

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is very important in human life, because we cannot communicate with each other without it. One of the languages is English. English has become an important popular language for international communication and people always call it an international language. Language as means of communication is the most important thing for human beings. It can express people's ideas, knowledge and feeling in written or spoken. According to Kreidler a language is a system of symbols through which people communicate. The symbols may be spoken, written, or signed with the hands.¹

Linguistics is the scientific study of language and involves an analysis of language form, language meaning, and language in context. One of the branches of linguistics that study about meaning in language is semantics. According to John Lyons the term 'linguistic semantics' is correspondingly ambiguous. Given that semantics is the study of meaning, 'linguistic semantics' can be held to refer either to the study of meaning in so far as this is expressed in language or, alternatively, to the study of meaning within linguistics.²

Basically figurative language is the part of semantic. Figurative language is broadly defined as anyway of saying something other than ordinary way and it is more narrowly definable as a way of saying one thing and meaning another. According to Sam Glucksberg figurative meaning is derived from the literal and can be discovered by discovering the nature of the substitution of the metaphorical for the literal. One implication of this assumption is that

¹ Charles W. Kreidler, *Introducing English Semantics*, (New York: Routledge, 1998), 19.

² John Lyons, *Linguistic Semantics*, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995), 11.

metaphoric interpretations involve recovering the original literal expression for which the metaphor substitutes.³

Some authors used figurative language to produce images in readers minds and to express ideas in fresh, vivid, and imaginative ways. There are many types of figurative language such as: metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbola, alliteration, etc. The example of analysing figurative language can be seen as follows:

Lyric:

If only you could see the tears in the world you left behind⁴

Hyperbole

Why hyperbole: because this lyric mean that the singer got sadness from Soledad. (Meaning from that lyric)

Besides in novels and poems, figurative language can also found in a songs. Song is one example of literature. Song as piece of music with words that are sung has a function to express the thoughts and feelings.⁵ Song has two elements, such as lyric and music. Songs are one of the most effective media to convey message. The writer can express their feeling through song lyrics.

In this study, the researcher chose Westlife's selected song lyrics as the data source. Westlife is an Irish pop vocal group, which was formed in 1998 in Sligo, disbanded in 2012 and reunited in 2018. They were originally signed by Simon Cowell in the UK, Clive Davis in the US and managed by Louis Walsh

³ Sam Glucksberg, *Understanding Figurative Language*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2001), 16.

⁴ <https://lirik.kapanlagi.com/artis/westlife/soledad/>, (accessed on 23 February 2020)

⁵ <https://study.com/academy/lesson/what-is-a-song-definition-examples.html>, (accessed on 23 February 2020)

and Sonny Takhar. The group currently consists of Shane Filan, Mark Feehily, Kian Egan, and Nicky Byrne.⁶

With learning about the figurative language, as the students that will be a teacher, can get the benefits, for ourselves or for our students someday. Figurative language is describing something by comparing it to something else. This type of description brings writing to life. Understanding various types of figurative language is a critical part of a student's education. There are many fun activities for teachers to use in their classrooms to get students to understand and create figurative language.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing figurative language in song because almost all learners like to listen to a song. However, sometimes the learners listen to a song without understanding the meaning of the song. Whereas, every song has messages to convey to the listeners. The researcher will analyzed the song lyrics from Westlife boyband. the researcher conduct a research entitle **“An Analysis of Figurative Language in Westlife’s Songs”**.

B. Identification of The Problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher identifies the following problem as follows:

1. The kinds of the problem investigated is about figurative language used in Westlife’s song lyrics.
2. It is difficult to understand the song lyrics especially when the lyrics use figurative language.
3. The main problem is to know the most dominant figurative language which is used in the song lyrics by Westlife.

C. Scope of The Study

⁶ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Westlife>, (accessed on 23 February 2020)

Related to the background above, the researcher limits this study to the following extent:

1. The researcher focuses her study on the types of figurative language, the meanings of figurative language found in Westlife's songs.
2. The researcher focuses her analysis on the types of figurative language they are; metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole and synecdoche.
3. The researcher chooses four songs by Westlife, they are; Soledad (2000), You Raise Me Up (2005), Nothing's Going to Change My Love for You (2006), and I'm Already There (2007).

D. Statement of The Problem

1. What types of figurative language are used in Westlife's songs?
2. What are the meanings of those figurative language found in Westlife's songs?
3. What is the most dominant figurative language in Westlife's songs?

E. The Aim of Study

In conducting research, the aims of study are able to help in gaining the objective of the research. The aims of this study are:

1. To find out the types of figurative language are used in Westlife's songs.
2. To describe the meanings of those figurative language.
3. To find out the most dominant figurative language in Westlife's songs.

F. The Previous Study

The first review related to this study, and the title is "An Analysis of Figurative Language in the Song Lyrics by Maher Zain". Which has been researched by Qurrotul 'Ain (2013), the student of The State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN) Cirebon. The writer used descriptive qualitative method

in her research. In her thesis, she has analyzed about the figurative language. According to her, the figurative languages used in Maher Zain's song are Personification, Metaphor, Simile, Alliteration, Irony, Litotes, Euphemism, Parallelism, Antithesis, Hyperbole, and Synecdoche. And the most dominant figurative language which is used in some songs is Hyperbole.⁷

The second review related to this study is *The Figurative Language Used One of The Jason Mraz Albums in 2008 Entitled "We Sing, We Dance, We Steal Things"*. Which has been researched by Nurfiyanti (2016), the student of The State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN) Salatiga. The writer used qualitative method in her research. In her thesis, she has analyzed about the figurative language. According to her, the figurative languages used in Jason Mraz Albums are Metonymy, Hyperbole, Personification, Simile and paradox.⁸

The third title of related literature is *An Analysis of Figurative Language Found on The Song Lyric By Taylor Swift's "Speak Now" Album*. Which has been researched by Heny Listiani (2015), the student of The State Institute for Islamic Studies (IAIN) Salatiga. The writer used descriptive qualitative method in her research. In her thesis, she has analyzed about the figurative language. According to her, the figurative languages used in Taylor Swift's song are seven kinds of figurative languages that is used in the song lyric, they are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, synecdoche, symbol and oxymoron. The last is the dominant of figurative languages that used is hyperbole.⁹

G. Organization of Study

⁷ Qurrotul 'Ain, *An Analysis of Figurative Language in the Song Lyrics by Maher Zain*, (IAIN Cirebon, 2013)

⁸ Nurfiyanti, *The Figurative Language Used One of The Jason Mraz Albums in 2008 Entitled "We Sing, We Dance, We Steal Things"*, (IAIN Salatiga, 2016)

⁹ Heny Listiani, *An Analysis of Figurative Language Found on The Song Lyric By Taylor Swift's "Speak Now" Album*, (IAIN Salatiga, 2015)

The researcher wants to arrange the thesis, in order the reader can catch the thesis easily, and the study is divided into three chapters. This following is short description about each chapter:

Chapter I is Introduction, which contains background of study, identification of the problem, scope of the study, statement of the problem, the aim of study, the previous study, and organization of study.

Chapter II is Review of Related Literature, Theoretical description it includes definition of figurative language, reasons using figurative language, the kinds of figurative language, semantics, meaning, song and Westlife's biography.

Chapter III is Research Methodology that consist Research Design, Data Source, Research Instrument, Technique of Collecting Data and Technique of Data Analysis.

Chapter IV is Research Finding and Discussion, it contains types of figurative language used in Westlife's songs, the explanation meaning of figurative language types and the dominant types in figurative language.

Chapter V is closing that consists of conclusion and suggestion also pedagogical implication. The last part is references and appendices.