

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Everything we do in life needs language. Language has a role as a medium to maintain our social relationship as human beings who need communications. With the language people can communicate their feelings, thoughts, and ideas, create and maintain personal and public relationships, sharing emotions and imaginations (Rabiah, 2012: 4). Language itself can be transformed into spoken or written form. How the speaker and the listener or the reader communicate and understand each other depends on how they use and understand that language.

Meaning is very important in a language. Learning about language meaning practically to prevent misunderstanding happens when we listen to a conversation, speech or reading a text and help us understand what is being conveyed. In literature, the scientific study of language, semantics is the one that elaborated specifically about the language meaning, which is related closely to human ability to think logically and to understand (Bagha, 2011).

In communication and understanding the meaning of a text realized that we do not only use language literally but also figurative languages which is a part of semantics. Figurative languages are used to create the beauty of specific text and emphasize the importance of the text with artistic words. John Arthos in Mezo, Richard E. (1999) *"Fire i' the Blood": A Handbook of Figurative Language* stated that figures of speech are traditionally considered as words or expressions

that primarily functioned as ornament and making their appeal through novelty. That is the figurative language that should not be taken literally using figure of speech. They create words, phrases, or sentences to become more beautiful, interesting, and alive, making the imagination more real. Figurative languages say less or even more than what they mean, opposite than what they mean or even something different than what they really mean. These are the common and mostly known types of figurative languages; *simile*, *metaphor*, *personification*, *metonymy*, *synecdoche*, *hyperbole*, and *litotes*. But there are still many more types of figurative languages other than those seven.

Figurative languages are mostly used for poetry and used in song lyrics and fiction. One of the most popular living forms of fictions is novel. Novel comes from Italian *novella*, Spanish *novela*, and French *nouvelle*, which means something new news or story. It is a long narrative that covers various topics with varied styles and at the end gaining various effects like dramatically, aesthetically, publicly and critically. According to Richard Taylor in *Understanding the Elements of Literature* (1981: 46), novel is a prose work with quite some length and complexity that attempts to reflect and express the value of human experiences.

A Thousand Splendid Suns is a novel by Khaled Hosseini an Afghan-American novelist who best portrayed the story. This novel released in 2007 and became a hit with million copies in only its first week of released and then stayed in New York Times bestseller for fifteen weeks and placed number three of *Top 10 Fiction books of 2007* by *Time Magazine*. This novel told the story about the

life of two women in the setting of volatile events of Afghanistan the last thirty years. How these two women's struggles to survive, raise a family and find their happiness along with the history of Afghanistan around them.

This novel is using many of figurative languages to portray the characters and event along the story, and make the story not only interesting but became alive. Therefore, the researcher decided to analyze the types of figurative languages and their meaning used in this novel with the title of the thesis *An Analysis of Figurative Language in the Novel A Thousand Splendid Suns Written by Khaled Hosseini.*

1.2 Problems of the Study

According to the title of this thesis, the researcher framing the problems of this study as follows:

1. What types of figurative language are found in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini?
2. What are the meanings of figurative language used in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This thesis is aimed to achieve two objectives:

1. To find out the types of figurative languages used in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

2. To analyze and describe the meaning of figurative languages used in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

Based on the background of this thesis, the researcher limits this thesis to focus on the analysis of figurative language in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. Identifying what types of figurative languages are used and analyzing their meaning is this thesis's main focus.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This thesis is expected to give significance as follows:

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

This thesis would contribute to enrich the researches and studies in linguistics field especially in semantics and figurative language, and later can be a reference and input for further research in the related field.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

This thesis would give more understanding about language and figurative language to the society. How they are used to enrich a novel, makes a novel became interesting and the story alive. Especially give a better understanding about the use of figurative language in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPTS, AND THEORIES

This study showed the review of previous related studies to this research, the concepts and theories used to analyze the problems.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

To research about figurative language, there are plenty of previous researches that could be used as reference. Therefore, this thesis taken some previous researches related to figurative language that would be reviewed below. This is to compare the aspects and results found in those references and what would be found in this research.

The first reference is a thesis entitled *Figurative Languages in O Henry's Short Stories* by Aritonang (2018). This thesis aimed to determine what types of figurative languages are used in O Henry's Short story and what the dominantly used type is. As the theory, this research used the theory of figurative language from Giroux & Williston (1974) and Little (1985), stylistic theory from Simpson (2004) and pragmatics theory from Yule (1996). This thesis found thirteen types of figurative language which are rhetoric, asyndeton, litotes, metonymy, metaphor, repetition, ellipsis, aptronym, euphemism, personification, hyperbole, simile, and pleonasm, with personification as the dominantly used type of figurative language in its data source. Meanwhile the method used in this thesis is descriptive qualitative method.

