

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language, as a tool for communication, plays a crucial part in human interaction. Humans can use language to express their thoughts, feelings, and experiences with others. According to Hornby (2008), language could be the main foundation for us to get communicate either in speech or writing. Therefore, the greater one's understanding of the language used in communication, the greater one's ability and skills in giving meaning to a word or sentence.

The branch of linguistics that studies the meaning contained in a language, code, or another type of representation is called semantics. Kreidler (1998) proposed that semantics is the systematic study of meaning and the way that language structures and conveys meaning. Every word and expression spoken by people can have both a non-literal and a literal meaning. Non-literal meaning refers to a different meaning or hidden meaning of an utterance, whereas literal meaning refers to the actual meaning of the speaker, which contains a precise definition. There are lessons in this field that broadly explain non-literal meanings, commonly called figurative language.

Figurative language refers to the use of evocative words, sentences, and phrases to express a message that means something without directly saying it. There are various kinds of figurative language usually used in literary works, for instance, song, prose, poetry, and drama, which aim to state the intention when the literal

language cannot do so. Figurative language itself means that language employs the varied figure of speech (Reaske, 1966), like the states by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974), figurative language is categorized into simile, personification, irony, metaphor, hyperbole, synecdoche, metonymy, paradox, dead metaphor, and allusion. In daily conversation, sometimes people use figurative language, which has a meaning that differs from the literal meaning, to express their feelings or ideas. People often insert other meanings into their sentences, and it becomes the art of language itself. Without figurative language, language would sound very flat and monotonous, hence it is crucial to the art of language itself in order to make the language sound beautiful and engaging. And literary works frequently use figurative language, and a song is one of those literary works.

Song is a combination of words or lyrics and music. The song can be a communication tool to convey the composer's message, thoughts, and feelings to the listeners. There are various ways a composer can use to insert a message that the composer wants to convey to listeners indirectly. One of the ways is to use figurative language in the song's lyrics. Many songs contain figurative language to insert an explicit meaning and make the song sound more beautiful. Today many song composers and musicians convey hidden messages in their songs through figurative language. And many people usually have difficulty in interpreting the meaning of song lyrics and it is difficult to distinguish the figurative language types utilized in the song lyrics, therefore this study aims to help analyze the intent of the composer in the lyrics song and classify what kinds of figurative language are employed in the songs.

Because of interest in the study of figurative language, this research concentrates on the use of figurative language in song lyrics, especially in Philip David Wickham songs. Philip David Wickham is a contemporary Christian artist, singer, and composer from San Diego, California. He wrote many songs that were inspired by religious values, the Bible, and human life, as well as many expressions from the singer who imagined the singer's situation. And the researcher has selected one album from Phil Wickham consisting of 11 songs to be analysed. The researcher picked up the Christian musician because his songs are very popular with Christian youth, and most Christian music is a personal testimony of God's presence in the lives of other Christians, and it can help listeners grow in their faith by learning from the writer's experiences. Also, the songs by Philip have many hidden meanings in the song lyrics.

In addition, researchers also discovered figurative language in song lyrics to express the singer's emotions, which is fascinating to analyse. One of the examples of figurative language discovered in the data source, which is taken from the song title "Carry My Soul" in album *The Ascension* is simile, for example: "I want to feel Your love like sunshine". The lyric included is a simile because this type of figurative language uses the word "like" to compare different things. The lyric is comparing God's love to sunshine. Based on the explanation, the researcher took research entitled *Figurative Language Used in Philip David Wickham's Album "The Ascension."*

## 1.2 Problems of The Study

Based on the explanation of the background, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of figurative language used in Philip David Wickham's song lyrics in the album "The Ascension"?
2. How are the meanings of figurative language used in Philip David Wickham's song lyrics in the album "The Ascension"?

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

From the problems of the study above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the types of figurative language used in Philip David Wickham's song lyrics in the album "The Ascension."
2. To analyze the meanings of figurative language used in Philip David Wickham's song lyrics in the album "The Ascension."

