

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language functions as one of communication equipment that has its own meaning. Going into deeper understanding of language and how words, phrases, and sentences convey a meaning, it is referred to as a semantic meaning. Semantics goes beyond simple definitions and it involves understanding. Lehrer (2012), stated that semantics is the study of meaning in language, and is a broad field of study that includes aspects of language structure and function. Meanwhile, Kempson (1977) stated that semantics is a discipline that bridges linguistics and philosophy, but linguistics students are rarely able to reach this bridge, let alone cross it to investigate and evaluate the activities on the other side. Semantics have parts in the study and one of them is figurative language.

Figurative language is part of semantics that deals with meanings beyond straightforward literal interpretation. Figurative language is commonly found in literary and performing arts, such as novels, poems, songs, and other artistic texts. In relation to literary texts, figurative language is used to convey meanings indirectly and to enrich the aesthetic value of the text. Todorov's (1982) perspective mentioned that figurative language is a tool that authors use to shape the meaning of a text and create a more engaging narrative. In addition, figurative language in

general is seen as language that has a different degree with the literality depending on people's understanding. Figurative language is positioned as a linguistic feature within literary and artistic text.

Song is a brief music with a set of poetic words that people can sing, and lyrics are the collection of sentences to make up the song and to transfer the message from the song writer to the listener. In addition, songs are usually consist of verse, pre-chorus, chorus, and bridge. According to Grolier in Encyclopedia American, song is a short musical work based on a poetic text, where music and lyrics are equally important. Lyrics is a message from the song writer's heart and the music will accompany the feeling of the lyrics. Beside enjoying the musical notes people can gain knowledge by interpreting the lyrics that are related to the things in the world. since song lyrics frequently employ figurative language to deliver abstract ideas, it is important to examine this aspect in order to understand the messages within the song lyrics. Thus, this study analyzed figurative expressions in song lyrics from Wave to Earth's selected songs.

Wave to Earth started out in 2019 as a part of Korea's indie rock movement and garnered significant attention both domestically and internationally. They gained popularity by its mellow, dreamy soundscapes, often featuring introspective lyrics, smooth melodies, and through streaming services and live performances. Currently, Wave to Earth has 4 albums and 36 songs in total. Wave to Earth songs were chosen as data sources because their english lyrics are easily accesible and officially released, allowing accurate and reliable data collection. In addition, the

band's popularity and international audience make the songs relevant for contemporary linguistic studies.

Based on the description above, figurative language is intended to be explored in selected songs from Wave to Earth, because Wave to Earth combines earth and celestial elements to describe real life emotions and experiences. Despite the use of unique imagery, some people have struggled to understand the meaning of the lyrics. The importance of understanding the precise meaning of the imagery in Wave to Earth's lyrics is acknowledged. Therefore, this study identified the types of figurative language and the meanings of each figurative expression found in selected Wave to Earth songs.

## **1.2 Problems of the Study**

Based on the provided background of the study some people are struggling to understand Wave to Earth song lyrics. Therefore, the problems in this study formulated as follows :

1. What types of figurative language are found in Wave to Earth's selected song lyrics?
2. What is the meaning of figurative languages that are found in Wave to earth's song lyrics?

### 1.3 Objectives of the Study

In general, this study aims to provide a deeper understanding of figurative language to enhance knowledge of its theory and practical application. As a result, the specific objectives of this study are :

1. To find out types of figurative language that found in Wave to Earth's selected song lyrics.
2. To analyze the meaning of figurative languages that found in Wave to Earth's selected song lyrics.

### 1.4 Limitation of the Study

Within the limits of this research, the study focuses on figurative language, as stated in the research question. The study analysis is limited to :

1. Types of figurative language found in wave to earth's selected song lyrics.
2. The meaning of figurative language found wave to earth's selected song lyrics.

