

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the description of: Context of the Study, Formulation of the Study, Scope and Limitation, Purpose of the Study, Significance of the Study, and Definition of Key Term.

### **A. Context of the Study**

In addition to language as a means of interpersonal communication, language also functions as a media of conveying ideas, opinions, messages, and feelings in a work form. Nurhayati & Fitriana (2018) stated that people conduct communication using a language or language is used to create a meaningful communication among human beings. In other words, communication is the main function of function. There are a lot of varieties of language as media for conveying ideas, opinions, message or feeling. One of them is variety of literary language, or it is also called literary work (Pradopo, 1997). In the discussion of literary work, Taum (1997) has stated that to describe the human experience and knowledge are not simply presented, but basically it contains aesthetic ideas. Aesthetic ideas have a dual function, specifically to communicate aesthetic enjoyment and to make readers involve their own lives in the other perspective of life. This statement was also reinforced by Wellek and Warren (1956). They mentioned that literary work is a creation with the medium of language that is imaginative and it has aesthetic function. Furthermore, these broadly meant that

the term of literary work refers to the work of literature containing expression of ideas, opinions, messages, or feeling with the language medium by prioritizing the aesthetic function.

One of literary embodiment that uses aesthetic function in its structure is poetry. Hoogland (2004) mentioned that, "Poetry is the highest use of literary verbal structures that keep growing immediately, meaningful, also thrive on sounds, colors and other sensory data, emotions, and images of the tangible material world. Conventions include diction, similes, assonance, dissonance, puns and word play, fantasy and most discussed, metaphor". Generally, the word 'poetry' is related with 'poem'. However, both of them are actually different. As defined in Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, poem is a written work in which words is arranged in separate lines and often end in rhyme, it is also selected based on the sounds, pictures and ideas that are expressed in word. Meanwhile, poetry is defined as the whole of poem as a form of literary work. Poem composed of several rules such as rhyme, rhythm and stanza. In other side, poetry is not bound by many rules. It can be concluded that the category of poetry is wider than poem.

There are many elements of poetry, but the most important in using words in a work of poetry is figurative language. Figurative language is the style of language used by the writer or speaker to convey a message imaginatively. It reinforced by Arp & Perrine (2020), figurative language is the way of saying or writing something that is different than usual. The writing or speaking might be less than what it really means, more than what it really means, or the opposite of what it really means, or something other than what it really means. The words

used cannot be taken literally. According to Baldick (2015), figurative language is a very important source of poetry, although not all poets use it. It is also present in all kinds of speech and other writing, but is usually not very conspicuous. In the mid to late 20th century, subjects such as metaphor and metonymy were compulsory subjects in the Faculty of Literature and were mainly studied as part of literary texts. Dancygier & Sweetser (2014) stated that figurative language is one aspect of a text – especially a poetic text – which has a special aesthetic value. Shakespeare, as explained by Dancygier & Sweetser, in saying, *Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?* (Sonnet 18), conveyed his message is more beautiful than if he were actually talking about the subject's personal qualities, such as kindness, charm, and beauty.

The end of World War II was the beginning of the development of literary work, especially in terms of poetry in this world. Williams (2011) stated the new models of poetry is written by poet after 1950s. Some poetry anthologies such as Robert Conquest's work entitled *New Lines* (1956), Al Alvarez's *The New Poetry* (1962), work of Donald Allen entitled *The New American Poetry* (1960), Michael Schmidt's *New Poetries* (1994), Michael Hulse, David Kennedy and David Morley's *The New Poetry* (1993), and Claudia Rankine and Lisa Sewell's *American Poets in the 21st Century: The New Poetics* (2007) have proved that poetry has truly changed over the years. However, he acknowledged the existence of contemporary poetry in the past 50<sup>th</sup>, which is around 1970s. Additionally, Purba (2010) also said that contemporary poetry began to emerge in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century after the end of World War II, additionally after 1970s.

