

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a system of conventional spoken, written symbols used by humans to communicate. Generally, people need to communicate, to interact and to get information from other people by using language. The people can share their opinion, experience, ideas, and emotions by language. Kreidler (1998:5) stated that “Language is complex and subtle of expressing whatever its speakers need to express and capable of changing to meet the changing needs of speakers.” Thus, the language which can build the imagination of listener, usually it called figurative language.

Figurative language is a language that uses words or expressions with a meaning is different from the literal interpretation. According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283) figurative is sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor because its Greek ancestor “*Metapherein*” means to carry the meaning beyond its literal meaning. Figurative language used in literary works to demonstrate the creativity of the author also as the beauty of language itself. According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283), there are 10 types of figurative language, such as: simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, paradox, dead metaphor, and allusion. Figurative language can be found in most writings such as poetries, dramas and the common writing in song lyrics. One of the ways to communicate with language is through

song lyrics. Song lyrics is not only entertaining the listener, but it also has some meanings that deliver to the listener in implicitly.

In this study the writer analyzed the song lyrics of Twenty One Pilots album “Scaled and Icy” entitled: *Good day, Choker, Shy Away, The Outside, Saturday, Never Take It, Mulberry Street, Formidable, Bounce Man, No Chances and Redecorate* . Scaled and Icy is a new album by Twenty One Pilots. It was released on May 21, 2021, and penned by Tylor Joseph. The writer chose those songs because many figurative language that used in those lyrics describe about the condition and situation that the singer got. The readers including the writer sometimes found some difficulties in understanding the meaning of figurative language in the song lyrics by Twenty One Pilots.

Twenty One Pilots is an American musical duo from Columbus, Ohio. The band was founded by lead singer Tyler Joseph in 2009 along with former members Nick Thomas and Chris Salih who left in 2011. The band's current line up features Joseph and drummer Josh Dun. At the 59th GRAMMY Awards on 2016, Twenty One Pilots won their first career GRAMMY for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance for "Stressed Out" from their fourth studio album “Blurryface”. The genres of this band has been described as alternative hip hop, electropop, indie pop, pop rock, rap rock, alternative rock, rock, synth-pop, pop, electronica, electronic rock, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty\\_One\\_Pilots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty_One_Pilots) - cite note-198 indie rock, hip hop, and indie tronica with reggae, folk, psychedelic, new wave, and funk influences ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty\\_One\\_Pilots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Twenty_One_Pilots)). Because their music contains a

mix of many genres, this the best for the listener who has the interest to listen any kinds of music genres.

One of example types of figurative language found in Twenty One Pilots song lyrics was ‘Haunted by a couple big mistakes’ which is taken from song lyrics entitled Redecorate. This lyric is categorized as hyperbole because the songwriter exaggerates that he is “haunted by some mistakes”. Conceptually a human does not haunted by some mistakes because the word “mistakes” is an action or judgment that misguided or wrong. As we know that the word "haunted" refers to the act of spirit of a person who has died. The meaning of this song’s lyrics is the writer is in trouble, anxious, and very depressed with the problems that he faced.

## **1.2 Problem of the Study**

Based on the background of the study, there are two problems formulated in this research. Those research problems are:

1. What types of figurative language are used in the song lyrics of *Scaled and Icy* album by Twenty One Pilots?
2. What are the meaning of figurative language found in song lyrics of *Scaled and Ice* album by Twenty One Pilots?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study to answer the problems of the study and can be formulated as follow.

1. To find out the types of figurative language used in the song lyrics of *Scaled and Icy* album by Twenty One Pilots.

2. To analyze the meaning of figurative language found in the song lyrics of *Scaled and Icy* album by Twenty One Pilots song.

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

The scope of the study is only focused in analysing the types of figurative language and the meaning of it lyrics found in Twenty One Pilots “Scaled and Icy” album with song Lyrics entitled: *Good day, Choker, Shy Away, The Outside, Saturday, Never Take It, Mulberry Street, Formidable, Bounce Man, No Chances and Redecorate* . The researcher decides to limit the discussion of the study use the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283-284) to find out the types of figurative language and theory of Leech (1981: 9-19) to analysis the meaning that contain of figurative language.

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

In this research, there are two significances of the study such as are theoretical and practical significance.

##### **1.5.1 Theoretical Significance**

The result of this study is expected to enrich the knowledge to study figurative language especially in understanding figurative language and its meaning in literary works like song lyrics as the data source in this study. This research inspired those who like to do similar research along with the progress of science in general.

