literally, thus requiring study to understand its contents. This study aims to understand the meaning of figurative language in songs by analyzing the types of figurative language used and the function of the figurative language.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background described above, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are kinds of figurative language used in *Montgomery Ricky* Album?
2. What are the functions of the figurative language used in *Montgomery Ricky* Album?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the questions raised above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To explain the kinds of figurative language used in *Montgomery Ricky* Album.
2. To explain the functions of the figurative language used in *Montgomery Ricky* Album.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is important to do because it contributed in producing theoretical and practical significance. The theoretical significance of this research is that aims to contribute scientific knowledge to the advancement of Linguistics, especially those relevant to the researcher's analysis of the study of meaning. The findings of this study will further reveal how any possible figurative language is used in song lyrics. And the practical significance of this study will be useful for

future researchers, teachers, students, and readers who are interested in the discussion of figurative language as follows;

a. For future researcher

This study can be a source for other researchers who are interested in learning more about the study of Semantics and figurative language. The use of this research as source is going to make people understand more and using figurative in conversation.

b. For teachers

This research helps teachers be inspired to teach figurative language. In the teaching and learning process, they might use song lyrics and analytic results as sources. Their understanding of figurative language will also make them understand the use of figurative language in everyday life and use it more often in conversation.

c. For students

This research provides a deeper knowledge of various types of figurative language, particularly through the examination of song lyrics. It also assists the student in understanding the many sorts of figurative language and the meaning of song lyrics. This knowledge of figurative will also make them understand the use of figurative language in everyday conversation and use it more often in daily life.

d. For readers

The findings in this study will increase the understanding of figurative language concept for the reader or listener of the song, and the reader can avoid using it in the wrong way. They can also use figurative language in daily life based of knowledge they get from this research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The study of figurative language is within the scope of Semantics or the study of meaning. Moreover, the limitation of this study is especially in the type of figurative using the theory of Hatch & Brown (1955) about the eight types of figurative language and the functions of figurative language proposed by Perrine (1977) using Semantics meaning study approach in *Montgomery Ricky* album.