

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Language is a means to communicate with fellow human beings, which is very important for human life because without language humans cannot communicate or interact with each other. A language is also a tool for exchanging information between humans. According to Hornby (2005: 862) Language is a communication system by speaking or by writing in a particular area or country to identify themselves. Language has a major role as a tool of communication and social interaction. People will live easier and more peacefully if they can interact with each other as the result is it will lead harmony to the people, therefore language is very important in human life. And in a literary work, language is the main key in writing a literary work, such as writing songs, short stories, poetry or novels. Because for the writer of literary works, making a song, poetry, novel and so on is a means for them to express themselves and also a means for them to convey a message to their readers and connoisseurs of their literary works. On the other hand, they make that as entertainment for readers and listeners. One important way to convey our feelings in a song is to use elements of figurative language into the songs. This will give a special effect on the song lyrics beyond its function as a songwriter's way of conveying what they feels implicitly to his listeners. Therefore, understanding a figurative language that appear in a song is an important thing to do so there is no misinterpretation of the lyrics which contain elements of figurative

language. Nowadays there are many types of figurative language used by many songwriters to include an implicit meaning in their songs. For example, according to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974), there are 10 types of figurative language, namely simile, hyperbole, metaphor, paradox, irony, metonymy, synecdoche, dead metaphor, allusion and personification, all of these figures of speech are used to give special effects to songs and widely used to convey their. Therefore, understand the elements of figurative language is very important to do for example in songs, novels, or poetry so that there is no miss interpretation in a literary work in order to understand the meaning or message the writer want to convey to us, especially in a song lyrics.

Song is part of literature, According to Hornby (2005:898) stated that literature is a written work whose results have valued as a work of art in written form for example is novels, music, or poem. In learning literary works not only learn about their form, but we also have to understand the meaning contained in them, but sometimes the listener finds it difficult to identify the meaning in the songs. Songs have a very close relationship with human life because since long times ago songs have accompanied human life, not only as means of entertainment a song or music has also been used as means of religious ceremonies. This is shown that music or songs cannot be separated from human life. At this time there are various types of song genres that have developed from time to time such as pop, jazz, rock and so on. According to Grolier and Merriam Webster, which states that "Song is a short musical work set a poetic text with equal importance given to music and the word" stated by Grolier. On the other hand, according to Merriam Webster,

"Song is a melody for a lyric poem or ballad". And in general, in a song there are two elements that make up the song, namely lyrics and music

On the other hand, the song is one of literary work that contains elements of figurative language in it. Many musicians include elements of figurative language in their songs. Because figurative language has a very important function, one of them is to generate additional imagination for readers or listeners so that abstract things become concrete. And this can be enjoyed by listeners and readers so it can be said that figurative language has a function as a sweetener language in a song or poetry where this will create a deep impression for listeners and readers on the other hand whose function is to beautify words or sentences. The other definition of figurative language is according to Hornby (2005), figurative language is a word or phrase used differently from its usual meaning, which aims to create a special impression or effect in the sentence or word. And a song is one of the literary works that contain elements of figurative language.

Listening to a song is fun when you are doing something or relaxing. However, when we cannot understand the meaning of a lyric in the song, sometimes we will feel unsatisfied, especially in songs that contain elements of figurative language. Because in reality most people like a song because the music sounds good, or because they like the singer. So they don't really care about the meaning of the song lyrics

Figurative language really important to be understand in order to get the meaning or message that the writer of the literary work want to convey to the

audience or reader, because of that it was important to us for learn about figurative languages we found in song, novel, or poem so it can help us to understand about the context of the story or the message that the writer want to convey to us, and we could feel the emotion of the story or the songs. Therefore it is interesting to be heard or watched by the listeners. And one of the famous singers from the United States is Kanye West or Kanye Omari West. He is a rapper musician born on June 8, 1977, in Atlanta, Georgia, he is also a US record producer. Since his song has meaningful lyrics due the figurative language that he used in the song lyrics, make his songs really popular.

