

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Figurative language is a technique to make the language have more beautiful words, unique and rich in meaning. There are many ways people can do to figure out their ideas and one of the ways that can be used is by song. Figurative language is the use of descriptive words. Figurative language is most widely used in song, because a song is like poetry, every line of the words has meaning. The difference between a song and a poem is that when presenting a poem, the voice is adapted to the theme of the poem.

The songs usually consist of figurative language, song lyrics are someone's expression of a thing that has been seen, heard or experienced. In expressing his or her experience, the songwriter plays words and language to create attraction and distinctive towards the lyrics of the song.

This study analyzed figurative language of the song lyrics by "Bethel Music's" Albums. The descriptive word of figurative language has a meaning in sense other than literal, even the words convey prices the meaning. Based on that reason it brings the writer of the research to analyze. This research analyzed figurative language in song lyrics on "Bethel Music". " Bethel Music" this one band group is also very phenomenon and extraordinary. The study is also interested in analyzing the figurative language found in "Bethel Music's" song lyrics. Sometimes there are several terms contained in the lyrics of the song. It is important for us to know the meaning of the figurative language found in song lyrics so we can imagine what happens in the study. The songs of their work are

also truly extraordinary. "Bethel Music" has a contemporary worship music genre, that was founded in 2001 at the Bethel California (American) church. In early 2009 to 2013 it was very rapidly developed, it began service in relatively small local churches until now became a company and music publisher in California (America). Since 2015 Bethel Music has begun to filter out artists and artists who want to join them with the condition that they must have a spirit from God and always fear God.

Basically, figurative language is part of semantics. Figurative language is broadly defined as any way of saying something other than an ordinary way and it is more narrowly definable as a way of saying one thing and meaning another. Some authors used figurative language to produce images in readers' minds and to express ideas in fresh, vivid, and imaginative ways. There are many types of figurative language such as metaphor, simile, personification, symbols, hyperbola, irony, understatement, etc.

Besides novels and poems, figurative language can also be found in a song. The song is one example of literature. The song as a piece of music with words that are sung has a function to express thoughts and feelings. Song has two elements, such as lyrics and music. When listening to a song, sometimes people would not focus on the lyric that is used in a song. Usually, people like the song because the singer or maybe the music is good. And sometimes when people try to focus on the lyrics, they would find some difficulties in understanding the meaning of the song lyrics. Especially, when the lyric used figurative language. Whereas, knowing the meaning of a lyric is important so that the message to be conveyed by the songwriter can be understood by the listener. Therefore, one of

the ways to know the true meaning contained in figurative language is using semantic analysis.

According to Arp & Perrine (1977:61) the type of Figurative language is broadly defined as any way of saying something other than the ordinary way. It is more narrowly definable as a way of saying one thing and meaning another. The figurative language includes simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox overstatement, understatement, and irony. Many people are confused to understand the meaning of the song because there is a hidden meaning in each song. And also the purposed of analyzing figurative language was to know the message that was delivered by singer because the singer did not directly deliver the message. The writer wanted to help the readers to be easier in understand the message that is delivered in the song lyrics. In analyzing figurative language in "Bethel Music's" song lyrics, the writer used theory from Arp & Perrine (1963) to divide the types of figurative language and the writer analyzed the meaning of figurative language by using theory from Leech (1981).

## **1.2 Problem of Study**

1. What kinds of figurative languages are found in song lyrics by "Bethel Music's"?
2. What are the meaning of the figurative language found in song lyrics by "Bethel Music's "?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

In this research, there are two aims of the research which can be identified by researcher. The aims of the study are as follow:

1. To identify the types of figurative languages found in "Bethel Music's" song lyrics.
2. To analyze and describe the meaning of the figurative language used in "Bethel Music's" song lyrics.

