

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Linguistics is the scientific study of language, which involves a look at the structure, meaning, and context of language. Semantics is a branch of linguistics concerned with the meaning of words. According to Griffith (2006), semantics is the study of the meaning of words and phrases in isolation from their contexts of use. Furthermore, semantics is the study of a "toolkit" for meaning, according to Griffiths, which includes information contained in a language's lexicon as well as patterns for generating more complicated meaning, up to the level of sentence meaning.

People learn about semantics in everyday life through communication with others and literary works. Most people use figurative language to communicate with others, which has a different meaning than the literal word. Good communication occurred when the speaker and hearer work together. Several phenomena occur when communicating, one of which is the emergence of figurative language when expressing opinions. Usually, speakers use figurative language to convey certain feelings or intentions in a word. People, as human beings, are unable to detach themselves from social interaction and communication skills, making it difficult for them to survive without language.

There is a style of language when we used it, which is well known as figurative language. Figurative language is, in essence, a component of semantics.

Figurative language is extensively determined as any method of expressing something that is not expressed conventionally, it is more easily described as a manner of expressing one thing while indicating something else. Some authors utilized figurative language to describe the minds of their readers and to communicate their thoughts in new, lively, and inventive ways. Metaphor, simile, personification, symbolism, hyperbola, irony, and understatement are all examples of figurative language. Figurative language can indeed be found in a novel, a newspaper, a song, poetry, a magazine, and other forms of literature, including written language (Maftuhah, E.R 2018). The analysis of figurative language, this issue was chosen as the focus of this study. This topic is very interesting to study because it is a phenomenon that often occurs around. Figurative language becomes important when someone wants to convey feelings exaggeratedly.

This study uses data sources from Madison Beer with the *Life Support* album. Song, as a piece of music with sung lyrics, serves to communicate one's ideas and feelings. Lyrics and music are two components of a song. When listening to a piece of music, some people may not pay attention to the lyrics. Usually, people enjoy a song because of the performer or because the music is enjoyable. Occasionally, when listeners try to concentrate on the lyrics, they have difficulty comprehending the song's message. According to the preceding argument, the writer is interested in analyzing figurative language in songs since virtually everyone enjoys listening to music. However, some people may listen to a song without comprehending its message. Every song, on the other hand, has a message to impart to the listeners. The purpose of this research is to find out what kind of

figurative language is used in songs, as well as what the author's intended meaning is for the figurative language used. The audience needs to understand the meaning of the figurative language used in song lyrics.

1.2 Problems of the Study

According to the study's background, the following are some problems that cropped up:

1. What sorts of figurative language can be found in Madison Beer's *Life Support album*?
2. What is the *Life Support album* by Madison Beer's figurative language's intended meaning?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the study's defined problems, the writers can conclude the objectives of this study, as follows:

1. To identify the figurative language styles employed by Madison Beer in her *album Life Support*.
2. To examine the figurative language used in Madison Beer's *Life Support album* in order to determine its intended meaning.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

The writer was focused on the figurative language of Madison Beer's *album Life Support*. The study's limitations are semantics analysis. Knickerbocker (1974) is being used to examine the many types of figurative language. Also, focusing on

the intended meaning of figurative language that appears in the song lyric utilizing Leech's (1981) theory.

1.5 Significance of the Study

While creating the study of figurative language, this research provides theoretical and practical significance.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

The result of this study gives benefit to linguistics, particularly semantic study, such as figurative languages. The author hopes that this research help readers understand the various sorts of figurative language found in song lyrics. The author also hopes that readers understood the implications of metaphorical language in song lyrics, notably those from Madison Beer's *Life Support album*.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

In practice, the author hopes that this study educated society about the various types of figurative language included in Madison Beer's *Life Support album*. The author also hopes that this study will help English department students analyze the different kinds of figurative language found in song lyrics using semantic analysis, particularly figurative language. Additionally, the author hopes that this study will be useful for those interested in linguistics as a guide or benchmark when writing a thesis on a similar topic.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

In this part, the writer presented several of the previous studies used as support of this research. The writer also discusses the concept and the last writer describes the theories.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

A literature study is necessary to learn about the work of other researchers who have investigated the same or a comparable issue. This is several related reviews used in this study.