The songs created by this band contain deep meanings, which the songwriter wants to convey. As in the songs Blood on the leaves, Flashing light, Devil in a New dress, Runaway, All fall Down, Hurricane, Remote Control and Power in this song there are several elements of figurative language contained in the song lyrics. Sometimes listeners of a song ignore the meaning contained in the song lyrics that they hear. This is why it is interesting to discuss about type and meaning of figurative language in a song's lyrics especially in the songs Blood on The Leaves, Flashing light, Devil in a New Dress, Runaway, All Fall Down, Hurricane, Remote Control and Power which is expected to help listeners of this song better understand the meaning, or message that the songwriter wants to convey to the audience of the song. In this study the analysis focused on describing the types and meanings of figurative language in eight Kanye West song's lyrics. This study choose eight songs as the data source which are Blood on The Leaves, Flashing light, Devil in a New Dress, Runaway, All Fall Down, Hurricane, Remote Control and Power.

Where this aims to provide an understanding to the reader about the meaning contained in a song lyric. All of the song above is taken from the several album by Kanye West, those are Blood on the Leaves from his sixth album called *Yeezus* that released on 2013, Flashing Light from album *Graduation* released on 2007, Devil in a New Dress and Runaway taken from the album *My Beautiful Dark Twisted fantasy* released on 2010, All Fall Down and Power from album *The College Dropout* released on 2004, and the last is songs Remote Control and Hurricane from the album *Donda* that released on 2021.

. This study was very interesting to be deeply analyzed since there are numbers of songs cannot be easily understood or the meaning is not transferred well to the listeners. Because listening to a music is really interesting to do while us doing something or just relaxing, and also listening to a music is one of hobbies which is make it is interested to analyze about this topic. Therefore, by doing this research the writer hope that people who are interested in a song could be easier to find out the meaning or the message that the singer want to convey to us through his songs that using a figurative languages. Beside that this study using Kanye West as the data source because his song really meaningful and has a lot of message that he want to convey to his listeners, because he is one of the biggest rapper in the world, that the song he make most of them is talk about the society, love politic, and many more, that's why in his song has a lot of message or expression of his feelings that he want to convey to us.

1.2. Problems of the study

Based on the background of the study, there are two research problems that formulated in this study as explained below.

1. What types of figurative language are found in the eight song lyrics by Kanye West?
2. What are the meaning of figurative language found in eight song's lyrics by Kanye West?

1.3. Objectives of study

The objectives of the study is:

1. To identify the types of figurative language found in song lyrics by Kanye West.
2. To analyze and describe the meaning of the figurative language used in song lyrics by Kanye West.

1.4. Limitation of the study

In order to make the analysis more focus on the subject analysis this study only focuses on analyzing the types and meanings of figurative language found in eight Kanye West songs. There are two theories used to solve the problems above, namely the theory of Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284), this theory is used to solve the problem of the type of figurative language that found in the song's lyrics and also the meaning was analyzed through Leech's theory (1981:9-19).

1.5. Significance of study

The purpose of making this Thesis is to make the readers can understand the meaning of a song lyric contain elements of figurative language. this is intended to help music listeners better understanding the message the songwriter wants to convey to listeners through the songs he wrote, in this case a song from Kanye West. Hopefully this study can make song listeners enjoy the song they hear more. Every time they hear the song Kanye West they will know the meaning contained in the song.

1.5.1. Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this research can provide insight into the analysis of the type and meaning of figurative language in a song lyric. This research can also be used as a reference for other researchers who are interested in researching figurative language.

1.5.2. Practical Significance

Practically, this research provides information to readers about figurative language, be it the society, students or other writers who are interested in analyzing the elements of figurative language.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

This chapter consists of three sub chapters the first is review of related literature, second is concepts and the last is theoretical framework. The first sub chapter is a review of related literature where on this topic compared three studies with this study, both in terms of similarities and differences. Next is the concept, in a concept discuss the key terms of this study, And the last is the theory which discuss the theory used to solve the problem in this research.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

The first article is written by Ibrahim, et.al (2019). Their article entitled "*The Analysis Of Figurative Language In "Endless Love" Song Lyric*". In this article is aimed to find out the type and the meanings of figurative language in the song lyric. The data source of this study is endless love song lyric. In their study the data were divided into two types, they are; main data and supporting data. The first is main data, the data analyzed in this study are taken from the song and the lyric and the supporting data taken from the book and article. In this study, the theory used to analyze this data used a pure structuralism approach, which theory was put forward by Heasley and Michael B. Smith (2007). In this study, they found there were 7 types of figurative language in the lyrics of the song Endless Love where these types include, Hyperbole 32%, Repetition 36%, Metaphor 12%, Personification 4%, Dispersionification 4% Onomatopoeia 4% and Pleonasm 8%. And the type of figurative language that they found the most is repetition which 36%.

