CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is one of arts which has its own language variety. People are usually interested in literary works for their beauty and the character. According to Quinn (2006) literary works usually refer to “creative” works in the form of poetry, fiction, and drama. Literature can give the readers an opportunity to escape from reality for a while and encourage them to use their imagination. Literature reflects the essence of life, thoughts, feelings, behavior and attitudes of human beings. Abdessalami (2010) stated that people use literature to express their feelings, imagination, and creation in many ways; such as works of art, poetry, drama, fiction, essays, and so on. Many people read literary works for pleasure. Many others read literary works mainly to satisfy academic requirements. The readers can be offered by both pleasure and experience of life by reading literary works.

One of the beautiful forms of literary works is short story. A short story is a brief work of literature, usually written in a narrative prose. It is more than just a sequence of happening, it is a simple story and not too long like novel. DiYanni (2002: 41) states, “Short story, on the other hand, typically reveal character in dramatic scenes, in moments of action, and in ex-changes of dialogue.
According to Abrams (1999), “Short story is a brief work of short fiction, and most of the terms for analyzing the component elements, the types, and various narrative techniques of the novel are applicable to the short story as well.”

Short story is usually concerned with a single effect conveyed in only one or a few significant episodes or scenes. Short story is brief fictional prose narrative that is shorter than a novel and that usually deals with only a few characters. In doing so, short stories make use of plot, resonance, and other dynamic components to a far greater degree than is typical of an anecdote, yet to a far lesser degree than a novel.

Like novel, short story's predominant shape reflects the demands of the available markets for publication, and the evolution of the form seems closely tied to the evolution of the publishing industry and the submission guidelines of its constituent houses. By reading short stories the reader will get the knowledge, such as vocabulary, spelling, and figurative language.

Short story contains figurative language, beautiful words that are needed to be interpreted. Many people are interested in short stories or literary works that use many figurative languages to express the author's feeling and communicate with the readers in order to make the stories look apparent.

According to Abrams, figurative language is standart order of words that users of a language apprehend in order to achieve some special meaning or effect. Sometimes, figurative language describe about figures or to all modes of discourse as primarily poetic (1999). In other words, figurative language allows the writer to say something in an unusual way to deliver some special meaning.

Language can be classified as either literal or figurative. When we speak literally,
we mean exactly what each word conveys; when we use figurative language we mean something other than the actual meaning of the words. Some of various figures of speech are simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, paradox, hyperbole, irony and allusion.

The writer found some previous studies related with this current study. Putri (2012) in her study entitling “An Analysis on Figurative Language in Adele’s Song Lyric “21” Album” found figurative languages in her study, such as personification, synecdoche, hyperbole, euphemism, metonymy, and symbol. She used song lyric as her object of the study.

Besides, Yusriansyah (2014) in her study entitling “An Analysis on Figurative Language Used in Edgar Allan Poe’s Poem” used poem as her object of the study. She found eight figurative languages such as simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, apostrophe, metonymy, paradox, and symbol.

Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) is one of the American’s poets and short story writers on the nineteenth century. He also worked as a literary critic and editor. In his lifetime, he had the distinction of being one of the first American writers with more cultural cache in Europe than in the United States.

Considering to the background above, the researcher attempts to analyze one of the short stories written by Poe, “The Fall of the House of Usher”, because this short story has something interesting to know about the figurative language that is used in it. In addition, she is interested in the short story “The Fall of the House of Usher” because it contains the symbols in fantasy, terror, death, revenge, murder, and mystery of his tales.
Therefore the researcher wants to conduct the research with the title “Figurative Language Used in The Fall of the House of Usher Short Story by Edgar Allan Poe”

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the research problems are formulated as follows:

1. What figurative languages does the main character use in the short story “The Fall of the House of Usher” written by Edgar Allan Poe?
2. What are the connotative meanings of figurative languages used by the main character in the short story “The Fall of the House of Usher” written by Edgar Allan Poe?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In line with the statement of the problems, the purposes of this study are:

1. To know the figurative of language used in the short story “The Fall of the House of Usher” written by Edgar Allan Poe.
2. To know the meaning of figurative language used in the short story “The Fall of the House of Usher” written by Edgar Allan Poe.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this study is expected to give significant contributions to some parties: English Department students, the lectures, and the next researcher. For English Department student, by reading the result of this study, the students
are expected to get more understanding and knowledge about figurative language found in a short story. Besides, the lectures of the literature course in English Department of universities are expected to pay more attention to figurative language by including it to the course and considering it as an interesting subject matter of literature and product of language phenomena.

For the future researchers the result of this study is expected to be a useful reference for a further analysis on figurative language used in literary works so that the future researchers can draw more attention and encourage further discussion related to the study of figurative language used in other literary works such as novel and drama.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is on the use of figurative language and the connotative meanings of the figurative language found in “The Fall of the House of Usher” short story. This research is limited to one of the short stories that is written by a man of letters, Edgar Allan Poe.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

The following definitions are important to make the readers to have the same understanding of some key terms used in the research. The definitions of the key terms are as follows:

1. Figurative language is standard order of words that users of a language apprehend in order to achieve some special meaning or effect. Figurative language in this study include: personification, simile, metaphor,
metonymy, lytotes, hyperbole, synecdoche, symbol, allusion, irony, paradox, anaphora, oxymoron.

2. *Short story* is a brief work of short fiction, and most of the terms for analyzing the component elements, the types, and the various narrative techniques of the novel are applicable to the short story as well. This study analyzes “The Fall of the House of Usher”, a short story written by Edgar Allan Poe.

3. *The Fall of the House of Usher* is the title of the short story written by Edgar Allan Poe that is analyzed in this study.

4. *Edgar Allan Poe* (19 Jan. 1809-7 Oct. 1849) is a fiction writer, poet, and critic who was born in Boston. He is the author of “The Fall of the House of Usher” short story that analyzed in this study. He is also seen as being instrumental in the development of the literary genres of Science Fiction and Mystery. The catalog of his writing is diverse and includes such classics as “The Purloined Letter”, and *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket.*