

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a conventional system of spoken or written symbols used by people to communicate with each other. Humans need language to communicate, interact and get information from other people. Nowadays, people can talk to other people through songs. Through songs, a person can convey his voice to many people, so that people can know his feelings. Currently, there are many songs that can express our feelings, such as songs with the theme of love, social, politics, and others. As far as we know that song is a part of literature.

According to Meyer (1997: 1) literature is a term used to describe written texts characterized by careful use of language, including features such as creative metaphors, well-transformed phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, alliteration, which are aesthetically readable. Or intended by someone else. The author to be read aesthetically and deliberately somewhat open to interpretation. The song is an example of a literary work. The song is the act or art of singing. Songs as musical works with sung words have a function to express thoughts and feelings. The songs have two elements, such as lyrics and music.

The songs usually consist of figurative language because figurative language is used in well-written lyrics. The descriptive words of figurative

language have meanings in other than literal meanings, even those words convey the exact meaning. In this study, figurative language was analyzed from John Legend's song lyrics. Song lyrics are short poems in several stanzas set with the music to be sung. In writing, songwriters or composers usually embellish the language they use with any figurative language, so that listeners will be more interested in listening to the song. Basically, figurative language is part of semantics. As we know that with semantics, we can know the true meaning of a song. When listening to a song someone may not focus on the lyrics used in the song, especially if the song contains figurative elements. Usually they just like it because the music is good, or even because they like the singer. Knowing the meaning of a lyric is important because we can know the meaning and purpose of the song.

This study uses Reaske's theory of figurative language because it supports my research problem. Reaske (1996:27) states that figurative language is a language that uses various figures of speech. Figurative language is a type of language that departs from language that uses traditional literal ways to describe people from objects. In addition, according to Croft (2000: 56) figurative language is symbolic or metaphorical and is not meant to be taken literally. As Bradford T. Stull describes in his book *Elements of Figurative Language*, figurative language is language that avoids speaking directly or frankly about the subject being examined. This theory helps researchers to answer the research questions of this study. There are many

kinds of figurative language in this theory. This makes it easier for researchers to analyze the figurative language in each song.

This study uses songs from the world's popular singer John Legend to find out the types of figurative language that appear in John Legend songs and the meaning of figurative language in the song. Some of the differences between this study and other studies are the differences in the object and research problem.

## **1.2 Problems of the Study**

Based on the background of study and focus on study, this study formulated the problems by making the research question below:

1. What kinds of figurative language are found in the Song Lyric of John Legend Album “Bigger Love”?
2. What are the meaning of the figurative language used in the Song Lyric of John Legend Album “Bigger Love”?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

1. To find out the types of figurative language found in the song lyric by John Legend.
2. To analyze the meaning of the figurative language used in song lyric by John Legend.

## **1.4 Limitation of the Study**

This study was focused on analyzing kinds of figurative language. Besides, the researcher focuses on analyzing the meaning of each figurative language used in the song lyrics in John Legend Album “Bigger Love”.

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

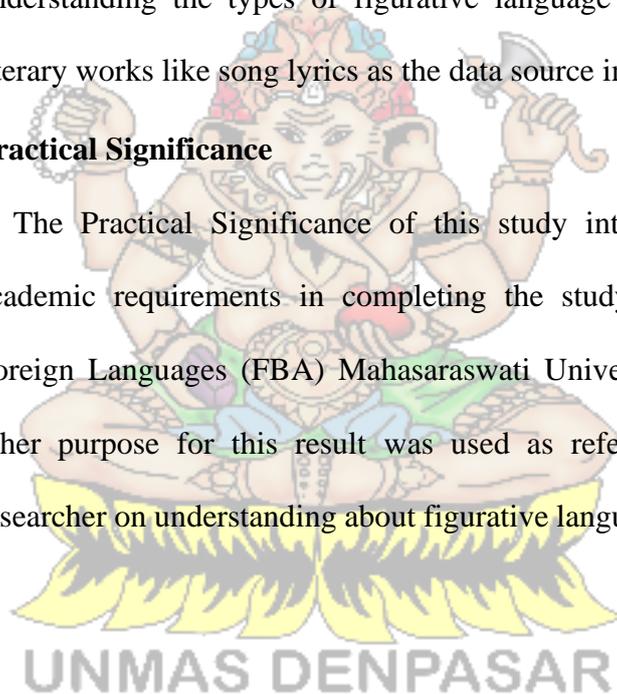
This study give some contributions to the academic field and practical field which can be seen, as follows:

### **1.5.1 Theoretical Significance**

Theoretically, this study is expected to give contribution enlarging the knowledge of the readers about figurative language, especially in understanding the types of figurative language and its meaning in literary works like song lyrics as the data source in this study.