### 1.5 Significance of the Study

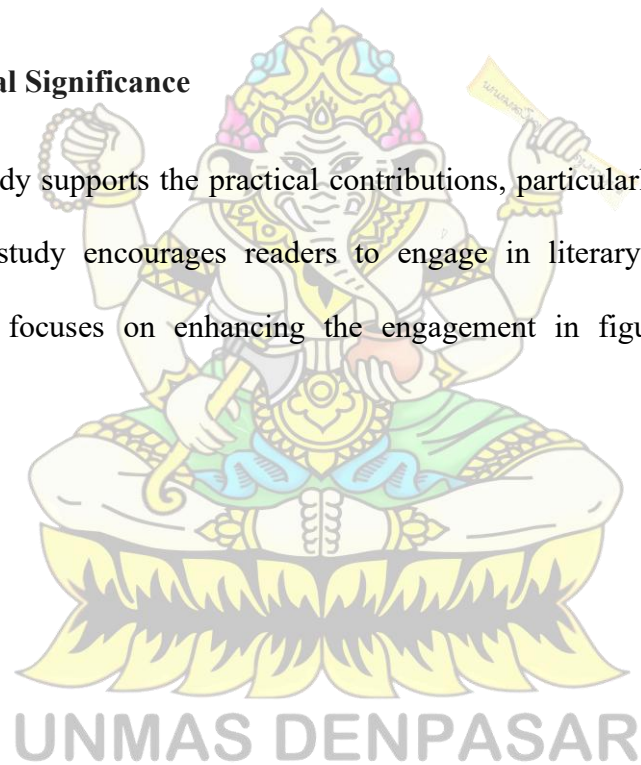
The study of figurative language unlocks a deep meaning on how humans communicate. Exploring this study encourages boundless creativity and allows the readers to appreciate the art of expressions. This study provides both theoretical and practical support, the significance of the study can be elaborated as follows :

### 1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

This study in a theoretical way aims to facilitate the readers in understanding figurative language. Specifically, it intends to enable readers to understand and differentiate between various types of figurative language. The analysis is centered on Wave to Earth's song lyrics.

### 1.5.2 Practical Significance

This study supports the practical contributions, particularly in educational settings. This study encourages readers to engage in literary analysis. More specifically, it focuses on enhancing the engagement in figurative language examination.



## CHAPTER II

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

#### 2.1 Review of Related Literature

Previous studies about figurative language are reviewed in this section. In order to get a base for comparison to the study in this paper, five previous studies are employed, consisting of two thesis and three journal articles. These studies hold significant importance in the study of figurative language within song lyrics

The first thesis was carried out by Hidayatullah (2022) entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language in Maher Zain’s Song Lyrics”. The study sets out three main objectives. First, to identify the types of figurative language found in Maher Zain’s song lyrics; second, to analyze and explain their meanings; and third, to explore the reasons behind their use. To address these objectives, a qualitative approach was employed in analyzing the data. 11 Maher Zain’s song lyrics are used in this study. This study relies on the theory of expert Leech (1981) to identify six types of figurative language, as well as the theory of figurative language meaning by Turner (2014) and Harya (2017). The categories of figurative language revealed in this study were 47 of hyperbole, 7 of metaphor, 2 of simile, 2 of personification, 2 of metonymy, 2 of irony, and 1 of litotes. The dominant type of figurative language in this study was hyperbole. The similarity between the first study and this study lies in their shared objectives of identifying the types of figurative language and analyzing the meanings of figurative language in song lyrics. The differences

between the first study and this study is in the use of figurative language meaning theory, where the first study and this study is in the use of figurative language meaning theory, where the first study referred to Turner (2014) and Harya (2017). Meanwhile, this study employed Leech (1981) theory to analyze the research problems.

The second thesis came from Muzzaqi (2020) entitled “An Analysis on Figurative Language in Shawn Mendes Selected Song”. This study is intended to classify the figurative language in Shawn Mendes’ songs and to discuss the meanings conveyed through the lyrics. To support this thesis, the meaning of figurative language was supported by Keraf’s (2009) theory and Rozakis’ theory for types of figurative language. This study used a qualitative method for the research. The data in this study was taken from Shawn Mendes’ selected songs. In this study, there are 6 types of figurative language, namely 12 of hyperbole, 6 of personification, 3 of paradox, 2 of simile, 2 of metaphor, 1 of synecdoche. Metaphor is a dominant form of figurative language in Shawn Mendes’ chosen songs. The similarity between the second study and this study lies in their shared objective of identifying the types of figurative language in song lyrics. However, the second study focuses on explaining the implicit messages in Shawn Mendes’ songs, whereas this study aims to analyze and interpret the figurative language found in selected songs by Wave to Earth.

