

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies meaning in language. This branch examines how meaning is expressed and interpreted through words, phrases, clauses, and sentences. Semantics focuses not only on the literal or dictionary meaning of linguistic expressions, but also on the implied, contextual, and emotional meanings that appear in communication. According to Katz (1965), semantics is considered one of the main components of linguistics, comparable to phonology and syntax, and it plays an important role in determining the meaning of sentences. Similarly, According to Chaer (1994), semantics is a part of linguistics that emphasises the study of meaning in language by focussing on the connection between linguistic signs and what they imply.

Figurative language refers to the use of words or expressions that go beyond their literal meaning to convey deeper, more vivid, or more emotional ideas. Figurative language allows speakers or writers to express feelings, experiences, and abstract concepts in a more imaginative and impactful way. Rather than stating something directly, figurative language creates meaning through metaphor, hyperbole, or irony. According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963), figurative language is language that strays from the usual and literal meaning of words to achieve a special effect or convey a deeper meaning. Styles such as metaphors, similes, hyperbole, irony, and paradox are often used to

represent emotions, psychological conditions, and personal experiences indirectly. These expressions help make language more expressive and meaningful, especially in literary and artistic contexts. Heller (2011) also explains that figurative language involves the use of expressions that modify or exaggerate the ordinary meaning of words, often through analogy or hyperbole. Figurative language is not limited to everyday communication, but is also widely used in songs to enhance their appeal and artistic value. In this context, song lyrics often rely on figurative language to convey deeper meanings and emotions, making it a common feature in various forms of literature such as poetry, novels, films, and especially songs.

The Story So Far band was formed in 2007 in Walnut Creek, California. The band's name was taken from the song titled "The Story So Far" by New Found Glory. The group consists of Parker Cannon on vocals, Kevin Geyer on lead guitar, Will Levy on rhythm guitar, Ryan Torf on drums, and Kelen Capener on bass. The Story So Far is known for using figurative language in their lyrics, which add depth and Emotional resonance to their music. The use of figurative language such as metaphors, similes, and personification allows listeners to interpret the lyrics in various ways, making their songs more meaningful and relevant. From an academic perspective, analyzing the figurative language in their lyrics is important because it contributes to a deeper understanding of how linguistic creativity and emotional expression are linked in popular music, particularly in the pop-punk genre.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background, the research problem was defined into two research questions:

- 1) What types of figurative language are found in the selected lyrics from The Story So Far band?
- 2) What are the meanings of the figurative language used in these selected song lyrics?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Regarding the problems, the objectives are as follows:

- 1) To find out types of figurative language found in The Story So Far's band selected song lyrics.
- 2) To analyze the meaning of figurative language found The Story So Far's band selected song lyrics.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

Based on this study, the discussion is divided into two main sections. The first section focuses on identifying the types of figurative language found in the lyrics of The Story So Far on the selected lyrics. This part analyses various forms of figurative expression such as similes, metaphors, personification, and others that appear throughout the lyrics. The second part discusses the meaning behind

these figurative languages. This part interprets how each figurative language contributes to the message, emotions, and themes expressed in the songs, providing a deeper understanding of the band's lyrical style and artistic intent.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The purpose of this study is to identify the types of figurative language used by bands in their song lyrics, analyze the meaning behind these figurative expressions, and inform listeners about the types of figurative language found in the selected songs. Through this analysis, this study aims to increase understanding of how figurative language contributes to the depth and emotional resonance of the band's lyrics.

In addition, this study provides two forms of meaning: theoretical and practical. The theoretical meaning aims to add to knowledge in the field of linguistics, particularly in the study of semantics and figurative language, by providing insight into how such language functions in song lyrics as a form of literary expression. The practical significance, on the other hand, serves as a reference for readers, students, and future researchers interested in analyzing figurative language in music or other literary works. It also helps listeners appreciate song lyrics beyond their surface meaning, pushing them to interpret the deeper messages delivered through the band's creative use of language.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this research is expected to contribute to the development of semantic theory, particularly in the field of figurative language. The aim is to

improve academic understanding by providing deeper insights into how figurative expressions function in song lyrics. In addition, this research will help readers develop analytical skills in interpreting and understanding the meaning behind the selected songs, so that they can appreciate the band's artistic and linguistic creativity on a deeper level.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

Practically, this research will contribute to readers, particularly in understanding various types of figurative language. As a result, it is expected that this research will become a useful academic resource for readers and future researchers interested in figurative language. In addition, this research can also be useful for songwriters and creative writers by providing insights on how to use figurative language effectively to enrich their lyrics or narratives. By understanding various types of figurative expressions, writers can create more vivid, expressive, and meaningful creative works.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE, CONCEPT, AND THEORY

This chapter provides an overview of reviews, concepts, and theories. The literature review addresses previous research that shares similarities with the current study. The concept includes definitions relevant to the basic study, while theories encompass the frameworks utilized in this research.

