

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides some subchapters, namely background of the study, statements of the problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Those are important to describe the study generally.

1.1. Background of the Study.

Figurative language is commonly found in literary work where the writing appeals to the senses. It can be expressed in various words or phrases having a specific meaning that may be different than the literal definition. It might be utilized to convey the certain aims. Sometimes figurative language is utilized to compare two things in such a way in order the comparison looks more interesting and descriptive.

Rozakis (1995: 28) stated that figurative language is saying one thing in terms of another. It means that figurative language is an expression used by person or the author indirectly by using the comparison. It cannot be interpreted literally because the comparison in figurative expression has a certain meaning.

Abrams (1999: 96) also explained that figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect. It means that the use of figurative language might create the literary works to have high art value and to make the language more interesting and poetic.

Figurative language can appear in various literary works such as poetry, drama, novel, and short story. The short story is one kind of literary works that utilize language style through figurative language. The figurative language is expressed to show a typical way of expressing thoughts and feelings in written. The peculiarity of the language style appears on the selection of words that do not directly express the literal meaning.

One of the famous short stories that utilize figurative language is *The Happy Prince*. This short story is highly recommended to read because it gives readers some moral values. There are three main moral values that we can gain in this tale. The first is to be happy is good, but we have to look around us too. It means that not only us who has right to be happy but other people has right to be happy too. The second is how lofty we help someone soon without hoping for his/her response or recompense. The third is it is important to sacrifice our self interest if any others who lacked fortune need our help.

The figurative language found in *The Happy Prince* is to convey the certain purposes. One of the purposes is to compare two things in such a way in order the comparison looks more interesting and descriptive. See the following figurative language found in *The Happy Prince* to compare similarity.

“He looks just like an angel,” said the Charity Children as they came out of the cathedral in their bright scarlet cloaks and their clean white pinafores”

Based on the sentence ***He looks just like an angel*** above, the writer of the short story uses the word *like* to compare similarity between the happy prince and an angel. The charity children say ***He looks just like an angel*** to a disappointed

man who is looking at the statue of the happy prince. It means that they tell him the happy prince is very kind and happy in every single moment such as an angel.

There are two previous studies which are relevant to this study. The first study was conducted by Toyyibatul Hasanah (2016) entitled “*Study of Figure of Speech Used in Nick Vujific’s Speech*”, and the second study was conducted by Arista Ferdiansyah Puspita (2014) entitled *A Stylistic Analysis of Figures of Speech in Less Miserables Movie*. The difference between the two previous studies and this study are the source of data. The first previous study used *Nick Vujific’s Speech* and the second used *Less Miserables Movie*, while this study uses the short story *The Happy Prince*.

1.2. Statements of Problems.

Based on the background of the study above, the statements of the research problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of figurative language found in *The Happy Prince*?
2. What are the functions of figurative language found in *The Happy Prince*?

1.3. Objectives of the Study.

Based on the statements of the problems formulated above, this study have several objectives, they are:

1. To explain the type of figurative language found in *The Happy Prince*.
2. To explain the functions of figurative language found in *The Happy Prince*.

1.4. Significance of the Study.

Theoretically, this study contributes knowledge about figurative language, and tells how to analyze figurative in literary work. This study also becomes a

reference for future researchers who are intend to analyze the type and function of figurative language.

Practically, this study helps people can apply and understand figurative language used in literary works. It also helps people to understand figurative language used.

1.5 The scope and Limitation of the Study.

This study analyzes the types and functions of figurative language which are utilized by the writer in *The Happy Prince*. Therefore, the scope of this study is semantics that concerned with the types and functions of figurative language. The limitation of this study is on all the sentences in *The Happy Prince* which contain the types and the functions of figurative language.