Laila Alviana Dewi, conducted the first research, which is a thesis. (2020). *Figurative Language in Maher Zain's Song Lyrics*. This thesis looked at the many figurative language styles used by Maher Zain and their intended meanings. In this study, the descriptive qualitative method was employed. The details were from Maher Zain's lyrics to the songs Hold My Hand, For The Rest Of My Life, Number One For Me, Open Your Eyes, and Awaken. Using Perrine's figurative language theory, which is backed by Abrams, Keraf, and Reaske's ideas. According to the findings, 42 lyrics in five songs use figurative language. There are eight different sorts of figurative languages in those 42 lyrics. Simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, and paradox are some of them. The percentage of each sort of figurative language discovered in Maher Zain's songs was 14 percent for simile and

personification, 5% for metaphor and irony, 2% for synecdoche and understatement, and 7% for paradox, and 51% for hyperbole.

There are similarities and differences between this thesis and this research. This research uses the same topic. Using the subject of figurative language. The data source and the theory are the difference between this thesis and this research. This study used Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974) to analyze the problem of the study. *Madison Beer's album Life Support* was chosen to utilize as a data source for this study.

An article from the E-Journal English Literature and Language serves as the second piece of related literature reviewed. An Analysis of Figurative Language in Views (Opinion Column) Of Online Padang Ekspres Newspaper was written by Nurhaida and Marlina (2017). Examining the varieties and meanings of figurative language used in the Online Padang Ekspres Newspaper was the aim of this study. The types of figurative language were identified using Keraf's (2009) theory. To determine the varieties of figurative language and examine their meaning, this study used a descriptive qualitative method. This investigation discovered up to 100 phrases that were classified as figurative languages. Out of 100 data points, 66 were determined to be metaphors, 25 to be similes, and 9 to be personifications. These results indicate that metaphors are the most common linguistic type in publications like Padang Express Online, and they often have a positive connotation.

This research and this article have some similarities and differences. The subject of this article and this study is figurative language and the many types of figurative language employed in the data source. The difference that is the article

employs Keraf's hypothesis (2009). The *Life Support album* by Madison Beer is used in this research.

Afira, K.'s undergraduate thesis, *Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend Songs*, is the final work that is connected to this research (2016). Examining the various figurative language styles and their intended meanings in the five songs by John Legend is the goal of this study. The ideas of Lakoff and Johnson (1980) are included in this thesis. The research makes use of personification, hyperbole, metaphor, and paradox as examples of figurative language. In addition, the study identified other figurative languages such as oxymorons, litotes, simile, allusion, repetition, symbolism, and enumeration. It is an exaggeration employed for spectacular effects, hyperbole is the most prominent figurative language in John Legend's chosen songs. Litotes and enumeration are the lowest data discovered in John Legend's chosen song.

There's a similarity between this thesis and this study. Afira's thesis explores the same topic as this study which is figurative language. The differences between this thesis and this study are the theory and data source. This study used theory from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974). The source of data is the difference. This research used the *Life Support album* by Madison Beer as the data source.

2.2 Concepts

This part of the research is important to avoid the reader's confusion and misunderstanding while reading and comprehending this study. The concepts

explain the important terms of this research, such as Figurative Language, Song, and Madison Beer.

2.2.1 Figurative Language

Abrams (1999) asserts that figurative language considerably deviates from what native language speakers perceive to be the ordinary meaning of words or the typical arrangement of words to generate a certain meaning or effect. Literary works including dramas, poetry, and song lyrics use figurative language.

2.2.2 Song

According to Jamalus (1988), songs can be considered works of art if they are sounded (sang) with the assistance of musical instruments. The song is made up of lyrics, each of which has a certain meaning. Lyric, according to Oxford (2008:264), is a form of expression that expresses direct personal feelings. Songwriters use a variety of techniques to convey the meaning of song lyrics, one of which is figurative language.

2.2.3 Life Support Album

The American singer-songwriter Madison Beer's first studio album, *Life Support*, was released on February 26, 2021, by Access Records and Epic Records. In order to construct a concept album based on and made in the middle of Beer's severe depressive episode and borderline personality disorder diagnosis, Beer co-wrote the whole album and co-produced the majority of the record. The album discusses issues related to mental health, loss, and breakup, as well as Beer's experiences with media criticism inside the music industry and developing fortitude

while recording the album. *Life Support* is a pop and R&B tune with some alternative influences.

Beer's debut EP, *As She Pleases*, was published in 2018. The singles "Dead" and "Home with You," both certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America, aided the project. Beer signed with Epic Records the following year, and her debut studio album, *Life Support*, was released in 2021. (Wikipedia, 2021). This *Life Support* album was used as the study's data source.