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

In order for this to be more focused, it needs to be explained clearly about the scope of the discussion. The study focuses on an analysis of the kinds of figurative language and analysis type of meaning. In the discussion we focused on the types of figurative languages proposed by Arp & Perrine (1963) including simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, and hyperbole. The meaning of each type of figurative language proposed by Leech (1981) found in the song's lyrics will be clearly explained through the analysis of connotative meaning.

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

The result of this study is expected to be able to give benefits theoretically and practically. The writer also hopes that this study would help the readers to get knowledge and additional information for language learners to improve their skills in analyzing figurative language.

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

This study was expected to enrich the knowledge study of figurative language. The theoretical significance of this study is to give a contribution to the development of linguistics study especially in analyzing figurative language in song lyrics. This research can also become a reference for a further researcher

who is interested to make research of the develop analyzing figurative language, especially in song lyrics.

### **1.5.2 Practical Significance**

This research practically gives some understanding whether for the researcher and readers about the figurative language depicted in the song lyrics. As it was seen the song lyrics can express the feeling and ideas of the person who writes them. The writer also hopes that the examples of the data can be used as the teaching material in explaining the type of the figurative language and also the meaning in teaching semantics.



## CHAPTER II

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

This chapter is expected to serve important background information to support the study and the discussion of the findings. This study was conducted to find out the review related literature. This study needs some concepts to accelerate in conducting. They are very essential to accelerate and conduct the purpose of the study.

#### 2.1 Review of Related Literature

This study has some similarities with some other studies which have a similar topic.

The first one was a thesis entitled "An analysis of figurative language in Taylor Swifts Song Lyrics" made by Rismayanti (2019). This thesis tried to analyze figurative language in song lyrics and the meaning of those lyrics. Rismayanti only focused in analyzed figurative language in Taylor Swift's song lyrics, the writer used a theory from Arp & Perrine (1963) to divide the types of figurative language. After identifying the types of figurative language, the research analyzed the meaning of figurative language by using theory from Leech (1981). There were seven types of figurative language that we have found, there are simile, metaphor, personification, symbol, paradox, and hyperbole. The dominant figurative languages used are symbol and simile. The writer used the theory from Arp & Perrine (1963) and Leech (1981). The similarities with this study are both employ a descriptive qualitative data method to analyze the song lyrics, and this study used theory from Arp & Perrine and theory from Leech. The

difference is the data source that is used. In the study the dominant Figurative Language used symbols and simile, meanwhile, this study dominant used figurative language as a metaphor.

The second review was a thesis entitled "Figurative Language analysis in five John Legend's Songs" made by Arifah (2016). The aims of Arifah's study were to identify figurative language and describe its contextual meaning in the song. Arifah only focused on analyzing the kinds of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and others in five John legend's songs. The study used Sharndama & Suleiman (2013) theory and also theory from Hillaby (1978) with qualitative method. There were some kinds of figurative language used in John Legend song lyrics, such as personification, metaphor, simile, paradox, oxymoron, repetition, hyperbole, litotes, and symbol. The most dominant figurative language that has been found in her study was hyperbole. Arifah's thesis has differences from this study. Arifah only took five songs while the writer took thirteen songs to be analyzed. The Arifah theory was taken from Sharndama & Suleiman (2013) and Hillaby (1978) while the writer only used the theory of Arp & Parrine (1963) and the theory of Leech (1981). The similarity with this study the study uses a qualitative method to analyze the song lyrics. The difference is the data source that is used in the study with thirteen songs to analyze, meanwhile this study with fifteen songs.

The last one is titled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Online Short Story Posted on The Jakarta Post" by Wibisono and Widodo (2019) is aimed to find some kinds of figurative language used; she also studies the meaning of the figurative language used in selected short story on online the Jakarta Post. This