### **1.5.2 Practical Significance**

The Practical Significance of this study intended to fulfill the academic requirements in completing the study at the Faculty of Foreign Languages (FBA) Mahasaraswati University Denpasar. The other purpose for this result was used as references for the next researcher on understanding about figurative language in literary word.



## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS AND THEORIES

In this chapter, the researcher present review of related literature of this study, the concepts, and the theories that are used to analyze the problems.

#### 2.1 Review of Related Literature

There are some previous studies about figurative language those reviews of related literature are explained as follows:

The first thesis was written the aims of the study focused on the kinds of by Maftuhah (2018) entitle “Figurative Language in Selected Brian Mcknight’s Songs”. Figurative language used in Brian McKnight’s songs and the meaning of those figurative language. In her study, she used descriptive qualitative methods. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The data were obtained from Brian McKnight’s songs that contained in Brian McKnight album, I remember you, back at one, superhero, more than word and better. By using figurative language theory of Perrine, the writer observed the song lyric and took the sentences that contained figurative language. From the analysis, the writer finds that figurative language that used in Brian McKnight’s songs were very deserve. There are 37 data that have been found, 11 data of hyperbole, 9 data of personification, 7 data of simile, 6 data of metaphor and 4 data of metonymy. It can be concluded that figurative language that most used in Brian McKnight’s songs is hyperbole.

The second study was written by Habibi (2016) entitled “An Analysis Figurative language in Edensor Novel by Andrea Hirata”. The aims of this study is

to find out the type of figurative language and analyzed the meaning of figurative language in the novel Edensor. He used the theory by Perrine (1978) and Hufford (2007) to analyze his study. He used the descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. The result of the study is the writer concluded that there are 6 types of figurative language found in the novel Edensor. The similarities between Habibi study and this study is both studies discussed types of figurative language and the meaning of each figurative language. The differences between this study and the previous study are the data source. The data source from Habibi study is Edensor Novel by Andrea Hirata and used theory by Perrine (1978) and Hufford (2007) to analyze the types and meaning of figurative language. Meanwhile, the data source in this study will be taken from five of John Legend's song and used theory by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) to find out the types of figurative language and theory by Leech (1974: 10) to analyze the meaning of figurative language.

The third is journal was written by Manuaba, Sudana and Tika (2019) entitled "Figurative Language in Westlife Album Coast to Coast and My Chemical Romance Album Welcome to Black Parade". This study focused on the types of figurative language that used in the songs and significance concept expressed in the song lyrics. The writer used the theory by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963). The write used the qualitative method to analyze the data. The result of their study is to find seven types of figurative language, there are Simile, Personification, Hyperbole, Metonymy, Irony, Metaphor, and Paradox in Westlife's and My Chemical Romance's song lyrics. The similarities this study with the previous study is used the song lyrics as the data source and the theory used is by Knickerbocker

and Reninger (1963). The differences of this study, the first data source were taken from one of Westlife's album entitled "Coast to Coast" which was released in 2000 and the second data source was taken from one of the My Chemical Romance's album entitled "Welcome to The Black Parade" which was released in 2006. While the data source in this study was taken from album "Bigger Love" of John Legend songs.

## **2.2 Concepts**

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

### **2.2.1 Figurative Language**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963), figurative language is sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor because it is the Greek ancestor "Metepherein" means to carry meaning beyond its literal meaning. In general, figurative language is describing something by comparing it to something else. On the other hand, figurative language is the communication tool that arrangement of words and sentences by the author or speaker in expressing ideas and experiences to influence the reader or listener. According to Keraf (2009: 113), figurative language or style is a way of showing mind through a special language that shows the soul and the characteristic of the writer (language user). Figurative language is often found in literary works such as poem, drama, theater, and song lyrics.

