

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

A song is a vocal play that produces a rhythm with instrumental accompaniment. According to Griffiee “Songs have elements in common with speech and poetry, they are a unique form. Both songs and speech are vocally produced, are linguistically meaningful and have melody. Both songs and poetry use words to convey meaning, both are usually written down before publication, both can be put to music and both can be listened to”. In a song there are lyrics, lyrics are words that usually come from poetry or rhymes that tell someone's story and reveal the reality of life. When people speak or sing the lyric, they can express their feeling or their thought.

A song is a blend of art between lyrics and music. The lyrics of a song are usually taken from a poem or rhyme. Figurative language is not only found in movies or novels, figurative language generally found in a song lyric. Most of people find difficulty when studying or reading some lyrics. Implicit or explicit meaning is usually found in a lyric based on the use of words. Language is a combination of sounds and words, in language there are also rules for the combination of sounds and words in order to obtain a good language. Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963) it can be concluded that figure of speech or figurative language is a way to describe something with beautiful language that is used to compare an object with a particular object. Knickerbocker and Renninger

(1963) states that figurative language is a process to changes meaning from the actual meaning to the figurative meaning. In songs, the creator usually provides figurative language in the lyrics of the song so the lyrics are more meaningful and more attractive to the listeners. Figurative language is the formation of words, symbols, phrases, and ideas that are arranged in such a way as to produce a beautiful imagination and impression. Here are some types of figurative language: hyperbole, metaphor, simile, synecdoche, dead metaphor, allusion, irony, personification, metonymy, and also paradox. In recent years, scholars have researched many figurative languages. Figurative language has its own beauty and essence of style. Without realizing that we often use figurative language or we encounter in daily life such as in newspapers, daily conversation, articles, advertisements, poetry, etc.

This study analyzes the song from the Neck Deep band entitled: Wish You Were Here, December, Fall, Parachute, In Bloom, She's a God, Can't Kick Up the Roots, because in every stanza contains a figure of speech. The seven songs are very popular and contain lots of figurative language which is very interesting to be analyzed.

## **1.2 Problems of the Study**

There are several problems found by the researcher in analyzing as follows:

1. What kinds of figurative language are identified in “Neck Deep’s” song lyrics?

2. What is the meaning of figurative language found in “Neck Deep’s” song lyrics?

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

The objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the kind of figurative language in “Neck Deep’s” song lyrics.
2. To analyze the meanings of figurative language conveyed in “Neck Deep’s” song lyrics.

### **1.4 Limitation of the Study**

This study focused in the analysis of figurative language through the seven selected songs that was written by Neck Deep. It was also limited to the types and meaning of figurative language by applying Knickerbocker and Renninger’s theory (1963) and also Leech’s theory (1981).

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

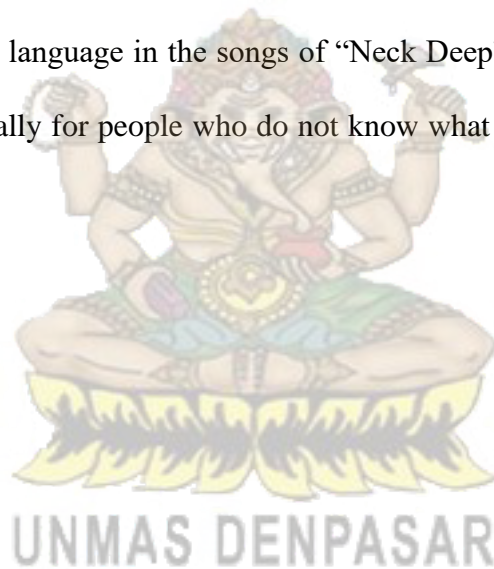
It is hoped that the research can provide benefits for knowing more about what is contained in a song. This study can make the listeners enjoy the song they hear more. Every time the listener hears “Neck Deep’s” song, they would know the meaning contained in the song.

### **1.5.1 Theoretical Significance**

Theoretically, this study adds the literature in linguistic about figurative language. This study is expected to be the additional reference in conducting the next research for those who are interested in figurative language.