The similarity between the thesis above with this thesis, them both analyzed the types of figurative language using the descriptive qualitative method. Meanwhile they are using different theories and conducted different result. The thesis above used the theory of figurative language proposed by Giroux and Williston (1974) and the theory of stylistic and pragmatics. This thesis on the other hand used the theory of figurative language proposed by Perinne (1977) and theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1974). For the result, the thesis above found thirteen types, and this thesis found only seven types.

The second reference is an article entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Views (Opinion Column) of Online Padang Ekspres Newspaper* by Nurhaida and Marlina (2017). The aim of this article was to identify the types and meaning of figurative languages used in Online Padang Ekspres Newspaper in March until May 2016 editions. The writers used a theory by Keraf (2009) and translated the text into English before analyzing them. One hundred words and phrases found as figurative languages which are divided into 66 metaphors, 25 similes and 9 personifications with the dominant one is metaphor. The method used in this article is descriptive qualitative method.

The similarity of the article with this thesis are in the problems and the method. They both analyzed the types of figurative language and the meaning used the descriptive qualitative method. However the theory used were different, so the result. The article above used the theory from Keraf (2009) and resulted three types of figurative language from 100 data, meanwhile this thesis used the theory from Perinne (1977) and found 73 data of seven figurative types.

The last reference is an article by Tiarawati and Ningsih (2019) entitled *Figurative Language Analysis on The Ugly Love Novel by Colleen Hoover*. This article aimed to analyze the types of figurative language found in that novel by used the theory of Leech in Dewi (2010) with descriptive qualitative method. After analyzed the data, the writers found 6 (six) types of figurative language which are 33 personifications, 19 similes, 11 irony, 10 hyperbole, 9 metaphors, and 5 metonymy. The dominantly used type in the *Ugly Love* novel is personification.

The similarity of this thesis and the article above, both of them alalyzed the types of figurative language in the novel used the descriptive qualitative method. However the theory used was different so was the result. The article above used the theory from Leech in Dewi (2010) and found six types of figurative language and this thesis used the theory from Perinne (1977) and Leech (1974) and found six figurative types with the dominant one is simile.

2.2 Concepts

In this part, the study presented several concepts according to the topic of this study. The concepts as follows:

2.2.1 Figurative Language

John Arthos in Mezo, Richard E. (1999) *"Fire i' the Blood": A Handbook of Figurative Language* stated that figures of speech are traditionally considered as words or expressions that primarily functioned as ornament and making their appeal through novelty. Figurative languages create the words, phrase or sentence

become more beautiful, interesting, alive and make the imagination more real. Figurative languages say less or even more than what they mean, opposite than what they mean or even something different than what they really mean.

2.2.2 Novel

Novel is a most important kind of prose fiction works in the eighteenth century. In telling the story, novel usually experimenting with various kind of narrative perspectives and be a piece of prose fiction to presents characters based on real-life events and situations (Hasan, 2015). Taylor in *Understanding the Elements of Literature* (1981: 46) explained that novel is a prose work of quite some length and complexity that reflect and express the values of human experiences or conducts.

2.2.3 Khaled Hosseini

Khaled Hosseini is an Afghanistan-American novelist who is also a doctor. He is living in northern California, yet born in Kabul, Afghanistan, made him succeed in released three best-selling novels with the background of Afghanistan. They are *The Kite Runner*, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and *And the Mountain Echoed*.

2.3 Theories

In scientific work, the study should take certain theory in order to analyze the data to achieve the result which can be scientifically accepted. There are some theories used which connecting to the topic and giving the definition about figurative language. In this part, there will be the main theories of this research.

The main theory of figurative language taken from Perrinne (1977: 60) will be used to find out and analyze the types of figurative language in the novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini. Furthermore, the theory of meaning taken from Leech (1974: 10) will be used to explain the meaning of each figurative language used in that novel.

2.3.1 Figurative Language

Figurative language is word or phrase expression that used to convey meaning in a different way from the literal. Figurative language often found in literary works such as newspaper articles, novels, poems, advertisements, short story, song lyrics, and many more. Although it is rarely used in daily conversation, however, without realizing people also use figurative language in everyday speech through writing or conversations. Common expressions that came across as figurative speech such as *falling in love*, *climbing the leader of success* and *hitting a sales target* which all are metaphor (Habibi, 2016: 11).

