

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of The Study

The success of study the language depends on how people interpret the meanings of language. As Richard (1992) stated that language is the system of human communication which consists of the structured arrangement of sound (or their written representation) into large units. People can write, express their emotions, feelings, ideas in the form of language. People also can give advices and critics other people ideas with language. As by no means, people cannot understand other people thoughts without proper knowledge of the language meanings.

Theories of language comprehension is divided by literal and nonliteral meaning. As Gibbs (1993) states one of the continuing difficulties with the psycholinguistics literature on figurative language understanding is that few scholars ever try to define the terms “literal” and “figurative.” In traditional assumption, literal meaning is the result of default language comprehension which includes in many academic disciplines. Then, in psycholinguistic, the human language processor is designed for the analysis of literal meanings. Nonliteral and figurative meanings are secondary results, and depend on some prior analysis of what words and expressions literally mean. This general theory pictures that nonliteral meanings should always take more time to interpret than are literal meanings.

Literal meaning is a language that not perceived any kind hidden messages in the text and state the real meaning of the languages. Literal meaning in language comprehension is simply described as a process that automatically analysed when

people process figurative language. People appears to directly understand what the speaker try to communicate spontaneously. The speakers deliver the information naturally and there is no other meaning in their utterance. As Gibbs (1994) stated that in another article that there is little evidence supported the idea that people analysed the literal meanings of nonliteral utterances during their ordinary interpretations of these expressions.

Meanwhile, figurative language refers to a language that different from traditional form in order to convey a complicated meaning, beautiful writing, simplicity, or mindful comparison. As Tarigan (1985) states that people have to think imaginatively to catch the meaning of figurative language. Zaenuddin (1992) also stated that figurative language is the use of various languages which is used to express the idea of the speaker directly that uses figures of speech, a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the words.. Therefore, in some occasions figurative language does not interpreted the real meaning which the speaker try to convey their message and, in another occasions, cause some difficulties and the wrong interpretation about the message.

Despite of the difficulties of the figurative language meaning, people tend to use figurative language in their daily life. As Perrine (1982) and cited by Harya (2016) that there are four main reasons of using figurative language. 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 order to express the idea or feeling, it is known that the authors create their own literature. In Oxford dictionary, literature is pieces of writing that are considered to be works of art, especially novels, plays and poems (in contrast to technical books and newspapers, magazines, etc.). As a work of art, literature gained interest to many researchers. They begin to identify and study what kind of meaning that the authors try to communicate or convey their message. Naturally, many researchers begin to study literal and nonliteral meaning (figurative language) that occur in literature.

In one work of literature, there are more than one kind figurative language that being used in it. As delivered by Rislattunni'mah (2015) which she found that there are nine kind of figurative language that used in Christina Perri's selected songs. They are hyperbole, rhetoric, personification, repetition, paradox, allegory, irony, parallelism, and litotes. The researcher also stated that hyperbole is the most appear in the songs. The researcher concluded that mainly of her songs is to express the joyful and the pain in loving someone.

Another result which delivered by Yunitasari (2016) found that there are seven kind of figurative language that used in Secondhand Serenade songs that being composed by John Vesely. They are simile, metaphor, synecdoche, metonymy, personification, hyperbole, and antithesis. The researcher concluded that the composer tried to explain and solve a complicated problem with a woman. The researcher also concluded that a different song still has a relationship between other songs.

Another previous study which delivered by Fajarwati (2016) found some figurative language have shaped in groups of words that formed into idioms in Katy Perry's selected songs. The researcher also pointed that the song writer use symbolization, such as objects, actions, person or animal to convey her messages in her songs. The symbols in the songs used to make clear stand what the writer feel and have more meaning than their literal meanings.

Adding that previous study, Firdaus (2016) concluded that figurative language in the songs can build imaginations about something new in the world. The song writer shows about sadness and depression in figure of speech of his songs with aesthetic sentences. The use of aesthetic sentences in the songs is to move the deep feeling for his listeners. So, the listeners can feel about the song writer passion and gratitude with their life.

