

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents five topics related to this research. This includes the background of the research, the research question, the objective of the research, the significance of the research, and the scope and limitation of the research.

1.1. Background of the Research

Language is a deeply rooted communication in human life and an essential part of the social environment. One of the functions of language is as a communication bridge to interact and collect information from other people. When receiving information, we must understand the intended meaning of the speaker. According to Abuarqoub (2019, p. 69), language is the most powerful communication tool and serves to communicate ideas, thoughts, opinions, emotional expressions, and social interaction, using the power of sound, recording facts, and expressing identity. In literary works, authors always have different oral and written communication styles in expressing their conceptual ideas. A spoken language is a form of oral language expressed directly through spoken language, usually accompanied by tone and body language. Spoken language is contained in language and utterances, while written language is a form of language that uses written or non-verbal texts as its primary elements. Written language can find in novels, songs, poetry, magazines, and others. Indeed, humans cannot be separated from communication and social interaction because they cannot live without language.

In the research of linguistics, one of the branches that discusses the meaning of language is semantics. According to Kroeger (2018, p. 217), one of the main goals of semantics is to explain how meanings are interrelated between one sentence and another. Semantics studies the relationship between linguistics form and meaning bound by the same rules as other aspects of linguistics structure.

It can force the

language learner to infer not only the meaning of the vocabulary but also a set of rules for interpreting meaning formed when the vocabulary is combined. Kroeger also added that semantics treats the importance of meaning attached to words and sentences as linguistic expressions.

Figurative language is a representation that does not use rigid or realistic word meanings and is also part of semantics. According to Purwatiningsih (2020, p. 2), semantics diverges from the meaning of the traditional working order to convey complex meanings, colorful sentences, clarity, or an evocative comparison. Figurative language is often used in exaggerated comparisons to add creative zest to written or spoken language or to illustrate complex ideas. It makes all languages that use figurative language cannot be understood literally. There are many types of figurative language, Perrine simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, metonymy, synecdoche, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony. Literary works such as poetry, novels, and songs are usually written using figurative language to beautify the language. According to Barbara & Sweetser (2014, p.8), figurative language has been sinking into all languages and reflects human perception patterns. What is pictured in a person's mind can be different from others; for some authors, it can make its characteristics.

According to Gunawan (2021, p.2), the characteristics of figurative language have been shown to play a simultaneous role in musical composition and communication, academic expansion, and scientific knowledge. This situation is based on the many songwriters who use figurative language in their songs. A song can express thoughts and feelings as a musical composition through the words sung. Songs have two components: lyrics and music. When listening to a song, sometimes we need to pay attention to the lyrics used in the song. Usually, someone likes a piece of a song just because the singer is charming or because the music is good. On the other hand, when someone tries to focus on the lyrics, sometimes they need help to understand the meaning of the lyrics, primarily if the lyrics use figurative language. According to Heriyansyah et al. (2022, p. 803), a songwriter has a message and a target to convey to listeners through song lyrics. On the one hand, knowing the meaning of song lyrics is very important so

listeners can understand the author's message. Therefore, semantic analysis needs to be done in order to know the true meaning of a song.

Taylor Swift is a successful American pop and country music singer-songwriter of the early 21st century. She has sung many popular songs among the people. Starting as an aspiring musician, she signed his first record deal in early 2004 and released his self-titled debut two years later. Unexpectedly the second album managed to sell more than 40 million copies of albums worldwide. In addition, he has also won dozens of awards for his singing and songwriting talent. Her songs thus become the message conveyed through her work, usually reflected in her experiences. According to Rahayu (2017, p. 5), Taylor Swift is inspired by her own experiences because often, in her work, she uses the pronouns I, we, and you to place herself and her lover as the main characters. However, Taylor Swift has a unique way of expressing her experiences through the songs she sings. She does not show the true meaning of the lyrics. She used to write them using figurative language.

"Midnight" is her latest album, released on October 21, 2022. Taylor admits that this new album was written for 13 days without sleep and is a story of her experiences in the middle of the night through terror and dreams. Midnight also broke the record for being one of the most played albums on the Spotify music platform within 24 hours of its release schedule. One of his songs, Anti-Hero, also managed to amaze listeners and become viral. Lots of people play and sing the song. However, most listeners need help understanding the song's meaning due to the use of figurative language inside. One example of figurative language is in Taylor Swift's song in "Speak Now" based on analysis in a previous study (Utami, 2021, p. 27) "*Wearing a gown shaped like a pastry*". The lyric used the type of figurative language simile because that compares two contrary things. The author compares the things "gown", and "the shape of gown" using the word simile "*like*." The lyric has a connotative meaning, which is the implied meaning of the actual meaning. In its general meaning, the dress is fragile just like pastry, which is bread made from a mixture of flour and water that is baked until fluffy. However, the implied meaning is to wear a dress full of cut layers that are stacked so that the dress becomes voluminous and fluffy just like a pastry.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the type of figurative language and meaning in Taylor Swift's songs on her latest album, "Midnight". Each song must have its message to convey to listeners. The researcher chose that album because it is the newest album of Taylor Swift 2022. The other reason is that sometimes the readers, including the researcher-self, experience difficulties understanding the meaning of Taylor Swift's lyrics. Besides that, the lyrics are meaningful and fun to listen to. The song's lyrics are poetic so that the researcher can find much figurative language inside.

1.2. Research Questions

This research analyzes figurative language in five Taylor Swift songs in the album "Midnight." Based on the background of the research above, this research conducted to answer the following questions:

1. What are types of figurative language found in Taylor Swift's songs in the "Midnight" album?
2. What are the meanings of figurative language used in Taylor Swift's songs in the "Midnight" album?

1.3. The Objectives of the Research

Based on the research question above, the objective of the research is mentioned below:

1. To describe the types of figurative language in Taylor Swift's songs in the "Midnight" album.
2. To explain the meanings of figurative language used in Taylor Swift's songs in the "Midnight" album.

1.4. Significance of the Research

There are two significances in this research, namely theoretical and practical significance.

1. Theoretical Significance

The researcher hopes this research can inform readers about the types of figurative language and the meanings of figurative language used in Taylor Swift's song "Midnight" album.

2. Practical Significance

From this research, the researcher hopes to provide information to the broader society about the types of figurative language and the meaning of the figurative language used in songs, especially for those who like Taylor Swift's songs. In addition, the researcher hopes this research can help students, especially the English department, analyze the types of figurative language and meanings of figurative language used in song lyrics. It can also help those interested in linguistics as a guide or comparison in thesis writing.

1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Research

The scope of this research is figurative language. Concerning the background above, this research focuses on types of figurative language and the meaning contained in the figurative language used in Taylor Swift's songs in the "Midnight" album. There are thirteen songs in the "Midnight" album, but the researcher selected five songs from Taylor Swift's "Midnight" album. The song's titles are Midnight Rain, Karma, Anti-Hero, Snow on the Beach, and Bejeweled. The researcher limited to analyzing the word, phrases, and sentences of the types of figurative language from the five Taylor Swift songs selected using Perrine's theory (1982). The theory of Leech (1981) also analyzed the meaning contained in figurative language in Taylor Swift's song "Midnight" album.