CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces Context of the Study, Formulation of Research Question, Purpose of the Study, Significance of the Study, Scope and Limitation of the Study, and The Definition of Key Term.

A.   Background of the Study

One of the important elements in literature to support analytical reading is language. A general view of language in literature (including in fiction) is using connotative value, it provides un-literal meaning, such as in the word 'mother'. It simply means female parent when we refer it to a denotative meaning (meaning based on a dictionary). In contrast, connotatively, it has special effects, referring to nurturance, warmth, unqualified love, tenderness, devotion, protection, home, childhood, and happier past (Griffith, 1982: 10).

English has become a useful language for international communication, and it is sometimes referred to as an international language. The most essential thing for humans is language as a tool of communication. It may express people's thoughts, information, and feelings in both written and spoken form. Language is a set of symbols through which individuals communicate. Symbols were spoken, written, or signed with the hands as examples. Human beings are social creatures that constantly converse with one another (Kreidler, 1998, p. 19).

There are several English language variations used as a form of communication, including British English, American English, and so on. Obviously, one language may include terms that are not present in another, but it is always possible to develop new terms to convey what we mean: everything we can conceive or think may be expressed in any human language.

Regarding its functions, figurative language always becomes an interesting topic of study language and style, because of its role as a device to create aesthetics effect on a literary work, and as linguistic expression of human thought. Abrams and Harpham define simple meaning to get understanding of figurative language that is apprehending the standard meaning in order to achieve some special meaning or effect.

This research studies a popular novel by Robert Seethaler entitled "A Whole Life." A Whole Life refers to central character Andreas, who lives his whole life in the Austrian Alps, where he arrives as a young boy taken in by a farming family. He is a man of very few words and so, when he falls in love with Marie, he doesn't ask for her hand in marriage, but instead has some of his friends light her name at dusk across the mountain. When Marie dies in an avalanche, pregnant with their first child, Andreas' heart is broken. He leaves his valley just once more, to fight in WWII (War Word II) - where he is taken prisoner in the Caucasus - and returns to find that modernity has reached his remote haven.

According to the researcher's comprehensive study of the novel, one of the most interesting aspects of the novel is the use of figurative language. The used of figurative languages in the novel its make Robert Seethaler's novel is more alive. The authors use figurative language to express messages in innovative ways that are often not in the real meaning or figurative meaning connotation. The use of figurative language in this work conveys meaning indirectly and pulls readers inside. The reader will deduce the meaning and reason for the writer's choice of words. In addition, to help students or novel readers understand the context of a novel, it is necessary to deepen the novel itself, one of which is to study the figurative language contained in the novel.

For the reasons stated above, the researcher wishes to examine a novel that focuses on the use of figurative language. The researcher selects Robert Seethaler's novel "A Whole Life." He is an Austrian who lives in Berlin and has written four previous novels. His first novel to be translated into English, A Whole Life, is already a German bestseller, selling over

100,000 copies. Charlotte Collins translated the novel from its original German. A Whole Life is a sensitive book about finding dignity and beauty in isolation, as well as the large and tiny events that shape who we are.

Based on the explanations above, the researcher wants to conduct the research entitled "**An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in *A Whole Life* Novel by Robert Seethaler**"

B.   Formulation of Research Question

In line with the context of the study, this research problem is formulated as follows:

a.   What are the types of figurative language in novel entitled "A Whole Life"?

b.   What is the contextual meaning of figurative language used in a novel entitled "A Whole Life"?

C.   Purpose of the Study

According to the formulation of research question or problem, the purposes of this study are:

1.   Finding out the types of figurative language in novel entitled "A Whole Life".

2.   Finding out the contextual meaning of figurative language used in a novel entitled "A Whole Life".

D. Significance of the Study

After this thesis is complete, the writer hopes this thesis give benefits:

1.   Practically, the study contributes to English lecturers in their English teaching process, and it gives additional knowledge to English students and English lecturers.

2.   Theoretically, this study adds the literature in linguistic about figurative language.

3.   Improve student' understanding of figurative language, specifically the figurative language employed in the novel "A Whole Life."

E. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This research only focuses at figurative language, such as similes, metaphors, hyperbolas, and others. Furthermore, the researcher examines the meaning of each metaphorical phrase in the novel "A Whole Life." For the limitation, the researcher limits her investigation to the novel "A Whole Life, "'s sentences, and phrases.

F. The Definition of Key Term

To avoid misunderstanding of the key term used in this study, the researcher defines some terms as follows:

1. Figurative Language

Figurative language refers to a non-literal meaning, which is a form of language that does not use an actual or literal meaning (Tiarawati & Retno Ningsih, 2019, p. 80).

a. Type of Figurative Language

According to Kennedy (1983: 481), there are seven forms of figurative language to be classified: Personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, synecdoche, metonymy, and paradox.

2. A Whole Life Novel

In Robert Seethaler's novel Ein Ganzes Leben, Andreas Egger, a humble man born in 1898, lives in a small village in the mountains. Raised by a cruel relative, Egger has little formal education but is strong and healthy. He falls in love, spends years as a Russian prisoner of war, and leads a difficult life. The novel highlights the importance of storytelling in a person's life. (Winter, 2017).

3. Contextual Meaning

According to Leech (1981: 1) divides meaning into seven components. He divides meaning into seven categories. It is conceptual, connotative, social, affective, reflective, collocative, and thematic meaning. Conceptual meaning is associated with content that is logical, cognitive, or denotative.