The third study is an article written by Yusnitasari et al. (2022) entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language on The Song Lyrics “You Are My Sunshine” by Anne Murray”. This study focuses on analysing the types of figurative language

found on the song lyrics “You are My Sunshine”. This study applied a descriptive qualitative method in their study. Figurative language meaning in this study supported with expert’s theory by Mc Arthur (1992:402). The data for this study was taken from one of Anne Murray’s songs entitled “You are My Sunshine”. The results of this study revealed that nine varieties of figurative language were found, each accompanied by its respective number of instances. Namely, metaphor (3), hyperbole (1), symbolism (1), repetition (1), idiom (2), imagery (1). Both the third study and the present study share the same goal, namely identifying the types of figurative language in song lyrics. What distinguishes the two is the research objective. The third study focuses exclusively on the types of figurative language used in the lyrics of Anne Murray's song “You are My Sunshine” and how these types of figurative language are used in the lyrics of Anne Murray's song “You are My Sunshine”. However, this study aims to analyze the meaning of figurative language in song lyrics.

The fourth study is an article, written by Milana et al. (2021) entitled “An analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics by Saif Adam. English Language and Literature”. The study was conducted to recognize the kinds of figurative language present in Saif Adam’s songs and to highlight the type that occurs most often. In this research, the data was taken from Saif Adam’s songs. To conduct the study, descriptive qualitative methods were used. This study is supported by Perrine’s theory. The findings reveal 8 types of figurative language in Saif Adam’s songs, consisting of 14 hyperboles, 3 ironies, 20 metaphors, 11 personifications, 10 similes, 5 litotes, 10 metonymies, and 7 paradoxes. The study found the most

dominant type of figurative language was Metaphor. The common ground between the fourth study and the current study is the identification of figurative language in song lyrics. What sets the fourth study apart is its emphasis on finding the most dominant type. This study, on the other hand, aims to understand the meaning of figurative language in song lyrics.

The fifth study is an article, written by Dewi et al. (2022) entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language in the Song Lyric by Adele’s.”. In this study, the elements of figurative language were investigated to gain a deeper understanding of the types employed in Adele’s songs. To conduct this study a descriptive qualitative method was used and this study also supported by Anderson’s theory for the meaning of figurative language. 6 types of figurative language were found in this study, consisting of 5 metaphors, 3 similes, 3 symbols, 2 paradoxes, 2 instances of personification, and 2 examples of hyperbole. The similarity between the 5th study and this study lies in their shared objective of identifying types of figurative language in song lyrics. However, the difference is that the 5th study focused only on identifying the types of figurative language, whereas this study also aims to analyze and interpret the meanings conveyed by the figurative expressions found in the lyrics.

Based on the previous studies, it can be concluded that most studies on figurative language in song lyrics primarily focuses on identifying the types of figurative language and determining the dominant type used by specific artists. Some studies also examine the meanings conveyed in the lyrics using different theoretical frameworks. However this study differs from the previous ones by

focusing on the analysis and interpretation of figurative language meanings in selected songs by Wave to Earth using Leech's (1981) theory. In addition, this study examines contemporary English song lyrics, which have not been explored in the earlier studies reviewed. Therefore, this study contributes to figurative language studies by providing a different data source and a distinct theoretical approach.

## 2.2 Concepts

The purpose of this section is to explain the study's concepts so that the terms are clearly defined and readers' perceptions are not misinterpreted. Three central concepts form the foundation of this study, namely Figurative Language, Song Lyric, Wave to Earth.

## 2.3 Figurative Language

Figurative language plays a significant role in various literary forms, including songs, films, novels, and poetry. According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963), figurative language refers to language that employs figures of speech, meaning expressions that are not intended to be interpreted literally. It is used to convey deeper meanings and to extend the reader's understanding beyond the literal text. Furthermore, Sharndama and Suleiman (2013:166) stated that figurative language is commonly used in performing arts as a medium to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas implicitly rather than explicitly. From those statement,

figurative language can be understood as the use of figures of speech that convey thoughts, feelings, and ideas implicitly rather than through literal expression.

### 2.2.2 Song Lyric

Lyrics can be understood as the verbal component of a song, composed of sequences of words and expressions. Song lyrics can be a means for songwriters to express their ideas and feelings by adapting the lyrics to the song's melody. According to the Grolier, “Song is a short musical work set a poetic text with equal importance given to music and to the words”. Meanwhile, Hornby (2000:1281) proposed that “Song is a short piece of music with words that u sing”. In his book, Hornby (2000:802) explained that lyrics are written words that express one's personal feelings and thoughts.