### 2.2.2 Song

Song is music, typically vocal, that is performed by singing or accompanying musical instruments. According to Hornby (1995: 1133) song is a piece of music with words that is sung. A song is a work composed of lyrics and music. The purpose of singing the lyrics is to produce a commensurate feeling or emotion in relation to a particular matter

### 2.2.3 Lyrics

A song's lyrics are a series of words that roughly correspond to the format of a verse and chorus. The lyrics to a song may be explicit or implicit. Some lyrics are abstract and almost incomprehensible. In such cases, the description emphasizes shape, clarity, meters, and symmetry of expression. A lyric is a composition created by someone who has imagination and is able to create words that have deep meaning. Music and lyrics combined would be a wonderful song and pleasing to the ear. According to Hornby (2000: 802), he stated that the lyrics express a person's personal feelings and thoughts associated with singing and written for a lyric poem words of a song.

### 2.2.4 John Legend

John Legend is American singer and songwriter, record producer, actor, film producer, and philanthropist. Born in December 28, 1978, Springfield, Ohio, U.S. Prior to the release of Legend's debut album *Get Lifted* (2004), he collaborated with already-established artists and signed to Kanye West's GOOD Music. Legend has sung on Jay-Z's "Encore", Alicia Keys's "You Don't Know My Name", Dilated Peoples' "This Way", Slum Village's "Selfish", Fort Minor's "High Road", and

played piano on Lauryn Hill's "Everything Is Everything". Legend's single "All of Me" from his fourth studio album *Love in the Future* (2013) was a *Billboard* Hot 100 number-one hit.

In 2007, Legend received the Hal David Starlight Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Legend won the Academy Award for Best Original Song and Golden Globe Award in 2015 for co-writing the song "Glory" from the film *Selma*. He has also won eleven Grammy Awards. In 2017, Legend received a Tony Award for co-producing *Jitney* for the Broadway stage. In 2018, Legend portrayed Jesus Christ in NBC's adaptation of the rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*. He received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for his acting role, and won for his role as a producer of the show, making him one of 16 people and the first black man to have won all four of the following awards: Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony (EGOT). Legend is also the second youngest person to have achieved this milestone. Since 2019, Legend has been featured as a coach on *The Voice*.

#### **2.2.5 “Bigger Love” Album**

*Bigger Love* is seventh studio album by John Legend. It was released on June 19, 2020. The “Bigger Love” album has sixteen song lyric and the song contained in the “Bigger Love” album entitle: Ooh Laa, Action, I Do, One Life, Wild, Bigger Love, U Move I Move, Favorite Place, Slow Cooker, Focused, Conversations in the Dark, Don’t Walk Away, Remember Us, I’m Ready, Always, and Never Break.

## 2.3 Theories

In writing scientific work, this study must adopt a certain theory to analyze the data in order to achieve the result which can be scientifically accepted. There are some theories that were used which are connecting with the topic and also give the definition of figurative language. There would be main theories in this writing. The main theories about figurative language was used from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367). It was used to find out the types of figurative language used in the song lyric of. The theory of meaning John Legend album "Bigger Love". Proposed by Leech (1974: 10) was used to explain the meaning of song lyrics by John Legend album "Bigger Love"

### 2.3.1 Theory of Figurative Language

There are many types of figurative language which is very interesting to discuss. According to Knickerbockers and Reninger (1963: 367), figurative language is an ancestor of Greek, so it is sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor. "Metepherein" means to carry meaning beyond its meaning literal meaning (Meta= beyond + pherein to bring –i.e., to bring beyond). In general, Knickerbocker and Renninger proposed several metaphorical languages such as simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, synecdoche, hyperbole, irony, paradox, death metaphor and allusion.

### 2.3.1.1 Simile

Simile is a stated comparison, introduced by the words 'like' or 'as'. For example: "my love is like a red rose". (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 367).

