

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses and presents the background of the study, research questions, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, and the scope and limitations of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is crucial to human life because it allows us to communicate with one another. According to Amalia (2021), language is a way to convey messages through the sound system used to communicate. This definition emphasizes that language is a form of speech, not writing, combining sound with meaning. Armstrong & Ferguson (2010), define language as a tool for communicating information and maintaining interpersonal relationships. Therefore, humans need language to interact and exchange ideas, social life, culture, and others. Language is not only used to convey someone's feelings or emotions: it can also be used to deliver ideas, thoughts, and imaginations, both spoken and written. Written language may be found in novels, newspapers, poetry, and magazines. Spoken language may be found in songs, movies, speeches, and conversations. So, it is almost impossible in our lives not to use language.

The science that studies language is linguistics. Linguistics is the study of language's structure, function, and other features as a means of communication. Linguistics is divided into many branches, including morphology, phonetics, phonology, syntax, and semantics. In linguistics, the study that is related to meaning is called semantics. Semantics is the branch of linguistics concerned with meaning (Hutasoit, 2016). According to Lobner (2002), semantics is a linguistics field investigating what morphemes, words, phrases, and sentences mean. It can be said that semantics reveals and creates written knowledge about the meaning that each speaker has. Every word produced by speakers must have both literal and nonliteral meanings. The literal meaning is when the speaker provides the listener with the true meaning of what he or she said based on common use or the dictionary, but the nonliteral meaning is when the speaker conceals a specific meaning in his or her stated words.

Figurative language is one in which words or expressions have a meaning that differs from their literal meaning. According to Riyuda & Oktoviandry (2024), figurative language is part of semantics, a way of conveying meaning that does not rely on the actual meaning of a term. Figurative language can be used in everyday conversation and everyday situations. Figurative language allows us to explore language in unique and engaging ways. Leoni & Wahyuningsih (2023) stated that figurative language is a strategy of using words to express something with a one-sided meaning to create an extraordinary effect. Figurative language may also be used to make words or phrases seem more interesting and beautiful, as well as to produce visual representations for viewers. Figurative language has multiple types, however, they all have similar characteristics. Perrine (1977), categorizes figurative language into twelve types, there are metaphor, synecdoche, simile, allegory, irony, hyperbole, personification, paradox, symbol, metonymy, understatement, and apostrophe. Figurative language can be found in many types of literature. One of the media used to find figurative language is a movie.

A movie is a medium that provides creative and artistic ideas about human issues and emotions and has become one of the entertainment media that is often enjoyed by a person, family, or community on weekends or certain occasions (Nurhayati, 2024). There are many kinds of movies: action, cartoon, horror, and romantic. The movie is not only a source of entertainment, but it can also be a source of education and knowledge. Movies are generally based on human experiences, such as work, love, education, religion, friendship, etc. As popular entertainment, movies invite the audience to come to a new world and a new life, as if the audience lives there. It gives the experience of being immersed in an imaginary world for a certain period, and one of the important parts of the movie is communication, which means dialog. Movies have a message that they want to convey to the audience. Therefore, for some reason, it is important to analyze the figurative language in the movie because it can facilitate a better understanding of its meaning.

One of the movies that uses figurative language in its dialogue is *Turning Red*. It is one of the movies produced by Walt Disney Pictures and raises the theme of puberty in children who are growing up. This movie tells the story of a girl who turns into a giant red panda after a night of arguing with her mother. Mei Lee will

return to her human body when she calms herself down. The writer also gives an example of figurative language found in the *Turning Red* movie, as follows:

“We’re like a warm and fuzzy blanket”

(*Turning Red*, (00:35:20))

The phrase underlined above was categorized into simile, a form of figurative language. It uses “like” to compare the relationship or connection between “we” and a warm and fuzzy blanket. This comparison suggests that the relationship shares qualities with the warmth, comfort, and perhaps emotional security associated with a warm and fuzzy blanket. Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing figurative language in this study, specifically in the *Turning Red* movie. This 1 hour and 40-minute film has garnered praise from critics for its story, animation, and cultural representation.

It can be concluded that *Turning Red* is a movie that is perfect for children of all ages. Moreover, this movie is easy to understand, and the writer assumes that there are many types of figurative language found in all the conversations in this movie. For those reasons, the writer is interested in analyzing the figurative language in this movie. This study has some similarities with some other studies that have similar topics. First, Faruk (2017) conducted a study titled "An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in The Great Gatsby's Movie." Second, Nurmaini (2017) conducted a study titled “An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Twilight Movie”. Third, Izzudin (2018) conducted a study titled "An Analysis of Figurative Languages Found in the Shawshank Redemption Movie: A Formalistic Study."

From the discussion above, other researchers have never studied the analysis of figurative language in the *Turning Red* movie. That is why the writer chooses figurative language. In addition, it is interesting to learn and can motivate students to study literacy, especially in the *Turning Red* movie. Based on the reason above, the writer intended to conduct research entitled **“An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in The *Turning Red* Movie.”**

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, the following research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of figurative language found in the *Turning Red* movie?
2. What are the meanings of the figurative language used in the *Turning Red* movie?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research questions that have been formulated, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To identify the types of figurative language found in the *Turning Red* movie.
2. To explain the meaning of figurative language found in the *Turning Red* movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

There is some expected significance to be achieved from this study theoretically and practically. They can figure out the following: Theoretical Significance.

1. Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, it was expected that this study would enhance the study of language, particularly figurative language, and provide readers with a better understanding of the meaning of figurative language in the movie. In addition, this study could serve as a reference and inspiration for readers who want to conduct similar studies.

2. Practical Significance

Practically, the writer hopes this study can assist readers interested in figurative language in movies. This is because movies are an excellent medium that provides visuals, audio, body movement, expression, and language used in the movie, allowing readers to understand the figurative language employed in the movie.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is semantics in particular figurative language. The writer only focused on the words, sentences, and utterances used figurative language in the *Turning Red* movie. The limitation focused on analyzing the types

of figurative language found in the *Turning Red* movie based on the theory of figurative language proposed by Abrams (1999). The writer also limited the study to analyzing the meaning found in the *Turning Red* movie. The characters to be observed in this movie are Mei Lee, Ming, Priya, Abby, Tyler, and Miriam.