

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter includes background of the study, problem of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of study

As individuals, humans are unique and diverse between one and another. Because every human being is not the same, they have distinctive path to indicating their advantage in the terms of art. Art is a type of articulation, expression and appearance that never goes astray from the real world and the way toward imitating nature (Aristotle, 2012), while music is a piece of art that implies an impression and conveyed using sound, either through human voices that called as melodies or sounds that come from different instruments. Music has become a piece of human existence for a long time, and its existence progressively influential in modern society. Therefore, music becomes a popular culture for time to time. For certain individuals, music is an amusement material that loosens up the spirit and eliminates exhaustion from exceptionally bustling exercises. By listening music or song individuals will be more unwind and appreciate.

Furthermore, song is also a part of literature. Meyer (1997) stated that literature is a term used to describe written texts that set apart via by careful use of language, including highlights, for example, imaginative representations, rhyme, similar sounding word usage, all around turned expressions, elegant syntax which are aesthetically read or intended by the author to be aesthetically read and are

deliberately somewhat open in interpretation. Song is one pattern of literature and part of music with words that are sung and has a function to utter the thoughts and feeling. Song has two elements, such as music and lyric. Lyric that used in the music sometimes has different meaning or we called it as figurative language. Basically, figurative language is part of the semantic. Semantics is one of linguistics branches which explain about language meaning, or it can be said that meaning is the most important thing in studying semantics term. According to (Lyons, 1984) semantics implies learns about thoughts or ideas that can be transferred from the mind of speaker to the mind of the audience by embodying them in the form of one language or another.

A part of semantic studies is literal and non-literal meaning. Literal meaning is the opposite of non-literal meaning. When the speaker says something that has natural meaning or does not have another meaning it can be defined as literal meaning. When the speaker utters something that has different meaning of what his/her words or has hidden meaning it can be said as non-literal meaning. (Lyons, 1984) Figurative language is also defined as deviation in the use of words from literal sense or from simple and common practice. Figurative language has connotative or implied meaning that we could not find in the dictionary as a denotative meaning. Figurative language is non-literal ways of saying things: that is, the words have to be interpreted in order to understand the intended meaning (Elder, 2004). Figurative language also can be used in any form of communication, such as in daily conversation rarely, articles in newspaper, advertisements, novels, poems, etc.

Figurative language uses some words that go beyond from the ordinary meaning. It requires the readers to use his/ her imagination to figure out the author's meaning (Elder, 2004). It makes figurative meaning is difficult to understand because people cannot find the meaning of the figurative language in dictionary just like the other vocabulary words that usually they use in daily conversation. According (Evans, 2006), to know about the meaning of figurative language, it needs to be processed by the mind / brain. In addition, with semantic people can know the true meaning in the song. When listening to a song, people may not focus on the lyrics that used, especially if the song contains a figurative element. People tend to listen to the music because the rhythm is good, or even because they like the singer. In the other side, knowing the meaning of a lyric it can be important because we can know the meaning and purpose of the song.

In this study, researcher is interested to analyze one of the popular songs by famous singer that is John Mayer. John Mayer was born at October 16th, 1977 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He is not only a singer, but also a songwriter, guitarist and record producer. The researcher is interested in conducting this research. There are four main reasons of using figurative language (Perrine, 1982). 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. In this thesis, the researcher is interested in analyzing the figurative expressions that are found in novel. The researcher chooses John

Mayer's song "You're Gonna Live Forever in Me" because this song has never been researched before. Besides that this song is a hit song that has a dramatic melody and also has lyrics with figurative language, so it can increase understanding about figurative language. The lyrics of the songs are typically of a rhyming nature and poetic. It is because the song writer uses figurative language in order to make more interesting memorable, and aesthetic.

Lyrics have a function to express meanings, ideas, emotions, and feelings. Hornby (2000) states that lyrics are used to express a person's personal feelings and thoughts. so that way delivery of lyrics or language style is one of the highlights that can influence listeners' interest. In this John Mayer song, besides having a melodic rhythm, this song also has a figure of speech in almost all of the lyrics. With the use of figurative language in the lyrics, make the song sound dramatic and unique. For this reason, the researcher has a desire to analyze the meaning of figure of speech in the song lyrics.

