CHAPTER I

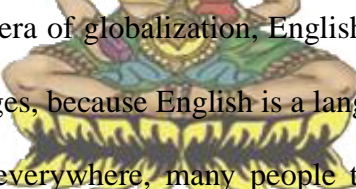**INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Background of the Study

A language is a tool for communicating with humans. Language is a system of conventional, spoken, or written symbols utilizing which human beings are used to communicate. Language is very important for humans, and language is indispensable for humans to communicate and interact with each other, thus obtaining and exchanging information with others. The use of language is something that contains an expression that wants to be conveyed to others. Something that is meant is that the audience can understand the speaker in the language.

Currently in the era of globalization, English is one of the most important and widely used languages, because English is a language bridge for each country. We can learn English everywhere, many people think that with knowledge of English we can know many things that exist in the country and even abroad, and can develop career paths in other countries (Thirumalai, 2002 as cited in Dimas, 2019). In the learning process, many people find many ways that are effective and they like to make learning English easier. One of the most frequently used ways of learning is by listening to English song. by doing so, the learner can practice each word in a song which helps them acquire part of the vocabulary the song contains. Songs can help listener improve their listening skills, and pronunciation, and also can improve their speaking skills. Currently conveying the message contained in the lyrics, so that the audience can feel the lyrics in the song. Figurative language is better known for expressing language through the mind, especially one that

involves the soul and character of the singer. According to David, a UCLA research lyric is a line found in a literary work that is an outpouring of personal emotions in a song that has a definite rhythm, and the song has a mystical power that is familiar with music, memories, and emotions. The song that is not well understood will most likely not appear as the fascination with music can be formed from songs that have recently appeared or are known. Every song has a magical effect that is contained both expressed and implied. Expression is displayed through lyrics and melodies that describe the story of the song. For example, we rarely find lullabies in the rock and rap genre and always use soothing lyrics. While the implied magical effects can only be understood when we listen to the song carefully. In the song, many songs can express our feelings with many themes. According to McCarthy (1997), a theme is an idea or an important part of a literary work. Some of the themes contained in the song include love, friendship, sadness, happiness, family, religion, and others.
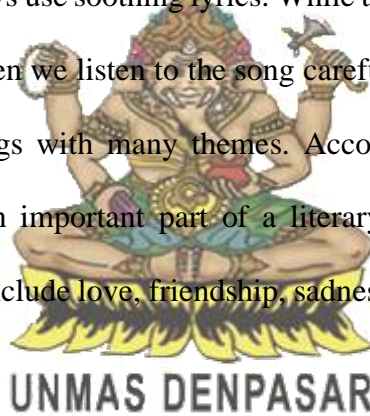
Figurative languages are words and expressions used in song lyrics to convey various meanings and interpretations from the literal meaning and use all types of creative writing. Figurative language is important for people especially who love the song and they will have the ability to comprehend the meaning of the song. Lyrics express personal feelings and thoughts through song. It means that the song can be used as a way to deliver ideas and feelings so, that people can understand what the composer means. Figurative language is part of semantics. As we know that with semantics, we can know the true meaning of a song. When listening to the song a person may not focus on the lyrics used in the song, especially

if the song contains a figurative element. According to the theory from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963), there are 10 types of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, hyperbole, paradox, synecdoche, dead metaphor, allusion, and irony. Figurative language easy can be found such as in drama, poetries, and song lyrics. Figurative language is a common thing in writing song lyrics because sometimes the lyric itself contained the message from the singer which describes the feelings felt by the singer. When a song is being listened to, the use of figurative language in the song lyrics makes it intriguing and prompts the listener to consider the message being conveyed.

From time to time, many Indonesian singers are very famous in other countries try, one of them being Niki Zefanya. This study analyzes the song from an Indonesian singer named Niki Zefanya, she is one of the Indonesian singers who are sheltered by a record label from the United States called 88rising. The song has an R&B genre, the song is also very popular among teenagers. The lyrics of the song contain a lot of figurative language with very good meaning. In the songs, many of which are self-composed based on personal experience, one of which mostly tells the story of first love or is often called monkey love and is often experienced by teenagers. The use of figurative language in the lyrics makes it more interesting and more often listened to, and also some teenagers often quote figurative language in a few sentences in the lyrics of the song and then put it on their social media to show the feeling. In this study, the reason why researchers chose Niki's songs is that the songs are very interesting to know the types of

figurative language contained in the song, and the meanings to be conveyed in the lyrics to the listeners.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background above, the study discusses two problems that can be identified as follows:

