

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher discusses about context of the research, focus of the research, the objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of key terms.

A. Context of the Research

Language is a systematic instrument of communicating ideas or feelings by using sounds, gestures, or signs agreed (Brown 2007:6). According to Trudgil (1997:14) he stated that language is simply a means of communicating about the weathers or the subjects, and it is very important means of establishing and maintaining relationship with others. There are many functions in language that is very important for people's daily life such as transferring idea, sending and receiving information. Language divided into two types those are spoken and written language. Spoken language doesn't require a clear sentence structure. Meanwhile, written language should use the clear sentence structure in order to make the reader understand what the author means.

According to Rastafara (2011:10) there are many functions of language in society such as a tool to communicate with fellow human beings, for working with fellow human beings, and to identify them. Other explanation about language that stated by Wardaugh (1998:23) he explained

that language is a system or a way for someone to communicate and interact in speech and writing are used by everyone from the various regions that have customs and traditions of each.

In the other hand, there's also which interpreted that language is a system of sound symbols arbitrators is generated by saying the means of humans and used by people to communicate, cooperation, and self-identification, Bastian (2011:11). Meanwhile, Tood (2006:6) stated that language is a sign that a person or a group of individuals to communicate and interact as social beings.

Based on many explanations about language from the expert above, the researcher can conclude that language is something important for human beings to communicate with other people among the nations in all over the world. And as the international language, English is very important and has many relationship of life owned by human beings. In Indonesia, English is the first foreign language and taught formally from elementary school up to the university level.

Semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and semantics is the study of how languages organize and express meanings (Kreidler, 1998:3). Linguistics itself has brought to the subject of semantics a certain degree of analytic rigour combined with a view of the study of meaning as an integrated component within the total theory of how language works (leech, 1981:10).

Leech (1969:5), explained and described the meaning in natural language is the aim of semantics. People may even say in ordinary usage more explicit that the goal of semantics is to explain what underlies the use of the word means and related term (sense, nonsense, signify, ambiguous, antonym, synonymy, etc.) in English and other language. The language which uses the unreal meaning is called figurative language in semantic analysis. Figurative language can be understood through studying semantics.

Figurative language is the language used by literary writers to figure out or describe a word with inanimate or living noun. According to Agustin Evin (2015:2) she stated that figurative language is using words to imply another meaning. In the other hand, figurative language is language style that used by the poet to describe and express author's feeling. Perrine (in Arp, 2012:73) states that "figurative language is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way". In his perception, figurative language consists of twelve types, those are: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, irony.

Literature as one form of artistic creations using language as media presentation. However, different form of the language used in daily life, language in literature has its own uniqueness. Languages in literature are the result of processing and the expression of individual authors.

Actually, there are many definitions of literature that mentioned by the experts and some dictionaries. Longman Dictionary (2003:828) writes the definitions of literature as works, plays, poems, etc. that people think have value and as works, such as these that are studied as a subject. Another definition mentions that literature is one of the great creative and universal means of communicating the emotional, spiritual, or intellectual concerns of mankind (The Encyclopedia of American, vol. 22:559).

According to Fitri (2010:1) Literature introduces us to new world experience. We learn about books and literature, we enjoy the comedy and tragedy stories and we may even grow through our literary journey with books. Furthermore, literature represents “life” and “life” is in large measure of social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitation, Rene wellek and Austin Warren (1995:56). It means that literary is reflection of life because is related with social life.

In literature there are many literary works such as drama, novel, short story, song lyric, prose, and poetry. Poetry is one of special type in literary works. This can be seen from the characteristics of poem that use figurative language, choice of words and messages are expressed by the author. It is expression of heart voice and strong feeling that written in beautiful stanza form and expressed with style and motion suitable with the contain. According to John peck and Coyle martin (1993:12) stated that poetry is the imaginative expression of strong feeling, usually rhythmical

and the spontaneous over flow of powerful feelings recollected in tranquility. From the explanation above about poetry the researcher can conclude that poetry is a literary work that's born of the imagination and feelings experienced by the author and is expressed through a word using a few figurative languages to describe it to make it a beautiful verse in poetry.

