

# **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Background of the Study**

Humans created a system consisting of spoken and written symbols to help them communicate, and it is called language. According to Maftuhah (2018), language has an important role in human communication which involves exchanging information, pulling together with other people, and even for conducting buying and selling transactions, and also performing various other activities. In daily life, a human does not only deliver denotative meaning but sometimes connotative meaning which occurs within the communication. The use of connotative meaning has the purpose to enhance a certain meaning to deliver a message aesthetically. In linguistics, expressions that have connotative meaning are known as figurative language.

Figurative language is one of the languages that people use in their communication or the language to deliver messages that cannot be interpreted literally. Figurative language refers to a language that deviates from the conventional work order and meaning to convey a complicated meaning, colorful writing, clarity, or evocative comparison (Bauer, 2012: 3). It can be said that figurative language is the use of a word or phrase that does not have its normal literal meaning. The difference between literal and figurative language is that literal language should be taken at face value, whereas figurative language often

has a different meaning or intentions beyond how the word or phrase is typically used (Palmer, 2012).

Based on Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963), figurative language can be said as metaphorical language or simply metaphor because it means to bring out the meaning from literal meaning to the figurative style. Many authors use the type of linguistic style to convey their impression of something to the special effect of understanding each sentence of their work. Figurative language defines such a rich variety of ways to say something in distinct ways. Figurative language can be found in literary works, such as poetry, movie, and song lyrics. Songwriter usually utilizes figurative language to hide the real meaning and to express the songs poetically. Therefore, for some reason, it is important to analyze the figurative language of the song lyrics, because it can facilitate to get better understanding of its meaning

This study was taken from an album from White Swan. According to White Swan's official website, White Swan is a rock band from Denpasar which was formed on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. White Swan in 2019 was nominated for the best rock album at *Anugrah Musik Indonesia*. This study analyses from song lyrics of White Swan's album "Cygnus". "Cygnus" is a rock debut of White Swan released in 2019 which consists of 10 songs entitled: Ventured, Nicotian, Rock n' Roll Lady, Wolf in Sheep's Skin, Delusion, Cygnus, Doctor Element, The Sun, Bow Surfer, and Liar. In writing their lyrics, White Swan often uses figurative language to convey the message aesthetically. Since most of White Swan's songs

in the album “Cygnus” contains figurative language, therefore this study is focused on analyzing figurative language found in the lyrics.

### **1.2 Problem of the Study**

Based on the background above, there are two problems formulated in this research. Those problems are as follows.

1. What types of figurative language are found in song lyrics of White Swan's album entitled “Cygnus”?
2. What are the meanings of figurative language found in song lyrics of White Swan's album entitled “Cygnus”?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problems mentioned, this study aims to answer those research problems. The objectives of the study can be proposed below.

1. To find out what types of figurative language are used on White Swan's album entitled “Cygnus”.
2. To analyze the meaning of figurative language found in White Swan's album entitled “Cygnus”

### **1.4 Limitations of the Study**

Based on the two problems of the study stated above, this study is focused to find out and analyze the meaning of the type of figurative language in White Swan's album "Cygnus" and the analysis was done by applying the from

Knickerbocker and Reninger 1963), such as; Hyperbole, metaphor, personification, simile, metonymy, and paradox. Identifying the types of meaning of figurative language contained in the song lyrics will be done by using mainly connotative meaning since figurative language cannot be interpreted literally. This study is also focused on analyzing the meaning of the figurative language used in White Swan Cygnus's album according to the theory by Leech (1981) to support the understanding of the meaning in song lyrics.

### **1.5 Significances of the Study**

There are two significances of the study, they are theoretical significance and practical significance. Theoretical significance means that this research can contribute to Semantics theory and it can be used for studying in the future. Meanwhile, practical significance means this research can contribute solutions to solving the practical problem.

#### **1.5.1 Theoretical Significance**

The study hopes to increase the ability concerning the type of figurative language and its meaning in literary works such as songs that are used for this research. This research can inspire those who enjoy conducting similar research along with scientific advances in general.