In this article there are some differences and similarities between this article and the thesis. There are two similarities between this article and this research, where this article discusses the types and also the meaning of figurative language found in a song. On the other hand, as present from the data used where the data used are the same, namely song lyrics. On the other hand, there are two differences between this article and this study, in the article they only used pure structuralism approach to analyze the type of figurative languages and the meanings of figurative languages used in “Endless Love” song lyric. On the other hand in this article the writer only focuses on two meanings, namely connotative and denotative meaning.

The second thesis is written by Agustin (2019). Their thesis entitled *An Analysis Of Figurative Language In "Alice In Wonderland" Movie*. In this study, researchers found two problems to be discussed, they are the types and meanings of figurative language in the movie. In solving this problem, the researcher uses Tarigan theory (1986) which in Tarigan theory groups figurative language into four groups. In her study she found that there are 10 types of figurative language in the Alice in Wonderland movies, which are *allegory, hyperbole, idiom, irony, metonymy, metaphor, onomatopoeia, oxymoron, personification and simile*.

There are several similarities with the above study and this thesis, in which the problems in this thesis are the same, which is the types of figurative language and the meaning of figurative language. On the other hand, the difference between the thesis above and this study can be seen from the data source which in the thesis above uses a movie as data with data collection through watching the film, on the other hand in this study the data source is 8 songs by Kanye West. Another

difference lies in the theory used which in this thesis uses the Tarigan (1986) theory and in this study uses theories, namely theory Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) and Leech (1981:9-19).

And the third is the thesis written by Maftuhah (2018). Her study entitled "*Figurative Language in Selected Brian McKnight's Songs*". In her thesis, she discusses to identify and explains the meaning of figure language and reveals what types of figure language are most used in Brian McKnight's song. In this thesis, to solve the problems above, she uses Perrine's theory. In this study, the analysis of song lyrics containing figurative language elements was carried out by observing song lyrics containing figurative language elements. The writer found several types of figurative language in Brian McKnight's song. The types of figurative language found in the song are as follows, 11 data of hyperbole, 9 data of personification, 7 data of simile, 6 data of metaphor and 4 data of metonymy and the total is 37 data are found by her. And the dominant type of figurative language used in the lyrics of the song is hyperbole.

There are a difference between the thesis above and this study, the theory used in the thesis above uses the theory of Perrine and in this study using theory Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) and Leech (1981:9-19). On the other hand there are some similarities between thesis that written by Maftuhah and this study. The problems are similar which is identify type of figurative language and also the data source of this thesis is song's lyrics.

2.2 Concepts

In providing the comprehensive understanding for the readers, this study described several definitions and terminologies as explained below.

2.2.1. Figurative Language

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283). Figurative language is often called by metaphorical language or it also called it by metaphor language, because in its use figurative language uses meanings outside the original meaning. In order to try to understand a figurative language in song lyrics, the listener must think more openly in understanding a word that contains elements of figurative language, so when listening to a song or music we can understand the message the singer or songwriter wants to convey to the listeners.

2.2.2. Song

It can be said that song is a combination of music, sound and rhythm that produces a beautiful literary work that can be heard by people. According to Hornby (2005:1459) songs can be described as a music with some word or sentence with rhythm that you sing in order to entertain. Song is a media for singers to express their feelings to listeners, it aims to entertain listeners. On the other hand, most songs are created from the author's life experiences. In this advanced era, the song has been very developed in the community. This can be seen from the many genres of songs or music that have emerged, for example pop, jazz, electronic music, rock and others. And in each of these songs in the song lyrics, the songwriter will choose

the words carefully, in order to create a beautiful rhythm when it heard by the listeners.

