CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some topics related to the background of the study, the statement of the problems, the purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a complex phenomenon that is owned innately by the whole human beings in this world. Every human in the world uses language to talk in their daily life. According to Hornby (1995:662) language is the system of sound that is used by human to communicate and express their thoughts and feelings. It has long been proven throughout history that language is the best tool or media of transferring information among people in order to communicate and to build relationship in their daily and social lives. Wardhaugh (2006:1) states that language is what the members of a particular society speak. In other words, language is the main tool of communication process in interacting and expressing ideas among people. In expressing language, human does not only apply direct expression or implicit message but also indirect expression or explicit message. Indirect expression or explicit message means the meaning of expression or message is different from the authentic language that is uttered by human. The kind of this expression is called figurative language.

Figurative language is the language that is used or expressed in different meaning from the literal interpretation. Thomas and Johnson (2006: 715) state that
Figurative language is a language that consists figure of speech in which it cannot be understand literally. Meanwhile, Macmillan (1984: 261) expresses that figurative language consists of expressions that are not literally true but express some truth beyond the literal level. There are some figurative languages namely simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, paradox, hyperbole, irony, litotes and allusion.

Moreover, the researcher found some previous studies dealing with this writing. Dhistira (2014) investigated “Figurative language used in “the fall of the house of usher” short story written by Edgar Allan Poe”. There are some figurative languages are found by her namely personification, simile, hyperbole, symbol, metaphor, anaphora, and oxymoron; While, Uswatun Hasanah (2012) in her study entitle “An analysis of figurative language in The Madman by Kahlil Gibran”. She found several figurative languages used in this book namely metonymy, repetition, symbolism, personification, metaphor, hyperbole, simile, litotes, and pleonasm.

Kahlil Gibran is a Lebanese-American artist, poet, and writer. Acocella (2008) stated that he is the third most famous poet in the world. Gibran usually took up the topics about love, life, family, and work. Many readers fall in love instantly with his works because his work are highly emotion, and one of his best and famous work is “The Prophet”.

“The Prophet” is a book of 26 poems and has sold over 100 million copies in forty languages since it’s publication in 1923. It has some interesting figurative languages that are used in it. In addition, the researcher fascinated in the Kahlil
Gibran’s poems because the words that Gibran used in his poems is attractive, inspiring, educating and emotional. He delivered the poems wisely and beautifully therefore the readers are inspired by the poem. Moreover, the poem contains the symbol of life and love which is interesting to be analyzed.

Considering to the background above, the researcher wants to analyze the figurative language on Kahlil Gibran’s poem in his book “the Prophet” under the title “An analysis of figurative language used in the poems On Love, On Marriage, and On Children written by Kahlil Gibran in his book “The Prophet”.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the explanation above, there will be specific problems that are formulated in this study, as follows:


1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to answer the questions above satisfactorily.

Therefore, the writer would like:


1.4 Significance of the Study

It is expected that the finding of this study will be able to give some contributions or significances for readers or learners, lectures, and other researchers:

1. For the readers and the learners.
   The result of this study can give an additional knowledge to the students about figurative language and is also expected to be able to help students strengthen their understanding in interpreting figurative language in certain text.

2. For the English lectures
   The finding of this research is expected to become additional information and material to the lecturers that would be useful in teaching figurative language.

3. For the next researchers
   The result of this study is expected to help the students who are interested in investigating figurative language as a useful reference and is able to attract their attention in order to conduct similar research.
1.5 **Scope and Limitation**

In order to avoid the broadening discussion, the scope of this study was focused on the use of the figurative language and the connotative meaning based on Kahlil Gibran’s poems in his book “The Prophet”. In this study, the writer limits the object of the research to selected poems: *On Love, On Marriage, and On Children*.

1.6 **Definition of the Key Terms**

To make the readers understand the terms used in this study easily, the writer would like to present several definitions of the key terms as follows:

1. **Figurative language** is a language that consist of figure of speech in which it is cannot be understand literally (Thomas and Johnson, 2006: 715). The author describe persons, things, ideas and convey the story in different way by using figurative language.

2. **Poem** is a concentrated kind of writing in which imagery, figurative language, rhythm and its combine to create a special emotional effect. It is usually arranged in lines and groups of lines known as stanza. Poem is widespread and has been use from long time ago. It is the arrangement of words that contain meaning. Poem is a piece of writing that expresses the writer’s thought and feeling in order to set a mood; it can be sad or happy and simple or complex. In just a few words a poem can say a lot. It is the poet’s expression of life, feeling, experience, imagination, and emotion.

3. **The Prophet** is a book of 26 prose poetry fables written in English by the Lebanese-American artist, philosopher, and writer Kahlil Gibran. It is one
of the most popular volumes of poetry ever written. Selling over 100 million copies in forty languages since its publication in 1923.

4. **Kahlil Gibran** is the third most famous poet in the world (Acocella, 2008). He usually took up topics about love, life, marriage, children, family, and work. Many readers fall in love instantly with his works because his works are highly emotional. Bushrui and Jenkins (1998:1) stated that in all his work he expressed the deep-felt desire of men and women for a kind of spiritual life that material world meaningful and imbues it with dignity.