

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This section, present background of the study, problem of study, objective study, significance of study, scope and limitation of the study each of these items is elaborated clearly as follows.

#### **A. Background of the Research**

Language is a human system of communication of speaker and listener that need to understand one and another. According to Goldstein (2008), languages is a system of communication using sounds or symbols that enable us to express our feeling, thoughts, ideas and experiences. It means, by communication people can share information, express their ideas, feeling, opinion, and their emotions through they use language. Language is very important to use in daily activities because without language humans cannot communicate with each other.

Language also used in the lyrics of song. Language in song are categorized as poetry, it means that people can enjoy the lyrics they are listening to and also understand the meaning of every word of song from literature. Song can illustrate the listener's feeling, when they are bored, happy and sad they can expres their emotion with song.

Literature utilizes figurative language to enhance its appeal, making it more captivating and beautiful, just as it is employed in song lyrics. According to Perrine (1963), poets utilize figurative language to

add additional dimensions to their work, enabling them to express their thoughts more vividly and powerfully through figures of speech than by stating them directly. It is important to note that the term "lyrics" in the context of a song differs from "lyric" in poetry. As clarified by Kennedy and Gioia (2002), "lyrics" with an "-s" refers to song lyrics, while "lyric" without an "-s" is used to denote a poem.

Adele has gained recognition as a singer and songwriter renowned for her emotionally charged and powerful lyrics. Her songs often delve into personal emotions and experiences, providing ample material for analysis within the realm of figurative language. Through her music, Adele addresses various everyday life issues, encompassing themes of love, loss, heartbreak, and resilience. Consequently, this research aims to delve deeper into the literary elements present in Adele's song lyrics.

Song as piece of music with words that are sung has a function to express the thoughts and feelings. Song has two elements, such as lyric and music. "Songs have been an amusing companion for human beings for as long as or even longer than we can speak. As an integral part of our language experience, it can be of great value to foreign language teaching."<sup>3</sup> When the process of listening to the song is in good focus, the listeners will be able to catch the meaning easily. On the other hand, when the listeners are not in good focus, they will get difficulty in understanding the meaning of the lyrics. When the lyric used figurative language,

therefore, one of the way to know the true meaning that contained in figurative language is using content analysis.

Every song commonly uses figurative language in order that people who listen to the song will be interested in and also understand what the author's imagination is. Abram (1999:96) stated that figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or 3 effect. So, figurative language is part of composer style. If we discuss about song of course, it cannot be separated from music. So, by singing a song we can enjoy it.

The researcher had done to find out several studies related with this research. First research was a thesis conducted by Risalatunni'mah from IAIN Tulungagung which entitled "*Figurative Language found in Christina Perri's Lyrics of Song*". The writer found 9 kinds of figurative language in Christina Perri's song, they were hyperbole, rhetoric, personification, repetition, paradox, allegory, irony, parallelism and litotes. The second previous research was conducted by Ema Rizqal Maftuhah from Hasanuddin University Makassar entitled "*Figurative Language in Selected Brian Mcknight's Song*". This research used descriptive qualitative method. The data were obtained from Brian Mcknight's songs that contained in his album. The writer finds figurative language that used in Brian MckNight's song, they were hyperbole, personification, simile, metaphor, and metonymy. The most figurative language used was

hyperbole. The last previous research was conducted by Laila Alviana Dewi entitled “*Figurative Language in Maher Zain’s song Lyrics*”. This research applied descriptive qualitative approach with content analysis research design. The data were obtained from Maher Zain’s song lyrics. The results of the study was the dominant type of figurative language used was hyperbole.

Based on the background above, the researcher choose figurative languages as topic of this research because figurative language is interesting and it has good meanings on the lyrics of song so it can interests the listener to listen the song. Every song has message to convey to the listeners. The data in this research will be taken from Adele’s selected songs. The songs from Adele were meaningfull and easy listening. The researcher will conduct the research found entitled “**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ADELE’S SELECTED SONG LYRICS**”

## **B. Statement of Research Problem**

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the problem of the research as follows:

1. What kinds of figurative language are found in Adele’s lyrics of selected song?
2. What is the meaning of songs using figurative language in Adele’s song?

## **C. The Purpose of Research**

Based on the statement of research problem, The objectives of the research are:

1. To find out the kinds of figurative language found in Adele's lyrics of selected song.
2. To identify the meaning of songs using figurative language in Adele's song.