1. What types of figurative language are found in the selected song's lyrics of Niki Zefanya?

2. What are the meanings of figurative language found in the selected song's lyrics of Niki Zefanya?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

With regard to the problem of the study. The objects of study obtained are as follows:

1. To identify the types of figurative language used in the selected song's lyrics of Niki Zefanya.

2. To analyze the meaning of figurative language in the selected song's lyrics of Niki Zefanya.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

The figurative language found in Niki Zefanya's songs is often focused on in this study, which is analyzed the type of figurative language based on the theory by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963). This figurative language is then analyzed for its meaning based on the theory by Leech (1981).

1.5 Significance of the Study

The findings in this study are expected to be useful for people, both theoretically and practically:

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

The results of this study can help people comprehend the types of figurative language, also can understand the meaning, and how it is used in songs.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

Hopefully, this research can be useful for readers or song listeners who want to add insight into learning the figurative language contained in the selected song of Niki Zefanya. And as information or references regarding the understanding of figurative language.
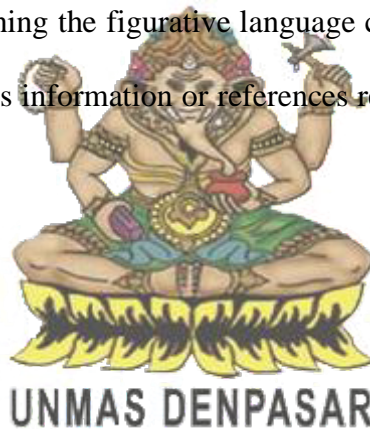
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPT, AND THEORIES

This chapter is divided into three sub-chapters consisting of related literature, concepts, and theories used in the research. In the first sub-chapter, which is related to literature, the discussion explains two theses and also three articles are taken from the internet and the library. The second sub-chapter is concepts, which discuss related to the topic and can be used in this study. The last sub-chapter is a theory that explain the meaning contained in the song lyrics.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

The first thesis is entitled "Figurative Language in Maher Zain's Song Lyrics" written by Laila (2020). The researcher found the types of the figurative language contained in Maher Zain's songs and reveal the most dominant types of figurative language used in the song. In the research, the study used qualitative methods in analyzing data. The study used Perrine's theory which is supported by other theories such as Abrams, Keraf, Reaske, and Kennedy to analyze the types of figurative language and used Leech's theory. Some of the steps taken by the researcher were observation, taking-note, and transcribing. The study used 5 song lyrics to analyze, the types that have been obtained from the results of the analysis carried out are personification, hyperbole, simile, paradox, understatement, synecdoche, metaphor, and irony. The differences between her research and this study are the problem of the study and the theory that used in this study. The problem used in Laila's study focused on the types of figurative language that are dominant used in songs, and this study focus on all types of figurative language that

found in songs. For the theory, her research used the theory from Abrams, Keraf, Reaske, and Kennedy, while in this study used the theory from Knickerbocker and Reninger. The similarity between her thesis and this study is in using Leech's theory to analyze the meanings contained in the song.

The second thesis was written by Astika (2017) and entitled "Figurative Language Found on Secondhand Serenade's Song Lyrics Composed By John Vesely". This study discussed three problems including analyzing the types of figurative language in the song Secondhand Serenade, analyzing the meaning of the figurative language contained in the song, and analyzing the message to be conveyed through the figurative language in the song. The study used qualitative methods and used several theories from Hatch, Reaske, and Keraf. In her research album, there are 11 songs, and resulted in several types of the figurative language contained in the song, namely simile, metaphor, metonymy, personification, hyperbole, and antithesis. For the results of the meaning, one example is showed that the song conveys that a woman must have her beauty and characteristics like an angel. The study found messages that were implied in the figurative language in each album, the singer wants the women to remain loyal to their partners even in difficult times, and also says that every couple must solve a problem together with a good solution without having to make a fuss. The difference between her thesis and this study is the theory used and also where Astika adds to analyze the message implied in the figurative language of the song. The similarity is this study explain the types of figurative language and the meanings contained in the song.