2.1 Review of Related Literature

Several studies have previously explored the same topic, in this study there are five studies that are taken to be reviewed as they are related to this research.

The first study is a thesis titled *Figurative Language Found in the Lyrics of Selected Songs By Coldplay: A Semantic Analysis* by Armal, (2024). Two theories were employed in this study: the first was Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974), was used to identify the different kinds of figurative language that could be found in a selection of Coldplay song lyrics, and Leech (1981) was used to determine the meaning of figurative language that could be found in a selection of Coldplay song lyrics. The similarity between Armal's study with this study is focusing in identifying the figurative language in song lyrics, however her study is focusing in analyzing Coldplay's songs while this study is focusing in analyzing the figurative language that found in selected The Story So far songs.

The second study is a thesis titled *Figurative Language In Maher Zain's Song Lyrics* by Dewi (2020). The researcher used figurative language theory of

Perrine (1969). The descriptive qualitative approach was used in this study. Its purpose is to look into those two research issues concerning metaphorical language. The words of a few Maher Zain songs, including Hold My Hand, For The Rest of My Life, Number One For Me, Open Your Eyes, and Awaken, were used to gather the data. by applying Perrine's principle of metaphorical language. To analysis the data, the researcher used observation, note-taking and transcribing method. The differences between this study is in the theory that used. while Dewi uses theory of by Perrine (1969) this study is using theories from Knickerbocker and Reninger. To analyze the figurative language in song lyrics.

The third study is an article titled Figurative Language in Taylor Swift's Songs (A Semantic Analysis) by Suleman et al (2023). The descriptive qualitative method was employed in this study. This study's methodology is a semantic analysis based in linguistics theory. The two main theories used in this study are Abram's (1999) analysis of figurative language types and Leech's (1974) theory of meaning, which analyses the meaning of songs by the New Romantics and Blank Space. The technique of collecting the data used library research. The difference between this study is in the main theories, Suleman et al used theories from by Abram and Leech, while this study is using Leech, Knickerbocker and Reninger's theory to analyze the figurative language.

The fourth study is an article titled An Analysis of Figurative Languages in the Niki Zefanya's Song lyrics by Zahria and Wibowo (2024). The researchers used Perrine (1969) theories. This study adopts a qualitative research design with a textual analysis approach to investigate the use of figurative language in selected

songs by Niki Zefanya. The data for this study consist of figurative expressions, including metaphors, similes, personification, and other stylistic devices, found in the lyrics of three selected songs: High School in Jakarta, Anaheim, and Oceans and Engines. the researchers identified one instance of irony, three metaphors, and two hyperboles in the song "High School in Jakarta," the researchers identified one instance of irony, three metaphors, and two hyperboles. The use of figurative language was more prominent in "Anaheim" with three metaphors, one repetition, and five hyperboles. The last song "Oceans and Engines" demonstrated the most extensive use of metaphors, with six instances identified. Additionally, one synecdoche and four hyperboles were found. Previous researchers used Perrine's theory (1969) to identify and analyze figurative language in song lyrics. In difference, this study will apply the theories proposed by Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963) and Leech (1981). Therefore, the difference in theoretical basis is the main difference between this study and studies that conducted by Zahria and Wibowo.

The last study is an article titled "Figurative Language in Selected Songs of "Red" By Taylor Swift by Fatikha and Masykuroh (2022). The researcher used descriptive qualitative for this study, and the data are in the forms of figurative language taken from eight selected songs in Taylor Swifts album "Red" collected by documentation technique. The framework of Knickerbocker & Reninger's theory (1985) on figurative language is employed by researchers to analyze the data using content analysis. Eight tracks from Taylor Swift's 2012 album Red were the focus of a prior study by Fatikha and Masykuroh (2022). These songs

mostly revolve around the themes of love, heartbreak, and personal experiences, reflecting the singer's emotional journey as a performer and songwriter. In contrast, this study analyses nine selected songs from The Story So Far, a pop-punk band known for its expressive and introspective lyrics. The difference in musical genre and lyrical focus allows this study to provide a different perspective on how figurative language functions in conveying emotional depth and personal expression in the context of more aggressive and raw lyrics.

Based on the fifth studies discussed above, most research on figurative language in song lyrics focuses on pop, religious, or mainstream music genres and applied theories such as Perrine's or Abrams' frameworks. In addition, few studies specifically analyze figurative language in pop-punk music using Knickerbocker and Renninger's (1963) theory combined with Leech's (1981) theory of meaning. This study aims to fill this research gap by analyzing the types and meanings of figurative language found in selected songs by The Story So Far, providing a new perspective on lyrical expression in pop-punk music.

