CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the topics of background of study, statement of problems, purpose of study, scope and limitation, significance of study, and definition of key terms.

1.1. Background of Study

Language as a tool of communication is really important in human life; it has strong influence to the society relationship. Anggraini and Sudiran (2014:2), people use language to have relationship in the society; without language, people cannot interact and communicate to other. Language provides arbitrary signals, such as voice sounds, gestures, or written symbols which have the same roles to express human’s feelings, emotions and ideas. Therefore, literature that provides pleasure cannot be separated from language.

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Literature is basically divided into some types or genres. Turco (1999:9-10) points out the types that are also called as genres that can be found in literature: Fiction, drama, poetry, and nonfiction. Each category consists of subgenres, such as novel, novella, novelette (long story), short story, short - short story (very short story), episode (one incident or even; in a longer work of fiction), and anecdote (a short account often of humorous interest) that belong to fiction; the tragedy, comedy, tragicomedy, and skit (a short dramatic presentation of a humorous or satiric turn) that belong to drama; the autobiography, biography, essay and discourse that belong to nonfiction; lyric, verse narrative, and verse drama that belong to poetry.
In making a literary work, the creative writers are not primarily concerning with the actual truth of particular events but also their imagination. Afterward, literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material into more technical works. Pickering and Hoeper (1981:1) define literature as a uniquely human activity of consciousness and imagination works which are expressed into concrete artifact—a story, a poem, or a play so it is able to be finally shared to others by a language as its medium; it can be spoken and written words.

Song lyrics as a flash story can be concluded to one instance of literary work. Lyric is any fairly short poem, consisting of the utterance by a single speaker who expresses a state of mind or a process of perception, thought and feeling (Abrams, 1999:146). The work of song lyric commonly refers to work of the creative imagination (fiction), which can be described into technical work, to be sung for instance. Hornby, as cited by Ratnasari (2007:11) defines song as a short poem or a number of verses set into music and intended to be sung. It is hard to escape song as it occupies around people, it can be heard consciously and subconsciously whenever and wherever, such as in operating theaters, restaurants and cafes, shopping ills, and even at sport events. Most important thing is that songs are relaxing and providing variety and fun and encouraging harmony within oneself and within a group.

Nowadays, there are a lot of songs are using figurative languages in its lyrics as the variety of using words. Yet, the listeners find it hard to perfectly comprehend the lyric as a whole because of the use of figurative language in the song lyric itself. DiYanni (2002:709) states that figurative language is used when something is meant to have different interpretation than the actual meaning of the
words. The use of figurative language is affecting the unique lyric of the song because the meaning conveyed by figurative languages are not the literal interpretation of the words used. However, the different meanings conveyed by figurative language in the songs are hard to be understood by the listener whereas songs can be more valuable if the singer or the listeners exploit them creatively to bridge the gap between the pleasurable experience of singing or listening and the communicative use of language.

There are some of related studies to this study. Pradana (2014) conducted a research entitled *The Figurative Language Found in Barry Manilow’s Album “Even Now”*. The researcher found that there were several kinds of figurative languages used in the song lyrics, such as seven hyperboles, two similes, three personifications, two metaphors, and one symbol. Meanwhile, Putri (2012) conducted a research entitled *An Analysis on The Figurative Language in Adele’s Song Lyrics of “21’Album*. The existing kinds of figurative language found by the researcher were personification, hyperbole, euphemism, metonymy, metaphor, synecdoche, litotes, allegory, and symbol. The contextual meanings of figurative language used in the songs are actually the stories about the woman’s love to her spouse. Based on the previous studies, the researcher of this study is going to investigate other song lyrics from other song’s writers since it has probability to find other examples of figurative languages used, particularly from outstanding song lyrics.

