CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer will discuss background of the study, statement of the problems, purposes of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is creative and imaginative work art either spoken or written. Literature is human beings’ creations or expressions of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, by using a language as a medium. According to Stableford (2005:10) (in Aziz, 2011) literature means the production of written works having an excellence of form or expression and dealing with ideas of permanent interest. Panca Putra (1994:3) stated that literature is the human expression of beautiful thought and ideas in beautiful language. This classification of literature can be divided into three different classifications: poetry, drama, and prose. Drama or play deals with acting and dialogues. Prose deals with narrative, novel and short story, and poetry deals with sonnet and quatrain in appropriate language.

Wellek and Warren (1990) said that literature is a creativity of art. Literature belongs to art because it has beautiful aspects like the diction of the words, the use of its elements like the rhythm, meter, and others. One form of literature is poem. Poems, especially which are sung, are interesting to be studied because poem is a work of art.
and many people know what poem is. Poem can be expressed in a song to show people’s deep feeling. Words, figurative language, and theme and subject, sound, rhyme, form and structure, meter and rhythm are parts of a poem. Waluyo (1987:1) said that a song is a poem form which is sounded. Song is a poem that is voiced and sung by solo voice or in-group with music. It means that when we are listening to the song, we enjoy literature.

Song is a short poem or number of verses set of music intended to be sung by the singer. Based on the statement above, the lyrics of songs are categorized into poems. A poem is another way to express the author’s imaginations, illusions, ideas, feelings, and messages to other people. In discussing songs, the important things that must be known is finding the theme, meaning, and message because knowing these matters can show the composer’s or the poet’s wishes, willingness, and his or her dreams.

Moreover, to make a song have more artistic value, composers usually use figurative language. It means that they will express their message by using words or sentences that need interpretation. Therefore, the authors of song will show their style through the lyrics that they make because every composer has different style from others.

Every song commonly uses figurative language in order that people who listen to the song will be interested in and also understand what the author’s imagination is. Abram (1999:96) stated that figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or
effect. So, figurative language is part of composer style. If we discuss about song of course, it cannot be separated from music. So, by singing a song we can enjoy it.

The researcher takes a previous study, which relates to this study. Sundriyani (2002) in her thesis entitled “Analysis on Figurative Language and Message on The Lyrics of Snada song” shows that the figurative languages in her religion songs are hyperbole, antithesis, repetition, simile, metaphor, and personification.

Another one, Fernandy (2006) in his study entitled “A Study on Figurative Language on Creed’s Song in “Weathered” Album” found out 7 kinds of figurative language in the songs. They are metaphor, personification, hyperbole, antithesis, metonymy, allegory, synecdoche, and euphemism. Some researchers have conducted song analysis to reveal cohesion devises and meaning in songs.

Ibadillah (2004), in his research found that the message of song lyric “Hey Jude” could make somebody’s life better without doubt and sadness, strong to face problems of life, and share with other people. In his study, Ibadillah must perform several steps. First, he must read carefully and understand every word in the text of the song. Then he must translate the figurative language contained in the sentences making up the lyrics before finally drawing conclusions about the message of song. Therefore, understanding the figurative language in literary works is important because we would be able to understand every message in literary works.

The researcher was inspired to conduct a study of analyzing the figurative language in the lyrics of English song since many people like singing songs just for fun without knowing the meaning. Based on the statements above, the researcher wants to discuss about pop songs in terms of their figurative language and the
meaning of the figurative language. The researcher takes Adele’s song lyrics of “21” album. Adele is one of the famous singers in the world inspiring the researcher to write this thesis. The researcher chooses a literature as the area of this thesis, especially in Adele’s song lyrics, because the researcher wants to know more about the figurative languages and their meanings in Adele’s songs and they have never been studied before.

1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the background of the study in the preceding discussion, the following research questions are formulated:

1. What kinds of figurative languages are found in Adele’s song lyrics of “21” album?
2. What are the contextual meanings on the figurative language in Adele’s song lyrics of “21” album?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In line with statement of problems, this study is focused to answer the questions above. Considering that, the purposes of the study are:

1. To find out the kinds of figurative language that are found in Adele’s song lyrics of “21” album.
2. To find out the contextual meanings on the figurative language in Adele’s song lyrics of “21” album.
1.4 Significance of the Study

Firstly, the researcher of this thesis hopes that the result of this study is useful for the students of English Department especially and readers in general who are interested in appreciating literary works, particularly the lyric of a song. Secondly, this study is expected to enlarge the knowledge about the figurative language expressed in the songs deeper. Finally, it is also expected to be useful to conduct further studies.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The researcher only attempts to do an analysis on Adele’s songs in “21” album. The scope of this study is the analysis of the use of figurative language and the contextual meanings of the figurative language. This analysis is limited to six of the songs: Don’t You Remember, I’ll be Waiting, One and Only, Set Fire to the Rain, Turning tables, and Rolling in the Deep.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding the terms used in this study, here several definitions are provided as follows:

**Song** is a relatively short musical composition for the human voice (possibly accompanied by other musical instruments). It is typically for a solo singer, though it may also be for a duet, trio or for more voices (Mahzumi, 2005).

**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 (Abram: 1999:146).
**Figurative language** is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard of order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect (Abram: 1999:96).

**Adele** is an English recording artist and songwriter. Her debut album is “19” released in 2008 and “21” is her second album released in early 2011 (Wikipedia, 2012).

**“21” album** is the second studio album by English recording artist Adele. Released on 24 January 2011 in most of Europe, and on 22 February 2011 in North America, it was named after the age of the singer during its production (Wikipedia, 2012).