research employs library research in the sense that the researcher visited the libraries to get the data. There are two kinds of data in this research: (1) primary sources and (2) secondary sources. A primary source is a piece of firsthand information. Then secondary sources provide secondhand information. In this study, the primary source is a short story gained from online Jakarta Post. Then, the secondary source was books, e-books, journals, English dictionary, observation, and documentation that were related to the research which was gained. After the data are gathered, they are classified, analyzed, and interpreted by using several theories namely: (1) the theory of Figurative Language by Perrine (1982:61), and Short Story by Klarer (1998:13). Some of the important research findings are presented as follows. First, figurative language has many types, such as metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, irony, symbol, hyperbole, paradox, alliteration, allusion, onomatopoeia, and many others. Henceforth, all kinds of figurative language cannot be found in all works of literature. There are some types mostly found in the literature, such as simile, personification, hyperbole, metaphor, irony, and metonymy. In this case, the writer only conducted the research in the short story. The writer found some types of figurative language in the short story; those are personification, simile, symbol, and onomatopoeia. Personification is one of the types of figurative language mostly found in the short story posted on online Jakarta Post. The similarities with this study used theory from Arp & Perrine. The difference is the data source that is used and also the study analyzed short stores using theory from Klarel (1998) meanwhile, this study analyzed the type of meaning with theory from Leech (1981)



## 2.2 Concepts

In this part, some concepts that build in this study are explained to give a clear definition to support the overall understanding of this study. That is the way the concepts below are needed There were concepts that the writer describes, those are figurative language, song, and lyrics.

### 2.2.1 Figurative Language

Figurative language is a language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. The authors used figurative language to produce images in readers' minds and to express ideas in fresh, vivid, and imaginative ways. Figurative language or language style is an attractive language that is used to increase the effect by introducing and comparing an object or certain matter or more general soothing else. So, the usage of a certain language style earns to alter and make certain connotative.

Figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard of an order of words in the order to achieve some special meaning or effect (Abram, 1999:96)

According to Arp & Perrine (1963: 28), figurative language or figure of speech is a way of saying one thing and meaning another, she stated that figurative language should not be taken literally only and that they serve the of giving extended meaning to words, phrase or sentence from their literal expression.

### 2.2.2 Song

Song is a short rhyme or set of verses in music and aimed to be sung. It is one of the familiar literatures for the listeners. It also can be described as works in singing to musical instrument accompaniment. A song musical composition that has a melody and often words that sung by a vocalist the words of a song are called the lyrics.

In Wikipedia, it is explained that a song is a single (and often standalone) work of music intended to be sung by the human voice with distinct and fixed pitches and patterns using sound and silence and a variety of forms that often include the repetition of sections. A song may be for a solo singer, a lead singer supported by background singers, a duet, a trio, or a larger ensemble involving more voices singing in harmony, although the term is generally not used for large classical music vocal forms including opera and oratorio, which use terms such as aria and recitative instead. A song can be a message, hope, critique, or private life of the writer or related to the readers and listener's life. Written words created specifically for music or for which music is specifically created, are called lyrics. Lyrics are words that make up a song usually consisting of verses and choruses and the writer of lyrics is a lyricist.

There are three types of songs, namely folk songs, popular songs, and art songs. Folk songs are sung with simple accompaniment (guitar) or a cappella and usually are learned by ear. Folk songs were written down only infrequently, so through generations of oral transmission, they are susceptible to changes in words and melodies. Composer Wikipedia, it is explained that a song is a single (and often standalone) work of music intended to be sung by the human voice with

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### **2.2.3 Lyric**

Lyrics are expressing direct personal feelings of or for singing. (Oxford Dictionary 2008). The lyrics of a song will usually have meaning. Sometimes the meaning is easy to find but other times it can be difficult to know what the lyrics mean. Some lyrics are stranger that it's nearly impossible to understand them.

## **2.3 Theories**

This section dealt with the used by the theories that were used by the writer to solve all the problems in this study. The types of figurative language such as

simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, hyperbole, irony, paradox, and allusion, are based on the theory of Arp & Perrine (1963). This research aims to find out and analyze the meaning of every types of figurative language in the song lyrics such as conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, affective meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning based on theory from Leech (1981). There were two theories used in conducting this research.

