

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

One of the most basic requirements of human life is the ability to communicate. People require language in order to communicate, engage, and obtain information from others. Language can be expressed orally or in writing. Language can also be used to develop interactions with other individuals in everyday situations (Kreidler 1998:19). Many different types of literary works, such as novels, newspapers, poems, and magazines, use written language. Song, speech, and conversation are all examples of spoken language. As human beings, we are unable to exist without the engagement of social communication and interaction, which makes it difficult for us to live without language.

Because of the reasons stated above, language plays a significant part in human life. Semantics, in other terms, is the study of meaning or it can be said that meaning as the main study in semantics term. According to what has long been the most widely accepted theory of semantics, meanings are ideas or concepts, that can be transferred from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the hearer by embodying them, as it were, in the form of one language or another. (Lyons, 1984:136)

When the writer uses figurative language, the reader must use their imagination to figure out what the writer is trying to say. It makes the figurative meaning more difficult to understand; We can not look up figurative language

definitions in the dictionary as we can for other vocabulary words we use in our regular conversations. According to Peter (2002:2), the speaker's goal is to evoke emotions in order to cause surprise and action is expressed in figurative language, which has a figurative meaning. Because figurative language has the capacity to be more effective with readers, it is used most often in fiction, song, nonfiction, and poetry writing. Because the lyrics of Billie Eilish's chosen song contain many forms of figurative language, the selected series of song lyrics is interesting to analyze.

Billie Eilish is a famous composer and singer from the United States, as we all know. The songs created by Billie Eilish contain a deep meaning, which the songwriter wants to convey. Like the songs Goldwing, Not My Responsibility, Halley's Comet, Overheated, NDA, Happier Than Ever, Hostage, IDontwannabeyouanymore, Ocean Eyes, and Bury a Friend. In these 10 songs, the author focuses on analyzing different types of figurative language and their meanings. The author sees that the lyrics of each of Billie Eilish's songs use figurative language and tend to convey the truths of life, such as friendship, love, and tragedy.

To understand the meaning of figurative language, we must use our imagination to understand what is said and what is actually implied in a word or sentence. Many people today enjoy figurative language in songs and other literary works, but they make no effort to decipher the underlying meanings of the sentences used in those works. Therefore, the writer wants to examine the figurative language in the lyrics of the song Billie Eilish, one of the most famous female singers in the world. In general, readers including writers have difficulty in interpreting the

meaning of song lyrics, therefore the authors are interested in conducting this research.

Despite the fact that Billie Eilish is one of the most famous female singers in the world, the writer did some research on her song lyrics. Billie Eilish's songs are full of figurative language. The purpose of this research is to define figurative language in song lyrics and explain what each part of figurative language means. In order to provide an understanding of the message contained in the song to the reader and listener. The author will select 10 songs on Billie Eilish's album including Goldwing, Not My Responsibility, Halley's Comet, Overheated, NDA, Happier Than Ever, Hostage, IDontwannabeyouanymore, Ocean Eyes, and Bury a Friend.

One example of the figurative language used in the song "NDA" which is taken from the album "Happier Than Ever" is talking about someone who is willing to sell his heart to someone. This lyric contains hyperbole as a type of figurative language. The meaning of the lyrics is someone who really loves his girlfriend, so he is willing to do many things just for the pleasure of his lover. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing the figurative language in Billie Eilish's song lyrics.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the foregoing, there are certain issues that need to be addressed, with the researcher identifying the following issues:

1. What types of figurative language are found in the lyrics of Billie Eilish's songs?
2. What are the meaning of figurative language that found in the lyrics of Billie Eilish's songs?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is to answer the questions raised above, and the following are the study's objectives:

1. To find out the types of figurative language are found in the lyrics of Billie Eilish's songs?
2. To analyze the meaning of figurative language found in the lyrics of Billie Eilish's songs?

1.4 Limitation of the Study

The research is focused on figurative language. The study focuses on the numerous sorts of figurative language that can be discovered in song lyrics. Simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, metonymy, and synecdoche were among the six categories of figurative language examined by the researcher. Classification of data by reason of how it is categorized as figurative language and following the seven meanings, namely Conceptual Meaning and the six other types are Connotative Meaning, Social Meaning, Reflected Meaning, Affective Meaning, Collocative Meaning, and Thematic Meaning. However, the researcher's ability to explore, identify, and analyze words, sentences, and phrases used in Billie Eilish's songs is limited. In this research, data were classified based on Knickerbocker and Reninger's (1974) categories of figurative language theory and the meaning of figurative language as applied by Leech's theory (1981).