Marguerite Ann Johnson (1928-2014) popularly known as Maya Angelou, was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry. She was called "the black woman's poet laureate", and her poems have been called the anthems of African Americans. Many of the poems that created by Angelou are related to feminism, one of them is "*still I rise*" because she is a woman who really cares about things related to discrimination. Apart from raising the issue of discrimination, some of her poems talk about the freedom of a dominant American society such as "*I know why the caged bird sing*". Some of Angelou's poems that have an influence on motivating and inspiring many people in this world include *still I rise, on The Pulse of Morning, Phenomenal Woman, and A Brave and Startling truth. On the Pulse of Morning* (1993) considered special poem as it was recited at the inauguration of President Bill Clinton and Angelou who read the poem in front of the President.

To provide the originality of this research the researcher wants to present the previous studies that deal with, especially figurative language in general. The previous research is done by Sulkhan Habibi (2016) in analysis

“An Analysis of Figurative Language on Edensor’s Novel by Andrea Hirata”. His study only focus on kind of figurative language in some literary works that is Novel. Next study by Buchori Masruri (2018) in *“An Analysis of Figurative Language in Maher Zain Selected Song Lyric”*. His study is focus on analyzing the figurative language in song lyric.

The comparison of this research between the previous study above is the object of the research. The research done by Sulkhan Habibi uses Edensor’s Novel written by Andrea Hirata as an object of the research. And the research done by Buchori Masruri uses lyric of the music by Maher Zain as an object of the research. While, in this research, the researcher uses poems written by Maya Angelou as an object of the research. The similarity of this research with the previous study above is analysis of figurative language.

In this research, the researcher focuses on the types and dominant figurative language used in Maya Angelou’s selected poem especially in her masterpiece poems. The researcher takes five of masterpiece poems written by Maya Angelou, those are *still I rise, on The Pulse of Morning, Phenomenal Woman, Caged Bird, and A Brave and Startling truth*. The researcher intends to find some kinds of figurative language used in masterpiece poems written by Maya Angelou. Therefore, the researcher takes the title of this research as ***“Figurative Languages Used in Maya Angelou’s Selected Poems”***

B. Focus of Research

Research is focused on analyzing figurative language, especially on Maya Angelou's selected poems. The formulation of this study is:

1. What are the figurative languages found in Maya Angelou's selected poems?
2. What is the dominant figurative language used in Maya Angelou's selected poems?
3. How does Maya Angelou use figurative languages that are frequently used in her poems?

C. The Objectives of the Research

Based on the statement of the study, the aim of this research is:

1. To find out the types of figurative languages used in Maya Angelou's selected poem
2. To find out the dominant figurative language used in Maya Angelou's selected poem.
3. To reveal the function of dominant figurative language used in Maya Angelou's selected poem.

D. Significance of The Research

The result of this research is expected to have advantage, such as:

1. For English teacher, the result of the research hopefully able to be used as references in teaching and learning English

2. For English learner, the research finding are expected to enrich their knowledge about figurative language used in poems.
3. For other researcher, finding of the research can be used as a reference for other researcher who wants to conduct the similar research. So, that can provide information about figurative language use in literary works such as poem.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

In order that there is no confusion and extension of understanding or deviation from the purpose of studying problem, the researcher gives the scope and limitation of this research. The scope describes the areas covered in a research. Here, the scope of this research is five of masterpiece poem written by Maya Angelou. The limitation of the research is analyzing the type of figurative language, the dominant of figurative language, and the function of dominant figurative language used in Maya Angelou's selected poem.

F. Definition of Key Terms

This research uses some technical terms that need to be defined to avoid misunderstanding for the readers. To avoid misunderstanding, they need to be defined as follows:

1. According to Croft (2000:56) figurative language is a symbolic or metaphorical and not mean to be taken literally. As elaborated by Bradford

T. Stull in his book *Elements of Figurative Language* is the language that avoids speaking directly or plainly about the subject under examination. Figurative language is also the language that either speaks symbolically about the subject or the language when speaking about the subject. Moreover, Kneedy (1991) states that a figurative language can occur whenever a speaker speaks or the writer writes for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departing from the denotation of ordinary words, in this context, the figurative language learned here is related to what is used in the poem

2. According to Perrine (1992) poem is a type of language that says something excessively and is deeper than ordinary language. According to Collins dictionary (2018), a writing where the words are chosen for beauty and their sound is carefully arranged, often found in rhyming short rows called poem. Meanwhile, Preminger and Brogan (1993:938) state “A poem is an instance of verbal art, text set in verse, bound speech”