In any other events, some researchers directly concluded that one kind figurative language is more frequently used and important than other kinds of figurative language. As stated by Masruri (2011) in his study that revealed the selected songs from music group Westlife are mainly use hyperbole as the figurative language in their songs. While the researcher did not deny that there are another kind of figurative language in the songs but the researcher pointed out that the most important is the "Hyperbole" that occur in the songs. The researcher also conclude that the songs explicitly state clear hyperbolism, so ordinary people can understand the message without much difficulties

Another example from Masruri (2018) that study the figurative language about selected Maher Zain's songs, the researcher pointed out the most kind of

figurative language is a hyperbole language. The researcher also stated that there are another seven kind of figurative language besides hyperbole which are simile, metaphor, personification, repetition, and rhetoric. While the researcher did not point the message in his research conclusion, but it did not deny that there are some figurative language in Maher Zain songs.

Despite of the development of figurative language research study in study different kind of songs, there are some different figurative language research that being discussed in IAIN Tulungagung. For example, Rina Dwi (2015) presented a study of figurative language in short stories by Henry. The researcher found fourteen kind of figurative language that being found in four selected stories. They are pleonasm, simile, hyperbole, personification, euphemism, aptronym, ellipsis, repetition, metaphor, metonymy, litotes, asyndeton, and rhetoric. The researcher pointed out that personification is the most kind of figurative language in the stories. The researcher also concluded that the author tried to convey moral and social messages.

Another example by Khoiriyah (2016) present a study of figurative language in film that appear in “Frozen the Movie”. The researcher found ten kinds of figurative language in the movie. They are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, metonymy, alliteration, idiom, rhetoric, onomatopoeia, and repetition. The researcher also pointed out that repetition is the mostly used in the film which to determine some lines in the movie. The researcher also stated that the figurative language in the movie are to build moral messages in a play from the creator.

As touch previously, the previous study mostly discussed figurative language in the songs while little other discussed another works of art. It is known that there are no rules in a work of art to specifically select what kind of figurative language. In previous study, the researchers explained that simile and hyperbole are the most figurative language that occur in the songs. the researchers pointed that the figurative language can make people to imagine and think critically. Unfortunately, there are no researcher in IAIN Tulungagung that not yet discussed about poems. In order to know and make people think critically, the writer conducting a research titled “Figurative Language in selected John Keats’ poems”.

### **B. Formulation of Research Problems**

Based on the background of the study discussed above, the research problems are formulated as follows:

1. What kinds of figurative language in selected John Keats’ poems?
2. What are the meanings of the message that conveyed in selected John Keats’ poems?

### **C. Research Objectives**

Based on the research problems, the objectives of the research as follows:

1. To find what kinds of figurative language in selected John Keats’ poems.
2. To know the messages meaning that being conveyed from selected John Keats’ poems.

### **D. Significance of the Study**

This research found some kind of figurative language that used in those selected poems. This research also contained about the meaning and

messages of the poems which are have pointer about the life of John Keats. For those purpose, the researcher stated that this research had significance for;

1. English Teachers

The research findings are expected to become teaching materials for English teachers. It can help the teacher to introduce figurative language and poesy literature to their students. It can also be a reference for explaining kinds of figurative language.

2. English learners

The research findings are expected to help students to enrich their knowledge about figurative language in poems. It can help students to broaden their horizon about figurative language and how the figurative language influence in literature.

3. Future researcher

The research findings are expected can be used as reference in conducting further studies about figurative language that being used in different kinds of literature, such as poetry, rhymes and songs.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation of the Study**

The scope of this research is study of figurative language. The researcher only focuses in the figurative language of John Keats' selected poems. The researcher focuses on what kinds of figurative language in the poems and the messages that conveyed by the writer.

This study does not discuss further about the characteristics of language in the poesy. The researcher also does not discuss further analysis of the selected poems. So, further explanation about how the rhymes, couplets or stanza formed in these selected poems will not appear.

## **F. Definition of Key Terms**

Definition of key terms are importance to be given in order to avoid misunderstanding. Referring to the topic discussed in the present study some terms used need to be defined as follows:

### **1. Figurative Language**

Figurative language is languages that use many figures of speech that explain or suggest by using words and ideas differently from literal meaning (Maclin, 1992).

### **2. Poetry**

Poetry is literary work in which special intensity is given to the expression of feelings and ideas by the use of distinctive style and rhythm

### **3. Messages**

Message is a short piece of information that you give to a person when you cannot speak to them directly or the most important idea in a book, film or play (Cambridge dictionary, third edition).

### **4. John Keats**

John Keats was an English Romantic poet. He was one of the main figures of the second generation of Romantic poets, along with Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley, despite his works having been in



publication for only four years before his death from tuberculosis at the age of 25 (Wikipedia).