

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In the first chapter, the researcher would discuss the introduction of the topic which consists of six elements, such as Research Background, Research Problems, Research Objectives, Scope and Limitations, Research Significance, and Definition of Key Terms.

1.1 Research Background

Language is the primary method of communication consisting of words that can be conveyed through speech, writing or gestures. According to Amberg and Vause (2009), language is the main means of communication in a social context. Every human uses language as a communication tool in daily life to convey ideas, opinions, feelings, and emotions so that language and humans are interrelated with each other. There are several ways to communicate through language such as verbal and non-verbal communication. Without language, we will have difficulty communicating with others. As a result, information cannot be conveyed effectively and there are limitations in providing information. On the other hand, the use of language in everyday life is different from the use of language in literature.

Literature is the embodiment of a person's expression in conveying thoughts and feelings. Klarer (2014) states that there are four kinds of literature; poetry, prose or fiction, drama, and film. Literary works can be used as a place to convey ideas, ideas, and express ourselves freely. In literary works, the author will use beautiful and aesthetic language with a deeper meaning. On the other hand, the use of beautiful and aesthetic language can make literary works more interesting.

Figurative language is a combination of several phrases that have a different meaning from the literal meaning (Harya, 2016). Figurative language usually uses words that are more than the usual meaning and cannot be directly interpreted because they contain imaginary words. Therefore, figurative words are not easy to understand so we can also use our imagination to understand the

author's intention. Figurative language can be used in communication in the form of literary works such as newspaper articles, advertisements, novels, poems, movies, and songs.

Songs are one of the works of art that are loved by many people. Songs are very popular because they can be listened to by all groups and can be listened to at any time. Dryden (2005) states that songs contain several components such as verse, rhythm, theme, figurative language, lyrics, meaning, and message. In addition to the rhythm that makes the song look interesting, many people like songs because in writing song lyrics usually use figurative words that contain emotions, feelings, ideas, and imaginations conveyed by the author.

Lyrics are one of the elements of the song that expresses ideas, thoughts, feelings, and emotions from the songwriter to the listener. Lyrics are included in literary works because the language used contains personal feelings (Miarsih, Kuspiyah, & Yahya, 2018). The lyricist will pour his/her ideas and feelings to produce beautiful and imaginative lyrics so that the lyrics look interesting. Therefore, the more figurative language the author uses, the more curious the listener will be in finding the meaning and can add vocabulary for the listener.

In the previous year, there were several studies on figurative language. They are Muthea (2019), Sari (2020) and Arum (2022). First, Meuthea (2018) has discussed "the figurative language used in Katy Perry's song, Chained to the Rhythm". She found 14 figurative languages in the song "Chained to the Rhythm". Second, Sari (2020) analyzed the figurative language used in Daniel Caesar's debut album titled *Freudian*. In her analysis, she found 54 types of figurative language. The dominant figurative language used is symbol. Finally, Arum (2022), she examined the figurative language on Avril Lavigne's sixth album titled "Head Above Water". In the study, the researcher found 8 types of figurative language in Avril Lavigne's five songs such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, repetition, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, and oxymoron.

Based on several previous researchers, the researcher is interested in analyzing figurative language in songs that have not been used by other researchers. The researcher chose three songs from Taylor Swift's album

entitled *Lover*. Taylor Swift with the long name Taylor Alison Swift is an American singer-songwriter. *Lover* is one of her albums released on August 23, 2019. This album consists of 18 songs and there are three songs that the researchers chose to be used as research material. The three songs are *Cruel Summer*, *Lover*, and *Daylight*. Taylor Swift describes this album as "A love letter to love itself". The album contains beautiful lyrics, bright and cheerful tones. The background grounded the researcher's reason to choose the album to analyze, especially the three songs mentioned before. This research was conducted to find out what figurative language was used in the three songs. Therefore, the researcher conducted a study with the title *Figurative Language Used in Taylor Swift Songs*.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the research background above, the following research problems can be formulated:

1. What figurative language is used in the Taylor Swift songs?
2. What is the meaning of the figurative language contained in the Taylor Swift songs?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research problem, the research objectives are presented below:

1. To identify what types of figurative language are used in the Swift songs.
2. To describe the meaning of figurative language used in the Taylor Swift songs.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research focuses on analyzing figurative language and the meaning of each figurative language contained in Taylor Swift's songs. Taking into account the researcher's ability, in order to be more detailed and focused, the researcher limits this research to three songs that have been selected from Taylor Swift's album, namely *Cruel Summer*, *Lover*, and *Daylight*.

1.5 Research Significance

The researcher hopes that this study can help develop an understanding of the figurative language used in three selected Taylor Swift songs. Theoretically,

the researcher hopes that this research can help other students who will conduct similar research on figurative language in song lyrics. Practically, the researcher hopes that it can be useful for students to help find out the kinds and meanings of figurative language in song lyrics. In addition, the researcher hopes that this research can help readers develop new vocabulary and understanding of figurative language by understanding the meaning of figurative language itself.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In this study there are several important key terms to be understood by the reader in order to make it easier for the reader to understand the key terms in this study, as follows:

1. Figurative language is a combination of several phrases that have a different meaning from the literal meaning (Harya, 2016).
2. Songs contain several components such as verse, rhythm, theme, figurative language, lyrics, meaning and message (Dryden, 2005).
3. The three Taylor Swift songs that have been selected are three songs from the "Lover" album, namely Cruel Summer, Lover, and Daylight. Lover is one of Taylor Swift's albums released on August 23, 2019, through Republic Records.

In summary, this chapter explains that this study was designed by the researcher with a research background and research problem of figurative language and its true meaning in the Taylor Swift songs. In this chapter, the researcher limits it with only three songs selected from the album as the object of research. In addition, this chapter also contains the researcher's expectations about the benefits that will be obtained by the reader. Finally, to end this chapter, the researcher also provides important terms that must be avoided in misinterpreting the issues that the researcher will raise.