The first article was taken from an article by I Putu Yoga Palguna (2021) with the title "The Analysis of Figurative Language on Passenger Song Lyric in Runaway Album". His research used the theory of Arp and Perrine and is supported by the additional theory of Parasite, to analyze the meaning Yoga used the theory from Leech. This article focused on the various forms of figurative language used in songs and the significance of doing so in the Runaway album. The method used by this study is a qualitative method and is also presented descriptively. The results of his research explain that there are 6 types of figurative language that have been found in the Passenger song on the Runaway album, namely personification, metaphor, imagery, simile, symbol, and overstatement. The differences in this research are the theory and method used. The similarity is in using Leech's theory to analyze the meaning of figurative language.

Furthermore, the article entitled "Figurative Language in Adele's Selected Song Lyrics" which was analyzed by Siska Edyawati, Albert Rufinus, and Luwandi Suhartono (2016) is the second article that becomes a review of related. In their research, they used a qualitative descriptive method. To analyze the types of figurative language, the study used Tarigan's theory in the analysis found 2 types of figurative language, comparative (personification and metaphor), and contradictive (hyperbole and paradox). To analyze the meaning of figurative language, the study used a stylistic approach to analyze the expressions contained in the figurative language in the song. The article explained that stylistics is a science that studies the use of language in literary works where each expression conveyed describes something common in the literary world. The difference with this research is the

method and theory used to analyze the types of figurative language and also their research uses a stylistic method to analyze meaning. The similarities with this study only have the same topic of knowing the type of figurative language contained in a song.

The last article is from Bian et al. (2021), which is entitled An Analysis of Hyperbole in Drama "Romeo and Juliet" By William Shakespeare. The study chooses the drama Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare, which was released in 2011. This article only focused on finding the type of hyperbole and meaning, and also the article used a descriptive qualitative method. To be more specific in analyzing hyperbole this study used theory from Knickerbocker and Reninger, and the meaning of hyperbole used theory from Leech. After analyzing the drama Romeo and Juliet, this study found 8 data that included the type of hyperbole and also found three meanings in it such as conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, and affective meaning. The difference between this article and this study is the source of the data. This article used drama as a data source and the problem only focuses on the type of hyperbole and the meaning. This study used songs as a data source and focused on analyzing two findings, the type of figurative language found in songs and the meanings contained in each type of figurative language. For the similarities, their article and this study use the same theory to analyze the type of figurative language and its meaning.

2.2 Concept

Below are the concepts that are related to the study, so they need to be explained for their relevant significance in this study.

2.2.1 Figurative Language

According to Knickerbocker (1963), figurative language has another name which is often referred to as a metaphorical language, or because of its Greek ancesto which of course is a metaphor. Figurative language is a word or sentence that is expressed in a literary work and has an implied meaning in it. For a singer, figurative language is very important to convey an expression and message to be conveyed to others.

2.2.2 Song Lyrics

A song is a literary work in which the author expresses feelings through sentences which are usually called lyrics and accompanied by music based on Oxford Dictionary (2008). Language style is known as a way of expressing a thought that involves the soul and personality of the author. In the current era of globalization, many people always listen to songs, and in their spare time, people usually listen to songs more often than other activities. In the song, there are lyrics which means a verse or words that the author pours to be accompanied by music, which is one of the most important parts to complete a song. Usually, the lyrics have a deep meaning, so by listening to the song listeners feel the feelings that are conveyed through the lyrics of the song. And songs are also an alternative way for people who want to learn English, studying the lyrics contained in the song and listening continuously can increase language skills.
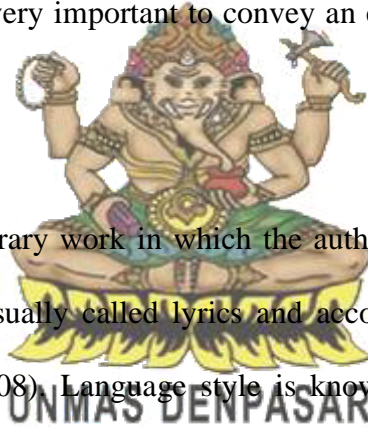
2.2.3 Niki Zefanya

Nicole Zefanya is a singer who is also known as Niki, born on January 24, 1999 in Jakarta, Indonesia. She is one of the Indonesian singers who are sheltered by a record label from the United States called 88rising. The song has an R&B genre, the song is also very popular among teenagers. Niki started his career by uploading song cover videos on Youtube in 2010 and received a good response to being watched millions of times. In addition to his ability in singing, he is also proficient in writing song lyrics and also plays musical instruments such as the ukulele, guitar, keyboard and piano.

