

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

The introduction is the initial chapter that presents a discussion of the research background, research problem formulation, research objectives, research scope and limitations, research significance, and definition of key terms.

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

Language is a communication tool used to convey information, but language is also used to convey human feelings, emotions, and creativity. Literal language is a language whose words have real meaning. Literal language is usually used to convey information directly and has a clear meaning, so that it is easily understood by the recipient. Otherwise, non-literal language is a style of language in which each word does not have a real meaning. Non-literal language is often found in various literary works and is generally known as figurative language.

Figurative language is a language used to beautify the arrangement of words in each language but does not describe the actual meaning, but is only a metaphor for the original meaning. Figurative language is one part of semantics that functions to provide a sense of beauty and emphasis on what has been conveyed. Figurative language is used as a tool to help its creator in conveying information to its recipient. In addition, figurative language also reflects a person's creativity which is often used in literary works such as

poetry, short stories, novels, dramas, song lyrics, and even used in everyday communication. The presence of figurative language in literary works can be a special attraction for a message conveyed because it creates aesthetic value and shows more of the emotional feelings of its creator. One of the famous literary works of art that often uses figurative language in it is a song.

Songs are one form of art development that is very popular and has a great influence on human life. Songs are one of the works of art that contain feelings, messages, or human cultural values expressed through sounds that are neatly arranged in melody, harmony, rhythm, and tone. Songs are not only used as a medium of entertainment, but songs are also used as a medium of communication between singers and listeners. Therefore, in songs there are many lyrics that usually contain deep meaning and are not just a series of words. Therefore, figurative language is often found in song lyrics.

Song lyrics are a form of artistic expression that contains meaning and emotion in literary form. Song lyrics are usually used to reflect the emotions and psychological experiences of the creator and the listener. Ferdinand de Saussure explained that every word in a language has a sign and meaning<sup>1</sup>. In song lyrics, the words used can have other meanings or broader meanings. Song lyrics are often analyzed like poetry because they have diction, figurative language, and other things. Literature is not only a reflection of

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<sup>1</sup> B S A Dayu and M R Syadli, 'Memahami Konsep Semiotika Ferdinand De Saussure

reality, but also a way to understand the world through distinctive language<sup>2</sup>.

Therefore, song lyrics are the same as other literary works that use figurative language because they have a deeper implied meaning than just the words sung.

The relationship between figurative languages in a song lyric plays an important role in the artistic value of the song. Figurative language plays a very important role in song lyrics because it not only makes the song more aesthetically beautiful, but also enriches the meaning and adds to the emotional power of the song. This is supported by experts such as Perrine who explain that figurative language is one of the important elements in the art of language that can deepen the meaning and add to the appeal of a work<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, an understanding of figurative language is also necessary for songwriters and song lovers to be able to understand the meaning implied in the song lyrics. However, with the many types of songs, not all songs can use figurative language in their lyrics.

Types of songs are categorized based on their function, genre, and musical style. The function category of songs usually includes children's songs, regional songs, national anthems, religious songs, and others. Each song has its own characteristics and has a purpose or background for the creation of the

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<sup>2</sup> Fadlil Munawwar Manshur, 'Kajian Teori Formalisme Dan Strukturalisme', *SASDAYA: Gadjah Mada Journal of Humanities*, 3.1 (2019), p. 79, doi:10.22146/sasdayajournal.43888.

<sup>3</sup> Ayu Anggraini, Septa Aryanika, and Nunun Indrasari, 'Figurative Language and Contextual Meaning: In Thomas Hardy Poems', *Wiralodra English Journal (WEJ)*, 6.2 (2022), pp. 38–53 <<https://doi.org/10.31943/wej.v6i2.186>>.

song. In addition, songs are also distinguished by genre which aims to identify songs based on their style, technique, and context. So from the various types of songs, not all songs can use figurative language, for example in children's songs. The use of figurative language in children's songs is considered less suitable because children will have difficulty understanding the meaning of the song if the lyrics used use figurative language. One of the song genres that can and often uses figurative language in its lyrics is the pop punk genre.