According to Hornby (2005:921), expressing a person personal feelings and thoughts in writing form for singing. Often in making a song the songwriter inserts messages which have the aim of motivating or inviting listeners to do something. This is commonplace where this is a form of interaction between the singer and the listener, where this form of interaction is embedded in the cultural context of these people. Song lyrics have an important function in a song. With a good presentation, song lyrics can be the subtlest means to touch someone's feelings. Song lyrics are used to convey the message that the singer has to listeners, therefore it can be said that song lyrics are a means of conveying information to people.

2.2.3. Kanye West

Kanye Omari West, also known as YE, is an American musician, rapper and producer who owns a record company called GOOD Music. He was born on June 8, 1977 in Atlanta, Georgia, United States. Kanye West is a well-known musician with his rap music genre, he has also won various awards since his first career in 1996. Since his first career he has won several awards such as In highest award from MTV Video Music Awards. The award is titled the MTV Video Vanguard Award which he got in 2015. And last years through his latest album, Donda Kanye West, he make a new records on Apple music, this is because the Donda album has been heard more than 60 million times on the Apple platform music less than 24

hours, this reflects how enthusiastically his fans are waiting for the latest album and music from Kanye West.

2.3 Theories

In solving the problem in this thesis, there are two theories used to solve the problem. The first theory used in this study is the theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) this theory is present in the book entitled *Interpreting Literature*. The use of Knickerbocker and Renninger theory aims to analyze the types of figurative language that exist in 8 Kanye West songs. On the other hand, to analyze the meaning of each figurative language in Kanye West's song lyrics this study used the theory proposed by Leech (1981:9-19). Leech proposes the theory of meaning, this theory presented in the book entitled *Semantic the Study of Meaning*.

2.3.1 Type of figurative language

Figurative language is the use of a language or word that has aims to obtain a certain effect, which is useful for creating a beautiful sentence. There are various types of figurative language. According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) there are ten types of figurative language, which are personification, hyperbole, metaphor, irony, allusion, metonymy, synecdoche paradox, simile and dead metaphor.

2.3.1.1 Simile

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) Simile is a figure of speech that compares two different things but is considered to have the same meaning. The parable in this figure of speech can be explicit where in this figure of speech it uses words such as, like, if as, as though, be like.

Example: “Your eyes so beautiful like the stars”

Like the example above, the use of simile is used to compare two different things using the word "like". in this example the author uses the word star as a comparison of how beautiful the woman's eyes are, it is to make words he utters sound more beautiful.

2.3.1.2 Metaphor

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) states that metaphor is a word that has no real meaning, however, it describe based on similarities or comparison without uses the word “like” or “as”.

Example: “This world is heavenly”

This is an example of metaphor figurative language. Which compares this world to heaven. The sentence above is an example of a metaphor sentence. As we can see in the sentence "This world is heavenly" compares two different things which is world and heaven these two things are compared directly, without connecting words such as like, as, and so on. Metaphor and simile have the same resemblance. The difference is similes use connection word while metaphors don't.

2.3.1.3 Personification

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) is a figure of speech that applies human behavior or character to animals and inanimate objects

Example: "Listen to the wind whispers to you"

The example above is an example of figurative language personification. It marked by humanizing inanimate objects, in this case is the "wind" which are able to whisper. This Is what called by personification.

2.3.1.4 Hyperbole

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) states that hyperbole is an expression which is exaggerated used for special effect, where its use has a dramatic effect.

Example: "My head hurts so much it feels like it's about to explode"

The sentence above is an example of a hyperbole sentence. This can be seen from the sentence "My head hurts so much, it feels like it's about to explode", the sentence is an exaggeration. As we can see, the reality is that headaches can't make our heads explode. It is used to express that the headache he is experiencing is very painful.

2.3.1.5 Irony

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) Irony is a figure of speech that used to express a strong emotion and as defined, irony can also be

said as a word that used to convey something that is opposite to what is actually said.

Example: “the food is really good, until I won’t to eat it again”

In essence, irony is a figure of speech that describes something that is different, or can be said to be the opposite of what is actually said. This figure of speech is usually also referred to as satire. The author uses this figurative language to make an ironic element to the sentence.

2.3.1.6 Synecdoche

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) Synecdoche is a part for the whole, or it can be said as a figure of speech that uses one thing to express all parts of it.

Example: “I have passed two springs”

As said before, this figure of speech is used to represent a thing as a whole. And the example above where spring is used to describe years that have passed.