##### **1.5.2 Practical significance**

Partically, this research is expected to give clear explanation and example in order the listener can understand the song lyrics that contain figurative language. And also this study can increase the knowledge of the writer about figurative language and its meaning that used in Twenty One Pilots song lyrics. In addition, this research can be used as references for the next researchers who interested in conducting further research about figurative languages.



## CHAPTER II

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

#### 2.1 Review of Related Literature

This part consists with the review of some previous studies that have relation and positive contribution to this research.

The first study was conducted by Jaya (2020) entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Song Lyrics of Jason Mraz’s Album Entitled “Know”. There were two aims of Jaya’s study, those are to find out types of figurative language and the meaning in the Jason Mraz’s song lyrics. Her study used the observation method to collect the data and used qualitative method to analyse the data. Jaya (2020) applied the theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367) to find out the types of figurative language and the theory by Leech (1981) to analyze the meaning that contains of figurative language. Her study found 9 types of figurative language. Those are 4 of simile, 8 of hyperbole, 1 of irony, 1 of metaphor, 5 of personification, 1 of metonymy, 2 of synecdoche, 2 of paradox and 1 of allusion. It shows that the dominant type of figurative language in the song lyrics is hyperbole. The similarities between her study and this study are both analyzing figurative language in song lyrics and using the same theories. The difference is in the data source. Her data source was taken from Jason Miraz’s song lyrics while this study was used data from Twenty One Pilots’s song lyrics.

The second study was conducted by Rahmat (2020) entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Song Lyrics by Ziggy Marley’s Album Entitled Fly Rasta”. His study has two objectives of the study, such as; identifying the types

of figurative language and finding out the meaning of figurative language in the song lyrics by Ziggy Marley's album entitled "Fly Rasta". His study used qualitative method to analyze the data by using the theory from Knickerbocker (1963) to find out types of figurative language and also the theory of meaning by Leech (1981). The total types of figurative language found in his study were 3 simile, 7 of metaphor, 3 of synecdoche, 4 metonymy, 7 hyperbole, 2 personification, 2 irony, 2 paradox, and 1 allusion. The dominant types of figurative language used in Ziggy Marley's lyrics is metaphor and hyperbole. The similarities between his study and this study are both analyzing figurative language in song lyrics. The difference is in the data source. His data source was taken from Ziggy Marley's song lyrics while this study was used data from Twenty One Pilots song lyrics.

The third is an article written by Dimu (2018) entitled "An analysis of Figurative Language in James Blunt's songs lyric" in album entitled is *Chasing time the Bedlam Sessions*. His study has two aims are to identify types of figurative language used in songs lyric by James Blunt's and to analyze the meaning used in its types figurative language. In his study documentation method was used to collect the data. His study used theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) to identify types of figurative language, and also the theory of meaning by Leech (1981:9-13). His study found 6 types of figurative language. Those are 2 of simile, 3 of metaphor, 11 of personification, 14 of hyperbole, 3 of synecdoche, and 6 of metonymy. The similarities can be seen from the theory used, both of the studies apply the theory of figurative language by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:

367), and the theory of meaning by Leech (1981). The differences between the previous study and with current study can be seen from the method of collecting data. The study written by Dimu (2018) used documentation method while this study uses observation method. Besides that this study uses different data sources which were taken from songs lyric by Twenty One Pilots album entitled “Scaled and Icy”, but in his study, the data was taken from songs lyric by James Blunt’s in album entitled “*Chasing Time The Bedlam Sessions*”

## **2.2 Concepts**

This part of study presents several basic concepts related to the topic of the study. The concepts present as follows.

### **2.2.1 Figurative Language**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283), figurative language is sometimes called metaphorical language, or simply metaphor because its Greek ancestor “*metaphereien*” means to carry meaning beyond its literal meaning (meta = beyond + perein = that is to bring beyond). Regardless, the kind of figure of speech we observed, its basic function is always to carry meaning from the literal to the figurative level. It means that a way of saying something, but has a meaning in another way. Figurative language is a type of language used in song lyrics, poetry or novels that have a variation language.

### **2.2.2 Meaning**

This writing also consisting about meaning. Meaning of sentences in the song lyrics especially those related to figurative language cannot be understood by using a dictionary. Dictionary cannot get specific information about the ways that we



build up which is related to the words; therefore, the theory about the meanings (semantic) is also involved. Leech (1974:10-23) state the meaning is to provide for any given interpretation of a sentence, a configuration of abstract symbols, which shows exactly what we need to know if we are separate the meaning from other possible meaning of its sentence in the language.

