

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This study is interested in analyzing figurative expression on the songs lyrics of Adele. This study will be focused on semantics approach. In this case, it will be started by describing background of the study, statements of the research problem, objective of the study, the significance of the study and the limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Human beings are given the capacity to talk and to communicate and the primary tool of their communication is language. People use language to communicate to each other, to express their thought, feeling or ideas either in spoken or written language. Language organizes the content of communication, what human beings want to talk about, into sounds that are heard or the written symbol that are read. So in all our activities and in all aspects of our life, language is involved to serve or to perform its communicative duty. People as human beings have capabilities to communicate with each other. They communicate among themselves, about their activities, and others. All the words which they communicate are called language. Language organizes the content of communication, what human beings want to talk about, into sounds that are heard or written symbols that are read.

Bollinger (1975: 14) says, "Language is a system of vocal auditory communication, interacting with the experiences of its user, employing conventional signs composed of arbitrary patterned sound units and assembled according to set rules." or in the other words means that language is a system of communication tools in vocal auditory form using conventional signs and symbols that has been assembled.

Linguistics itself defined as the scientific study of linguistics. Hartman &Stork (1972:132) say, "Linguistics is the field of study, and its object is language." Linguistics is

divided into some parts of discipline knowledge. One of the branches in linguistics which concern with meaning is called semantics. Siregar (1992) said that in semantics: meaning can be divided into two parts, literal and non-literal meaning. Considering that language is an instrument to conveying the meaning, here means that when we study a language we will study about meaning automatically. Sometimes we mean something different from what our words mean. It is called non-literal meaning, the speaker means something different from his literal meaning of the words, or he has other intentions from the meaning of word he said. The hearer may find it is difficult to understand what the speaker wants to convey if the speaker speaks non literally. For example, ***I was blind because of tears***. The sentence does not mean that ones blindness because of the tears but the speaker wants to say that he is very sad or maybe mournful because of suffering. Figure of speech or figurative expression is a part of non-literal meaning. It is used to make special effect to language and to make language more beautiful. Beckson & Ganz (1975: 80) state “Figurative language is language which makes use of certain devices called ‘figure of speech’, most of which are techniques for comparing dissimilar object, to achieve effects beyond the range of literal language”. There are some most common kinds of figure of speech; *hyperbole*, which uses exaggeration; *irony*, which expresses a meaning contradictory to the stated or ostensible one; *metaphor*, which compares two unlike objects and substitutes one for the other; *personification*, in which inanimate objects or abstract ideas are endowed with human qualities and actions; *simile*, which is an expressed comparison between two unlike objects; *synecdoche*, in which a part represents the whole object or idea; etc.

Figurative expression gives any difficulties for listener who cannot interpret a hidden meaning of a word or sentence. That is the reason why this study would like to analyze a figurative expression of selected songs of Adele based on the semantic point of view. In general there are two ways of language activity, first is the oral language which done in our daily

conversation either in formal or informal situation. Second is the written language. These two types of media have similarities and differences. One of the differences between those two media that related to the meaning aspects is that in written language media we can more broadly choose the meaning of the words which are regarded more appropriate. The fact above caused more by different language space, time and condition between these two language media. The written language media one is able to think and choose appropriate word as he wished. This is, of course, a thing that cannot be done the oral language media because of the matter of the time.

Every sentence that contains figurative expression could make the reader or hearer confused and try to imagine what the real meaning of it. Richard Taylor (1981:165) cites “Figurative languages surprises the reader because the statements or ideas expressed do not make sense on the surface level, and since literal meaning is denied, an act of required before the intended meaning becomes clear.” It is important to understand figurative expression meaning because it is the way to get the real meaning of the speaker. So the writer is interested to study the figurative expression as the object because it is worthy for the reader who are interested in the meaning especially figurative expression.

According to Richard Taylor (1981:169) there are some most common kinds of figurative speech namely *metaphor* which compares two unlike objects and substitutes one for the other, *personification* is an expression of giving in inhuman thing of human qualities, *hyperbole* is an expression that exaggeration, *simile* is an expression of a comparison of two unlike object things that show similarity, *synecdoche* is an expression that show a part represent the whole object or idea, *litotes* mean saying less than is actually the case.