Theoretically, according to Jay (2003: 313) figurative language refers to languages that are used to describe or compare two different things to make it clear and interesting. Figurative language can not be translated or interpreted literally. Moreover, it is also not easy to understand the meaning of figurative language for it can be ambiguous for them who do not understand figurative languages. Grice in Jay (2003: 314) stated that listeners, as well as readers, should pay extra cognitive works to understand the meaning of what being said through figurative language.

Figurative language requires people's imagination to be able to figure out what the intended meaning of the author. When the author used literal language, he or she simply stated the fact of what is being said as they are. But figurative language uses exaggerations or alterations to create particular effect to the readers. Kennedy (1983: 479) referring figurative language as words or group of words that exaggerate or alter the usual meaning into figure of speech to create freshness or emphasize the meaning.

2.3.2 Types of Figurative Language

Figurative language or language that using figure of speech is any expressions of saying something in different and unique way that should not be taken literally. Some rhetoricians classified around 250 types of figurative language but there are some types of figurative language according to Perinne in his book titled *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry* (1977: 60-109). The types are as follow:

a. Metaphor

Metaphor is ways of comparing things that are essentially unlike which the comparison implied the figurative term substituted for or identified with the literal term (Perrine, 1977: 60). For example metaphor in the sentence *life's but a walking shadow* (Knickerbocker & Reninger, 1974: 283) comparing *life* with a *walking shadow*.

b. Simile

Simile is a means of comparing things that are essentially unlike with the comparison expressed by the use of some word or phrase such as *like*, *as*, *than*,

similar to, resemble, or seems (Perinne, 1977: 60). For example, *my love is like a red rose* (Knickerbocker & Reninger, 1974: 283) which is comparing the lover with a red rose using the term *like* between them.

c. Personification

Personification is way of giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or a concept. The term of comparison in personification is always a human being. (Perrine, 1977: 64). For example *the startled little waves* (Browning in Perinne, 1977: 64), *my little horse must think it queer to stop without a farmhouse near* (Knickerbocker & Reninger, 1974: 283).

d. Apostrophe

Apostrophe is a term that used for addressing absent or dead person or something nonhuman as if it is alive, present and could replay to what the speaker said. For example, in James Joyce's poem, he is apostrophizing his departed sweetheart by: *my love, my love, my love, why have you left me alone?* (Perinne, 1977: 65).

e. Synecdoche

Synecdoche is the use of the part for the whole or conversely the usage of the whole for a specific part, to substitute sort of significant detail or aspect of an experience for the experience itself. For example, Shakespeare used synecdoche to referring a married man by *a married ear* and T. S. Elliot used *a pair of ragged claws* to refer to a crab or lobster (Perinne, 1977: 67). Another example such as *fifty winters passed him by* to explain the whole years and *the halcyon year* for the part summer (Knickerbocker & Reninger, 1974: 283).

f. Metonymy

Metonymy is a term of using something that related closely to the thing actually meant to substitute some significant detail or aspect of an experience for the experience itself. For example, Shakespeare said that the yellow Cuckoo-buds *paint the meadows with delight* (Perinne, 1977: 67).

g. Symbol

Symbol defined as something that means more than what it actually is. Symbol varies in the degree of identification and definition given by the authors. Symbol actually is the richest and the most difficult part of poetical figures as the result of its imprecision. For example in the sentence *you can not teach an old dog new tricks* (Perinne, 1977: 81).

h. Allegory

Allegory is a term of narrative or description that contains a second meaning beneath the surface meaning. In allegory, the surface description have its own importance, meanwhile the major importance contained in the ulterior meaning. Allegory involves a system of related comparisons and puts less emphasis on the images for their own sake and more on their ulterior meanings. Allegory is an effective way of making the abstract concrete and has occasionally been used effectively even in fairly short poems (Perrine, 1977: 88).

Example: ... *there was a Prince of old, at Salem dwelt, who lived with good increase, of flock and fold* ... (Perinne, 1977: 90).

i. Paradox

Paradox is a term of obvious contradiction between two things which nevertheless could be true. It may be either situation or a statement. But as a figure of speech, paradox is a statement. The value of paradox is its shock value where it seems impossibility startles the reader into attention and it underscores the truth of what is being said.

Example: *damn with faint praise* (Perinne, 1977: 101); *the normal is the rarest thing in the world* (Knickerbocker & Reninger, 1974: 284).

j. Overstatement/Hyperbole

Overstatement or hyperbole is a term in which the service of truth is exaggerated. A statement using hyperbole in the purpose to adding emphasis to what it really means. Overstatement may be used with a variety of effects such as humorous or grave, fanciful or restrained, convincing or unconvincing.