### **2.3.1 Figurative Language**

In order to know figurative language in Bethel Music's song lyrics, the writer analyzed the types of figurative language by using theory from Arp & Perrine (1963) and the theory of meaning by Leech (1981)

#### **2.3.1.1 Types of Figurative Language**

In analyzing the types of figurative language. According to Arp & Perrine (1963) have 11 types of figurative language including simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, paradox, dead metaphor, and allusion. The definition of them is as follows:

##### **a. Simile**

The Simile is the comparison is expressed by the use of some word or phrase. A simile uses some words or phrases such as *like, than, similar, to, or, as*, to compare something (Arp & Perrine 1963: 28). Here is an example of simile:

***“Her beauty is like a rose”***

The meaning of the example is a girl face like a rose flower so beautiful. The rose flower here is a symbol of beautiful person because a rose flower has beautiful red color (Macimillian, 1984:1).

It is called simile because the word *like* in the sentence above as comparing two different things expressed such as word *love* and word *red rose*. The fact, there is no relation between two words above because word *love* is as part of human feeling, but the word *red rose* is a kind of flower but the sentence above shows the similarity between *my love* and *red rose*. In this sentence, the writer wants to tell the reader that love is as beautiful as a red rose.

#### **b. Metaphor**

Arp & Perrine (1963: 29) defined that metaphor and simile are both used as a means of comparing things that are essentially unlike. The difference is in metaphor; the figurative terms is substitute for or identified with the literal term. Unlike with simile, the figurative term in metaphor is addressed to explain the literal term without using *like* or *as*. The example of metaphor:

***“His heart is snow”***

The meaning of example is his heart has the same characteristic as snow which is cold. It means that he is a cold person. (Peter, 2002: 12)

#### **c. Personification**

Arp & Perrine (1963: 30) Personification consists in giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, and object, or a concept The example of personification

***“The stars danced around the night sky”***

Meaning of example, the stars (non-human) having the human characteristics which is dancing in order to make the sentence more alive and impressive (Kennedy, 1983: 447)

#### **d. Synecdoche**

According to Arp & Perrine synecdoche is the part for the whole or the whole of part of a thing to stand for the whole of it. In other words, synecdoche is a statement which contains a part of a thing to represent the whole thing. The example of synecdoche:

***“Australia lost by two goals”***

Based on the example, the term ‘Australia’ is used to represent the Australian football team (Keraf: 2009).

#### **e. Apostrophe**

Arp & Perrine (1963:31) defined apostrophe as a way of addressing someone absent and something which is nonhuman or invisible by calling them. In reality, when calling someone absent or something which is nonhuman, it will not get a reply. A writer or speaker uses apostrophe to speak directly to someone who is not present or dead, or speak to an inanimate object.

Here example of apostrophe: a nursery rhyme ‘The Star’ by Jane Taylor:

***“Twinkle, twinkle little star, how I wonder what you are”***

Based on the example, this is way of person calling a star which is just an imaginary idea (Kennedy and Gioia: 2002).

#### **f. Metonymy**

Arp & Perrine (1963:33) defined metonymy as the use of something closely related for the thing actually meant. It uses a thing to represent

something else in which both if the things are closely related each other. The difference from synecdoche is that metonymy is the substitution of the name of an attribute for the thing closely related. For example:

The use of term “*white house*” to refers to the state palace of United Stated of America. This term literally means the building which has a white color. However, this term is used in figurative way which is to represent the US government as the building is where the US government stays (Kennedy and Gioia, 2002).

#### **g. Symbol**

Arp & Perrine (1963: 37) symbol is roughly defined as something that means more than what it is. When a statement contains a symbol, there will be two meaning which are a literal meaning and another meaning as a suggestive aspect. For the example:

***“The national flag is the symbol of practice feeling”***

The meaning of example is a national flag has strong powerful in a country (Kennedy, 1983).