2.2 Concept

In this part, the researcher will define the key concepts of semantic, figurative language, song lyrics and The Story So Far.

2.2.1 Figurative Language

According to Abrams (1999), figurative language is a significant deviation from what language users consider to be the standard meaning of words, or the standard arrangement of words, with the aim of producing a specific meaning or

effect. This means that when a writer uses figurative language, they intentionally deviate from ordinary or literal language both in terms of word meaning and sentence structure. in order to create aesthetic, emotional, imaginative, or rhetorical effects that cannot be achieved with literal meaning.

2.2.2 Song Lyrics

Lyrics act as the spoken or written element of a song, consisting of words and phrases arranged in an orderly manner. Through lyrics, a songwriter conveys thoughts, emotions, and messages, often combined with a musical melody. A song is essentially a short musical composition that combines poetic text, in which both the music and the words have equal significance. Hornby (2000:1281) defines a song as a short piece of music accompanied by lyrics intended to be performed in song. In addition, Hornby (2000:802) describes lyrics as written language that reflects a person's feelings and ideas.

2.2.3 The Story So Far

The Story So Far band was Formed in Walnut Creek, California in 2007. The band's name was taken from a New Found Glory song titled ‘The Story So Far’. The band consists of Parker Cannon as vocalist, Kevin Geyer as lead guitarist, Will Levy as rhythm guitarist, Ryan Torf as drummer, and Kelen Capener as bassist. On 22 December, the band released an EP titled 5 Songs. In March 2010, it was announced that the band had signed a contract with Pure Noise. Two months later, the band recently released their latest album, I Want to Disappear Released on June 21, 2024.

2.3 Theories

In this study, the researcher uses two theories to solve the problem. The first theory from Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963) is the most important theory, to find the forms of figurative language in the analysis of The Story So Far selected song lyrics. The second theory from Leech (1981) elaborates this research in terms of analyzing the meaning of figurative language in The Story So Far selected song lyrics.

2.3.1 Types of Figurative Languages

Knickerbocker and Reninger's theories (1963) stated that there are ten types of figurative languages such as:

2.3.1.1 Simile

Simile is figure of speech involving comparison; it draws resemblance with the help of the words "like" or "as" Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367). For example, "my love is like a red rose." Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 370). The words are unrelated because love is a feeling of our heart and roses are a type of flower. The symbol of a rose is a flower that has a fragrant, beautiful, and lovely odor. It means that the author wants to describe their beautiful love as a red rose, so it becomes an icon of love.

2.3.1.2 Metaphor

A metaphor is an implied comparison, omitting the word like or like. For example, based on Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367) "Instead of saying like a walking shadow, life is a walking shadow." The author is trying to show how two different things are alike without directly using "like" or "as," which is

typical of a simile. Instead, they are aiming for a comparison that creates a pleasant sound or rhythm, while still making perfect sense to the listener.

2.3.1.3 Personification

Giving an object, animal, or abstract concept human characteristics is known as personification. For example "These honour comes, a pilgrim grey," (Knickerbocker and Renninger, 1963: 367). By having "These Honour" carry out an action ("comes"), the sentence treats it as if it were human. Through personification, the author is able to highlight and bring specific attention to the idea of "honour".

2.3.1.4 Hyperbole

An exaggerated phrase used for special effects is called hyperbole. For instance, Knickerbocker and Reninger's "Go and catch a falling star" (1963: 402). Since no one can catch a falling star because we know that a star is a planet in the sky that is larger than ourselves, this statement is exaggerated. We are not being told by the author to catch a falling star. In this case, a shooting star represents optimism and a dream. So, the author is conveying the idea that we can pursue our goals and dreams in this life.

2.3.1.5 Irony

Irony is one of the figures of speech where the statement totally contradicts its true meaning, according to Knickerbocker & Renninger (1963: 367). For example, Carl Samburg's "The Czar is the voice of God and they shall live forever" in "The people Yes" (Knickerbocker and Renninger, 1963: 427). "Czar is

an authoritarian individual" is what the sentence above means. In reality, it is not God's choice and will remain eternally. The author wants the czar to express a sense of irony that contrasts with the true meaning.

2.3.1.6 Metonymy

A figure of speech known as metonymy explains one item by using a "term" for another that is closely linked to it. For instance, "The King uses the crown" (Knickerbocker and Renninger, 1963: 367). Since a crown is only worn by a unique individual who is in charge of a kingdom, it is a symbol of a king or queen.