Example: *there were literally millions of people at the dance!* (Perinne, 1977: 102); *go and catch a falling star* (Knickerbocker & Reninger, 1974: 284).

k. Understatement

Understatement is emphasizing a truth by saying less than one means. Understatement exists in what people say or merely in how people say it. As an example when a man says, *this looks like a good bite* in front of a loaded plate, he is merely stated an understatement by saying less than the reality (Perrine, 1977: 103).

1. Irony

Irony is saying the opposite or the other of what one means. Irony is a literary device or figure that could be used in the service of sarcasm or ridicule or might not. Irony may be used without either sarcastic or satirical intent, sarcasm and satire may exist without irony. Irony as figurative language is capable of adding extra dimension to meaning.

Irony itself consists of three types which are *verbal irony*, *dramatic irony* and *irony of situation*. Though irony always implies some types of discrepancy or incongruity, in verbal irony the incongruity is between what is said and what is meant, in dramatic irony the incongruity is not between what the speaker says and what he means but between what the speaker says and what the author means, meanwhile in irony of situation the incongruity is between the actual condition and those that seem appropriate or between what the person anticipates and what that really happened (Perinne, 1977: 104).

Example: *here's some bad news for you: you all got A's and B's!*" (Perinne, 1977: 105).

2.3.3 Theory of Meaning

Semantics is a branch of linguistics associated with meaning. Semantics is taken into account as a study of meaning in language. It linked with the expression of linguistic objects like word, phrases and sentences. Leech (1974: 5) stated that there is no escape from language. This statement emphasize that semantics (as the study of language meaning) is central to the study of communication; and as communication becomes more and greatly an important factor in social life, the

need to understand it becomes more pressing. Semantics is not only the center of communication study but also the center of the study of the human mind-thought processes, cognition, and conceptualization. All these are bound up with how we classify and convey our experiences through language.

Language is a vital tool for human to communicate to one another. The language, which is used by the human beings as tools of communication, indicates a certain meaning. Meaning itself plays a significant and crucial role in communication, as good desired interaction depends on how the meaning delivered.

Many linguists have classified meaning from different point of view based on their reasoning and according to Leech (1974) there are seven types of meaning as follows:

a. Conceptual Meaning

This conceptual meaning is logical, cognitive or denotative content of meaning. It is an inextricable and essential part of what language is, such that one can scarcely define language without referring to it. For example the meaning of the word *woman* could be specified as *human, not male and adult* (Leech, 1974: 10).

b. Connotative meaning

Connotative meaning is communicative value and the expression that the referred meaning is above its pure conceptual content. And it includes not only physical characteristic, but also social properties and psychological, for instance: the word *red* has the connotation of *brave* (Leech, 1974: 14).

c. Stylistic or Social meaning

Stylistic meaning is meaning of language (or word) that conveys the social circumstances where it is used. The stylistic meaning can be 'decoded' through the recognition of different dimensions and levels of usage within the same language. The language is connected with the situation in which it is uttered, for examples the word *horse*, *steed* and *nag*. They have the same conceptual meaning but they convey different social circumstances of their use where horse used in general, steed for poetic purpose, and nag is a slang word (Leech, 1974: 16).

d. Affective meaning

Affective meaning is meaning that expresses writers' or speakers' personal feelings or attitude. This is also often conveyed explicitly by the conceptual or connotative content of words used. In this type of meaning, tone of voice is important to create the impressions towards the reader or the hearer. The example can be found in these following sentence; *you're a vicious tyrant and a villainous reprobate, and I hate you for it!* That would adressed different feeling with, *I'm terribly sorry to interrupt, but I wonder of you would be so kind as to lower your voices a little* (Leech, 1974: 18).

e. Reflected meaning

Reflected meaning is the meaning that appear from the multiple conceptual meaning case, when one sense of a word forming another sense into the part of our response. For example, the term *The Comforter* in church service could reflect the warm and comforting meaning to the hearer. Or the replacement of the word

cock into *rooster* is due to the taboo influence of the former word (Leech, 1974: 19).

f. Collocative meaning

Collocative meaning consists of the association of a word acquires on account of the meanings of words which tend to occur in its environment. For example, the words pretty and handsome have common ground in the meaning of good-looking (Leech, 1974: 20).

g. Thematic meaning

Thematic meaning is the meaning that being communicated by how the speakers or writers organize the message in terms of ordering, focus and emphasis. This is mainly depending on the choice between alternative grammatical construction, such as active or passive sentence and lexical means, or the stressed word and intonation that highlight the information (Leech, 1974: 22).