Niki decided to study at Lipscomb University in Nashville, USA. He focuses on the field of music. Then in 2018, Niki released a song with the title Polaroid Boy and continued to cover songs on his YouTube channel. He finally made a successful debut under the auspices of 88 Rising, a music label in the United States owned by Sean Miyashiro by releasing an album called Zephyr with 8 songs in it. One of his songs, entitled Vintage, made it to the Best of 2018 list on Apple Music. With this success, Niki appeared on the Coachella stage in the United States, and Niki became the first Indonesian female singer to perform at America's biggest music festival.

2.3 Theories

This study used two theories to find the results of the problem to be solved. The first theory uses the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) in a book entitled Interpreting Literature to find problems with the types of figurative language found in Niki Zefanya's song and Leech's theory (1981) to solve the problem of analyzing the meaning and using the theory support from McCarthy

(1997) in determining the theme and explaining the meaning specifically according the theme convoyed in the use of figurative language in the song.

2.3.1 Type Figurative Language

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963), there are ten categories of figurative language namely:

2.3.1.1 Simile

A simile is a comparison that is stated using the words "like" or "as". A simile is the contrast of two things, through using some words or phrases such as like as, then, similar to, or resemble. For example: "My love is like a red rose" (p.367). The word "like" in the sentence refers to the comparison between my love and red rose. The purpose of the simile is to provide information such as an object that is not known to the reader and to compare it with another object that is more familiar to the reader.
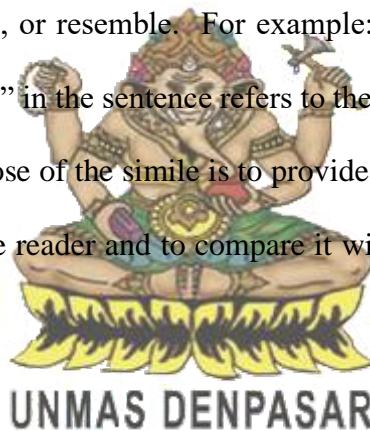
2.3.1.2 Metaphor

A metaphor is an implied comparison like a simile, however without connecting phrases. Metaphor is the process of comparing two in contrast things as though they may be one. For example; "Life is a roller coaster". This sentence is a metaphor because there are two comparisons to express something. They are life and roller coaster, in which life is a state of being alive as a human being, and the roller coaster is a type of amusement ride which has high speed. So, those two words has a different meaning, the singer wants to describe that life goes very quickly or passes like a roller coaster.

2.3.1.3 Personification

Personification is giving human characteristic to object, animals or an abstract idea. Personification is a metaphor in the sense that there is an implied comparison between a non-human being and a human being. For example: "April is the cruelest month of the year", like inanimate objects to humans so that readers can understand them.

2.3.1.4 Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an unreal exaggeration to emphasize the real situation used for special effects in the sentences. It can be concluded that hyperbole is a type of language style that contains words, phrases, or sentences that are exaggerated, both in terms of their nature, size, and number. For example: "Go and catch a falling star" (p.367). It is called a hyperbola because it describes things that don't make sense because no one is able to catch a shooting star. As we know, a star is one of the planets in the sky that is bigger than our size.
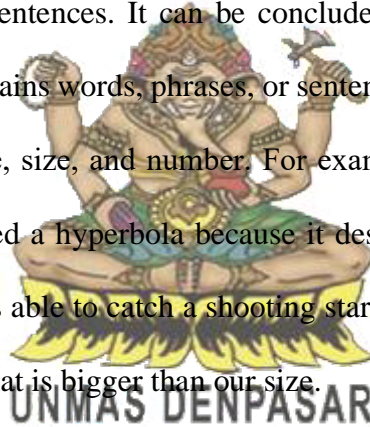
2.3.1.5 Metonymy

Metonymy is describing one thing by using term for another of something closely associated with the aspect supposed. Use other names or pronouns related to other people, brands, or another thing in its place. And aims to give effect, to create an imaginative impression for the reader or listener. For example: "The crown" used "The King (p.367). From this sentence the crown is identic with the king, a person who has the power to lead a kingdom.

2.3.1.6 Paradox

The paradox is a statement whose surface, the obvious meaning seems to be illogical, even absurd, but which makes good sense upon closer examination. For example: "light is the darkest thing in physic" (p. 367), this sentence is categorized as a paradox because the statement seems illogical 'light', 'darkest' and physic are a paradox because it is part of sense similar to a human being having legs and hand for make good sense.