### **2.2.3 Song Lyric**

In the most common use of the term, a lyric is any fairly short poem, consisting of the utterance by a single speaker who expresses a state of mind of a process of perception, thought, and feeling. According to Van Luxemburg (1989) lyric or song lyric can be considered as poetry and vice versa and is appropriate, as the definition of poetry texts is not only sufficient for literary types but also expressions of the nature of advertising, proverbs, slogans, prayers, and pop song lyrics. Song for the first time found in old Yunnan and the ancient Greeks were the first to develop a system of symbol or notations for recording music.

### **2.3 Theories**

This part explains the theories that are used to answer the problems of the study. There are two main theories used in this research. The first theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974) is used to find out types of figurative language found in Twenty One Pilots song lyrics. The second theory proposed by Leech (1981) is used to find out the meaning of figurative language used in Twenty One Pilots song lyrics.

### 2.3.1 Types of Figurative Language

Figurative language is a different word or phrase that contains hidden meaning behind it. Figurative languages can be found in most writing such as dramas, poetries, and the common writing in song lyrics. Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283) stated figurative language is sometimes called metaphorical language, or simply metaphor because its Greek ancestor *metaphereien* means to carry meaning beyond its literal meaning (meta = beyond + perein = that is to bring beyond). Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283) proposed ten types of figurative language namely *simile*, *metaphor*, *personification*, *synecdoche*, *metonymy*, *hyperbole*, *irony*, *paradox*, *dead metaphor*, and *allusion*. The explanation can be seen as follows.

#### 2.3.1.1 Simile

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283), simile is a stated comparison, introduced by like or as.

For example: “My love is like a red rose”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974: 283).

It is called simile because the word “like” in the sentence above is comparing two different things expressed such as “love” and the word “red rose”. There is no relation between the two words above because the word “love” is a part of human feeling but the word “red rose” is a part of flowers but the sentence above shows the similarity between “my love” and “red rose”. From this sentence the writer wants to tell the reader that love is beautiful like a red rose.

### 2.3.1.2 Metaphor

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283), metaphor is an implied comparison with like or as omitted. It is similar with simile, metaphor is comparing two things by using one kind of object in place of another. Metaphor is comparison in words which have sentences like and as that follow with to be (am, is, and are).

For example: Life's but a walking shadow. (Knickerbocker and Reninger 1974: 283).

Instead of saying "life is like a walking shadow". There are two words to compare something, life and shadow, both of them have a different meaning in which life is a will of God to create, and shadow is body reflection when shone by a light and its color is black. The writer wants to describe his life through his sentence if his life is surrounded by darkness, because in his life he feels disappointed. The shadow in the sentence is an expression representing darkness, when we think of analogical darkness, a symbol of shadow.

### 2.3.1.3. Personification

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283) personification gives human characteristics to an object, animal or an abstract idea. Personification is like metaphor, in this sense that there is an implied comparison between a non-human thing and human being.

For the example: "These honor comes, a pilgrim gray". (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974: 283)

From the example above to show the use of personification because the word “comes” is only for human beings however “the honor” is the non-human being action. In this case the writer wants to give a special sense to the word “honor” in the sentence.

#### **2.3.1.4. Synecdoche**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283), synecdoche is a figure of speech using a part for the whole.

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

From this sentence fifty winters are used for representing the whole year. Synecdoche is a figure of speech in which use in part of sentence to stand for the whole thing. Synecdoche is a great literary device, especially for poets who strive to express their experience of the poems.

#### **2.3.1.5 Metonymy**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283), metonymy is a figure of speech which describes one thing by using a term for another thing which is closely associated with it.

For example: “the crown used for the king”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger 1974: 283)

From the example above “The Crown” is identical with the king because the “crown” is the symbol of the king since crown is not used for everybody. It is really

common to talk about crown. Therefore, the word crown is given the same meaning as the king, or actually those words are having closely relationship for the empire has a king and crown as a symbol of government.

### **2.3.1.6 Hyperbole**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 284), hyperbole is an exaggeration used for special effect.

For the example: “Go and catch a falling star”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974: 284)

From the sentence above is hyperbole because a star is a planet in the sky which has a bigger size than us. Falling stars in this case means dream and wish. In this sentence the writer is giving a message in order that we have to go and can catch our dreams.

### **2.3.1.7. Irony**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 284), Irony is a statement whose real meaning is completely opposed to its professed, or surface meaning.

For the example: “The czar is the voice of God and shall live forever”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974: 284)

The meaning of sentence above is an authoritarian individual. The czar only a normal human being not the voice of the God and cannot live forever. The word shall life forever is opposed the real meaning that we cannot live forever.

### **2.3.1.8. Paradox**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 284) Paradox is a statement whose surface, obvious meaning seems to be illogical, even absurd, but which makes good sense upon closer examination.

