

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the form of means of communication verbal and non-verbally. The human needs to be used in written or spoken that consists of the structure of words (Oxford, 2006: 498). Chomsky (2006) then defined in a particular sense the general use of language is a creative activity. The use of language is then further combined with some aspect of the experience, such as a set of visual images or a sense of relation. These “elements” are then related to the concept of “meaning” in language use. In addition, Davis (2016) defined communication as related to the terms of meaning, meaning referring to the terms of expression, and expression referring to the communication intention. Davis (2016) then mentioned that people are profoundly and enduringly curious about what the speakers said, what they are expressing in terms of beliefs, thoughts, and wishes, what things they are referring to, and who they are speaking with. The intention of meaning is not only found while having a spoken conversation. It also can be found by hearing a short composition of language delivered by the musical rhythm such as the song that usually contains someone’s story.

The song is defined as a set of words with a musical composition uttered with rhymed stanzas (Oxford, 2006: 863). The set of words is constructed into a lyric that

represent feeling and commonly delivered with different meanings. In songs particularly the lyric, the people will have their interest in hearing a set of musical words that telling about the story. Appleby (1991) mentioned that the songwriter's goal is to touch the listener with a subject of importance in someone's life. It can be formed of a theme and story of the song. To make the song to be conveyed memorable and meaningful, some of the lyrics are constructed by using the figure of speech.

According to Appleby (1991), some figures of speech are also very useful when it comes to writing the song's lyrics. Thus, by hearing the song, the listener is capable to recognize the figure of speech that exists in figurative language and comprehend the meaning. Davis (2016) also mentioned that the figure of speech is a form of conversational implicate. The figure of speech differentiates its forms based on the relation between what is said and what is implied. Then, Davis (2016) proposed six types of figurative language irony, hyperbole, understatement, metonymy, metaphor, and simile. Furthermore, Davis (2016:59) stated that the figure of speech as semantic implicature is so distinctive to define the part of the meaning.

Leech (1981) mentioned the theory of semantic is to define meaning with the rules to know that recognize the meaning of words and sentences. Leech (1981) proposed seven types of meaning which consisted of conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and associative meaning.

The varieties of lyrics and figures of speech used by the songwriter to present the story of the song such as in John Legend's song. Thus, this study analyzed the song lyrics of John Legend's selected album. There were 2 albums used that contain 40 songs presented about the varieties of stories. Similarly, in writing a diary, songwriters described what they feel to communicate their emotions by composing the song lyrics.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Following the above background, there were two research problems discussed following as detail:

1. What types of figurative language found in the song lyrics of John Legend selected album?
2. What are the meaning of figurative language found in John Legend's song lyrics?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the above research problems, this study was conducted to accomplish the two objectives following as detail:

1. To find out the types of figurative language found in the song lyrics of John Legend selected album?
2. To find out the meaning of figurative languages found in John Legend's song lyrics.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

The limitation of this study focused on the two scope of analyzing the types of figurative language by using the theory that proposed by Davis (2016) and the types of figurative meaning found in the song lyrics of John Legend selected album by using the theory that proposed by Leech (1981).

1.5 Significances of the Study

The goal of this research was to provide theoretical and practical contributions to the readers. Thus, in this study, there was two significance divided following as details.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

From a theoretical aspect, this study is considered to contribute and served as a further reference for analyzing figurative language. In addition, by conducting this research, the study is expected to be part of the literature study that provides further explanation about the analysis of figurative language and its meaning conducted based on the theories applied.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

In a practical aspect, this study is expected to contribute to the readers, especially the English learner. The comprehension of figurative language and its meaning that is found in the song lyrics is important for the reader and the song's listener to be able to comprehend the meaning contained inside the figure of speech therefore, the interpretation of the meaning and the feeling is well conveyed.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

In this section, some related studies analyzed figurative language reviewed. The review of related literature consisted of two theses and three article journals. The review was described in detail.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