From the statements above here the examples of kinds of figurative expressions. *The moon runs away* That is kind of personification the word *moon* is considered as having the ability of an inanimate thing that is running away. It means that the night is very dark since the

moon does not shine brightly as if run away. *I will give all the love in the world* The second sentence is kind of hyperbole, it means that she/he will give everything to her/his beloved one. *Don't want your hand this time, i will save my self* here The third sentence is synecdoche. *Hand* here does not mean she/he does not want somebody's hand but here *hand* means/refers to somebody, the use of a part to mean the whole thing. In simple the sentence means *I don't need you, I can do it alone. He eats like a pig* The fourth sentence is kind of simile, in the expression the way of *he eats* is compared with *a pig*. A pig has a connotation with dirty, smell, and greedy. So the expression above means he eats greedily. *A glooming girl* The fifth sentence is kind of metaphor, the word *glooming* means growing. The sentence means a girl which is growing adult.

In relation to the topic that this study is going to analyze in the paper that is a figurative expression in some song lyrics, song lyrics most of the time contain literal meanings. A Song lyric is a kind of poem. Poem is kind of literary work that often uses figure of speeches like facetiously (ironical or sarcastically). Every poem has a meaning that can be caught directly or indirectly. Because in poems there is often got the hidden meaning on it, so the readers must find out what it is that the poet wants to deliver.

The lyrics of song that analyze are Adele's songs. The writer chose these songs because there are so many figurative expressions that can be found in the lyrics. The composers communicate to the society by express their idea and feeling through the song. The idea and feeling becomes difficult to understand because the composers adopted figurative expression to beauty theirs lyrics.

Moreover, these lyrics have magnificent words and the poetic aspects. In addition Adele is the first female in the history of the *Billboard* Hot 100 to have three singles in the top 10 at the same time as a lead artist, and the first female artist to have two albums in the top five of the *Billboard* 200 and two singles in the top five of the *Billboard* Hot 100 simultaneously

21 is the longest running number one album by a female solo artist on the UK and US Albums Chart. In 2011 and 2012, Billboard named Adele Artist of the Year. In 2012, Adele was listed at number five on VH1's 100 Greatest Women in Music, and the American magazine Time named Adele one of the most influential people in the world. In 2013, she received an Academy Award as well as a Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song for her song "Skyfall", written for the twenty-third James Bond film of the same name.

In this study, figurative expressions which are found in selected song lyrics of Adele were adopted. The lyrics were chosen as the object of my analysis because there are many figurative expressions found in the song lyrics of Adele. Adele is one of the writer's favorite singer and the writer found that her song lyrics are very interesting and nice to hear.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problems

Based on the background of study above, the statement of research problem will be formulated as follows:

1. What kind of the figurative expression found on the selected song lyrics of Adele?
2. What is the meaning of the figurative expression that found on selected song lyrics of Adele?
3. What is the most of the figurative expression that found on selected song lyrics of Adele?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems formulated above, this study has several objectives, they are:

1. To find out the kinds of the figurative expression those are found on selected lyrics of Adele.
2. To describe of the kind of the meaning those are found on selected lyrics of Adele.

3. To find out kind of the most of figurative expression that found on selected song lyrics of Adele.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically this thesis can add knowledge for student who majoring on language in terms of semantics, especially in figurative expression and help them in translating and interpreting the text to understand the real meaning. Practically this thesis can be useful in interpreting the song lyrics of Adele and also to make people become easier in knowing the real meaning of the song. So by knowing the figurative language, it will help to all the people who wants to find the real meaning

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

To make focus of the analysis and easy to analyze of the matter being analyzed and easier to understand, the scope of analysis is focused on semantics component in example figurative expressions: hyperbole, metaphor, personification, simile, irony, and synecdoche that the writer used to analyze the song lyrics. Here the writer choose the most popular songs of Adele's songs wich are the longest running number one album by a female solo artist on the UK and US Albums Chart. As object of analysis. Title of the songs: Rolling in the Deep, Turning Tables, Don't You Remember, Set Fire to the Rain, One and Only, Someone like You, Make You Feel My Love.