2.3 Theories

To solve the research topics of the study, theories are used. This study makes use of two theories in order to identify the research's difficulty. The first is a hypothesis regarding different kinds of figurative language that Knickerbocker and Reninger have put out (1974). Using Leech's (1981) theory, the second theory was utilized to examine the significance of the figurative language used in the data source.

2.3.2 Types of Figurative Language

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974) identified several types of figurative language, such as simile, metaphor, personification, allusion, paradox, dead metaphor, irony, exaggeration, synecdoche, and metonymy.

2.3.2.1 Simile

A simile is a comparison made with the words "like" or "as" (Knickerbocker and Reninger 1974: 367) It compares one thing to another, according to McCrimmon (1984: 283). Consider the following circumstance:

“My heart is like a stone” (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283)

The comparison between the phrase "my heart" and the word "stone" introduced by "like" is classified as a simile in the sentence above. The writer characterizes himself as a stone, which is a similar hard material, as shown by the comparison of the data above. The term "stone" has come to be used to denote haughty persons in everyday life.

2.3.2.2 Metaphor

Metaphor without the words "like" or "as," Knickerbocker and Reninger claim that metaphor is an implied comparison (1974:367). It does not indicate that A is similar to B, but rather that A is similar to B. (McCrimmon, 1984 283). Consider the following example:

“Life is a walking shadow” (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283)

The above sentence qualifies as a metaphor. The words "life" and "a walking shadow" are similar yet have different meanings. The writer used the phrase "walking shadow" to characterize his life.

2.3.2.3 Personification

Personification is a technique for imbuing an object, animal, or abstract idea with human behaviors. “Personification is, of course, a metaphor in this context. That comparison between non-human and human beings is implied” (Knickerbocker and Reninger 1974: 367). Look at the following example:

“This honor comes, a pilgrim gray” (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283)

The statement above is characterized as personification, which involves imbuing non-human beings with human characteristics, as seen by the word arrives. Personification, as shown in the example above, is the process of imbuing non-human beings with human characteristics.

2.3.2.4 Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure using the part for the whole, (Knickerbocker and Reninger 1974: 367). Look at the following example:

“Fifty winters passed by him” (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283)

The phrase fifty winters above are classified as synecdoche since it refers to the entire year, which represents the expression of the entire year passed by him. In addition, a synecdoche frequently carries the connotation of a piece that can describe the entire. Consider the case above, when winter is a partial season of the year. As a result, it is clear that the author's goal is to indicate that he has completed the entire year.

2.3.2.5 Metonymy

Metonymy, according to Knickerbocker and Reninger, is when one object is described by employing the term for another thing that is closely related to it (1974). Consider the following example:

“The crown” used for “the king” (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283)

Metonymy is the term used to describe the above expression. In some countries, the term "crown" refers to the king who leads the realm. The kingdom has its king, who wears a crown as a symbol of supreme authority.

2.3.2.6 Hyperbole

Hyperbole, according to Knickerbocker and Reninger, is an exaggeration utilized for extraordinary effects (1974:367). Overstatement is another term for hyperbole. It can be "fanciful or restrained, convincing or unconvincing," as well as "humorous or solemn" (Perrine, 1969: 10). Consider the following example:

“Go and catch a falling star” (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283)

The situation above is hyperbole because the statement "catch a falling star" is an exaggeration. As we all know, stars are enormous, and humans have limited strength to accomplish unimaginable feats such as catching a falling star.

2.3.2.7 Irony

Reninger and Knickerbocker (1974:283) defined Irony as the true meaning of a statement that contradicts the real statement. The meaning of the sentence is opposite from its literal meaning, which is a characteristic of irony.

Look at the following example:

“The czar is the voice of god and shall live forever” (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283)

The irony in the example above can be noticed in the first statement, "the czar is the voice of God." Czar has the same appearance as other individuals and has the same voice as other people. "Shall live forever" is the second expression. Czar is a human being, just like every other human being. The opposite meaning of

"shall live forever" is "will not live forever," implying that Czar did not live indefinitely.

2.3.2.8 Paradox

A statement that appears to be clear on the surface, but when examined more closely, the meaning appears to be rational, if not ludicrous (Knickerbocker and Reninger) (1974).