#### **D. Significance of Research**

1. Theoretically

Figurative language is commonly studied in poetry and literature, but exploring its use in song lyrics adds a new dimension to the field. Adele's selected song lyrics can serve as a valuable case study to understand how figurative language functions in the context of music, shedding light on how language is adapted and transformed to suit different artistic forms. This research helps bridge the gap between literature and music studies, as it delves into the poetic and literary aspects of song lyrics. By analyzing Adele's lyrics, scholars can explore how literary techniques are employed in music to create emotional impact and meaning. Overall, the theoretical significance of this research lies in its contribution to our understanding of how figurative language functions in the domain of music, specifically in Adele's song lyrics. It helps expand the theoretical framework of both

literary and music studies, offering valuable insights into the artistic and emotional power of language in shaping musical expression.

## 2. Practically

The result of this research is hopefully will be usefull for the reader, the students, the researcher, and the future researcher because this research is expected to give and develop the description about the theory of figurative language and appreciate the literary works, especially song. Understanding figurative language will make the students or readers easier to catch the meaning and message, even the theme of song

### **E. Limitation of the Research**

In order to make the research more focus, the research is focused on the figurative language used in Adele's selected song lyrics. They are:

- 1.) Someone like you,
- 2.) Don't you remember,
- 3.) Make you feel my love,
- 4.) Hello,
- 5.) One and Only,
- 6.) Remedy,
- 7.) Set Fire to the Rain,

## 8.) When We Were Young.

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

#### 1. Literature

Literature is a term used to describe written texts marked by careful use of language, including features such as creative metaphors, well-turned phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, alliteration, which are aesthetically read or intended by the author to be aesthetically read and are deliberately somewhat open in interpretation (Meyer, 1988:1).

#### 2. Figurative language

Figurative language is an attractive language which is use to increase the effect by introducing and comparing an object or certain matter or more general soothing else. For the research on "figurative language in Adele's selected song lyrics," various types of figurative language may be present and relevant for analysis. Some of the key types of figurative language that are likely to match the research topic include:

- a. Metaphor: Metaphors are comparisons between two things that are not literally the same but share similarities. Adele's songs may

contain metaphors to convey emotions, experiences, or ideas in a vivid and imaginative way.

- b. Simile: Similar to metaphors, similes also make comparisons, but they use "like" or "as" to connect the two elements. Adele's lyrics might include similes to create strong visual or emotional imagery.
- c. Personification: Personification attributes human qualities or emotions to non-human entities or objects. Adele's songs could feature personification to infuse inanimate objects or nature with human-like characteristics.
- d. Hyperbole: Hyperbole involves deliberate exaggeration for emphasis or effect. Adele's emotional and evocative lyrics may include hyperbolic expressions to intensify feelings or experiences.
- e. Symbolism: Symbolism uses specific words, images, or objects to represent deeper meanings or concepts. Adele's selected song lyrics might contain symbolic elements that add layers of interpretation to the themes and emotions conveyed.
- f. Alliteration: Alliteration is the repetition of initial consonant sounds in nearby words. Adele's lyrics may exhibit alliteration to create rhythm and musicality within her songs.
- g. Imagery: Though not strictly figurative language, imagery is a literary technique that uses descriptive language to evoke sensory



experiences. Adele's songs often paint vivid images in the minds of listeners, and analyzing the imagery can add depth to the research.

- h. Irony: Irony involves a contrast between what is said and what is meant or what is expected and what actually occurs. Adele's lyrics may contain instances of verbal or situational irony to add complexity to her storytelling.
- i. Metonymy and Synecdoche: Metonymy involves using a word or phrase to represent something related to it, while synecdoche uses a part of something to refer to the whole. Adele's song lyrics might employ these devices to create poetic and evocative expressions.
- j. Oxymoron: Oxymorons combine contradictory or opposing terms for rhetorical effect. Adele's emotive lyrics may include oxymorons to highlight the complexity of emotions and experiences she conveys.

Considering the nature of Adele's music and the emotional depth of her lyrics, these types of figurative language are likely to be prevalent and relevant for analysis in the research on "figurative language in Adele's selected song lyrics".

### 3. Song

Song is a typically quick piece of tune with phrases which might be sung (Cambridge Dictionary Third edition)

### 4. Lyric

Lyric is a quic poem which expresses the private mind and emotions of the individual that wrote it (Cambridge Dictionary Third Edition)