1.5 Significance of the Study

The goal of this study is to make a positive impact on all aspects of human life. It can be as a source to increase knowledge of its readers especially in the field of figurative language. The significance of this research is divided into two parts:

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

The result of this study can provide the knowledge and the additional information for language learners to improve their skill in analyzing figurative language.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

This research is projected to boost information and understanding for readers as an effective way of more effectively communicating. Because figurative language makes the art of communication more attractive and meaningful, It can be used to create a figurative language sentence. The readers will also be able to distinguish between different varieties of figurative language.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

The focus of this research is to figure out the many types of figurative language and their meanings, thus the researcher will need some theories to help speed up the process. The following theories make up the review of reference material required for the researcher to attain the study's goal:

2.1 Review of Related Literature

As the references the researcher wants to acknowledge previous researchers that have the same research in figurative language. The researcher has taken some previous researches as references.

The first review is from a thesis entitled "*An Analysis of Figurative in Taylor Swift's Song Lyrics*" made by Rismayanti (2019). The study analyzed the figurative language in thirteen songs in the fifth album from Taylor Swift. *There are Clean, How You Get the Girl, Style, Wildest Dreams, All You Had to Do Was Stay, This Love, Out of the Woods, Blank Space, Bad Blood, Shake It Off, I Wish You Would, and the last Welcome to New York.* The writer uses Arp and Perinne (1963) theory about the types of figurative language and Leech's (1981) theory to analyze the meaning of figurative language. As the result of the study, there are some types of figurative language encountered such as simile consist of 8 lyrics, metaphor consist of 10 lyrics, personification consist of 14 lyrics, apostrophe consist of 13 lyrics,

metonymy consist of 1 lyric, symbol consist of 12 lyrics, paradox consist of 3 lyrics and the last hyperbole consist of 14 lyrics. The similarities of this study compared to the study conducted by Rismayanti (2019) are that both studies are using song lyrics as data source and analyzing the meaning of collecting data by applying the theory of meaning by Leech (1974) What differentiate this research from earlier research by Rismayanti (2019) is that it is using theory of types figurative language by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974), the data source was taken from Billie Eilish's selected song lyrics. On the other hand, the previous study was using the theory of types figurative language by Arp & Perrine (1963) Data source was taken from the thirteen song in Taylor Swift's song lyrics from the fifth album.

The second review is related to an article from Permana (2018) entitled "*Figurative Language in The Song Lyrics of Passenger's Album All the Little Lights*". The purpose of this research is to identify and analyze the meaning of figurative language in the lyrics of the song "Passenger album" all the little light." This album consists of twelve songs. However, the data used are only five songs, namely, *Things that Stop You Dreaming*, *Staring at the Star*, *All the Little Lights*, *Let Her Go*, and *Lives for the Living*. There are two theories used in this research. The first is a theory of figurative language proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974), and the second is the theory of meaning by Leech (1981) as a supporting theory. The types of figurative language that are frequently found, according to the results of his research are Personification with 3 lyrics, simile consist of 2 lyric, metaphor consist of 2 lyrics, metonymy consist of 1 lyrics, hyperbole consist of 1 lyrics, irony consist of 1 lyrics, dead metaphor consist of 1

lyrics, paradox consist of 1 lyrics and Allusion consist of 1 lyrics. The similarity of this research compared to the research conducted by Permana (2018) is that both of these studies use the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974) as well as types of figurative language and this study also applies Leech's theory (1981). What makes this study different from the previous research is that this study uses 12 song lyrics chosen by Billie Eilish, while previous research conducted by Permana (2018) used 5 song lyrics selected by Passenger's.