The pop punk genre is a music genre that combines elements of the punk rock genre with catchier melodies and song structures like pop music. One of the popular music groups today with the pop punk genre is Neck Deep. Neck Deep is a British music group consisting of five members, namely Ben Barlow as vocalist, Matt West and Sam Bowden as guitarists, Seb Barlow as bassist, and Dani Washington as drummer. The pop punk genre usually has song lyrics that often reflect personal experiences, emotions, and social reflections. Neck Deep is often known for the honest and emotional lyrics in its songs. The lyrics in its songs often describe a person's life journey in facing challenges and problems in life. However, it not only tells about obstacles in life, but also provides expressions about the spirit of life and a struggle. This music group has released several albums with lyrics rich in figurative language. The figurative language contained in their songs not only functions as an aesthetic lyric, but also has a deep meaning and reflects various aspects of life, such as love, separation, struggle, and the search for

identity. So the use of figurative language in their song lyrics is not just a play on words, but also has an impact on building an emotional relationship between musicians and their listeners. So it is very interesting to study and is expected to be able to study more deeply how the emotions and messages conveyed can be received more widely by fans and listeners. Therefore, research on figurative language and songs conducted by relevant previous researchers greatly assist the progress of this research.

Many previous studies have discussed the use of figurative language in various contexts. The first study was conducted by Ichsanudin Nurhakimi in 2023 entitled "Analysis of Figurative Language in Songs in The Peace and the Panic Album by Neck Deep". In this study, a total of 21 figurative languages were found, including simile, metaphor, synecdoche, metonymy, and personification<sup>4</sup>. The second study was conducted by Algivari Yudith Dianovaldi in 2023 entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Adele's Selected Song Lyrics". This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. And the data obtained are eight types of figurative language found in four Adele songs, namely: personification, metaphor, synecdoche, hyperbole, allusion, paradox, symbol and dead metaphor<sup>5</sup>. The next is a study conducted by

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<sup>4</sup> Nurhakimi Ichsanudin, 'Analysis of Figurative Language in Songs in The Peace and the Panic Album by Neck Deep', *Aleph*, 2023  
<https://repositorio.ufsc.br/xmlui/bitstream/handle/123456789/167638/341506.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y%0Ahttps://repositorio.ufsm.br/bitstream/handle/1/8314/LOEBLEIN%2CLUCINEIACARLA.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y%0Ahttps://antigo.mdr.gov.br/saneamento/proees>.

<sup>5</sup> Algivari Yudith Dianovaldi, 'An Analysis of Figurative Language in Adele's Selected Song Lyrics', *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (Universitas Islam Negeri Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung, 2023)

ErwinI Putu 2022. "Analysis of Figurative Language in Neck Deep Selected Song Lyrics". Seven types of figurative language were found in the selected data, namely; hyperbole, metaphor, simile, synecdoche, allusion, personification, and also paradox. On the other hand, its meaning is divided into three categories, namely; connotative, conceptual, and affective<sup>6</sup>.

Based on the results of previous studies on figurative language found in various contexts, there are still gaps that can be studied and developed further regarding the research. In previous studies, there are still many limitations that can be filled regarding how figurative language is used in various contexts. In studies that discuss figurative language in songs, most of them focus on the most popular genres such as pop, R&B, and hip-hop. Several studies that discuss figurative language in Neck Deep songs also still have limitations in terms of the subject of the song in the album and its literal meaning without considering a deeper context. Therefore, this study aims to study and develop previous research related to figurative language and song lyrics.

This analytical study aims to identify, classify, and analyze figurative language found in selected songs on the Neck Deep album. This study use a linguistic and literary approach. This study use several theories from previous language experts. The theory used in this research is the figurative language

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<sup>6</sup> Putu ErwinI, 'Analysis of Figurative Language in Neck Deep Selected Song Lyrics',16.2 (2022).

theory of Gorys Keraf and Laurence Perrine. The theory explains simile, hyperbole, metaphor, personification and idiom.

The analysis of figurative language in this study is expected to help in understanding how language is used in communication and other things. So this study can also contribute to the development of the field of language studies, especially in the context of figurative language use in popular media such as songs. The researcher chose figurative language in songs as the topic of this research because figurative language in songs has a unique and artistic meaning so that it can attract listeners to listen to the song. The selection of songs in the Neck Deep album itself is based on the viral phenomenon of several of the band's songs which are known to have characteristics in the form of lyrics full of emotion, personal reflection, and strong social criticism. Therefore, the researcher conduct a study entitled "Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyrics of Selected Songs in the Neck Deep Album". Thus, it is hoped that this study can provide a significant contribution to linguistic studies, namely on figurative language in literary works, especially songs.

## **B. Formulation of Research Problem**

Based on this background, the main problems found in this research are:

1. What types and meanings of figurative language are used in the lyrics of selected on Neck Deep albums?
2. What message is contained in the selected songs on the Neck Deep album?