## 1.4 Limitation of The Study

In order to avoid a broad discussion, in this study, the writer focused on identifying types of figurative language used in Philip David Wickham's song lyrics in the album 'The Ascension' using the theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974). The writer also focuses on analyzing the meaning of figurative language in Philip David Wickham's album 'The Ascension' using the theory put forward by Leech (1981).

## **1.5 Significance of The Study**

This study aims to help readers broaden their knowledge, particularly in understanding the meaning of song lyrics. The significance of this study is divided into two parts, as follows:

### **1.5.1 Theoretical Significance**

Theoretically, this study is intended to advance literary studies, particularly in the study of figurative language. Furthermore, it is expected that this writing will be valuable and may serve as a reference for future researchers who are interested in conducting research to develop an analysis of figurative language.

### **1.5.2 Practical Significance**

Practically, this is supposed to give readers a better grasp of the figures of speech reflected in the song lyrics. The writer also hopes that the reader will be able to comprehend the figurative language in Philip David Whickham's song and that when they listen to the song, they will understand the meaning behind it, which will be valuable in broadening their knowledge.

## CHAPTER II

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

This chapter is separated into three parts: review of related literature, concepts, and theories. This study used some of the previous work done by different researchers to create a review of the literature consisting of two theses and three articles.

#### 2.1 Review of Related Literature

The first review was for a study titled "An Analysis of Figurative Language of Haris J's Song Lyrics in the Album "Salam" by Rohmah (2020), a student of the English Education Department, Faculty of Tarbiyah. In her study, she concentrated on investigating the types of figurative language and values contained in the songs of Haris Jung's album "Salam" In her study, she used qualitative literature research and the theory proposed by Mezo (1999), and she found four kinds of figurative language in her analysis: hyperbole, personification, metaphor, and simile. And personification is the most prominent sort of figure of speech that she found. The similarities between the Rohmah study and the present study are that both studies analyze the types of figurative language found in song lyrics. The theory used in this study and the Rohmah study differ. Rohmah utilized the theory of Mezo (1999) to determine the categories of figurative language, but the current study used the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974) to determine the types of figurative language found in the song lyrics of Philip David Wickham.

The second study is written by Maftuhah, (2018) entitled "Figurative Language in Selected Brian McKnight's Song". The study focuses on the types of figurative language used in Brian McKnight's song and the meaning of the figurative language used in Brian McKnight's song. To support the study, the writer uses Perrine's (1969) theory to analyze or classified the collected data to find the figurative language in Brian McKnight's song. To support the study, the writer uses Perrine's (1969) theory to analyze or classify the collected data to find the figurative language in Brian McKnight's song. As a result of this study, the author discovered five forms of figurative language. There are similes, metaphors, hyperbole, personifications, and metonymies. And the dominant form used is hyperbole based on the result of tabulating. The similarities between Maftuhah's thesis and the current study are the study's problems and the data collection method. The difference is in the data source and the theory.

The third is an article from a journal, written by Hasanah et al., (2022), entitled "An Analysis Figurative Language Used in the Song Lyrics Album "Evermore" by Taylor Swift. Their research aims to identify the types of figurative language used in Taylor Swift's album "evermore" song lyrics, determine the most prevalent types of figurative language used in Taylor Swift's album "evermore" song lyrics, and determine the contribution of using Taylor Swift's album "evermore" song lyrics to teaching poetry. They employed the descriptive-qualitative method to analyze the data, and they utilized Kennedy and Gioia's (2005) theory to examine the various forms of figurative language. According to the findings of their study, figurative language such as personification, simile,

hyperbole, metaphor, antithesis, synecdoche, symbolism, paradox, metonymy, and alliteration is used in Taylor Swift's song lyrics for her album "Evermore." And hyperbole appears most frequently. The similarities between their studies and the current study are that both used song lyrics as the data source and analyzed the data using the descriptive-qualitative method. The differences between these studies are the theory and the data source. To analyze the types of figurative language, they used the theory proposed by Kennedy and Gioia (2005), while this study used Knickerbocker and Reninger's (1974) theory. The data sources for Hasanah et al., were taken from Taylor Swift's album "Evermore," whereas the data source for the current study was taken from Philip David Wickham's album "The Ascension".