The first review was the thesis by Rusdiantara (2020) entitled *Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Selected Songs of Michael Learns to Rock*. This study consisted of two objectives, first, to identify the types of figurative language in the song lyrics of *Michael Learns to Rock's* songs by using theory from Knickerbocker & Reninger (1963) and to find out the figurative meaning by applying the theory that proposed by Leech (1981). Based on the result, there were 3 simile, 2 metaphor, 5 personification, 1 metonymy, 17 hyperbole, 1 paradox, and 1 dead metaphor was found. In this study, to analyze the types of figurative language in the song lyrics on John Legend selected album, the different theory that proposed by Davis (2016) is used, meanwhile the similarity between this study and Rusdiantara's was by the use of Leech (1981) theory to analyze the types of meaning on the figurative language found.

The second study was conducted by Aman (2021) entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Song Lyrics by Damian Marley*. The previous study were consisted of two aims. The first objective was to find out the types of figurative language of *Damian Marley's* song by using the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger

(1974) and the second objective was to find out the figurative meaning by applying the theory of Leech (1981). Based on the result there were six types of figurative language found are 3 metaphor, 5 simile, 2 irony, 3 allusion, 1 synecdoche, and 2 metonymy. The different theory was applicable to conduct the current study by using the theory by Davis (2016) to analyze the types of figurative language in the song lyrics on John Legend selected album. Moreover, similar to the previous one, Leech (1981) theory was applied to analyze the types of meaning on figurative language.

The third review was the article by Permana et.al (2018) entitled *Figurative Language in The Song Lyrics of Passenger's Album "All the Little Lights"*. The two objective discussed were to identify the types of figurative language in the song lyrics of *Passenger's Album "All the Little Lights"* by using the theory that proposed by Knikerbocker and Reninger (1963) and analyze the types of meaning by using the theory that proposed by Leech (1974). From the twelve songs analyzed 9 types of the figurative language found were (2) simile, (2) metaphor, (3) personification, (1) metonymy, (1) hyperbole, (1) irony, (1) dead metaphor, (1) paradox, and (1) allusion. Meanwhile, only four types of meaning found those were connotative meaning, conceptual meaning, affective meaning, and collocative meaning. The difference identified by the used of theories. The current study applied the theory that proposed by Davis (2016) to analyze the types of figurative language which different from the previous study that using Knikerbocker and Reninger (1963) theory. In addition, the different theory of Leech (1981) used in this study to analyze the types of meaning

different from the previous one. Thus, there was no similarity identified since the difference theories applied is related on the different result found.

The fourth article was derived from Dewi et al. (2022) entitled *Figurative Languages in Rita Ora's Selected Song Lyrics*. There were two objective of this study were to find the types of figurative language in *Rita Ora's Selected Song Lyrics* by using the theory that proposed by Knikerbocker and Reninger (1963) and analyzing the types of meaning by using the theory that proposed by Leech (1981). Based on the result, simile (3), hyperbole (3), metaphor (1), metonymy (2), personification (2), synecdoche (2), irony (4), paradox (1), dead metaphor (1), and allusion (2) was found. In addition, the whole types of seven figurative meaning also found. The further analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics then conducted in this study by using the different theory that proposed by Davis (2016). Furthermore, to analyze the figurative meaning, the similar theory by Leech (1981) is used.

The fifth was the article by Ngailo et al (2022) entitled *Figurative Language Analysis in Billie Eilish's Selected Songs*. The objective of the study was to find the types of figurative language found in *Billie Eilish's Selected Songs* by using the theory that proposed by Knikerbocker and Reninger (1974) and the types of meaning by using the theory by Leech (1981). Based on the result of the study there were six types of figurative language found are simile (4), metaphor (6), personification (2), metonymy (1), synecdoche (1), and hyperbole (13). Furthermore, there were two types of meaning was identified are connotative, and affective meaning. Different than the previous one,

the current study applied the theory of Davis (2016) to analyze the types of figurative language in the song lyrics on John Legend selected album. In addition, the similarity exist in conducting the analysis of meaning the theory that proposed by Leech (1981) was applied.

