CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1 Background of the Study

One of the products of literature is fiction or novel. Novel is a long work of narrative prose fiction that can picture life with all of its richness, complexity, and contradiction (Macmillan, 1987). When we read a novel, we can enjoy the adventure and atmosphere from the novel and sometimes good novel can give effect and change to our life.

O’Connell (2012) states that novel is about ideas, it has an overarching theme distinct from the narrative and a *leitmotif* running through it. Every novel must have a theme and every reader has his favorite theme. Sometimes the author gets idea from true story or a true tragedy.

One of elements that built a novel is figurative language. Figurative language is standard order of a language apprehend in order to achieve some special meanings or effects. Sometimes, figurative language describe about figures or to all modes of discourse as primarily poetic (Abraham, 1999). The use of figurative language can make novel become more interesting to read but sometimes it can make the reader confused to the meaning of the sentence.

Perrine (1982) states that there are four main reasons of the effectiveness of figurative language, first, figurative language affords readers imaginative pleasure of literary works. Second, it is a way of bringing additional imagery into
verse, making the abstract concrete, making literary works more sensuous. The third, figurative is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and conveying attitudes along with information. And the last, it is a way of saying much in brief compass. We can imagine the novel without figurative language it becomes unattractive, no art language in novel. The researcher thinks figurative language is one of important parts in novel and it is interesting to be analyzed, because not everyone is able to interpret figurative language easily.

The previous study about figurative language in Edgar Allan Poe’s poem was conducted by Eka Yusriansyah. She found many kinds of figurative languages in Edgar Allan Poe’s poems; they are simile, metaphor, metonymy, personification, hyperbole, and paradox. She also interprets each figurative language she found. It shows that figurative language is not only in a novel but also in poetry.

Another previous study about figurative language conducted by M. Zen Masruri on of students in IAIN Tulungagung on 2011, which analyzed figurative language in weslife’s song lirycs. He found many kind of figurative languages from song lirics, for example hyperbole, metaphor, and simile.

Based on the explanation above the researcher is interested in conducting research about figurative language in novel entitle A Study on Figurative Language Used by Robert Cormier in the novel “After the First Death”. Researcher has not yet found research about figurative language in this novel so researcher chooses this novel. He hopes it can help the reader of this novel interpret the meaning of figurative language in this novel.
1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of study above the researcher determines these statement problems as follows:

1. What kind of figurative languages are used by Robert Cormier in the novel “After the First Death”?
2. What are the meaning of figurative languages found in Robert Cormier’s novel “After the First Death”?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

Based on the statements of problem above the researcher determines these purposes of study as follows:

1. To describe kind of figurative language that are used by Robert Cormier in the novel “After the First Death”
2. To explain the meaning of every figurative languages used by Robert Cormier in the novel “After the First Death”

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study aims to give more explanation and the examples about figurative language to enrich the reader knowledge. Practically, this study is expected useful for these groups such as:

1. Students
The researcher hopes this study can help students to enrich their understanding in literature especially in understanding figurative language. Students also can get another reference from this study.

2. Teachers

Teacher can get many example of figurative language from this study, and use these examples for teaching process in the class. Teachers also can use the novel when they teaching about figurative language, it will be more interesting for students.

3. Next Researcher

Researcher hopes that this study can be reference for the next researcher who wants to analyze figurative language especially in novel. It is possible if next researcher will analyze another element in this novel.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

When we talk about novel, there are many elements in the novel. Every element will built the novel. General elements of novel are plot, theme, character, point of view, setting, and dialogue. Besides general elements, fiction also has elements of poetic diction, images, figurative language, symbolism, allusion, and irony. In this study researcher limits analyze only on figurative language in the novel. the novel that is going to be analyzed is “After the First Death” by Robert Cormier. The researcher wants to find out figurative language in this novel and tries to interpret each figurative language that be found in this novel.
1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Figurative Language

Figurative language is the standard order of a language apprehend in order to achieve some special meaning or effect. Sometimes, figurative language describes figures or all modes of discourse as primarily poetic (Abraham, 1999).

2. Novel

Novel is a long work of narrative prose fiction that can picture life with all of its richness, complexity, and contradiction (Macmillan, 1987).

3. After the First Death

"After the first death" is a title of Robert Cormier’s novel that published in 2000 by Cornelsen from Berlin German. There are 208 pages in this novel that be divided into twelve parts story.