### **1.5.2 Practical Significance**

This research is expected that readers can understand a song lyric that contains figurative language in the songs of “Neck Deep”. It can provide benefits for readers, especially for people who do not know what is contained in the lyrics of the song.



## **CHAPTER II**

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

This chapter, the researcher discussed several topics related in to this research. researchers would present a review of related literature, concepts and theories.

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

Several previous studies were reviewed in this study in comparing the results and analyses. First, the thesis that was written by Agustin (2019) entitled Analysis of Figurative Language in “Alice in Wonderland” movie. This previous study aimed to identify the types and meaning of figurative language that were portrayed in the selected data. This previous study was analyzed by using the theory that proposed by Tarigan (1986) about the types of figurative language. There were found 10 types of figurative language namely, hyperbole, personification, metaphor, simile, allegory, metonymy, irony, onomatopoeia, idiom, and oxymoron. Furthermore, both studies were similar in analyzing the types and meaning of figurative language. On the other hand, those were different in choosing the data source between a movie and song lyrics.

Second, the thesis that was written by Dewi (2020) entitled Figurative Language in Maher Zain’s Song Lyrics. This previous study focused on the types and the dominant types of figurative language in the selected song lyrics by using the Perrine’s theory (1969) and supported by the theory from Abrams, Keraf, and Reaske. The descriptive qualitative method was applied in conducting this previous

research and also observation method was used in collecting the data. There were 8 types of figurative language in 42 lyrics namely, hyperbole, personification, irony, simile, synecdoche, metaphor, paradox, and disparagement. Both studies were different at the objective of the study between the dominant and whole types. On the other hand, the similarity were found in using the descriptive qualitative method.

The last article written by Ibrahim, Akib, Hasyim (2019). This article entitled The Analysis of Figurative Language in “Endless Love” Song Lyric. This article was discussed the kinds and the meanings of figurative language. In this article, they used the descriptive method. The theory used to analyze this data uses a pure structuralism approach, which theory was put forward by Heasley and Michael B. Smith (2007). In their research they found seven types of figurative language in the song. Repetition 36%, Hyperbole 32%, Metaphor 12%, Pleonasm 8%, Personification 4%, Dispersonification 4%, and Onomatopoeia 4%. In this article there are some differences and similarities between their article with this study. The previous article was similar to this study in analyzing the types and meaning of figurative language that found in the song lyrics. The difference between the previous article and this study is that their article only used a descriptive method while in this study uses a qualitative descriptive method.

## 2.2 Concepts

This sub-chapter covers several definitions and terminologies that related to this research as explained below.

### 2.2.1 Figurative Language

Figurative language is very important in making literary works such as songs, movies, novels and others. The purpose of figurative language in a literary work is to give deeper meaning and beauty to the literary work. Sharndama and Suleiman (2013:166) explained that “figurative language is used in performing arts as a medium to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas implicitly rather than explicitly”. Figurative language can be found in the song lyrics if the listeners realize and understand the song’s meaning.

### 2.2.2 Meaning

This research also contains about meaning. Meaning is the message conveyed by words, sentences, and symbols in a context. interpreting the words in song lyrics is not like translating English to Indonesian using a dictionary, because the lyrics that contain figure of speech have a very deep meaning. Therefore, researchers must involve a theory of meaning (semantics) to make it easier to understand the meaning of the song lyrics to be analyzed.

According to Leech (1981), words are written representations that represent ideas, objects, actions and other things that come from a person and are the



meaningful languages element in form of spoken or written that cannot stand alone. It can be said that meaning has an important role in the ongoing conversation that occurs between human beings. The theory proposed by Leech can be used as a reference in analyze the meaning of figurative language in this study.

### **2.2.3 Song**

A song is a work that is usually made to express feelings or tell a story or convey belief in faith. Song is a combination of music and words that have been arranged in such a way. In a song there are certain parts such as intro, chorus and outro. The song was created to entertain listeners who may be feeling stressed or feeling sad, because every verse that is spoken is sometimes related to what has happened. In the song there are words called lyrics.