Look at the following example:

“The normal is the rarest thing in the world” (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283)

The above expression is classified as a paradox since the meaning of the expression appears illogical. The term "normal" refers to something that happens daily. In addition, the above example includes a silly statement because we often encounter normal terms in life. However, following further consideration of the statement's meaning, we agree that normal is unusual since something that appears normal is not necessarily completely normal.

2.3.2.9 Dead Metaphor

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283) A dead metaphor is a metaphor that has lost its figurative language meaning and has been used indefinitely.

Check out the following situation::

“The back of the chair”; *“the face of the clock”* (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283)

The sentence above is classified as a dead metaphor since it emphasizes the topics being discussed. Both of the expressions above depict a specific aspect of oneself that becomes the focal point of the clock and chair.

2.3.1.10 Allusion

The allusion alludes to a well-known location, event, or person. Not in the literal sense, but in the sense that the figure expresses more than its literal meaning. Take a look at the following example:

“no! I am not a prince hamlet” (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283)

The following statement is classified as an allusion, as evidenced by the context of the sentence, in which prince Hamlet does not explicitly state that he is a prince. The preceding line is not intended to insult Prince Hamlet of Denmark in the literal sense; rather, it is intended to convey a concealed connotation, implying that his character is not the same as Prince Hamlet, the famous main character in the tragic drama.

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2.3.3 Theory Meaning

According to Leech (1981: 10), linguistics has brought a degree of analytical rigor to the study of semantics, as well as a view of meaning as an integrated component of the entire theory of how language functions. In linguistics, meaning refers to the information or concepts that a sender wishes to transmit or does convey in conversation with a receiver. All that is communicated by language can be defined as meaning. Semantic is another term for study meaning.

2.3.3.1 Conceptual Meaning

This form of meaning, also known as denotative or cognitive meaning, is frequently regarded as the most crucial component of language communication. The most fundamental propositional meaning is conceptual meaning, which is also the main phrase in the dictionary. The term alludes to a concept's significance. The mental meaning of man is (+human), (+male), (+adult), and the mental meaning of woman is (+human), (+female), (+adult). The definition in the dictionary refers to the intellectual meaning.

2.3.3.2 Connotative Meaning

In addition to its purely intellectual content, a word also has a communicative meaning. Beyond its definition, it explores the properties of a word in the actual world. Its meaning is more intricate than what a dictionary would suggest. There is more to connotative meaning than merely literal interpretation. Although the conceptual concept of woman is (+human), (+female), and (+adult), its connotative connotation can be gregarious, materially oriented, or typical. Connotative content can be found in everyday speech as well as communicative systems like art and song, which have more definitions than a dictionary.

2.3.3.3 Social Meaning

The social meaning transmitted to us by a piece of language regarding a social environment is known as the social meaning (Leech, 1981:14). The decoding of a text is dependent on our understanding of stylistic and other language variances. They tossed a stone at the bank's window, for example, and then seized the money.

As the term flung indicates, the writer is discussing two crimes in general in the phrase above.

2.3.3.4 Affective Meaning

Affective meaning is fundamentally a parasitic category in that we rely on the meditation of other categories of meaning—whether intellectual, connotative, or stylistic—to communicate our moods. Language is used to convey personal attitudes or sentiments to the audience or the subject of speech in an emotive sense. "I'm sorry, but your voice is too loud," for example. The sentence above has affective meaning since the speaker utilizes an emotional expression. An expression's intonation is vitally important in expressing its meaning. The statement above conveys a courtesy impression in which the speaker politely asks someone to be quiet.

2.3.3.5 Reflected Meaning

Interconnection at the lexical level of language was required for reflected and connotative meaning. It occurs when a piece of work has multiple conceptual meanings. Taboo words include reflected meaning. Terms like erection, intercourse, and ejaculation.

2.3.3.6 Collocative Meaning

Work acquires a connotation known as collocation when it is used with particular terms. A word's relationship with particular sorts of phrases based on its normal meaning or frequent co-occurrence is referred to as its "collocative meaning."

2.3.3.7 Thematic Meaning

The way a speaker or writer organizes a message in terms of emphasis, concentration, and sequence is known as thematic meaning. Thematic meaning aids incorrect message and implication comprehension. According to Leech (1981: 10), here are an example of thematic meaning:

- 1) My father, for example, just bought a new television the day before yesterday.
- 2) My father bought a new television early the other day. The meaning of the first and second sentences is the same, but the emphasis on the message is different.