The last review related to this thesis is "*An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in James Blunt's Songs Lyrics*" by Dimu (2018) In his study, the data taken from James Blunt's song lyrics in his album Chasing Time. In this album consist of 12 songs, there are: *Wiseman, Tears and Rain, Good Bye My Lover, High, Fall at Your Feet, Cry, You're Beautiful, Billy, So Long Sugar Coated, No Bravery and the last Where is My Main*. Theories developed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) and Leech (1981) were applied in analyzing the types of figurative language in James Blunt's song lyrics. Based on result of his study, the types of figurative language that is most often founded is hyperbole with 14 lyrics, simile with 2 lyrics, metaphor with 3 lyrics, personification with 11 lyrics, synecdoche with 3 lyrics and metonymy with 6 lyrics. The similarity of this study compared to the study conducted by Dimu (2018) is that both studies are using the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) for the types of figurative language and the study also applied the theory from Leech (1981) as the meaning of figurative language. Other than that the difference is that this study applies the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974) while the research conducted by Dimu (2018)

applies the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963). Besides that the differences are clearly seen from the data source, this study using the Billie Eilish's selected selected song lyrics, while the previous study conducted by Dimu (2018) was using James Blunt's song lyrics.

2.2 Concepts

To avoid misunderstandings and misinterpretations, the following terms were used to divide the study's concepts into sections:

2.2.1 Figurative language

Figurative language, sometimes known as metaphor, is a term for figurative language (meaning literally transfer). They also claim that the word metaphor derives from the Greek progenitor metaphere, which means "to carry meaning beyond its original meaning" (meta = beyond + pherein= "to bring beyond") Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283).

2.2.2 Song Lyrics

The song lyrics are usually a means to pour expression or feeling the song writer. However, there are also a song writer make lyric as a means of political or just insinuated it. Therefor song lyric has a strong connection to the music that construction it. Lyrics are how the writer describes emotions into his writings in a beautiful and imaginative way. The writer of lyrics is called lyricist. (Oxford dictionary of English, copyright 2008).

2.2.3 Billie Eilish

Billie Eilish is an artist from the United States who started her career in 2015. Apart from being a singer, this multitalented artist also has talents such as being a songwriter and multi-instrumentalist. Billie Eilish's debut career in the entertainment world began with recording the song "Ocean Eyes", in October 2015. Billie Eilish started his career through the SoundCloud platform which became a platform for uploading his first single entitled "Ocean Eyes". The single was successful in attracting the interest of record label Interscope Records and succeeded in raising the name of Billie Eilish through her debut mini album "Don't Smile at Me". Billie Eilish's name skyrocketed when she launched her debut album, "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" The data source of this research is taken from <https://g.co/kgs/fGveM5>. Which consists of several lyrics taken by the researcher.

2.3 Theories

This research aims to find out and analyze the meaning of every type of figurative language in the songs lyrics. There were two theories used in conducting this research.

The first theory is concerned with the many varieties of figurative language. The theory of figurative language kinds was adapted from Knickerbocker and Reninger's book *Interpreting Literature* (1974:283) is used to find and classifying the types of figurative language find in Billie Eilish songs lyrics.

The theory of meaning is the second hypothesis that was adopted. It was once used to describe and analyze the meaning of each piece of figurative language in a song's lyrics. Leech's book *Semantics: The Study of Meaning* contained the theory of meaning that was utilised (1981:9-13).

2.3.1 Figurative language

Figurative language is a type of speech in which words or sentences are used that have a different meaning than their literal one. A sentence with figurative language have a very broad meaning, if it is interpreted well. The meaning of figurative language is not only from one side, but many. It depends on who interprets it. Figurative language is most commonly found in literary works such as newspaper, novels, articles, advertisement and poems and songs lyrics. Figurative language is also found in the Christian Holy Book (The Bible) is contains of many descriptions using figurative language.

To express complicated meanings, colorful writing, clarity, or intriguing parallels, figurative language deviates from traditional order and meaning. It makes use of regular phrases to refer to something without directly expressing it. Readers are simply presenting the facts when they employ plain language. In contrast, figurative language of mention or modification is used to communicate specific linguistic points. In figurative language, words and set of words that exaggerate or change the ordinary meaning of the word components are referred to as figurative language.

2.3.2 Types of Figurative Language

Figurative language is a part that is widely used in speech and is also an important part of writing. Figurative language is a method of employing descriptions to produce specific images and elicit specific emotions. The following are examples of figurative language;

2.3.2.1. Simile

Simile is figurative language that involves comparison; it draws similarities with the help of the words "like" or "as". (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283) as an example;

"My love is like a red rose"

Love and roses are the two terms that are expressed in the statement. The phrases have no bearing because love is an emotion we experience in our hearts, and roses are a type of flower. The symbol of the rose is a flower that has a fragrant, beautiful, and beautiful smell. In this sentence, the author describes his love as beautiful as a red rose; therefore, he became an icon of love.