### **2.2.4 Lyrics**

According to Dallin (1994), lyrics were created as a form of interaction between the writer and the listener. In a song there are lyrics, lyrics are words that usually come from poetry or rhymes that tell someone's story and express the reality of life. When people speak or sing lyrics, they can express their feelings or thoughts. In the lyrics there are choruses which usually have repetitions.



## 2.3 Theories

There were two theories that applied in solving the research problems in this study. First, Knickerbocker and Renninger's theory (1963) was used as the main theory in analyzing song lyrics to find out the types of figurative language. Second, Leech's theory (1981) supported this study in conducting the analysis of meaning.

### 2.3.1 Types of Figurative Language

Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963:367) classified figurative language into several types as explained in the definitions below:

#### 1. Simile

Simile refers to the figure of speech that can be used to compare two different things by using the words "like" or "as" which means that both things are similar in its context.

Example: "My love is like a red rose."

In the sentence above there is a word that is expressed: "love" and "rose" are completely unrelated because love is a feeling of the heart and roses are a type of flower. In this sentence the writer wants to describe his beautiful loves like a red rose.

## 2. Metaphor

Metaphor is almost similar to simile; it refers to the figure of speech that compares two things in a situation. However, it does not use the words “like” or “as” as the comparison.

Example:

“Life’s but a walking shadow.”

In the sentence above, it mentioned “life is like a walking shadow” which it does not use “like” or “as” to compare both expressions. Even though, metaphor is similar to simile but the way of comparing the things is different. It can be seen from the sentence above; it is implicitly expressed the meaning.

## 3. Personification

Personification refers to the way of humanizing an animal, object, or other things by giving the characteristics of human being for those non-humans. This figure of speech illustrates the inanimate things can do something as human’s activity.

Example:

“These honor comes, a pilgrim gray.”

Based on the sentence above, it can be seen as personification. It expresses the word “comes” to the word “honor” where it has a specific meaning through the sentence. Therefore, personification can animate the things to be alive.

#### 4. Synecdoche

Synecdoche refers to the figure of speech when it can be used to explain several meanings through one thing in the sentence.

Example:

“Fifty winters (years) passed him by” Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367)

Based on the sentence above, it can be seen that the word “winters” refers to the whole context in the sentence. The word means “fifty years passed him by” that reflected to the sentence fully. This figure of speech can be used by poets in expressing the great deal just with a single image.

#### 5. Metonymy

Metonymy refers to the figure of speech that describes a single thing by using other terms that are still reflected its meaning.

Example:

“The crown” used for “The king”

Based on the example above, the word “the crown” identically shows the symbol of the king since it is only used by the highest level in the autocracy system.

#### 6. Hyperbole

Hyperbole refers to an exaggerated expression that aimed to convey the strong feeling and impression. This figure of speech is not based on the literal meaning but it expresses the meaning dramatically.

Example:

“Go and catch a falling star.”

Based on the sentence above, the sentence “catch a falling star” is very impossible to be conducted in the reality. This figure of speech is against the logical thinking because this context is delivered to an individual who has very high expectation in their life.

## 7. Irony

Irony refers to the figure of speech that shows the opposite meaning than its literal one between how two things seem how they are.

Example

“The czar is the choice of God and shall live.”

Based on the sentence above, the word “the czar” is related to the voice of human being that comes out from their mouth. However, the meaning of this sentence refers to the song because “the czar” can only be used by the human being but not for others.

## 8. Dead Metaphor

Dead metaphor is a metaphor which has lost its figurative meaning through endless use. Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 368)

Example:

“I can hold my breath”

“The back of the chair”: “The face of the clock” Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 368)

Dead metaphor is a phrase that emphasizes the explicit meaning of an object from the relation of auxiliary words. The sentence "back of the chair" refers to a certain part of the chair, as the core topic that is the focus of discussion in the meaning contained in the message, in the second example, a meaning is positioned specifically in an object "face of the clock".

## 9. Allusion

Allusion is a reference to some well-known place, event, or person. It is not a comparison in the exact sense, but the figure in sense that is implied than the narrow meaning.