2.2 Concepts

In this study, the concepts was describing the notion that related on the topic discussed. There were three concepts applied are figurative language, song lyrics, and John Legend Album.

2.2.1 Figurative Language

Johnson & Arp (2016: 773) defined that figurative language is a language that cannot be comprehended literally since it consisted of unordinary meaning of words or phrase. Davis (2016) also define that the type of figurative language can be recognized by the intention of using the figurative language. The intention was covering for whom and what means that involved by the speaker (songwriter or the singer).

2.2.2 Song Lyrics

Song lyrics perceived as the rhythm short poem written or expressed by a speaker (songwriter/ singer) to communicate the mood, though, process and emotion. After the accompanying music is composed, the lyrics communicate a person's personal thoughts that are related on the singing and writing composition of a song. (Hornby, 2000: 802).

2.2.3 John Legend Album

John Roger Stephen or well known as John Legend is an American singer and songwriter with R&B genre and pop music. John Legend is one of the famous male soloist had produced 8 studio album and 2 collaboration album. In this study, the selected album used was 2 studio album that consisted of 40 songs. The album used was released on 26th of October 2018 entitled *A Legendary Christmas* that consisted of 14 songs was the John Legend's sixth studio album. In this album, the songs released were the series of Christmas experience of John Legend related to the story of love, friendship, and family. Another album used is the latest album entitled *Legend* released on 9th of September 2022 with 26 songs got nine nomination at the 48th Annual Grammy Award and Best R&B Album. The story of the songs is majoring about who was John Legend, his influence, experience, love, joy and celebration. Since the 40 songs was contained in the selected album, the varieties of song lyrics found with the different types of figurative language conveyed by the singer.

2.3. Theories

To conduct the analysis, the theories is used as an important supposition system of ideas to answer the problems of the study. The first theory is proposed by Davis (2016) to analyze the types of figurative language and the second theory is proposed by Leech (1981) to analyze the types of meaning on figurative language.

2.3.1 Types of Figurative Language

Davis (2016) proposed six types of figurative language are irony, hyperbole, understatement, metonymy, metaphor, and simile. Those types is explained following as details.

2.3.1.1 Irony

Davis (2016: 59) defined irony as the contrary of statement by expressing belittle, mock or making light as negative comparison.

Example: The weather is lovely

(Davis, 2016: 59)

If the situation is in a blizzard, this statement consider as belittle to provide the negative comparison of “awful weather”.

2.3.1.2 Hyperbole

Davis (2016: 60) stated that hyperbole as overstatement for describing something. When using the hyperbole the less certain characterization is the literal meaning and the hyperbole is expressing the greater one. This statement means that the exaggeration exist to highlight the thing to emphasize the comparison or impossibility.

Example: John is burning up

(Davis, 2016: 60)

In this example the “burning up” is used to represent about John’s temperament. The “burning up” used as overstatement of his temperament that being rise up. The figure of speech “burning up” is used to highlight his feeling in form comparison.

2.3.1.3 Understatement

Davis (2016: 60) defined understatement into two form that is meiosis and litotes. Understatement is when something is described as being greater in some way or better on some implication scales. Meiosis is implied to describe the negation of great thing to diminish the negative understatement, meanwhile litotes does the same description but it conveyed by using the negative statement.

Example: [1] John's temperature is way above normal
 [2] John does not lack the temperature

(Davis, 2016: 60)

The example [1] is belong to meiosis, since the statement is deemphasize the description of great thing in mild words to deliver unpleasant thing or understatement. The [2] example is a litotes, since it deemphasize with the negative statement to deliver understatement which "does 'not' lack temperature" means that John has slight temperature of emotional instead of lacking the temperature.

2.3.1.4 Metonymy

Davis (2016: 60) defined metonymy as something that has a possessions assigned to be derived from the related object mentioned. Davis (2006: 60) also stated that synecdoche is a part of metonymy in which the related object is adopted into the subject.