In term of figurative languages used in song lyric, the researcher is interested to analyze figurative languages used in *Vessel* album of Twenty One Pilots band. Twenty One Pilots band is an American musical duo from Columbus,
Ohio. The band was formed in 2009, which consists of Tyler Joseph (vocalist) and Josh Dun (drummer). This band released albums entitled Twenty One Pilots in 2009, Regional at Best in 2011, and Vessel in 2013 and the latest album Blurryface in 2015. Twenty One Pilots band’s debut in music drives this band famous and almost people around the world have already known about this band because of the work of its songs.

Some songs consisted in Twenty One Pilots’ Vessel album take hip-hop as their genre. People have known that the lyrics of hip-hop genre tend to use a lot of words and intend to be longer than other genres of music. Yet, those who have known the songs are sometimes finding hard to comprehend the meaning of the lyrics in the song that is implied by the lyrics used in the songs are figurative languages. In this research, the researcher tries to interpret the meaning of figurative languages used in the song lyrics, particularly in Vessel album by Twenty One Pilots band as a reference so that people are able to comprehend the messages conveyed by figurative language. Besides, since it is also better to use figurative language instead of saying something directly when a person means something to broadly express the thought in daily conversation, this research will be helpful to avoid any kinds of misinterpretation in form of figurative language used. Hopefully, this research is able to find the types of figurative languages used and the meaning behind the song lyrics to help the readers in either comprehending the meaning or using figurative language.
1.2 Statement of Problem

The following statements of problem are decided based on the background of study:

1. What are the kinds of figurative language used in Vessel album by Twenty One Pilots band?
2. What are the meanings that can be inferred from figurative languages used in Vessel album by Twenty One Pilots band?

1.3 Purpose of Study

In terms of problem statement, this study is intended to:

1. Identify the kinds of figurative language used in Vessel album by Twenty One Pilots band.
2. Explain the meaning of figurative languages used in Vessel album by Twenty One Pilots band.

1.4 Significance of Study

First of all, the result of this study is supposed to be useful and helpful for all of the readers, especially for English Department students. Hopefully, all of the readers will be interested as well as appreciating the literary works, particularly the use of figurative languages used in lyrics of the song. Secondly, this study is expected to enlarge the knowledge about figurative languages expressed in the song. After all, it is also expected to be useful to conduct further studies for those who are interested to research figurative language in song lyrics as one of the literary work.
1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is figurative languages used in song lyrics by Twenty One Pilots band. However, this study is limited in *Vessel* album of Twenty One Pilots band, in which the album consists of twelve songs. Yet, the researcher only focuses on four songs consisted in *Vessel* album; these songs are chosen because they are the songs that take hip-hop as their genre. Eastin (2013:305) states that hip-hop genre is rich of lyrics. Additionally, Hammer and Kellner (2009:154) state that hip-hop texts are rich in imagery and metaphor; it can be used to teach irony, tone, diction, and point and view. By knowing that hip-hop genre has the richness of lyrics, the researcher views that there is a huge probability to found the types of figurative language used.

1.6 Definition of key terms

The following are the main terms that are necessary to be described to avoid misunderstanding. The researcher would like to clarify it briefly:

1. Figurative language is a conspicuous departure as the standard meaning of words or the standard order of words that are apprehended by users of language in order to achieve some special meanings or effects (Abrams, 1999:96).

2. Lyric is subjective poems that can oftentimes be found brief to express feelings and thoughts of a single speaker who may or may not represent the poet (DiYanni, 2002:684).

3. Song refers to art works that consist of the power of music as well as the power of lyric; while music touches our hearts and the lyrics and
their words flow into our minds and draw us into their own world (V. L. Holmes and Margaret R. Moulton, as cited by Rosova, 2007:14).

4. *Twenty One Pilots* band is an American musical duo from Columbus, Ohio. The band was formed in 2009, which consists of Tyler Joseph (vocalist) and Josh Dun (drummer). This band released their third album entitled *Vessel* in 2013. *Twenty One Pilots* is a well-known band in the world, especially among adolescents. Alternative rock, metal, hip-hop, dance, and a lot more are combined as the Twenty One Pilots’ genre of music. Yet, the most dominant genre in *Vessel* album is hip-hop.