The word "like" in this sentence has function to compare "my love" to 'red rose'. The comparison is explicit and its common method to describe the beauty of the girl by comparing her with red rose. Red rose is usually identical with beautiful things.

### 2.3.1.2 Metaphor

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) Metaphor is an implied comparison introduced by a word that means 'like' or 'as'. For example: "life's but walking shadow". The expression above instead of saying life is like a walking shadow. Metaphor and simile are closely related because comparing the different things. Metaphor also often call an implied simile. In simile, the comparison is seen clearly. This is contrary to metaphor that compare the thing implicitly. A metaphor is an extended comparison whereas a simile is a short comparison.

### 2.3.1.3 Personification

Personification is a metaphor, in the sense that there is implied comparison between a non-human Give objects, animals, or abstract concepts human characteristics (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 367). For example: "the old train crept along the narrow" The old train is just like human being with the word "crept" that is meaning crawl. These honor comes, a pilgrim gray.

In the sentence above the writer wants to give a special sense to the word honor in the sentence. Because the words come only for humans, but honor is non-human.

#### **2.3.1.4 Synecdoche**

Synecdoche is a figure of speech that showing the use of part for He whole. In other word synecdoche change some detail of an experience for the experience itself. For example: "For example: "Fifty winters passed by him" (Knickerbocker and Renninger, 1963: 367).

The word "winters" uses a part for the whole sentence and means in this sentence that fifty years have passed.

#### **2.3.1.5 Metonymy**

Metonymy is a figure of expression that uses the name of one thing to talk about another thing that is associated with it (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 367). Metonymy is the use of a term naming one of its close associated objects instead of the word itself. From the example, "the crown" is identical with the king, a person who leads an empire or a kingdom. The empire itself has a king and a crown as symbol of government.

#### **2.3.1.6 Hyperbole**

Hyperbola is a phrase used to make a point. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 367). Example: Drink only with gratitude and catch it as a shooting star. It is called hyperbole because the sentences above are overstatements. It is impossible that no one could catch a falling star and the star a not fall.

### 2.3.1.7 Irony

Irony is a statement that has a meaning that is opposite of its intended or expressed meaning. For example: “the czar is the voice of a god and shall live forever”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 427).

The czar is a normal human being and the voices comes out from the mouth is generally not different from the human. The meaning of the above sentence is that "emperor" is an authoritarian individual. The czar only a normal human being not the choice of god and cannot live forever. The word “shall live forever” is opposed the real meaning that we cannot live forever.

### 2.3.1.8 Paradox

Paradox is a statement of which the surface or obvious meaning seems to be illogical, even absurd but making good sense upon closer examination (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 367). For example: “Light is the darkest thing in physics”.

From that sentence, the words “light”, “darkest”, and “physic” are a paradox, because it is part of sense similar to human being having a legs and hands for making good sense.

### 2.3.1.9 Dead Metaphor

Dead metaphor is the metaphor which has lost its figurative meaning through endless use. For example: “the back of the chair the face of the clock”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 367). It is called dead metaphor because it is gives more stress to things which is talked about.

In this case “the back of the chair” shows the specific part of the chair, which become the central part of the topic. That’s also why in this sentence, the face of the clock becomes the central topic.

#### **2.3.1.10 Allusion**

Allusion is a reference to a known place or person. It is not a comparison in the exact sense, but the figure in sense that implied than the narrow meaning. For example: “No! I am not prince Hamlet, nor was mean to be” (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963: 367).

Sentence above implied that no one to be a prince and the Prince Hamlet itself in an honest way acknowledgement that is not a prince himself.

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

According to Leech (1974: 10) the meanings of words are complex, where they have components such as ideas, qualities, relationships, personal feelings, and associations. In this semantic stated that there are seven types of meaning, such are: conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, stylistic meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocat meaning, and thematic meaning.

##### **2.3.2.1 Conceptual Meaning**

Leech (1974: 10) stated that conceptual meaning or sometime called denotative or cognitive meaning is widely assumed to be the central factor in verbal communication Leech (1974: 13) states that the purpose of denotative meaning is to provide a given interpretation of a sentence, an abstract configuration of symbols, that indicates exactly what we need to know if we are to distinguish that meaning

from all other possibilities. The meaning of the sentence in the language it is basic propositional meaning, which correspond to primary dictionary definition.