There are some of studies which have done by previous researchers related to this study. First, Putu ayu (2012) studied about the analysis of figurative language in Adele's song lyric. The findings of the study are identifying the types of figurative language that found in the song lyrics and describe the contextual meaning of the figurative language used in the song lyrics by Adele. Next, Sharndama & Suleiman (2013) investigated an analysis of figurative language in two selected traditional funeral songs of the Kilba people of Adamawa state. The researchers finding about identify the common figurative languages used in the performance of the Kilba funeral songs and discuss the effects of the identified figurative languages used in the performance of the Kilba funeral songs to the

audience. Another research found related to this study conducted by Misbah Obaid, Aleem Shakir (2014). The result of his research of the types of figurative language used in Pakistani English Newspapers are simile, metaphor, metonymy, and hyperbole, metonymy is the most frequently occurring figure of speech in Pakistani English newspapers. The thing that make different with the previous studies is the data source. In this research the data source is song from John Mayer. While the researcher has same topic about study figurative language in but the data is different. Because the data is different so the research has different result and interpretation.

As mentioned earlier, previous studies have discussed figures language in the songs of Adele while the others discuss other works of art. What is known that there are no specific rules in a work of art to specifically choose what kind of figurative language, to know and make people think critically, the researcher conducted a study entitled " Figurative Language on John Mayer's Song "You're Gonna Live Forever in Me". In short, this study researcher used the song from world popular singer John Mayer to find out the types of the figurative language that occur in the song lyric and the meaning behind it.

B. Statement of research problems

Based on the background of study, the researcher formulated the problem by making the research question below:

1. What kinds of figurative language are found in John Mayer's song?
2. What are the meanings of the figurative language used in the John Mayer's song?

C. Objective of Research

1. To identify the types of figurative language found in the song lyric by John Mayer
2. To analyze and describe the contextual meaning of the figurative language used in song lyric by John Mayer

D. Significance of the Research

Practically, this study expected for the listener to understand a song lyric that used figurative language. The researcher hopes the research can give significance explanation to the reader especially those who will enjoy, understand and appreciate John Mayer's song. The researcher also hopes that the reader will know the meaning of figurative language in John Mayer's song when they are singing and listening. Based on that, this research can give information to whom that will analyze John Mayer's song more clearly and intently. Finally, this study provides additional information for the Semantic class. It can help the student in semantic class to analyze the kind of figurative language and the concept of figurative language which frequently use in semantic. In addition this study provides contribution for other researcher who is interested in doing further research in this area.

D. Scope and Limitation of the Research

The researcher focuses on analyze the kinds of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, hyperbola and other. Besides, the researcher focuses on analyze the meaning of each figurative language in John Mayer's song. For the limitation, the researcher limits to investigate the word, sentence and phrase used in the lyric of John Mayer song. In addition the researcher will not analyze the writer of song

background and the John Mayer song lyric entitled “You Gonna Live Forever in Me”, which contained figurative and how the way figurative language are used in the song lyrics.

E. Definition of key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation between the researcher and the readers, the following key terms are defined:

1. John Mayer Song

John Clayton Mayer, who is known as John Mayer is a singer from the United States who was born on October 16, 1977. He started his career in the music industry at 1999. In 2016 John Mayer released an album namely "The Search of Everything: Wave One" which contains 4 track lists. In this album, the writer uses the fourth track to be analyzed entitled "You Gonna Live Forever in Me "with song duration of 03:09. (Biography.com Editors, 2014)

2. Figurative Language

Figurative language means another way of saying something rather than the literal meaning of the words (Nurul Huda, 2013). Figurative language also discussed about meaning which is different from the literal interpretation. It is supported by the theory which said that figurative or imaginative language is the sentences that fall outside the domain of normal literal language (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). According to Abrahams (1982) figurative language is diverge from what speakers of language apprehend as the ordinary, or standard,

sequence of word or significance in order to achieve some special meaning of effect. According to Perrine (1992), he classifies figurative language into eleven types and it will be used in analyzing the findings. The eleven types of figurative language such as metaphor, simile, personification, synecdoche, paradox, symbol, allegory, hyperbole, apostrophe, understatement, and verbal irony.