2.3.1.7 Allusion

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) Allusion in figurative language that is referred to a famous place or famous person. But it is not a comparison in the real or exact sense, but it is not a true comparison, but from a narrower meaning.

Example: “you’re my superman”

The example above categorize as allusion because in the sentence is reference to a fictional hero named superman, who here describes that he is the savior of everyone.

2.3.1.8 Paradox

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) Paradox is one of those figures of speech whose meaning seems obvious on the surface but is illogical, but makes sense upon closer inspection. This can also be said as the use of two opposite words.

Example: “lonely in a crowded world”

The example above is a paradox because the sentence above using two contradictory words which is “lonely” and “crowded”, shows that the sentence above is paradox figure of speech.

2.3.1.9 Dead metaphor

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) Dead metaphor is one of figure of speech that lost its figurative meaning because of the endless use.

Example: “times is running out”

The sentence above is the example of dead metaphor, the sentence above has lost its figure of speech because the sentence “times is running out” has often been used and is commonly used as a word to explain that you don’t have enough time.

2.3.1.10 Metonymy

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283-284) metonymy can be defined as figure of speech that is a description of a thing by using other terms where these terms are still closely related to each other.

Example: “learn how to use your eyes”

From the example above, the word eyes is a metonymy figure of speech, where this word is associated with seeing something or being careful. The “eyes” is one of the organs of the body that has the function to see, but in the sentence above the word “eyes” is used to emphasize that you must be careful in using your eyes to do something good.

2.3.2 Types of meaning

According to Leech (1981) Language is a means used to express meanings to other people and can also be understood by other people, which is through spoken language, writing, movement, and action. According to Leech, in his theory stated that there are seven types of meaning, which are connotative meaning, thematic meaning, affective meaning, collocative meaning, reflective meaning, conceptual meaning and social meaning.

2.3.2.1 Conceptual meaning

Leech (1981) explained that conceptual meaning refers to the meaning that is based on the dictionary. It also can be described as denotative meaning. This meaning has a very important factor in the use of communication in linguistics. The

purpose of this conceptual meaning is to provide an interpretation that shows exactly what we need to know if we want to distinguish one meaning from all the other possible meanings of a sentence. Where this is the basic meaning according to the main dictionary.

2.3.2.2 Connotative meaning

Connotative meaning is the communicative value of an expression based on what it refers to, where this meaning exceeds its conceptual meaning (Leech 1981, 12). Therefore connotative meanings overlap with some conceptual aspects. There are many comparisons between denotative and connotative meanings, but what we can see is that connotative meanings are relatively unstable; i.e. they vary as much as they see, according to culture, historical period, and individual experience.

2.3.2.3 Social meaning

According to Leech (1981:14) the social meaning is a type of meaning that includes the overall social situation in the use of a language. Because social meaning is closely related to the various social groups that are part of the situation. Therefore, social meaning can be said to be related to where the meaning or utterance is used.

2.3.2.4 Affective meaning

According to Leech (1981:14) Affective meaning can be describe as aspect of meaning which reflects personal feelings of the speaker, including his attitude to

the listener or his attitude to something he is talking about. It is often conveyed clearly where it is conveyed through conceptual or connotative words.

2.3.2.5 Reflected meaning

According to Leech (1981:16) reflected meaning is a meaning that arises in a double or multiple conceptual meaning, where if an understanding of a word is used it can lead to another response in its meaning, this meaning is often referred to as a suggestion in the use of a language. For examples slogan of KFC “finger lickin good”, this sentence make many assumption for the reader. The word good is a delicious substitute for food and makes everyone want to lick their hands while eating it.

2.3.2.6 Collocative meaning

According to leech (1981:16) state that collocative meaning arises as a result of the associations of a word where the word has often appeared or occurred in the environment the word is used. For the example of this meaning is pretty: girl, woman, flower, garden, village and so on. On the other handsome: boy, car, man, etc.

2.3.2.7 Thematic meaning

Leech (1981:19) stated thematic meaning is the meaning that is communicated by organizing the words and writings that we will convey, in term of ordering of things, focus and emphasis. On this type of meaning, leech said that

this meaning is a choice between alternative grammatical constructions. Example
“Safe is here to meet you”. And “There is a man here to see you” Leech (1981:19).