2.3.2.2. Metaphor

A metaphor is indeed an implicit comparison or term that is used to convey a different meaning depending on the previous meaning's likeness to the new thing or situation to which it is employed. Where in this type of metaphor the word "like" or "as" is omitted (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283). Metaphors are usually used for something resembling what is usually referred to. For example:

"Life's but a walking shadow"

There is a metaphor in this sentence. Life and shadow are two comparison terms that can be used to communicate anything; both have different meanings, with life referring to God's willingness to create it and shadow referring to a body's reflection. When shone by a light and its color is black. So, if the writer's life is surrounded by darkness, he wishes to convey it with this sentence, when we think of analogical darkness as a symbol of sadness.

2.3.2.3. Personification

Personification is a type of figurative language in which human qualities are assigned to non-human entities. It is the process of imbuing a human quality into an item, an animal, or an abstract concept. Personification is, of course, a metaphor in the sense that it implies a comparison between a non-human entity and a human being. The following is an example:

"If the moon can speak, perhaps it can entertain me"

The example means that the writer compares a human-like object has the ability to communicate. As we know that the moon is not a human being; it just has one capability, it is a soul; it is different from human being who has three capabilities from God. The three consists of sound, energy and soul.

2.3.2.4. Synecdoche

Reninger and Knickerbocker (1974: 283) Synecdoche is a figure of speech that employs a part to represent the whole or the whole to represent the part. "That is a nice wheel," for example. "Wheel" refers to the entire vehicle."

2.3.2.5. Metonymy

Metonymy is a metaphor to describe something, using terms that are closely related to other things to describe it. Metonymy is introduced by substituting a term or object that has a strong connection with the word in mind for the word itself (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283). Metonymy can involves taking something related (rather than a part, with synecdoche) to stand for the whole thing.

For example:

“The crown” is used for “the king”

The crown is a symbol of the monarch since it is not worn by everyone; just used for a special person who has leads an empire.

2.3.2.6. Hyperbole

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:284) define hyperbole as "figurative language that is an exaggeration or overstatement, typically purposeful and not meant to be accepted literally."

For example:

Go and catch the falling star"

This statement is hyperbole since the poem depicts an absurd situation where nobody can catch the falling star. As we all know, a star is a planet in the sky that is larger than humans. Furthermore, the illogical language has no positive meaning; the writer does not need that the true falling star be caught in the meaning of "run and catch the falling star." In this situation, a falling star represents a dream and a wish. So, in that phrase, the author is encouraging us to pursue our aspirations and desires in this life.

2.3.3 Types of Meaning

In effort to find out the meaning of figurative language found in Billie Eilish songs lyrics. The researcher focused on the theory of meaning by Leech (1981:9-13) that divided "meaning" into seven ingredients, giving primary importance to logical meaning or it called Conceptual Meaning. The type of meaning that was discussing earlier in connection with 'semantic competence'. The six other types are Connotative Meaning, Social Meaning, Reflected Meaning, Affective Meaning, Collocative Meaning, and Thematic Meaning;

2.3.3.1 Conceptual Meaning

According to Leech (1981), conceptual meaning, often known as 'denotative or cognitive' meaning, is an important part of linguistic communication. Despite the fact that conceptual meaning is the most important part of every act of linguistic communication, it may be proved to be fundamental to the essential functioning of language in a way that other types of meaning cannot. The goal of conceptual meaning is to provide a meaningful semantic representation for a

sentence or proposition. Abstract symbols make up a sentence. The distinction between one meaning and the meanings of other sentences is made easier with conceptual meaning. As a result, conceptual meaning is a vital component of language. For communication, a language is based mostly on conceptual meaning. All other sorts of meaning are built on the conceptual foundation.

2.3.3.2 Connotative Meaning

According to Leech (1981), connotative meaning is the communicative value that a word has in addition to its strictly conceptual value because of what it alludes to. Still further connotative meaning can embrace putative properties of a referent due to view point adopted by individual, group, and society as whole. So in the past woman was supposed to have attributes the truth, emotional, imagination, inconstant, and cowardly as more positive qualities such gentle, sensitive, compassionate, hardworking. Connotative meaning is regarded as incidental, comparative, unstable, determinant, open ended, variable according to age, culture and individual. Connotative meaning is an open-ended property of the referent that might contribute to the connotative meaning of the term that designates it, whether subjectively or objectively identified.