The further review related to this research is "The Figurative Language in Bruno Mars' Album" by Adah, et al., (2022). This study proposes to determine the types of figurative language used in the lyrics of Bruno Mars songs, define the type of figurative language that predominates in the chosen songs of Bruno Mars, and identify the meaning in the lyrics. They investigated and described the sorts of figurative language employed in the lyrics of the chosen Bruno Mars songs using the theory of Leech (1973) and the descriptive qualitative method of Creswell (2018). According to the study's findings, there were some kinds of figurative language used in Bruno Mars song lyrics, such as hyperbole metaphor, simile, and personification. Hyperbole is the figurative language that predominates. The similarity between this article and the present study is the nature of the study's problems and the differences in the data source.



Finally, Astina, et al., (2021) conducted research on the “An Analysis of Hyperbole in Album the Chainsmoker”. This article discusses the hyperbole figure used in the lyrics of Chainsmokers songs, and the aims to find out the types and find the meaning of hyperbole language in the song. To analyze the data, the main theory used in the article is the figurative language theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963), the theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981). This article uses qualitative methods to provide a clear picture of the problems identified. From the description there are similarities between previous study and present study, both studies analyzing type of figurative language and meaning of figurative language, and also used the same theory from Knickerbocker and Reninger and the theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981). Whereas the difference is the previous study focused on analyzing only one type of figurative language, namely hyperbole. However, the current research focuses on several types of figurative language according to the theory that the writer used. And Astina data source is taken from Chainsmokers song contained in Something Just Like This Album and in present research took the data from the lyric of Philip David Wickham songs in album “The Ascension”.

## **2.2 Concept**

The concept defines terms that are pertinent to the issues and that are used frequently in research, as well as provides an explanation for the terms that are used in the title. Figurative language, song lyrics, and Philip David Wickham are three concepts that are used to support this study.

### **2.2.1 Figurative Language**

Figurative language, also known as "figure of speech," refers to a wide range of ways to utilize words, phrases, clauses, and sentences to produce specific meanings, sounds, and stylistic effects. In contrast to literal language, figurative language makes creative use of words to evoke the reader's imagination and perception of meaning. Figurative language when applied to written or spoken language, denotes certain picturesque or poetical ways of expressing ideas (Grindon, 1879).

### **2.2.2 Song Lyrics**

A song is a relatively short musical composition for the human voice that includes lyrics, or words that people sing, as defined by Hornby (2000). A lyric is written by someone who uses their imagination to create words or sentences with a specific meaning, which can be explicit or implicit. The lyrics of a song are delivered in a specific tone, rhythm, tempo, and style, and the result of a combination of lyrics and accompanying music will produce a song.

### **2.2.3 Philip David Wickham**

Philip David Wickham is a contemporary Christian music vocalist or songwriter and guitarist from San Diego, California. He wrote many songs that were inspired by religious values, the Bible, and human life, as well as many expressions from the singer who imagined the singer's situation. Philip Wickham

has produced over 10 albums and one of them is "The Ascension" which was released on September 24, 2013.

## **2.3 Theories**

The first theory, advanced by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283), was used to explore many varieties of figurative language, and the second theory, advanced put forth by Leech (1981:9) is used to investigate the meaning of the figurative language employed in Philip David Wickham's song lyrics.

### **2.3.1 Types of Figurative Language**

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283) claim that metaphorical language or just metaphor is another term for figurative language. Ten categories of figurative language—simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, irony, synecdoche, metonymy, paradox, dead metaphor, and allusion—were proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger.

