

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Language is a tool that people use to verbally and creatively express themselves. Language is necessary for human interaction, communication, and the collecting of information. Language can be spoken or written to convey a person's feelings, emotions, ideas, thoughts, and imaginations. Written language can be found in novels, newspapers, poetry, and magazines. Spoken language can be found in song, speech, and conversation. We cannot live without language because, as social beings, we need communication and social interaction.

Language can be used both literally and figuratively. Literally refers to the meaning of the language as it is described in a dictionary or the meaning as grammatical rules describe it. The meaning of a figurative word is a way of saying other than the actual meaning of the word, commonly referred to as a figure of speech. It may be difficult for people to determine if a language's meaning is literal or figurative. When delivering information, literal or figurative interpretations may be used for the listener's comprehension. The first interpretation includes the explicit meaning based on the meaning of each piece of information, whereas the second interpretation includes or derives the intended meaning by understanding the material's context. Figurative language is not only used in conversation. They are often found in literary works such as poetry.

Perrine (1963) says that poets use figurative language as "another way to add an extra dimension to language". Then he adds that by using figurative language, "we can say what we want to say more clearly and powerfully with numbers than we can by saying it directly". Apart from poetry, figurative language is often found in songs.

Song lyrics are classified as poems in literature due to their similar features. Lyrics and poetry both contain stanzas, alliteration, and metaphorical language. It frequently occurs in literary works like poetry and song lyrics. A song with lyrics conveys and expresses the songwriter's thoughts, ideas, and feelings. Sometimes it is hard to understand the lyrics of a song. Sometimes, people will have difficulty understanding a song's meaning because songwriters use figurative language to compose the lyrics. As a result, semantics can be one way to help people understand the meaning of a song. Furthermore, people can express the song's message after understanding the lyrics meaning.

In this research, the researcher wants to analyze figurative language in a song. The object of the study is taken from a song by Ava Max. Ava Max is a famous American singer. On her album *Heaven and Hell* one of her most famous songs are "Sweet but Psycho." *Heaven and Hell* consist of fourteen songs. The researcher takes a sentence of the "Kings and Queens" lyric as an example.

If you're gonna treat me right, I'll take you to heaven every night."

This lyric is hyperbole type. It is exaggerated the statement that she will take him to heaven every night. Heaven is represents as a beautiful place that makes us

happy. The real meaning that the writer tries to convey is if he treats her right, she will give him pleasure every night.

The next example is from “*Who’s Laughing Now*”

“Never felt the words like a razor”

This lyric considered as simile because the writer compares the abstract things ‘words’ with razor. As we know razor is sharp object that can hurt us. Words that come out from our mouth also can hurt people if we say something that offends them.

Songs by Ava Max are chosen as the object of the study for the following reasons: First, just like poems, Ava Max's songs use many figurative language and phrases. Second, Ava Max is a singer whose songs have hit worldwide music charts, been recognized by critics, and won numerous awards. Ava Max has announced the 2019 MTV Europe Music Awards for Best Push Act and Bravo - Newcomer/Breakthrough. Regarding Ava Max's accomplishments, the researcher believes that her songs deserved to be the object of the study.

Based on the explanation above and those similar studies, the researcher attempts to recognize the figurative language used in *Heaven and Hell* album based on the theory proposed by Leech (1969). The researcher takes the lyrics from Ava Max’s songs and focuses on *Heaven and Hell* album. Moreover, since figurative language makes the reader think critically, this research intended to analyze figurative language in Ava Max’s song lyrics of *Heaven and Hell* album.

B. The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study, there are three research problems that will be conducted:

1. What are the types of figurative languages used in Ava Max's song lyrics of *Heaven and Hell* album?
2. How are the types of figurative languages realized in Ava Max's song lyrics of *Heaven and Hell* album?
3. Why are the types of figurative languages used in Ava Max's song lyrics of *Heaven and Hell* album?

C. The Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem of the study, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out types of figurative language used in Ava Max's song lyrics of *Heaven and Hell* Album.
2. To analyze the realization of figurative languages in Ava Max's song lyrics of *Heaven and Hell* Album.
3. To explain the reason for the use of figurative languages in Ava Max's song lyrics of *Heaven and Hell* Album.

D. The Scope of the Study

In the present study, the writer focused on analyzing the figurative language used in song lyrics of *Heaven and Hell* album by Ava Max and to describe the types, the realization and the reason of using figurative language in song lyrics. Beside that the writer would limit the study by employing Leech's (1969) theory of figurative language, which divided figurative language into eight types namely: hyperbole, metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, irony, litotes, and oxymoron.

E. The Significance of the Study

Practically, the result of this study provides an abundance of explanations for figurative language, particularly for English Literature students interested in figurative language theories and the semantic analysis of song lyrics. The findings from this research can be utilized to enhance the language and explanation of figurative language.

Theoretically, the result of this study should be helpful to readers because it provides information on figurative language. Understanding figurative language improves readers understanding of the meaning and message, particularly in song lyrics.