Example:

"No! I am Prince Hamlet, not was meant to be" Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 368)

The example above, explain that no one to be a prince and the person who always called "Prince Hamlet" with an honest way acknowledgement that not a prince himself.

## 10. Paradox

Paradox refers to a sentence that describes an illogical expression but it seems make sense if it is closely examined.

Example:

"Light is the darkest thing in physics." Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367)

From the sentence above, the words "light", "darkest", and "physical" are part of organs just like humans have legs and arms.

### 2.3.2 Types of Meaning

According to Leech (1981) the role of language is as a tool to express a meaning that can be understood by others. Leech states that there are only seven kinds of meaning, which are explained as follows:

#### 1. Conceptual Meaning

Leech (1981:9) explained that conceptual meaning refers to the literal or denotative meaning. The meaning has a very important factor in the use of communication in linguistics. The conceptual meaning aims to show the interpretation and also how to distinguish one meaning from others. For example: the word "Woman" as conceptual meaning, it can define as HUMAN + FEMALE+ ADULT (Leech 1981: 9).

## 2. Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning is an expression based on the core meaning or not the actual meaning, which has a communicative value that exceeds the pure conceptual meaning. This meaning expresses something based on expression and feeling, but not the dictionary. Connotative meaning can be referred to the physical, psychological, and social attributes. Connotations vary from age to age and society to society. if the example of the conceptual meaning is "woman" which is defined as (HUMAN, WOMAN, ADULT) if it is interpreted in a connotative sense then the meaning of woman changes, such as the physical part that highlights the character of a woman is having a uterus and long hair. There are also psychological and social traits of women are like gregarious and have sensitive feelings. and the last thing is that what makes a woman unique is mastering the field of cooking, good at doing make-up.

## 3. Social meaning

Social meaning is a meaning that refers to all social conditions regarding the use of a language, Leech (1981:14). Because it is closely related to the various social groups that are part of the situation. Social meaning refers to the situation in which the speech is used. An example is "I don't have a knife yet" this sentence has an affirmative meaning but in social reality (if it is said to a restaurant waiter) it can be interpreted easily, such as "Please bring me a knife".



#### **4. Affective meaning**

According to Leech (1981: 16), Affective meaning is a meaning that is often referred to as disruptive meaning or the meaning used to show emotions that require mediation. Emotional expressions arise, for example, when we use an impolite or high-pitched tone to express displeasure and anger, or when we use a relaxed and happy tone to express friendliness and happiness. Examples of the words "Aha! and Yippe!" These words have a function to express emotions at times of pleasure and joy.

#### **5. Reflected meaning**

According to Leech (1981:16), the meaning that is reflected is the meaning that appears in a double or multiple conceptual meaning, where if an understanding of a word is used it can cause another response in its meaning, this meaning is often referred to as a suggestion in the use of language. For example: two heroes have fallen on the battlefield. The word "fall" here means that two warriors have died. but the word fall is also included in the season.

#### **6. Collocative Meaning**

According to Leech (1981: 17), words obtained from the equivalent of a word have a certain meaning (collocative). These words appear with certain words that have a frequency of occurrence more than once, e.g., big business is not big or big. Collocative meaning is connected with different types of words with harmonious meanings. 'Beautiful' and 'Handsome' indicates 'Good looking', Leech (1981: 17). The words "beautiful" and "handsome" have slightly different placements from

each other due to collocations. The word beautiful is coupled with women, faces, gardens, flowers and others. while handsome refers to the word men, motorbikes and others.

## 7. Thematic Meaning

According to Leech (1981: 19), thematic meaning is an arrangement in communication where the speaker focuses on a sequence of message emphasis.

1. Mrs. Bessie Smith donated the first prize. Leech (1981: 19).
2. The first prize was donated by Mrs. Bessie Smith. Leech (1981: 19).

Sentence (1) is an example of an active sentence that emphasizes the subject in the message "what did Mrs. Bessie Smith donate?". sentence (2) emphasizes the object of the message "who donated the first prize?" the answer is Mrs. Bessie Smith. In general, active is different from passive.