#### **2.3.1.1 Simile**

When a comparison sentence starts with "like" or "as," it is considered a simile. An illustration would be, "My Love is Like a Red Rose." Using the word "like" in the previous statement, the terms "my love" and "red rose" are expressed, which is why it is known as a simile. It is customary to use the analogy of a red rose to describe a girl's beauty because it is evident and accurate. Typically, beautiful things are associated with red roses (Knickerbocker and Reninger 1974:283).

### 2.3.1.2 Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which "like" or "as" are removed and an implied comparison is formed between two seemingly unrelated items that have something in common (Knickerbocker and Reninger 1974:283). Instead of expressing that "life is like a walking shadow", people could say "Life's but a walking shadow." Both have distinct connotations, with life denoting God's grace and a shadow denoting the black reflection of a body. There are two comparison terms available to convey a meaning. As a result, the writer intends for this statement to convey grief by making it seem as though the world is shrouded in darkness.

### 2.3.1.3 Personification

Giving human features to an object, animal, or abstract notion is known as personification. Personification is a metaphor in the sense that it implies a comparison between a non-human entity and a human being (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283). For instance, "My alarm clock screams at me every morning" reveals whether the alarm clock can actually scream at someone. The alarm clock acquires human characteristics.

### 2.3.1.4 Hyperbole

A figure of exaggeration utilized for special effects is known as hyperbole (Knickerbocker and Reninger 1974:284). For instance: "My God strikes me down if I tell you lies". The phrase "my God strike me down if I tell you lies" is

exaggerated. It contains hyperbole because God will punish people simply for lying to others. That sentence means that he will not tell any lies.

### **2.3.1.5 Irony**

The irony is a statement whose true meaning contradicts its professed or surface meaning (Knickerbocker and Reninger 1974:284). For example: "your skin looks as flawless as flat hoggin". "your skin" indicates a human skin and the word "flawless" indicate the beauty of human skin. But the phrase "as flat hoggin" give an opposite meaning to the word "flawless" which we know hoggin is a rock with pebble.

### **2.3.1.6 Synecdoche**

A figure of speech known as synecdoche illustrates the use of a part for the whole or the use of the whole for the part. For example: "Fifty winters (year) passed him by". And a second example using the whole for the part: "the halcyon year"—meaning summer. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283).

### **2.3.1.7 Metonymy**

Metonymy is a figure of speech used to describe one item by employing the name of another thing that is intimately related to it. For instance, "the crown" would be used for "the king." The king, who reigns over an empire or a kingdom, is represented by "the crown" in the given illustration. As a representation of its own authority, the empire has a monarch and a crown. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283).

### 2.3.1.8 Paradox

A paradox is a statement that, on the surface, appears to be illogical or even nonsensical yet, upon deeper investigation, makes perfect sense. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:284). For example, in the statement "Light is the darkest object in physics," the terms "light" and "physics" provide a paradox because they refer to the portion of the sense that resembles human beings that have hands and legs for making sense.

### 2.3.1.9 Dead Metaphor

A metaphor is said to be dead when it has been used endlessly and has lost its figurative meaning (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:284). "The face of the clock; the back of the chair," are examples. As a result of adding more stress to the topic being discussed, it is known as a dead metaphor. The phrase "the back of the chair" here refers to a particular area of the chair that serves as the topic's focal point. Furthermore, the phrase "the face of the clock" refers to a specific component of the clock, which serves as the topic's focal point.

### 2.3.1.10 Allusion

Allusion is a reference to some well-known location, event, or person. It is not a comparison in the exact sense, but the figure in the sense that implies more than its narrow meaning. For example, "No! I am not Prince Hamlet, nor was I ever intended to be" (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:284). According to the example, the subject "I" was not and does not wish to be Prince Hamlet.