For the example: “the normal is the rarest thing in the world”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974: 284).

The word “normal” is a something that is normal and usually happens in everyday life and is considered good by many people and it’s very unlikely to happen in the real life.

### **2.3.1.9. Dead metaphor**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 284) Dead metaphor is a metaphor which has lost its figurative meaning through endless use.

For the example: “The face of the clock”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974: 284)

This sentence shows the specific part of the clock, which becomes the central part of the topic.

### **2.3.1.10. Allusion**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 284) Allusion is a reference to some well-known place, event, and person. Not comparison in the exact sense. But the figure in the sense that implies more than its narrow meaning.

For the example: “No, i am not prince hamlet, not was meant to be”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974: 284)

The sentence above gives the sense of allusion, and prince hamlet implies more than its narrow meaning. It is called allusion because this example gives the reference that no one is a prince.

### **2.3.2 Theory of Meaning.**

In the communication process people convey the meaning in order to get the response by the hearer. In applying the communication people convey the meaning through many ways such as; direct and indirect. Leech (1981) stated meaning is a major factor in communication. There are seven meanings such as; Conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning.

#### **1) Conceptual Meaning**

Leech (1981: 9) stated that conceptual meaning is called denotative meaning or cognitive meaning. It is a major factor in linguistic communication and it can be shown to be an essential function of languages. Conceptual meaning is important in social life and it helps us to distinguish one meaning to another meaning in sentences whether in spoken and written. Conceptual meaning also calls as logical meaning because the meaning that conveys is propirate with the situation or condition.

There's the feature concept for people lexemes categorized as (human), (adult), (male). To apply the feature using binary notation the value of feature is specified as + human – male + adult. It is logical, cognitive, or denotative meaning.

Here is the semantic meaning of conceptual meaning

Man = (+ adult + human + male)

Woman = (+adult + human – female)

## 2) Connotative Meaning

According to Leech (1981: 12) stated that connotative meaning is the communicative value of an expression by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual meaning. Connotative meaning is the meaning that is more than meaning in a dictionary. This the conceptual content of woman is [+human], [+female], [+adult] but the psychological connotations could be 'gregarious' having material instinct' or typical '(rather than invariable). Connotative meaning is the meaning that is used by people in their experience or in the real world. Connotative always be opposite with denotative but the purpose of the word still the same.

## 3) Social Meaning

According to Leech (1981: 14) stated that social meaning is the meaning which is a piece of language that conveys about the social circumstances of its use. The social meaning is also related to the accent or dialect of the use of language in a broad scope. Social meaning can be found when in a conversation situation with



people with different social backgrounds, and from there we can see how the speaker conveys the language. The instance is “I haven’t got a knife” has the shape and meaning of assertion and yet in social reality (if said to the waiter in an exceedingly restaurant). The speaker doesn’t say “I need some knife” but just said “Please bring me a knife” this sentence it’s reasonably request.

#### **4) Affective Meaning**

According to Leech (1981: 14), stated that affective meaning can be called sort meaning is often explicitly conveyed through the conceptual connotative content of the word used. Affective meaning is the language that is used to express personal feeling or attitude to the listener. The instance the word of *Aha!* And *Yippe!*.

#### **5) Reflective Meaning**

According to Leech (1981: 16) stated that reflective meaning that has more than one conceptual meaning that appears simultaneously in one problem and is interpreted by the listener. Reflective meaning exists in a sentence or speaker’s utterance because there is also a relationship between one conceptual meaning and another. For example, the sentence “stupid” , stupid here also has another conceptual meaning which means “less clever”.

#### **6) Collocative Meaning**

According to Leech (1981: 16) stated that collocative meaning is the meaning that consist of associations that arise or are obtained from a word because the meaning is around of environment itself. Collocative meaning also called the

meaning that has a relationship with certain feature from a number of word in the environment itself which has synonym. For example, book, pen, bag, marker there are a group of school equipment and they still in the one environment. 22

### 7) Thematic meaning

According to Leech (1981: 19) stated that thematic meaning is the meaning or what is communicated by the way of the speaker or writer to organize the message for the listener, in the terms of ordering, focus, and emphasis. There is an active sentence and passive voice below that have the same conceptual content but different communicative value.

Mrs. Bessie Smith was donated the first prize

The first prize was donated by Mrs. Bessie Smith.

By seen the sentence above we can identify that the active sentence answers an implicit question” what did Mrs. Bessie Smith donated?”, and the passive sentence above is answer the implicit question” who donates the first prize?”, the first sentence is related to the second sentence, suggest that we know who is Mrs. Bessie Smith. The meaning of the sentence above can be found in two different ways.