#### **1.5.2 Practical Significance**

Hopefully, this analysis shall be worthwhile for the writer. Besides that, this research is also will give benefit everyone to more understanding of figurative

language discovered in song lyrics, because song lyrics are one of the literary works that contain a lot of figurative language. Moreover, this writer hopes that the result of this study presented as a reference for those who are obsessed with this subject.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, AND THEORIES**

#### **2.1 Review of Related Literature**

Many researchers have examined several literary works such as poetry, drama, song lyric, etc. which contains a figure of speech. Therefore, five previous studies are reviewed in this study as the validation matter for this study. The first study was taken from the thesis written by Kusmirayani (2021) entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language in Frozen Movie Original Soundtrack”. The previous thesis was focused on analyzing figurative language and its meaning. The previous study utilized the theory of Perrine (1982), that previous study to classify the types of figures of speech, and used the theory of Leech (1981) to analyze the meaning of figurative language. That previous study discovered eight (8) types of figurative language used in the Frozen Movie Original Soundtrack as well as; simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, symbol, paradox, understatement, and overstatement. The apostrophe is one of the types of figurative language mostly received in the Frozen Movie Original Soundtrack. Compared with the previous study, the similarity with the 12 recent studies is using figurative language as the subject of the research. The differences were data source and theory. Kusmirayani (2021) used the theory of Perrine (1982) and the previous study data source was taken from Frozen Movie Original Soundtrack. Subsequently, the data source of this present study is taken from White Swan's song lyrics this study utilizes theory by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) to analyze the type of figurative language.

Another related thesis was written by Elfita (2021) entitled “Figurative Language Analysis in William’s Poem The Little Black Boy and The Echoing Green” which focuses on analyzing figurative language and its meaning. In the previous study, the author used the theory of Perrine (1982) where the research consisted of 7 similes, 4 of metaphor, 4 of personification, 1 of synecdoche, 5 of metonymy, 3 of symbols, 2 of paradox, 3 of hyperbola, 9 of understatement, 2 of irony. Understatement is mostly found in William’s poem. In analyzing the meaning of the previous study of Leech (1981). The similarity between the previous study and the current study is the two of them utilize the same topic for the research, namely figurative language. The differences were data source and theory. That previous study used Perrine’s (1982) theory and the data source was taken from William’s Poem. Meanwhile, the data source of this present study is taken from White Swan's song lyrics. This study used the theory by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) to analyze the type of figurative language.

The third study was taken from an article about figurative language entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language in CNN International News Headlines Post on Facebook” by Kasma, Utami, and Jayantini (2021). The aims of their study are focused on analyzing figurative language and its meaning. They utilized the theory of Perrine in his book “Literature, Structure, Sound, and Sense” and the theory of Study of Meaning proposed by Leech (1985). The results of their research can be shortened in such a way: they get four types of figurative language, including metonymy, simile, and hyperbole. The dominating type is metonymy. The similarity of both of the studies is the topic discussed, both of the

studies analyzed figurative language. However, the differences in the study are the data source and the theory. The data source of their study was taken from CNN International News, the previous study used the theory by Perrine (2018) to analyze the type of figurative language that study used the theory from Leech (1985) to analyze the meaning of figurative language found. Meanwhile, this study the writer theory from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) to analyze the type of figurative language. The data used in this study was taken from White Swan's song lyrics.

The fourth study was taken from an article entitled “The Analysis of Figurative Language on Passenger Song Lyric in Runaway Album” which was written by Palguna, Juniarta, and Candra (2021). The previous study focused on analyzing figurative language and its meaning. The previous study used the theory from Arp & Perrine (2018) to analyze the type of figurative language where the researchers found 6 types such as personification, metaphor, imagery, simile, symbol, and overstatement. Meanwhile to identify the meaning they used the theory of Leech (1981). The similarity is used figurative language is the research subject and used the theory of leech (1981) is to analyze the meaning of figurative language. However, the differences in the study are the data source and the theory. The data source of their 14 studies was taken from Runaway Album by Passenger and used the theory of Arp & Perrine (2018) to analyze the data. Meanwhile, this study uses the theory from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) to analyze the type of figurative language, and the data used in this study was taken from White Swan's song lyrics.

The fifth study was taken from an article written by Rusadi, Pratiwi, and Santika (2022) entitled “The Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Twilight Saga Poem by Stephenie Meyers”. The previous study focused on analyzing figurative language and its meaning. The previous study used the theory from Perrine (1977) to analyze the type of figurative language and to analyze the meaning they used the theory of Leech (1981). The results of their research can be concluded in such a way: they found 17 data including simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, symbol, hyperbole, and irony. The similarity is used figurative language is the research subject. Furthermore, the differences in the study are the data source and the theory the data source and the theory. The data source of their study was taken from the Twilight Saga poem and used the theory of Perrine (1977). Meanwhile, this study the writer theory from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) to analyze the type of figurative language and supported the theory by Leech (1981) to analyze the meaning. The data used in this study was taken from White Swan's song lyrics.