2.3.3.3 Social Meaning

Social meaning also known as stylistic meaning Leech (1981). The social meaning of a piece of language is the meaning it conveys about the social context in which it is used. The ability to decode a text relies on our understanding of stylistic and other language variances. That recognizes some words or

pronunciations as dialectical and so revealing information about the speaker's geographical or class origins. The context in which an utterance is utilized affects its social meaning. Some dialectic word information, for example, regarding the speaker's regional and social background. Similarly, stylistics are utilized to reveal information about the speaker's social relationship with the listener. For example, the sentence "I ain't done nothing" reveals something about the speaker, namely that the speaker is most likely a black American from a low-income family. "Come on, year, be a sportsman." is another example. "Don't be like Lallu." It is possible that the speaker's meaning is that of an Indian young close friend. Social variance is reflected in stylistic variety. This is due to the fact that styles reveal the speaker's social location. Styles assist us in determining the time period, field, and current state of the problem. Some words have conceptual meanings that are similar to others, but they have stylistic meanings that are different. The terms "steed," "horse," and "nag" are synonymous. Those words are all related to the animal "horse," yet they have different styles and social meanings.

2.3.3.4 Affective Meaning

Affective meaning, according to Leech (1981), in the same way that we rely on the mediation of other categories of meaning to transmit our sentiments, is essentially a parasite category (conceptual, connotative, or stylistic). In affective meaning, language is used to express personal feelings or attitudes to the listener or to the topic matter of this discourse. The terms' intellectual and connotative nature is commonly employed to convey meaning. "You are a vicious tyrant and a horrible reprobation, and I despise you," for example, or "I despise you, you idiot." The

speaker leaves the listener with an uneasy sense regarding his or her feelings about the speaker. In this scenario, the speaker appears to be displeased with his listeners. This is known as affective meaning.

2.3.3.5 Reflected Meaning

Leech (1981), Interconnection at the lexical level of language is reflected meaning and collocative meaning, which is an increase when a term has more than one conceptual meaning. In forbidden words, there is reflected meaning. Term such as erection, intercourse, and ejaculation are examples. The word "intercourse" immediately conjures up images of sexual encounters. The sexual association of the driven away its innocent sense communication". The notion of taboo is practically gone. In some circumstances, the speaker will avoid using taboo terms and instead use a different word to prevent the unwelcome reflected meaning. As an example, the word "cock" is replaced by the speaker, rooster" is another word that is used by the speaker to indicate the general meaning of the word and avoid the taboo sense. These words have non-sexual meaning too.

2.3.3.5 Collocative Meaning

According to Leech (1981) collocative meaning refers to the meaning a word takes on when it is combined with other words. The term "collocative meaning" refers to the associations that a word makes with particular types of activity due to its normal meaning or frequent occurrence. "Pretty" and "handsome" denote "excellent appearance." However, due to collocation or co-occurrence, they differ slightly from one another. Girls, women, flowers, and gardens are all associated

with the adjective "pretty." The word "handsome," on the other hand, conjures up images of youths or guys. "Pretty woman" and "handsome man" come to mind. Because there are many different kinds of attractiveness, "handsome woman" could mean attractive in a mannish sense.

2.3.3.7 Thematic Meaning

Thematic meaning is defined by how a speaker or writer organizes his or her message in terms of order, focus, and emphasis. Thematic meaning aids in understanding the messages and ramifications. The active and passive voice forms of the following phrase, for example, have the same intellectual content but communicate differently.

1. Mrs. Bessie Smith donated first prize.
2. The first prize was donated by Mrs. Bessie Smith.

These, without a doubt, have various communicative values in that they imply different contexts. "What did Mrs. Bessie Smith donate?" appears to be the implied query in the active sentence. While the passive statement appears to answer an implied inquiry such as "Who donated the first prize?" or "Who was the first prize donated by?" In contrast to the second sentence, this is the first sentence.

According to Leech's (1981) definition of the sorts of meaning, the writer focused on conceptual meaning because this kind of meaning deals with study of figurative language in the songs lyrics.