Contemporary poetry is poetry that was born at a certain time in its form and style does not follow the rules of old poetry in general (Purba, 2010). Lot of elements has changed from pre-1950s poetry to the contemporary poetry, such as the rules of rhyme, line, stanza, or figurative language. Most of contemporary poetry is not tied to the rules of rhyme and rhythm, there are even differences in using figurative language. There are many contemporary poets around the world, whether from Europe, Asia, or others. Among contemporary poets whose works are well known include Ocean Vuong, Dorothea Lasky, Eileen Myles, Richard Siken, Louise Glück, Ada Limón, Tracy K. Smith, Maya Angelou and many others. In this research, the writer will analyze the figurative language and choose contemporary poetries of Ada Limón as the object of this research.

Ada Limón is an American female poet. She is one of New York's famous and talented contemporary poets. Her books have received many awards in New York. Several award earned are *The Carrying* (2018), a collection of poetry that won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry, *Bright Dead Things* (2015) was a finalist for the National Book Award, National Books Critics Circle Award, and the Kingsley Tufts Award for Poetry. Her work has been published in various publications including *The New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *Tin House*, and the *American Poetry Review*. Base on the context of the study, the writer conducted a qualitative research under the title, “*The Analysis of the Figurative Language Used in the Contemporary Poetry of Ada Limón*”.

## **B. Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the context of the study that has been stated above, the writer formulated the problem of this research as follows:

1. What types of figurative language does Ada Limón use in her contemporary poetry?
2. What are the messages behind Ada Limón's contemporary poetry?

## **C. Purpose of the Study**

The writer conducted this research for these following purposes:

1. To find out the type of figurative language that Ada Limón use in her contemporary poetry.
2. To find out the messages behind Ada Limón's contemporary poetry.

## **D. Scope and Limitation**

To avoid the discussion being too board, the writer conducted this research by applying several scopes and limitations. This research focused on the one of the elements of poetry namely figurative language. The contemporary poetries have been analyzed belonged to American poet, Ada Limón. Furthermore, the writer also analyzed the messages that were contained in the Ada Limón's contemporary poetry that has been chosen.

## **E. Significance of the Study**

This study was expected to be useful for some aspects as follows:

## **1. Theoretical**

According to Nurhayati (2020), research contributes some basic knowledge for the development of human science which is manifested in various disciplines. Theoretically, this research was expected to be useful for:

- a. Understandable scientific study, especially in the topic of poetry analysis.
- b. Contribute ideas and enrich existing concepts and theories about poetry analysis.
- c. Completing gaps or modifying the existing theories about poetry analysis.
- d. To expand the existing literacy of theory and concept about poetry analysis.

## **2. Practical**

According to Nurhayati (2020), research can also suggest new applications, namely improvements and modifications in practice. Practically, this research was expected to be useful for:

- a. Teachers

For the teachers, hopefully this research could contribute some positive influence to the teacher when conveying material about poetry analysis with more attention. It is considering Nurhayati (2018) who stated that commonly, as educators and teachers, they are definitely required to improve their ability, knowledge, thought and attention.

b. Students

For the students, hopefully this research is able to give encourage for being more enthusiast in increasing their reading habits and enrich their understanding about poetry analysis.

c. Further researcher

For further researcher, hopefully this research is useful as a reference for conducting their research.

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

In order to state the key term clearly and avoid misunderstanding among the readers, the writer defined each key term as follows:

### **1. Figurative Language**

The term figurative language is language that uses words with deviate meaning from the conventional meaning that is aimed to give images, associations or other effects to the reader or listener.

### **2. Cotemporary Poetry**

This research will study one form of language namely contemporary poetry. Contemporary poetry has different interpretation with the term of poetry in general. Contemporary poetry is defined as the poetry that is created by the poet start from early 20<sup>th</sup> century (after the World War II, especially at 1920s or 1950s) and its form and style does not follow the rules of old poetry in general.

### **3. Ada Limón**

The term of Ada Limón refers to the person. Ada Limón is one of contemporary poetry figure from America who born on March 28, 1976.

She is an author of her collection book of poetry “The Carrying” which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry in 2018.