

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

The most important aspect of human life is language. Language is a medium used by humans to express their emotions. In addition, language allows humans to socialize with their environment and supports humans in communicating when learning something at school. Communication can be conveyed through both verbal and nonverbal means, with language serving as a medium for messages while ideas can also be effectively communicated (Susanthi et al., 2021). Language is a system of commonly spoken or written symbols used by humans to interact with each other. In addition, everyone needs a language to help, discover and share amazing ideas and useful information. Therefore, language has a strong relationship with human life and nothing can replace language as a means of communication.

Figurative language is a branch of linguistics that depicts meanings that do not occur in reality or truth (imaginative language). Figurative language covers many things such as similes, metaphors, personification, and others. Simarmata, et al. (2021) said that figurative language is used to convey the heart's desire to others in an indirect or subtle manner, as well as to beautify song lyrics. Furthermore, figurative language can provide a new perspective on the world by contrasting two different things in an interesting, original, and stunning way (Ibrahim et al, 2019). Thus, figurative language cannot be used in every conversation because it implies a new meaning for the word, it is dependent on the context and the speaker's own background.

Based on Yastanti, et al. (2018), literature has a strong correlation with social life reflection. Literature is also an interesting subject to be discussed because each word in literature has its unique meaning. Literature also known as the art of language, has the media to express people's thoughts. As a result,

many people study the figurative aspect of language in greater depth when they study language and literature. There are numerous kinds of literature that can be used to learn such as short stories, drama, novels, poetry, and songs (Fauziah, 2021).

Song is the most user-friendly form of media in literature because in the song's lyrics provides short poems express the writer's personal thoughts and feelings (Sitorus & Herman, 2019). Based on Fitria's journal (2018), in song lyrics, we can find any figurative language that can make song lyrics so extraordinary. So that, through listening to songs, people learn not only to understand language and forms of speech, but also their meaning. However, Setiawati & Maryani (2018) said that sometimes readers find some difficulties to understand it because the author's lyrics usually have an implied meaning. In addition, the song's author uses certain diction and parables, so that what is said conventionally is not always the same as what is meant to be expressed.

Listening to song is both calming and enjoyable. Song includes a variety of genres that can be chosen based on the listeners' age and circumstances. Song is frequently utilized as a medium in the learning process, entertainment and as a means of communicating moral values. Song can help people improve their language skills, especially in listening and speaking. One might also expand their vocabulary by identifying the grammar and language used by the singer. As a result, song indirectly aids developing communication abilities. Therefore, song is extremely beneficial in everyday life.

The authors found some inspirations from prior studies when performing research, such as (Putri, 2022), she researched about *Figurative Language Used in Taylor Swift's Song "Illicit Affairs" Meaning*. The result from this research, the author found figurative language that is hyperbole, personification, allusion, metaphor, symbol, and simile. According to the context, almost of Taylor's songs are about betrayal and toxic relationship. The next research conducted by Ardhyanti & Supriyatningsih (2020), entitled of their research is *Figurative Language Analysis in Celine Dion's Song Lyrics*

Falling into You Album. They analyzed from two Celine Dion's song albums, there are *Fly* and *Falling into You*. The authors states that metaphor is the most dominant figurative language in *Fly and Falling into You* song. The last research is *An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Song of Bruno Mars Entitled Grenade* by Fajrin & Aseptiana (2021), which the results revealed that this album employs figurative language such as metaphor, hyperbole, and repetition.

Selena Marie Gomez, better known as Selena Gomez, is an American singer, actress, social media influencer, and owner of *Rare Beauty* make-up brand. Selena Gomez is one of the most influential singers in many of her fans' stories. She has the ability to inspire everyone who listens to her songs. On January 10, 2020, her album *Rare* was released. It contains thirteen songs: *A Sweeter Place, Cut You Off, Crowded Room, Dance Again, Fun, Kinda Crazy, Let Me Get Me, Look at Her Now, Lose You to Love Me, People You Know, Rare, Ring, Vulnerable*. On *Selena Rare* album, she tells us about her toxic relationship, her life's ups and downs, and her mental health issues experiences. Author took several songs from *Rare* album because Selena performs almost all the songs with unique characteristics and contains a lot of figurative language, so the author intended to find out about its hidden meaning.

Previous research investigated the use of songs in learning activities, and the majority of the findings agree that songs can improve student progress. In this research, the author only focuses on three heartbreak songs that are currently popular in the music industry, namely *Lose You to Love Me, People You Know, and Vulnerable*. In addition, the author also only chooses eight types of figurative language found in Abrams' work (1999: 90) including simile, metaphor, hyperbole, paradox, irony, personification, metonymy, and symbolism. In this research, the author wants to help song lovers to find the hidden meaning contained in the song in Selena Gomez's *Rare* album. In addition, the author also wants to disseminate information related to the benefits of music in learning activities.

1.2 Research Problem

In relation to the study's background, the study consists of two problems:

1. What types of figurative language are found in the songs of Selena Gomez *Rare* song album?
2. What do the figurative language in Selena's *Rare* song album mean?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research problem of study, this research has to objectives:

1. To find out the types of figurative languages are found in the songs of Selena Gomez *Rare* album.
2. To describe the figurative language in Selena *Rare* song album mean.

1.4 Research Significance

In theory, this research enhances our knowledge of language and literature, particularly figurative language. This study is not only aimed at readers, but it also has the potential to deepen understanding of figurative language for students, and future researchers.

The author hopes that the study's explanation of figurative language will help students understand its usage and importance. This will broaden the learner's vocabulary and enhance their comprehension of the song's underlying message. This is because learning figurative language through songs happens subconsciously. Therefore, students can unintentionally improve their vocabulary while engaging in their daily activities.

The author of this study hopes that future researchers will gain valuable experience from their work. Furthermore, the author hopes to gain inspiration and learning materials to conduct more in-depth research. By investing in this study, the next researchers can unlock a world of possibilities and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in this field.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of Study

This study focused on the figurative language and the meanings of each figurative language found in Selena Gomez *Rare* album. This research is limited to three songs that have been selected in Selena Gomez's album *Rare* namely *Lose You to Love Me*, *People You Know*, and *Vulnerable*. The author has chosen to highlight three songs that have gained popularity on various social media platforms and have become favorite anthems among broken-hearted teens. These songs have a striking resemblance to the author's recent experience. With this research, the author aims to express what she was unable to communicate directly to those closest to her.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

The author defines the key terms used in this study to make it easier for readers to understand them. The following terms are defined:

1. Figurative language refers to the intended implications of words, sentences, and expressions that do not correspond to their literal meaning. (Dewi, et al. 2020)
2. Song is a sequence of syllables ('text') that is sung where it is recognized as the most appropriate method of delivering the text within the relevant community (Turpin & Stebbins, 2010).
3. Based on Nerhys (2016), An album is a record released by an artist in which the songs are organized in a coherent and purposeful manner.
4. Selena Gomez is a beautiful and multitalented American singer. She was born on Texas, U.S, July 22, 1992. (Chunningham, 2023). She described her love story life through the songs she performed.