Example: [1] The ham sandwich wants more coffee
 [2] The beard wants more coffee

(Davis, 2016: 60)

Based on the above example the subject are “The harm x The beard”. Both subject are not the literal subject. These two subject means that someone (particularly the customer) who ordered the ham and the bread need some more coffee. The metonym “The harm x The beard” is something that used to ascribe related object. Customer is ascribed as “The harm / the bread”.

2.3.1.5 Metaphor

Davis (2016: 60) defined metaphor as the figurative language that used to express the certain characteristic of two thing, by using a non- comparative sentence, but as if comparing both of the related object. This figure of speech can be divided with or without meaning.

Example: John is in the penalty box

(Davis, 2016: 60)

The figure of speech metaphor is identified in this sentence, since the penalty box means that John cannot play or involved in any activity that he required.

2.3.1.6 Simile

Davis (2016: 61) defined simile as the language that involving something has certain attributes by comparing with the following word such as (like and as). The use of simile can make slightly less figurative sentence to be more evocative especially in song lyrics.

Example: [1] The world is like a stage (simile)

[2] The world is a stage (metaphor) = (less figurative)

(Davis, 2016: 61)

The above figurative of simile is conveying the comparative things between “the world” and “the stage”. This figure of speech present about the sparkling connection of two things.

2.3.2 Theory of Meaning

Leech (1981:9) proposed the seven types of semantic meaning related on the non-literal sense of figurative language, following as details.

2.3.2.1 Conceptual Meaning

It also classified as denotative meaning and cognitive meaning. These meaning is perceived to be the significant component in communication. Conceptual meaning is important in social linguistic. For example: the meaning of “man” is HUMAN + MALE + ADULT (Leech 1981: 9).

2.3.2.2 Connotative Meaning

According Leech (1981: 12) it is the meaning that used to express an utterance that has the vivid reference. The reference means is to what and who is referred. This type of meaning implicate the conceptual concept of (+HUMAN), (+FEMALE), (+ADULT). It is related to the psychological and physical connotations referring something.

2.3.2.3 Social Meaning

Leech (1981: 14) defined as the meaning that related on the use of social situation. For instance when someone said “I haven’t got a spoon” mean the assertion

in social situation. The situation is occurred between the customer that demanding for the spoon in particular place such as restaurant. The utterance that being delivered does not mean “I need some knife” but just said “please bring me a spoon” which indicate to be a request.

2.3.2.4 Affective meaning

According Leech (1981: 15) defined as the meaning that concern to the feeling and attitude. This type of meaning used to be an attribute of delivering the feel or attitude toward to the listener. Leech (1981: 16) mentioned that another factor such as intonation and emotion affect the meaning. The word such as *Aha!* and *Yippe!* is categorized of interjection when it is delivered to express the happiness with the raise of intonation. The word meaning refer to someone’s feeling of happiness and informal attitude.

2.3.2.5 Reflected Meaning

Leech (1981: 16) defined as the meaning that reflected by the multiple meaning. It means that the meaning of one word become as the part of our reaction to another sense by adapting from the sense of the word. Leech (1981: 16) mentioned the example of reflected meaning identified in the name of “comforter” and “Holy Ghost” that symbolism of the third trinity. These word is indicate to be a religious word, however, there is an unconscious response to their non-religious meaning as well.

2.3.2.6 Collocative meaning

Leech (1981: 16) defined as the meaning of association word. This type of association word tend to be formed based on its environment of words. “Beautiful” and “handsome”, both words share a general meaning of attractiveness.

2.3.2.7 Thematic meaning

Leech (1981: 9-19) define as the meaning that can be recognized by the way of the sentence organized or grammatical structural. The message of the sentence could be ordering, or emphasizing.

Example:

[1] A man is waiting in the ball

[2] There is a man waiting in the ball

(Leech, 1981: 19)

The above example is different in grammatical construction to inform or answer the different question. In [1] example, is the statement of answer if the question is asking about “the man” position (*where is the man?*). Meanwhile the [2] example is the statement to inform that someone is waiting in the ball or *who is in the ball?*, the answer is ‘there is a man waiting in the ball’. These sentence constructed with different grammatical structural with different meaning and the purpose of use such as to answer the question or to inform.