### 2.2.3 Wave to Earth

Wave to Earth is an indie rock group from South Korea made up of three musicians, Kim Daniel as the vocalist and guitarist, Shin Donggyu on drums, and Cha Soonjong on bass. They debuted in 2019, with the ambition of “showing music that makes a new wave”. Wave to Earth has 4 albums and 36 songs in total. Wave to Earth's songs were chosen as data sources because they use a lot of figurative language to combine celestial elements and real-life elements.

## 2.3 Theories

Two theories were applied to address the research questions. This study applies Knickerbocker and Renninger's theory (1963) as the main framework for categorizing figurative expressions in Wave to Earth's song lyrics and Leech's theory (1981) as a supporting framework for analyzing their meanings.

### 2.3.1 Types of Figurative Language

There are 10 types of figurative languages according to Knickerbocker and Renninger's (1963: 367-368) theory as explained below :

#### 1. Simile

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367), A simile refers to a stylistic figure of speech that connects two different ideas by using comparison words such as "like" or "as".

Example : "My love is like a red rose."

For example above two distinct words are presented: "love" and "rose". These two words are completely unrelated because "love" is something that is invisible and we can only feel it in the heart. Meanwhile, rose is a type of flower. From the explanation above, this indicates that love is described as being as beautiful as a red rose.

## 2. Metaphor

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367), metaphor is the type of figurative language that is almost similar to simile, Metaphor compares two things in a situation. In contrast, Metaphor doesn't employ the terms "like" or "as" in comparison.

Example : "Life's but a walking shadow"

The expression "life's but a walking shadow" illustrates a type of figurative language that does not employ the words "like" or "as" to make a comparison. This figurative device is known as a metaphor, which compares two different concepts by expressing the meaning implicitly.

## 3. Personification

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367), personification is the type of figurative language that indicates the way a person gives human characteristics to animals, objects, or other objects with the aim of humanizing them. By means of simplification, this type of figurative language illustrates inanimate figures can act something like a human.

Example : "These honor comes, a pilgrim gray."

From the example, the sentence exemplifies personification. It shows that the words "honor" and "comes" have a specific meaning. Personification animates the word "honor" to be alive with the word "comes" word.

#### 4. Synecdoche

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367), Synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part or a single word is used to represent a broader meaning within a sentence.

Example :

“Fifty winters (years) passed him”

The example above can be classified as synecdoche, as the word “winters” conveys the broader context of time, meaning “fifty years passed him by.” In this case, one element is used to represent the whole idea. Poets frequently employ this figurative device to convey a greater meaning through a single term.

#### 5. Metonymy

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367), Metonymy is a type of figurative language where something is expressed through another term closely related to it.

Example : “The crown” used for “The king”

In the sentence, metonymy appears when “crown” is used to signify the king, because the crown is a symbol reserved for the supreme ruler in an autocratic system.

## 6. Hyperbole

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367), As a type of figurative expression, hyperbole involves deliberate exaggeration in order to highlight a powerful feeling or reaction. This type of figurative language doesn't convey the literal meaning. However, this figurative language expresses meaning in a dramatic way.

Example : “Go and catch a falling star”

The expression “catch a falling star” describes an action that is impossible in real life. The figurative language in that sentence is against reality because this sentence is delivered to a person that has high expectations about life.

## 7. Irony

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367), irony occurs when the conveyed meaning contradicts the literal meaning of an expression.

Example : “The czar is the choice of God and shall live forever”

The sentence shows ironic figurative language. The word “Tsar” refers to human voices coming from their mouth. Since human voices cannot last forever, the phrase “will live forever” contradicts the reality that people themselves are mortal.

## 8. Dead Metaphor

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 368), Dead metaphors refer to expressions whose figurative meaning has faded as a result of constant usage.

Example : “The back of the chair; the face of the clock”

The sentence shows a dead metaphor instead of figurative language. This is because the focus is on the subject itself. For instance, The term “back of the chair” designates the chair’s primary section that is being discussed. In the same way, “face of the clock” denotes the clock’s main component.

## 9. Allusion

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 368), allusion is the type of figurative language that takes reference from some well-known place, event, or person. This kind of figurative language doesn’t make a direct comparison of meanings, but works figuratively by suggesting a limited context.