#### **h. Allegory**

Arp & Perrine (1963:43) defined allegory as a narrative or description that has a second meaning beneath the surface one. Allegory is less popular in modern literature than it was in medieval and Renaissance writing and it is much less often found in short poems than in long works. It concluded that allegory is rarely found in song lyrics because as we know song is part of modern literature. For example:

***“The beauty has her own to love her love, the beast”***



The meaning of the example is a girl who has beautiful face and the beast is a man who has ugly face like an animal. The beautiful girl loves her boyfriend that has an ugly face (Reaske, 1996: 23).

**i. Paradox**

Arp & Perrine (1963:46), paradox is an apparent contradiction that nevertheless somehow true. In a statement which contain paradox, it may that paradox contradict one word with another word. Both words are usually an antonym. It used as a tool to present the unique features of a particular situation. For the example:

***“He is rich but also poor”***

This example means he is rich but he is lack of good morality (Reaske, 1996: 27).

**j. Hyperbole (Overstatement)**

Arp & Perrine (1963:47) defined hyperbole as an extreme exaggeration used in writing for effect. It is an overstatement that exaggerates a particular condition for emphasis. It is used as a way of making a description more creative and humorous. In short, hyperbole is the use of exaggeration or extravagant statements, meant to create a strong impression, as well as to evoke or indicate string feelings. For the example of hyperbole:

***“Your luggage weighs a ton”***

The meaning of example is the luggage was very heavy although it is probable that it would actually weight a ton (Dennis, 1996:65).

### k. Irony

According to Arp & Perrine (1963:48) irony is saying opposite of what one means in which words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning of the words. It is the difference between appearance and reality. Irony is often used of critical or humorous effect in literature, music, art, and film (or a lesson). Irony have two forms, they are the verbal irony when someone says the opposite of what they mean and the situational irony which occurs when the exact opposite of what is expected to happen, happens. The example:

***“How quick you did job, till I wait for a long time”***

The meaning of the example is a person need long time in doing a job that it keeps his friend wait for a long time too. But, the actual meaning of the phrase is to say the feeling that he/she is unsatisfied with the condition (Partington, 2007: 1548).

### 2.3.2 Theory of Meaning

According to Leech (1981), word is the smallest unit of spoken language which has meaning and can stand alone. It is a written representation of one more sound which can be spoken to represent an idea, object and action.

#### 2.3.2.1 Types of Meaning

Meaning can be defined as all that communicated by language. Study meaning also called semantic. According to leech (1981:9) semantic is central to the study of communication and as communication becomes more crucial factor in social organization, the need to understand it becomes and more pressing (leech,

1981:9). Semantic is also at the center of the human mind-thought process, cognition and conceptualization. All there are intricately bound up with the way in which we classify and convey our experience of the words through language. Its narrow semantic interpretation limits it to the study of the conceptual system of the language.

### **2.3.2.2 Conceptual Meaning**

Conceptual meaning or sometimes called denotative or cognitive meaning is widely assumed to be the central factor in linguistic communication. Conceptual dictionary definition. Such is meaning is stylistically neutral and objective as opposed to other kind of associative meaning. Conceptual meaning helps us to distinguish one meaning from the meaning of other sentence. Thus, conceptual meaning is an essential part of language. A language essentially depends on conceptual meaning for communication. The conceptual meaning is the base for all the types of meaning.

Conceptual meaning of language seem to be organized largely in terms of contrastive features, for the example is the meaning the word 'woman' could be specified as 'human', 'not male', 'an adult', as distinct from boy. Conceptual meaning is an inextricable and essential part of what language is, such that one can scarcely define language without referring to it (Leech, 1981: 10).

### **2.3.2.3 Connotative Meaning**

Leech (1981:12) that connotative meaning is the communicative value that is supported by the referring expression, and is based on its pure concept.

When talking about connotative, actually talking about the real world which associates the expression when someone used or heard it in their speech. This meaning is relatively unstable from age to age, society to society, and personal experience. It is more open-ended, and indeterminate, rather than conceptual meaning. For example, the word 'woman' conceptually it is 'human' and 'adult'. Then, in connotative meaning, it reflects as 'experienced in cookery', 'skirt-or-dress wearing', 'emotional', 'motherly', 'kind-hearted', and 'friendly' (Leech, 1981: 12).

