

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Research Background

Language is something that cannot be separated from human life as a social creature because language is an important communication tool system that is used to communicate between individuals, groups, or organizations in conveying ideas. There are many ways people convey their ideas, one of which is literature. Literature is an expression of thought and feeling. Literature is also related to life experiences. The words used in literature are very strong, effective, and even interesting. Literature also provides entertainment and inspiring hidden facts. According to Meyer (1997), literature is a term used to describe written texts that are characterized by careful use of language, including features such as creative metaphors, rhyme, well-turned phrases, elegant syntax, and alliteration, intended by the author to can be read aesthetically and were deliberately somewhat opened in interpretation. The expression of literature is not limited by the standard literary work, such as poetry. At this time, the scope of literature is undeniably developing. Literature now includes works both written and oral, both imaginative and unimaginative. It covers a very large scope. Even, literature has music or song as part of it. As claimed by Rosita et al (2019), the song is part of literature.

Basically, the function of literature is to provide pleasure or entertainment, but on the other hand, literature also has an educational function. Learning literature in class can help students develop critical thinking skills and stimulate their imagination. According to Abida (2016), teaching language through literature can stimulate students to think critically, creatively, and deeply. By studying literature, students not only learn language skills such as reading, writing, speaking, listening, vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation but also aesthetic purposes including language enrichment. In literature, there are usually many types of figurative language used that function to clarify the

picture and make it more beautiful and attractive in the literature work, such as novels or songs.

English language education students who will later become English teachers can get benefit from studying figurative language, which will help the teaching process as a prospective teacher with the knowledge gained. Understanding the different types of figurative language is an important part of student education, remembering that language does not only consist of standard language, which is often used in daily life, but also uses figurative language, which is often found in poetry, novels, and other literature, where figurative language has a different meaning from the actual meanings. In order for students to get a correct understanding, the teacher must understand the material well. Besides, there are many fun activities that teachers can use in class to make students understand and create figurative language, one of which is the use of song as a medium in learning activities. It provides benefits for teachers and students to focus on figurative language in the classroom, which provides a fun way to learn literary terms.

Currently, songs have developed rapidly in every corner of the world. In Indonesia, many people are interested in listening to music in English. This is the reason many people look for the meaning of the songs they listen to understand it. To understand the meaning of songs, people must know figurative language because some of the lyrics in songs are usually written using figurative language. The figurative language used and found in song lyrics has meanings that sometimes do not match with the literal meaning. Figurative language tends to display implicit meaning. According to Nurchitrawati et al (2009), figurative language is a style of language that uses sentences or words to beautify the language with a different meaning or with the actual meaning. Furthermore, according to Hutauruk (2019), the use of figurative language is to provide an opportunity for people to express certain things that cannot be expressed directly. It is clear that figurative language is a language that has implied meanings that cannot be interpreted directly or

has ambiguous meaning. Thus, when it comes to understanding it people must think deeply.

Listening to an English song is a fun activity, but most people do not understand the figurative language in English songs. Figurative language in songs can be like a hidden language, adding depth and layers of meaning. This makes people don't know the meaning and purpose of the song because they usually just enjoy the beauty of the music or just like the singer. To be able to understand the true meaning of a song, we must understand the figurative language contained in the song lyrics. Understanding the figurative language used in a song is often key to unraveling its deeper meaning.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher was interested in analyzing figurative language in songs based on the support of Laurence Perrine's theory. Therefore, in this research data will be collected through songs, especially five songs by Miley Cyrus which are popular on several internet platforms, such as Tiktok, with the song titles 'Wrecking Ball', 'Angels Like You', 'Slide Away', 'Mother's Daughter', and 'Flowers'.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the research, the researcher formulates the problem by making the research questions below:

1. What kinds of figurative language are used in the lyrics of the five songs by Miley Cyrus?
2. What is the meaning of the figurative language used in the five song lyrics by Miley Cyrus?

1.3 Research Objectives

From the background of the research, the researcher has objectives for the research as follows:

1. To describe the kinds of figurative language used in the lyrics of five songs by Miley Cyrus
2. To describe the contextual meaning of the figurative language used in the lyrics of five songs by Miley Cyrus

1.4 Limitation of The Research

Many aspects are reasonable to analyze in the song lyrics. The researcher limits this study to only focusing on analyzing the types of figurative language and the meaning of each figurative language in the most popular Miley Cyrus songs that have been selected by the researcher based on the internet with the song titled `Wrecking Ball`, `Angels Like You`, `Slide Away`, `Mother`s Daughter`, and `Flowers`.

1.5 Research Significances

The results of this study are expected to give useful information as follows:

1. Theoretically

Figurative language study is included in linguistics because it focuses on how language is used and understood by analyzing language in general to understand how meaning is produced, processed, and understood in a language. Therefore, this research is expected to contribute to the advancement of knowledge about one branch of linguistics, namely semantics about figurative language found in literary works, one of which is songs.

2. Practically

- a. For the English lecturers

This research is expected to be able to contribute as a source of teaching materials that can be used in the teaching process of lecturers in English to provide knowledge for students, especially in understanding figurative language.

- b. For the students

This research is expected to help students understand figurative language, especially in five Miley Cyrus songs with the title `Wrecking Ball`, `Angels Like You`, `Slide Away`, `Mother`s Daughter`, and `Flower`.

c. For the readers

This research is expected to give information to readers who are interested in understanding figurative language in songs, especially in five Miley Cyrus songs with the title *'Wrecking Ball'*, *'Angels Like You'*, *'Slide Away'*, *'Mother's Daughter'*, and *'Flower'*.

d. For the next researchers

This research is expected to be used as a source or basic information for other researchers who are interested in doing further research in this similar case.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to clarify the key terms used in this research, several definitions of keywords are as follows:

1.6.1 Figurative Language: figurative language is a language that uses figures of speech where the use has a striking deviation from what the language user understands as the standard meaning, in order to gain a special effect and meaning.

1.6.2 Song: Song is a means of communication for conveying messages through lyrics written by the author by singing them with musical accompaniment. In this research, the songs refer to Miley Cyrus' five most popular songs according to the internet, namely *'Wrecking Ball'*, *'Angels Like You'*, *'Slide Away'*, *'Mother's Daughter'*, and *'Flowers'*.