### **2.3.2 Theory of meaning**

The second theory is used to examine the data's meaning. Leech (1981) defines seven types of meanings:

#### **2.3.2.1 Conceptual Meaning**

According to Leech (1981:9), conceptual meaning alone can be demonstrated to be integral to the essential functioning of language in a way that other types of meaning cannot. Conceptual meaning is sometimes referred to as "denotative" or "cognitive" meaning, and it is widely believed to be the key component in linguistic communication (which is not to say that conceptual meaning is the most important element of every act of linguistic communication). The dictionary definition is conceptual meaning. Human, male, and adult are the conceptual meanings of the words "man" and "woman," respectively, as are human, female, and adult for "woman." The dictionary definition and the conceptual meaning are identical.

#### **2.3.2.2 Connotative Meaning**

Connotative meaning is the communicative value that an expression has in addition to its purely conceptual content (Leech 1981:12). As the definition shows, connotative meaning invariably overlaps with certain aspects of conceptual meaning. As a result, the "reference" overlaps with the elements of conceptual meaning, as when conceptual meaning's contrastive features become attributes of the "real world" referent. However, additional attributes expected from the referent

are dependent on a variety of other factors, such as age or society, and they can also be dependent on the individual, as Leech claims (1981:12). The relationship between conceptual and connotative meaning can be easily compared in this context to the one between language (conceptual) and the "real world" (connotative). As a result, in comparison to conceptual meaning, connotative meaning can be viewed as an open-ended and unstable category.

### **2.3.2.3 Social Meaning**

The social meaning of a piece of language is what it conveys about the social context in which it is used (Leech 1981:13). The decoding of a text is dependent on our knowledge of stylistics and other language variations. The social meaning of language use is what is communicated. Some dialectic words, for example, reveal the speaker's regional and social background. Similarly, some stylistic usages reveal information about the speaker's social relationships, indicating that the speaker is most likely a black American who is unprivileged.

### **2.3.2.4 Affective Meaning**

The definition of "effective" according to Leech (1981:15) is what is communicated through language in terms of the thoughts and feelings of the speaker (attitudes towards the listener and attitudes towards what he says). Affective meaning is frequently conveyed conceptually, through the connotative content of the words used. "You're a tyrant and a villainous reprobate, and I despise you for it," for example. As seen in the example, the speaker addresses a negative



attitude toward his listener. This is referred to as affective meaning. Affective meaning is what is communicated of the speaker's or writer's feelings and attitudes.

#### **2.3.2.5 Reflected Meaning**

According to Leech (1981:16), reflected meaning is meaning that arises when one sense of a word forms part of our response to another sense in cases of multiple conceptual meanings. In other words, some people frequently struggle with the use of words with specific meanings. According to Leech, in a church service, the Comforter and Holy Ghost refer to the third member of the Trinity. They are religious expressions. However, there are unconsciously responses to the non-religious meaning. The "comforter" sounds 'warm' and 'comforting' while the "The Holy Ghost" sounds "dreadful" or "awesome". The word appears to eliminate another, particularly through relative frequency.

#### **2.3.2.6 Collocative Meaning**

Collocative meaning, according to Leech (1981:17), is made up of the associations that a word picks up due to the meanings of words that frequently occur in its surroundings. The terms "pretty" and "handsome" both share the same definition of "good-looking." For instance, the word "handsome" also has the same definition as "good-looking," so a handsome man is considered to be a man who fits that definition. Because the two adjectives are collectively associated, the ranger may well match even though they suggest a different kind of attractiveness.

### 2.3.2.7 Thematic Meaning

According to Leech (1981:19), thematic meaning refers to what is conveyed through the ordering, focusing, and emphasizing of a speaker or writer's message. In other words, thematic meaning is how the speaker orders the words spoken to affect the meaning contained for example:

- a) My brother bought a new phone yesterday morning.
- b) The new phone was bought by my brother yesterday morning.

The first and second sentences above have the same meaning but differ in emphasis on the message.