#### **2.3.2.4 Social Meaning**

Social meaning is that which a piece of language conveys about the social circumstances of its use. "A language that people use in communication is related to the social circumstances of the speaker's culture because the dialects appear from the background's life variety". The differences in tones, styles, and choices of words will influence their speaking. It can be concluded that a language has a different style from other languages, it is depending on location and culture. Here is an example in which the difference of status is maintained through a whole sentence, and is reflected in syntax as well as in vocabulary:

- 1) *They chucked a stone at the cops and then did a bunk with the loot.*
- 2) *After casting a stone at the police, they absconded with the money.*

#### **2.3.2.5 Affective Meaning**

According to Leech (1981: 15), affective meaning is a sort of meaning which effects the personal feeling and attitude of the speaker or writer towards the content or the ongoing context. Affective meaning, as this sort of meaning can be called, is often explicitly conveyed through the conceptual or connotative content

of the words used. Every individual will have a different effective meaning for a word. Someone who is addressed: 'You're a vicious tyrant and a villainous reprobate, and I hate you for it!' is left in little doubt as to the feelings of the speaker toward him. But, there are less direct ways of disclosing our attitude than this, for example, by scaling our remarks according to politeness, with the object of getting people to be quiet, we might say either:

- 1) *I'm terribly sorry to interrupt, but I wonder if you would be so kind to lower your voices a little*
- 2) *Will you belt up*

Factors such as intonation and voice timbre- what we often refer to as 'tone of voice'- are also important here. The impression of politeness in (1) can be reversed by a tone of biting sarcasm; sentence (2) can be turned into a playful remark between intimates if delivered with the intonation of a mild request.

Affective meaning is largely a parasitic category in the sense that to express our emotions we rely upon the mediation of other categories of meaning- conceptual, connotative, or stylistic. Emotional expression through styles comes about, for instance, when we adopt a casual tone to express displeasure (as in (2) above), or when we adopt a casual tone to express friendliness. On the other hand, there are elements of language (chiefly interjections, like *Aha!* And *Yippee!*) whose chief function is to express emotion. When we use these, we communicate feelings and attitudes without the mediation of any other kind of semantic function (Leech, 1981: 16)

### **2.3.2.6 Collocative Meaning**

According to Leech (1891: 17), Collocative meaning is the meaning that a word acquires in the company of certain words. Collocative meaning refers to the

association of a word because of its usual meaning or habitual co-occurrence with certain types of work. "pretty" and "handsome" indicate "good looking". the word "pretty" collocates with girls, women, flower, and gardens. On the other hand, The word "handsome" collocates with boy or man. So "pretty women" and "handsome men".

1) *Pretty: girl, boy, woman, flower, garden, color, village, etc.*

2) *Handsome: boy, man, car, vessel, overcoat, airliner, typewriter, etc.*

**2.3.2.7 Thematic meaning** This is the final category of meaning, thematic meaning

is the meaning that is communicated by the way in which the speaker or writer organizes the message, in terms of ordering, focus, and emphasis. It is often felt an active sentence such as (1) below has a different meaning from its passive equivalent (2) although in conceptual content they seem to be the same (Leech. 1974: 19)

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

We can assume that the active sentence answers an implicit question "what did Mrs. Bessie Smith donate?", while the passive sentence answers the implicit question "who donates the first prize?", that in other words (1) in contrast to se (2) suggest that we know who Mrs. Bessie Smith.

It refers to what is communicated by the way in which a speaker or a writer organizes the message in terms of ordering focus and emphasis. Thus active is different from passive though its conceptual meaning is the same. Various parts of the sentence also can be used as subject, object or complement to show prominence. It is done through focus, theme (topic) or emotive emphasis.

Thematic meaning helps us to understand the message and its implications properly