2.3.1.7 Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure of speech that using a part for the whole or using the whole for the part. For example: "I feel like the world is out to get me". The word "world" refers to an unfavourable treatment obtained by the singer. The sentence explains that the singer did not get good treatment or response from around him and felt uncomfortable and thought that he was being targeted to be arrested.
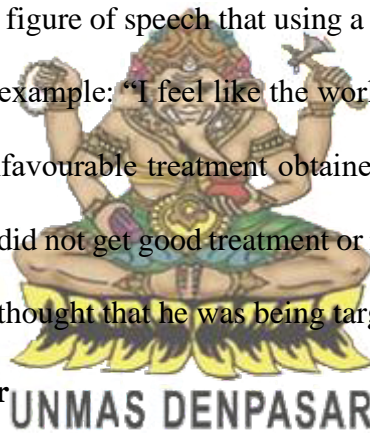
2.3.1.8 Dead Metaphor

A dead metaphor is a metaphor which has lost its figurative language through endless use. In contrast with the innovative metaphor, the dead metaphor is figurative language that is often used in everyday life for a long time and continuously. For example: "The face of the clock" (p. 368). The sentence shows the specific of a clock, which becomes the central part.

2.3.1.9 Allusion

The allusion is a reference to some well-known place, event, or person. Not a comparison in the exact sense, but a figure in the sense that it implies more than its narrow meaning. For example: "No! I am not Prince Hamlet, nor was meant to

be" (p.368). The sentence above implied that someone is not to Prince Hamlet, and give a confession that is not a prince Hamlet.

2.3.1.10 Irony

The irony is the statement whose real meaning is completely opposed to its professed, or surface, meaning. Further, irony may be an assertion or state of affairs in which the means is contradicted via the appearance or presentation of the concept. The purpose is to use irony in context so that the reader can understand its meaning and use. For example: "The czar is the voice of god and shall live forever" (p. 367). The word "the czar" is a normal human being who is not a special human chosen by god which is connected to the sentence "shall live forever" which contains a sentence of irony because opposed to the real meaning, basically humans cannot live forever.
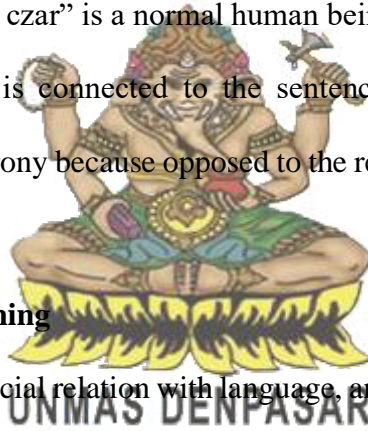
2.3.2 Theories of Meaning

Meaning has crucial relation with language, and because of that humans also want a take a look at approximately what means that offers clean rationalization which means they may be smooth to show their aim in daily interest. Geoffrey Leech in his book semantics smashes down "which means" into seven different types giving number one significance to logical, which are:

2.3.2.1 Conceptual Meaning

According to Leech (1981:9) (sometimes called denotative or cognitive meaning) is widely assumed to be the central factor in linguistic communication, and it can be shown to be the integral to the essential functioning of language in a way that other types of meaning are not (which is not to say that conceptual meaning

is the most important element of every act of linguistic communication). The reason for assigning priority to conceptual meaning is that it has a complex and sophisticated organization of a kind which may be compared with and cross-related to. Similar organization on the syntactic and phonological levels of language, there are two structural principles that seem to lie at the basis of all linguistic pattering: the principle of contractiveness and the principle of structure. Contrastive features underline the classification of sounds in phonology.

2.3.2.2 Connotative Meaning

According to Leech (1981:12) connotative meaning is the communicative an expression has by virtue of what if refers to, over and above its purely conceptual content. To a large extent, the notion of reference overlaps with conceptual meaning. If the word woman is defined conceptually by three features (+human – male – adult) then the three properties human, adult and female must provide a criterion of the correct use of that word. Connotative meaning is indeterminate and open ended in a sense in which conceptual meaning is not. Connotative meaning is open ended in the same way as our knowledge and beliefs about the universe are open ended: any characteristic of the referent, identified subjectively or objectively, may contribute to the connotative meaning of the expression which denotes i.