## **C. Research Objective**

Based on the formulation of the research problem, the objectives of this study are:

1. To identify the types and meanings of figurative language used in the lyrics of selected songs on Neck Deep's album.
2. To find out what messages are contained in the selected songs on the Neck Deep album.

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

This research is expected to help all related aspects and those working in the field of education, as well as make a contribution to :

1. For researcher

By making this research, researchers can know more about figurative language in songs. This research can be a means for researchers to develop analysis of literature and insights into relevant linguistic theories. In addition, this research also helps researchers to improve academic research skills.

## 2. For song listeners

This research can be useful for song listeners, especially Neck Deep fans. With this research, it is expected to help Neck Deep song lovers or listeners to better understand the meaning of figurative language contained in the songs they listen to.

## 3. For teachers

It is expected that this research can also contribute to the world of education in language and literature learning. Teachers can utilize the results of this research for the learning process or to increase students' interest in language learning. Because this research chooses a theme that is currently popular among teenagers, teachers can teach the concepts of figurative language contained in the song.

## 4. For future researchers

For future researchers, it is expected that this research can be a study to develop language studies related to the analysis of the use of figurative language in songs or other literary works. So that further researchers can conduct more in-depth analytical research or compare using other theories to obtain new study results on the analysis of figurative language with songs.

## **E. Scope and Limitation for the Research**

The limitations of this study are only focused on the figurative language contained in the selected songs on the Neck Deep album. Neck Deep itself has an Album, EP or mini album, and single. In this study, only the entire

album taken, namely Wishful Thinking, Life's Not Out to Get You, The Peace and the Panic, and All Distortions Are Intentional. In addition, one EP or mini album taken, namely Rain in July. The total number of songs on the selected albums is 51, but in this study only 3 songs were selected from each album, so that a total of 15 songs studied. The songs selected on each album include: On the Wishful Thinking album (2014) the selected songs are "Sweet Nothings, Say What You Want and Mileage". Furthermore, on the Life's Not Out to Get You album (2015) the selected songs are "December, Citizens of Earth, and Gold Steps". On the Peace and the Panic album (2017) the selected songs are "Wish You Were Here, Heavy Lies and In Bloom". Next is the album All Distortions Are Intentional (2020) The selected songs are "Fall, When You Know, and Lowlife. And the last is the EP or mini album Neck Deep, namely Rain in July (2012) the selected songs are "Part Of Me, Over and Over and All Hype No Heart. These songs were chosen because their lyrics contain more figurative language than the others. Furthermore, the lyrics are available on the official website, and the songs have diverse themes. These limitations allowed this research to focus more deeply on and explore the messages contained in the selected songs on the Neck Deep album.

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

The following is an explanation of the definitions of key terms or concepts used in this research so that readers can understand the context and

avoid misunderstandings related to the terminology of the subject and the content of the research.

### 1. Figurative Language

Figurative language is an interesting language that is used in which there are words or phrases that are not literal to convey certain feelings or information. Some of the figurative languages found in this study are simile, hyperbole, metaphor, personification and idiom.

### 2. Song lyric

Lyrics are words arranged in a song and have meaning and feelings conveyed through those words.

### 3. Neck Deep

English pop punk band whose lyrics often use figurative language and emotional themes.

### 4. Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech that compares two different things without any connecting words that serve to provide deeper meaning.

### 5. Simile

A simile is a figure of speech that compares two different things using a connecting word that aims to show certain similarities.

### 6. Hyperbole

A statement that exaggerates something.

### 7. Personification

One of the figurative words that explains or provides information about human nature towards other objects.

#### 8. Idiom

An idiom is an expression that is created but its meaning and significance are different from the original word or sentence.

#### 9. Imagery

Figurative language that functions as a sensory arousal to know concretely what is being conveyed

#### 10. Irony

Figurative language whose meaning is contradictory to its literal meaning, so that it is like satire or explains something indirectly.

#### 11. Symbolic

Figurative language that uses symbols (objects, actions) to provide a deeper explanation than the literal meaning.

#### 12. Repetition

Figurative language is used by repeating words, phrases, sentences which are intended to emphasize something in a deeper or more emotional way.

#### 13. Synecdoche

Figurative language is the use of a part of something to describe the whole, and vice versa.

#### 14. Metonymy

Figurative language that uses names or characteristics that are closely related to something without mentioning the object directly.