2.3.1.7 Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure of speech where the whole is used for the part or part that is used for the whole. "The halcyon year means the summer," for example (Knickerbocker and Renninger, 1963: 367). A literary trick known as synecdoche is used when the example uses the complete item to symbolize a small part of it, such as applying the entire year to specifically refer to the summer season.

2.3.1.8 Paradox

Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367) classify paradox as one of the figures of speech whose actual meaning really seems absurd but becomes clear on closer examination. For instance: "Light is the darker thing in physics." The example was paradoxical because it connected abstract concepts like "light" and "physics" to real things like "legs and hands." Though it seemed paradoxical, combining them really made it clearer to us how closely "physics" and "light" are related.

2.3.1.9 Allusion

Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367) identify allusion as a figure of speech that refers to a well-known location, occasion, or individual. This figure has wider implications than its specific definition, but it is not a valid comparison. "No! I am not Prince Hamlet, nor was meant to be," for instance (Knickerbocker and Renninger, 1963: 368). The example sentence highlights that the word "I" identifies an individual who is clearly not Prince Hamlet or anybody else. In that particular context, the "I" indicates a unique, independent identity, and it indicates that the speaker is not being compared to anyone.

2.3.1.10 Dead Metaphor

Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963: 367) claim that one of the figures that has lost its metaphorical significance as a result of frequent use is the Dead Metaphor. For instance, "The faces of the clock." (Knickerbocker and Renninger, 1963: 368), this can be categorised as a dead metaphor since it draws attention to a particular, crucial aspect of the clock, making that aspect the main topic of discussion.

2.3.2 Types of Meaning

Leech (1981: 9-19) in his *The Study of Meaning* (1974) second edition book states there are seven types of meaning:

2.3.2.1 Conceptual

Conceptual is the direct meaning of a word, which allows us to understand and distinguish words logically. It is also known as denotative or cognitive meaning, and is the most basic and essential type of meaning. Conceptual

meaning relates to the logical and structural aspects of language, such as semantic relationships, semantic features, and definitions. For example, the word ‘woman’ can be represented by features such as [+human], [+adult], and [-male]. This type of meaning is very important for clear communication because it forms the basis on which all other meanings are built. For example, the word ‘woman’ can be represented by features such as [+human], [+adult], and [-male]. This type of meaning is very important for clear communication because it forms the basis on which all other meanings are built.

2.3.2.2 Connotative

Connotative meaning goes beyond the literal definition and includes emotional, cultural, or personal associations carried by a word. These associations can vary depending on individual experiences, culture, and social background. For example, the word ‘home’ does not only refer to a person's place of residence, but also conveys warmth, security, and love. Connotative meaning is subjective and can lead to positive or negative feelings depending on the context and the listener.

2.3.2.3 Social

Social meaning refers to what language conveys to us about the social context, the relationship between the speaker and the listener, and the situation in which communication takes place. This includes information about formality, social class, dialect, or level of politeness. For example, saying ‘Good morning, sir’ reflects respect and formality, while ‘Hey, dude’ conveys informality and familiarity. Word choice can demonstrate social roles and the context in which the communication is taking place.

2.3.2.4 Affective

This kind of meaning conveys the speaker's thoughts, attitudes, or feelings towards the audience or the subject in discussion. This meaning reflects the emotional tone of the message rather than its factual content. For example, the expressions 'Be quiet!' and 'Please be quiet' both ask someone to stop talking, but they are very different in emotional strength and level of politeness. Affective meaning is often expressed through voice intonation, word choice, and sentence structure.

2.3.2.5 Reflected

Reflected meaning occurs when the multiple meanings of a word interact, so that one meaning affects the interpretation of another. This often happens when a word has strong secondary associations that cannot be ignored, such as taboo or humorous connotations. For example, the word 'intercourse' originally meant 'communication,' but now refers to sexual meaning due to modern associations. Reflected meaning shows how words can carry unintended implications depending on their usage and social context.

2.3.2.6 Collocative

This meaning is created by the frequent co-occurrence of certain words. Some words tend to appear together and form distinctive combinations, creating predictable associations. For example, we usually say 'handsome man' and 'beautiful woman' rather than 'handsome woman' or 'beautiful man', even though grammatically both are possible. These patterns of co-occurrence give words a certain nuance and help shape our expectations in communication.

2.3.2.7 Thematic

Thematic meaning refers to what is conveyed through the way a message is structured or organized, rather than through the words themselves. The focus, emphasis, or perspective of a sentence can change depending on how it is arranged. For example, 'John helped Mary' and 'Mary was helped by John' describe the same event but differ in focus: the first highlights John as the agent, while the second highlights Mary as the recipient of the action. Thematic meaning is therefore related to syntax, information structure, and emphasis.