2.3.2.3 Social Meaning

According to Leech (1981) social meaning is that which a piece of language conveys about the social circumstances of its use. In part, we decode the social meaning of a text through our recognition of different dimension and levels of style within the same language. We recognize some words or pronunciation as being

dialectal i.e. as telling us something of the geographical or social origin speaker;

other features of language tell us something of the social relationship between the

speaker and hearer we have a scale of status usage, for example descending from

formal and literary English at one and to colloquial familiar and eventually slang

English at the other. One account (Crystal and Davy, *Investigating English Style*),

added examples of the categories of usage one would distinguish on each

dimension, variation: Dialect (The language of a geographical region or of a social

class), Time (The language of the eighteenth century), Province (Language of law,

of science, of advertising), Status (Polite, colloquial, slang), Modality (Language

of memoranda, lectures, jokes), Singularity (The style of Dickens, of Hemingway).

2.3.2.4 Affective Meaning

Affective meaning, as this sort of meaning can be called is often explicitly

conveyed through the conceptual or connotative content of the words used.

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 style comes about, for

instance, when we adopt an impolite tone to express displeasure 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.

2.3.2.5 Reflected Meaning

According to Leech (1981: 16) reflected meaning is the meaning which arises in cases of multiple conceptual meaning, when one sense of a word forms part of our response to another sense. For example on hearing on church service, the synonymous expressions the 'comforter' and the 'holy ghost', both referring to the third person of the trinity, it is the third person of the trinity, these terms conditioned by the everyday non-religious meanings of 'comfort' and 'ghost'. The comforter sounds warm and comforting (although in the religious context it means the strengthened or supporter) while the holy ghost sounds awesome. One sense of a word seems to rub off on another sense in this way only when it has dominant suggestive power either through relative frequency and familiarity (as in the case of the holy ghost) or through the strength of its associations. Only in poetry which invites a heightened sensitivity to language in all respects, do we find reflected meaning operating in less obviously favourable circumstance. The case reflected meaning intrudes through the sheer strength of emotive suggestion is most strikingly illustrated by words which have taboo meaning.
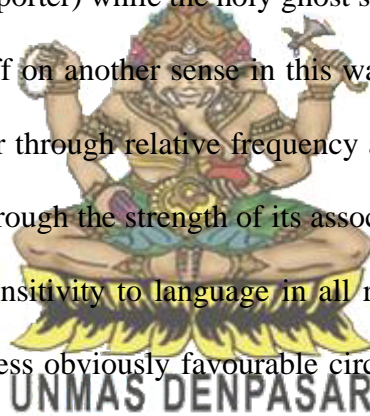
2.3.2.6 Collocative Meaning

According to Leech (1981:17) collective meaning consists of the associations a word acquires on account of the meaning of words which tend to occur in its environment. Pretty and handsome share common ground in the meaning 'good-looking', but may be distinguished by the range of nouns with which they are likely to co-occur or (to use the linguist's term), for the example of the collocative meaning: Pretty (girl, boy, woman, flower, garden, color, village).

Handsome (boy, man, car, vessel, overcoat, airliner, typewriter). The overlap; handsome woman and pretty woman are both acceptable, although they suggest a different kind of attractiveness because of the collocative associations of the two adjectives

2.3.2.7 Thematic Meaning

According to Leech (1981: 19) thematic meaning, or what is communicated by the way in which a speaker or writer organizes the messages, in terms of ordering, focus, and emphasis. It is often felt, for example that an active sentence (1) has a different meaning from its passive equivalent (2) although in conceptual content they seem to be the same:

A.) Mrs. Bessie Smith donated the first prize.

B.) The first prize was donated by Mrs. Bessie Smith.

They have different communicative values in that they suggest different contexts: the active sentence seems to answer an implicit question 'what did Mrs. Bessie smith donate?' while the passive sentence seem to answer an implicit question 'who donated the first prize?' or more simply 'who donated the first prize?' that is 1 in contrast to 2 suggest that we know who Mrs. Bessie Smith is (perhaps through a previous mention). The same truth conditions however apply to each: it would be impossible to find situation of which 1 was an accurate report while 2 was not, or vice versa.

2.3.3 Theories of Theme

According to McCarthy (1997), a theme is an idea or an important part of a literary work. The importance of a theme in a song is the basic for a songwriter to develop a story. With the theme theory by McCarhty (1997), become a support theory in analyzing the meaning of sentence that contain figurative language. Every song has a different theme depending on the concept of the song and the message wants to convey to the audience. Themes can be created based on daily life, love, friendship, family, religion, happiness, sadness, and others. With a theme, it can be combined with appropriate melodies and lyrics so, that the audience can enjoy it.