CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents topics such as: background of study, statement of problem, purpose of study, significance of study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. Each section is presented as follows.

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is human beings’ creations or expressions of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, by using a language as a medium. Literature is a kind of art, usually written that offers pleasure and illumination. According to Stableford, literature means the production of written works having an excellence of form or expression and dealing with ideas of permanent interest. This classification of literature can be divided into three different classifications; poetry, drama, and novel (2005:10).

Connoly in (Hardiansyah) mentioned that there are two kinds of literature. They are literature of knowledge and literature of imagination. Literature of knowledge presents factual information, explanation, or scientific process, or discussion of political issues. Literature of knowledge compares autobiography and personal narrative, biography and history and various forms of essay, appeal primarily to the sense of the reason or intelligence. It satisfies people who need either for factual information or understanding ideas of social and intellectual life. Literature of imagination interprets person’s ideas, and events, for example: prose, poetry, drama, novel, and short story (2005).
Song is a short poem or number of verses set of music intended to be sung by the singer. Based on the statement, the lyrics of song are categorized into poem. It is a medium to express the author’s imagination, illusion, idea, feeling and message to the people. 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 stated 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 (1999:96). By knowing the figurative language in song lyrics, people will enjoy music.

Some researches have been conducted to reveal cohesion devises and meaning in songs. Ibadillah (2004), in his research showed that the message of song lyric “Hey Jude” make somebody’s life better without doubt and sadness, they must be strong to face life’s problems, and they have to share with other people. In this study, the researcher must perform several steps. First, he must read carefully and understand every word listed in the text of the song. Then he must translate the figurative language contained in the sentences that making up the lyrics before finally draw conclusions about the message contained in the song. Hence, understanding the figurative language in literary works is important because we would be able to understand every message contained in literary works.

Therefore, the writer was inspired to conduct a study of analyzing the figurative language in the lyrics of English song since many people like singing
song just for fun without knowing the meaning. At this time, the writer took James Blunt’s songs in “Back into Bedlam” as the object. James Blunt is one of the famous singers in the world that inspiring the writer to write this thesis. The writer wants to know more about figurative language and the meaning of the song.

1.2 **Statement of the Problem**

Three problems are going to be accomplished in this study, namely:

1. What kinds of figurative language are used in James Blunt’s song lyrics?

2. What are the meanings of those figurative languages used in James Blunt’s song lyrics?

3. What is the most dominant figurative language found in James Blunt’s song lyric?

1.3 **Purpose of the Study**

Referring to the formulated problems, this study is aimed at:

1. Finding out the kinds of figurative language that are used by the composer in James Blunt’s song lyrics;

2. Finding the meaning of those figurative languages used in James Blunt’s song lyrics.

3. Finding the most dominant figurative language James Blunt’s song lyrics.
1.4 **Significance of the Study**

For the readers, in the main time, this study can be complementary information about the poetic value and meaning of literary works especially in James Blunt’s song lyric.

For the writer, analyzing the English song can improve the writer’s ability in interpreting song lyrics and enlarge the thesis writer's knowledge about figurative languages used in literary works especially song.

1.5 **Scope and Limitation**

The scope of this study is about figurative language used in James Blunt’s songs especially in Back to Bedlam album. In Back to The Bedlam’s album consists of ten songs, but the writer didn’t analyze all. This study focuses on three famous lyrics of James Blunt’s song. The songs are: *Goodbye My Lover, High, and You’re Beautiful*.

1.6 **Definition of Key Terms**

In this study, the writer uses several terms. For the clarity sake, those are defined as follows:

1. Song is a lyric poem adapted to musical expression. Song lyrics are usually short, simple, sensuous and emotional. There is no satisfactory classification for the various types can be divided, for instance, a
variety of working songs, dance songs, love songs, war songs, play songs, etc

2. 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).

3. 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 (Abram: 1999: 96)

4. James Blunt is an English singer-songwriter and musician, and former army officer, whose debut album, Bed to Bedlam and single releases, including “You’re Beautiful” and “Goodbye My Lover”, brought him to fame in 2005. His repertoire can be best described as a mix of acoustic-tinged pop, rock, and folk. (Wikipedia).

5. Back to Bedlam is one of James Blunt’s albums recorded in 2003 with producer Tom Rothrock at Rothrock's home studio, using session musicians and performing on many different instruments himself. In Britain the album was certified 10x platinum, sold over three million copies, and entered the Guinness Book of World Records for the fastest selling album in one year (Wikipedia).

6. Meaning of figurative language is the content that is intended or expressed in figurative language.