Example : No! I am Prince Hamlet, not was meant to be”

According to the sentence, it shows the allusion figurative language. Because the sentence explains no one meant to be a prince and in an honest manner Prince Hamlet admitted that he was not a prince himself.

## 10. Paradox

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 368), paradox is a type of figurative language that seems illogical at first. Nevertheless, upon more detailed examination, an interpretable meaning can be identified.

Example : “Light is the darkest thing in physics.”

Based on the example provided, the sentence above can be classified as a paradox. The words “light”, “darkest”, and “physics” are paradoxical, the meaning of the word is close to the section of the human body that consists of both the arms and the legs.

### 2.3.2 Types of Meaning

According to Leech (1981: 9-16) Language serves to express meaning so that it is comprehensible to others. These meanings can be classified into seven types, can be elaborated as :

#### 1. Conceptual Meaning

According to Leech (1981: 9) theory, conceptual meaning is the direct meaning, also known as denotative meaning. It is an important factor in the use of linguistics communication. This category of meaning functions to explain and distinguish the differences between one interpretation and another. For instance, the word “WOMAN” in conceptual meaning can be described by three characteristics, namely Human + Female + Adult.

## **2. Connotative Meaning**

According to Leech (1981: 12), Connotative meaning is derived from the core meaning rather than the literal one. It carries communicative value that extends beyond simple conceptual meaning. It can be associated with physical, psychological, and social attributes. The meaning of “Woman” in conceptual meaning is Human + Female + Adult. Meanwhile, in connotative meaning can be defined as the changes of woman. For instance, certain physical features are often associated with femininity, for example the presence of a womb and the cultural tendency to maintain longer hair. From both emotional and cultural viewpoints, women are frequently regarded as more sensitive. Women are often recognized for certain unique qualities, such as skills in cooking and makeup.

## **3. Social Meaning**

According to Leech (1981: 14), the concept of social meaning involves the social factors and conditions that influence how language is used. Social meaning relates to the various social groups that take part in a particular context. Sentences that convey social meaning reflect the situations and conditions within their context. For instance, “I don’t have a knife yet” expresses affirmative meaning, but within a social context, such as a restaurant it functions pragmatically as a polite request when directed to the staff.

## **4. Affective Meaning**

In Leech (1981: 16) theory, affective meaning can be called as disruptive meaning or a meaning that is applied to show emotion in a sentence. For instance,

we applied impolite and high-tone pitch to show anger and inconvenience emotions. Meanwhile, we applied the relaxed and happy tone to show our friendliness and happy emotions. Expressions such as “Aha!” and “Yippie!” can be interpreted as the emotion of happiness.

### **5. Reflected Meaning**

According to Leech (1981: 16) theory, reflected meaning occurs if an expression is associated with more than one conceptual interpretation. In linguistic terms, this type of meaning is often referred to as suggestion. Moreover, Reflected Meaning can cause another response in its meaning if an understanding of a word is used. For instance, “two heroes have fallen on the battlefield”. The word “Fall” can be interpreted as “two heroes have died”. Meanwhile, the word “fall” is also categorized as one of the seasons.

### **6. Collective Meaning**

According to Leech (1981: 17) theory, collective meanings are formed from equivalent words that share a particular sense. Words with collective meaning tend to occur repeatedly alongside certain other words at a particular frequency. For instance, big business is not big or big. In semantics, collective meaning emerges through sets of vocabulary items that share related senses. ‘Beautiful’ and ‘Handsome’ interpreted as ‘Good looking’, Leech (1981: 17). However, the placement of these two words differs in their respective collocations. ‘Beautiful’ indicates women, gardens, flowers, and others. Meanwhile, ‘Handsome’ indicates men, cars, motorbikes, and others.

## 7. Thematic Meaning

Leech (1981: 19) explains thematic meaning is understood as a communicative convention in which certain emphases are arranged to reflect the speaker's focus. For Instance:

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

The first sentence is one of the active sentence examples. It emphasizes the subject and answers the question of "What did Mrs. Bessie Smith donate?". Meanwhile, the second sentence is one of the passive sentence examples. Passive sentences emphasize the object of the sentence and in this example answer the question of "Who donated the first prize?". In general knowledge, active sentences are different from passive sentences.