### **2.3.2.2 Connotative Meaning**

Connotative meaning is an expression of communicative value based on what is referred to, above, and above its pure content (Leech, 1974: 14-15). Talking about connotation is in fact talking about the real world experience one association with an expression when one uses or hear it. Connotations are relatively unstable i.e., they vary widely as we have seen, according to culture, historical period, and individual experience of connotative meanings as uncertain and open in the same sense as our knowledge and beliefs about the open universe. Leech said that the connotative meaning is not specific to languages, but is shared with other order communicative systems, such as in music and visual art. For example: the word “women” can mean in conceptual ways pass through three characteristic human, male, + adult then that three characteristic must give a right word in uses. In the different explanation or in the “real word”, can be attributing from that reference (which is reference by the word). However, also found as much as characteristic which one not entered in those criteria which already we know also can be the reference by the word “women”. The reference not only includes physical characteristics (have two legs, have a womb) but also mental and social characteristics, have a friend, have a motherly instinct.

### 2.3.2.3 Stylistic Meaning

Stylistic meaning is a piece of language conveys about the circumstance of its use (Leech, 1974: 14). In part we “decode” the social meaning of a text through our recognition of different dimension and level of style within the same language. A recent account of English has recognized some main dimension of stylistic variations. For example:

1. They threw stones at the police, and then carried out loot.
2. After casting the stone at the police, they absconded with the money.

Sentence (a) can be uttered by two criminals who talk casually about the crime afterwards; sentence (b) can be said by the National Police Chief in making the official report, both can describe the same incident.

### 2.3.2.4 Affective Meaning

Affective meaning is meaning is more directly a reflection of the speaker’s personal attitude or feeling towards the listener or the target of the utterance. Such feeling or attitudes are usually negative or insincere in nature they are typically expressed through such forms of language use insults, flattery, hyperbole, or sarcasm. For example: in order to get people attention to be quite, we might say either (1) “I’m terribly sorry to interrupt, but I wonder if you would be so kind "Lower your voice a little" or (2) "Do you want to raise your belt?". Factor such an intonation and timbre are also important here. The impression of politeness in sentence (1) can be reserved by the ironic biting tone. Sentence (2), when delivered,

can turn into a playful statement among intimate people with the intonation of a mild request.

### **2.3.2.5 Reflected Meaning**

Reflected meaning involves a link at the lexical level of the language. "This is meaning, which arises in the case of multiple conceptual meanings, when one sense of a word forms part of our response to another meaning (Leech, 1974: 16)"

For example: in church ceremony, the synonymous expressions of The Comforter and The Holy Ghosts. Both refers to the third person form. My reaction to the technical term is formed by nonreligious meaning from comfort and ghost. The mean "who support" while the words "The Holy Ghost" seems like fear something, (Leech, 1974: 21)

### **2.3.2.6 Collocative Meaning**

Collocative meaning consists of word associations that are obtained because of the meaning of the word, which tends to occur in its environment. For example, the words "handsome" and "pretty" share a common rationale for "cool", but can be distinguished by a range of nouns the word of handsome is collocated with man, vessel, typewriter, car, etc. Not all potential differences in harmony can be explained as collocative meanings, some may be due to stylistic differences, others due to conceptual differences, (Leech, 1974: 22 - 23)

### 2.3.2.7 Thematic Meaning

According to Leech (1974:19) The method of communication in which the speaker or writer organizes the message in terms of order, focus, and emphasis.

Sentence like the following illustrated this:

- a. Mrs. Bessie Smith donated the first prize
- b. The first prize was donated by Mrs. Bessie Smith.

The sentences above have a different communicate value, where is the sentence show the different context, in the sentences the active sentence give answered about disguised “what Mrs. Bessie Smith donated?” while the passive voice answers the implication question “who donated the first prize?” But the real conditions are the same as the sentence, in our opinion it is impossible to find a situation where the sentence is accurate, while the second is an inaccurate report, (Leech, 1974: 25-26).