## **2.2 Concepts**

There are three concepts used in this study as well as; figurative language, song, and song lyrics.

### **2.2.1 Figurative Language**

Perrine (1969) stated that figurative language is defined more nearly interpreted as a way of claiming one thing and interpreting another, and should

worry about insufficient numbers. Figurative language is a language that uses figures of speech which is a language that cannot be taken literally (Perrine, 1969: 61).

### **2.2.2 Song Lyric**

The song is a tone or sound art composition in sequence, combination, and the temporal relationship (usually accompanied by a musical instrument) to produce a musical composition having unity and continuity (containing rhythm) Hornby (1995: 1133) said that "Song is a short piece of music with words that you sing". According to Dallin (1994), "Lyrics are written as a form of interaction between the writer and the listeners. Most of the time, they carry a message (whatever that might be) to motivate the listeners, at least, to think about it. Such a purpose and form of interaction are embedded in the cultural context of these people, according to their musical preferences, time, etc." Based on the definition of song and lyric above, song lyric in this study means a set of words that make up a song that people sing to create the interaction between the writer and the listener to motivate the listeners or inspired the listeners.

### **2.2.3 Cygnus Album**

Cygnus album by White Swan was released on June 20, 2019. In which the album has ten (10) songs. Cygnus means that this band was born from a galaxy that is expected to be able to share positive rays like the constellation itself.

In addition, each song from this album has its artwork which will be able to explain the story and purpose of the song.

## **2.3 Theories**

As explained above, figurative language is a linguistic tool where the speaker utilizes language aesthetically to convey the true meaning behind the expression. There are several explanations about the theory that will use in this research, they are types of figurative language based on Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) and supported by the theory of meaning by Leech (1981) because this theory will help the writer to elaborate the data.

### **2.3.1 Types of Figurative Language**

The figure of speech usually became a part of writing a song to make the song give a special effect to the listener. Types of figurative language are as follows:

#### **1. Simile**

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 370) stated that a simile is a proportion declared which is introduced with a word like or as. For example: "My Love Is Like Red Rose" in Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 370). The simile occurs in the word "like" since it compares "My Love" with "Red Rose". It shows the similarity between "my love" and "red rose", even though they are different things. The writer wants to describe that love as beautiful as a rose. Red rose is usually implied beautiful things.

## 2. Metaphor

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) said metaphor is implied imagery, proposed by as or like removed. The metaphor used to be (am, is, are) to compare different things. The different concepts of simile with metaphor, for instance, Simile A like B, and Metaphor A is B. For example: "Life's but a walking shadow" instead of saying life is like a walking shadow (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 367). From the example above, the writer wants to explain the similarity of two things. The writer does not use the word "like" or "as" like a simile. The purpose is to make good sounds and also to create a good sense for the reader.

## 3. Personification

Personification is bringing an object, an abstract or animal idea that is given human characteristics Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367). Personification is also mentioned as a metaphor because implied the different things between an animate and an inanimate object. For instance: "This honor comes, a pilgrim gray" (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963:367). The sentence above shows that "The Honor" has human being characteristics, since followed by the verb "comes". In this case, the writer wants to give a special sense to the word "honor".

#### 4. Synecdoche

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367) stated synecdoche is applying the section for the entire. For instance: "The halcyon year' means, the summer (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 367). The sentences above are called synecdoche because the word "winter" is a part of the year. So this sentence means "fifty years passed him by". In the second example, the sentence is using the whole thing stands for the part of the thing. In this case, the whole year stands for the summer.

#### 5. Metonymy

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) declared metonymy is reporting something by using the provision for another thing intimately related to it. For instance: "the crown" is used for "the King" (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 367) From the example above, "The crown" is identical to "The King", a person who leads a kingdom or empire.

#### 6. Hyperbole

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 402), hyperbole is excessive for giving a memorable reaction to a sentence. This type is usually found in everyday life like in the advertising of something product etc. For instance: "Go and Catch a Falling Star" in Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 402). It is called hyperbole due to its exaggerated meaning that tells about

impossible things to do. Because no man can catch the falling star if it is translated literary.

### 7. Irony

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 427) stated irony is an argument whose actual meaning is entirely against its confessed, or superficialities. It means irony is a figure of speech that gives a meaning which not true. It is a difference between appearance and reality. For instance: "The People Yes", in Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 427). The meaning of the sentence above is "czar is an authoritarian individual". The czar is not the choice of God and shall live forever. The writer wants to give an ironic sense that the opposite is to the real meaning.

### 8. Paradox

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) propose paradox is an expression whose superficialities, the evident meaning looks to be unreasonable, indeed absurd, but it makes reasonable. For instance: "light is the darker thing in physics" (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963:367) The word "light" and "physics" is the part of sense similar to human having legs and hands for making a good sense.

### 9. Dead metaphor

Based on Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 368) is a metaphor that has to miss its figurative import thru inexhaustible use. For instance: "the face of the clock" (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 368). The sentence "the back of the chair", shows the specific part of the chair, which becomes the central part of the topic. And also, the sentence "the face of the clock" shows the specific part of the clock, which becomes the central part of the topic.

### 10. Allusion

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 368) declared allusion is a matrix to several famous places, accidents, or even humans not to compare in the proper taste, but a figure in the sense that signifies more than cramped meaning. For instance: "No! I am not Prince Hamlet, nor was meant to be" (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 368). The example above means that the subject "I" was not Prince Hamlet and also do not want to be him.

## 2.3.2 Types of Meaning

The second theory that is to analyze the data is the theory of meaning which will become crucial to analyze the data. Leech (1981) declared the meaning of words is complex. They have such components such are a concept, level, relation, personal feelings, and association In his theory of semantics, there were seven various types of meaning in particular; conceptual meaning, connotative

meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning.

### **1) Conceptual Meaning**

Conceptual meaning is the clear and logical definition of a word based on the structure and form of the word: its lexemes and morphemes (constituent structures), and what is not included as part of the formation of the words (contrastive structures). It can be said that Conceptual Meaning is logical, cognitive, or denotative content.

### **2) Associative Meaning**

Associative meaning is different from the other meaning especially conceptual meaning as the other type of meaning in semantics. We contrast them all with conceptual meaning because conceptual meaning seems to require the postulation of intricate mental structures which are specific to the language and the human species (Leech, 1981: 21). According to Leech (1981). Associative meaning is divided into five types of meaning. They are connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, and collocative meaning.

#### **a) Connotative Meaning**

Leech (1981: 23) defines connotative meaning as the communicative value and expression under what it refers to over and above its purely conceptual content. And it includes not only physical characteristics but also social properties

and psychological. For example, the word "red" has the connotation of brave, and the word "black" has the connotation of magic, evil, or, fear.

### **b) Social Meaning**

Based on Leech (1981: 25) social meaning is a piece of language that conveys the social circumstances of its use. It relates to the situation in which an utterance is uttered. For example, the word 'horse, steed, and hag' have the same conceptual meaning, but they convey different social circumstances of their use. The horse can be used in general, Steed can be used in poetry, and Hag can be used in slang.

### **c) Affective Meaning**

According to Leech (1981: 27-28), affective meaning was often explicitly conveyed through the conceptual or connotative content of the words used. It is a kind of language that reflects the personal feelings of the speaker or writer including his attitude to the listener or his attitude to something that is uttered. Based on the theory from Leech, the function of affective meaning is to communicate the feeling or the attitude of the speaker or the writer. For example, I'm very glad to hear your voice, but I wonder if you would be so kind as to lower your voice a little.

#### **d) Reflected Meaning**

Leech (1981: 29) stated that reflected meaning is the meaning that arises in the case of multiple conceptual meanings when one sense of a word forms part of our response to another sense. For example, in the following lines in poetry entitled *Futility*, there is this line said, “Are limbs so *dear* achieved, are sides, Full nerved still warm-too hard to stir”. Based on this line, the poem is about a dead soldier, Owen overtly uses the word 'dear' in the sense of 'expensive (ly)', but also alludes, as one feels in the context of the poem, to the sense of 'beloved'.

#### **e) Collocative Meaning**

Based on Leech (1981: 30) collocative meaning consists of the association of a word acquires on account of the meanings of words which tend to occur in its environment. For example, the word 'handsome' and 'beautiful' have common ground in the meaning 'good looking'. The word 'handsome' refers to a man and 'beautiful' refers to a woman.

### **3) Thematic Meaning**

Leech (1981: 19) stated that thematic meaning refers to the action of a speaker or writer organizing the information in circumstances of order, focus, and insistence. Frequently, to feel that the active features a different meaning from the passive, even though it seems conceptually equivalent.