

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter comprises background of the research, statement of research problems, objectives of the research, significances of the research, scope and limitation of the research, definitions of the key terms and organization of the research.

A. Background of the Research

Language is one of the crucial tools of human beings to communicate with one another. A language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbol by means of which a social group cooperates (Bloch and Trager 1942). Language could either be in the written, spoken form, or even gesture. Whatever the form is, it always contains the messages inside of the language. It may represent explicit and implicit feeling and thought. Every written and spoken form of language may consist of speech sounds, letters, words, phrases, clauses, which may be configure into larger forms. Human are continually creating new expressions and novel utterances by manipulating their linguistic resources to describe new object and situations (Yule, 2010:13). By language, people can share information, express their ideas, feeling, opinion, and their emotions. In fact, without language people cannot know what other say and cannot make good communicate with others.

A person uses language in order to make other people understand him or her. Some people tend to use written language to represent their feelings

and thoughts, because they want to deliver their feelings implicitly, or even they use beautiful arrangement of sentence in order to get deeper feeling from their listener. This is usually what happened with the composer of songs. One of the ways to arrange the beautiful sentence some composer use figurative language in writing their songs. According to Tarigan (1985:179) figurative language is language that is used imaginatively and not literary. It is difficult to understand what the composer means in his songs, because what composer conventionally says is not always the same as what he intends to express.

Figurative language is language that uses words or expression with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Every figurative language used in songs lyric always has a message. In the Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, it is stated that message is written or spoken piece of information sent to somebody or left for somebody. To understand deeply the message represented by the use of figurative language interpretation is needed. Many people who feel sad, boring, uneasy, and worried to do something fun, they like to listen to music or sing a song because music can illustrate feeling, emotion, and imagination. Thus, when someone listen to the music, they will feel enjoy, relax, and happy. Moreover, they will give appreciation if they can understand and absorb every meaning of word from songs which they listen to. However, most of people find difficulty when they are reading or understanding some lyrics.

Figurative language is commonly applied in literary works, such as in short fiction, poetry, and drama. Songs are included as poetry. Poems, perhaps

even more than other texts, can sharpen your reading skills because they tend to be so compact, so fully dependent on concise expressions of feeling. In poems, ideas and feelings are packed tightly into just a few lines (Beatty, 2002-601). The language of poetry is almost always visual and pictorial. Rather than depending primarily on abstract ideas and elaborate reasoning, poems depend mainly on concrete and specific words that create images in our mind (Beatty, 2002-710). Being visual does not just mean describing; telling us facts; indicating shapes, colors, and specific details; and giving us precise discriminations through exacting verbs, nouns, adverbs, and adjectives. Often vividness of the picture in our minds depends upon comparisons through figures of speech.

With the assumption that figurative language is often used in songs, this research will discuss particularly the used of figurative language in Secondhand Serenade's songs, exactly on the second album "*A Twist in My Story*". The second album was written by John Vesely or the vocalist itself. Secondhand Serenade is an American rock band, led by vocalist, pianist and guitarist John Vesely. Vesely has released four studio albums to date under the name Secondhand Serenade: *Awake* in 2007, *A Twist in My Story* in 2008, *Hear Me Now* in 2010, and *Undefeated* in 2014.

The purpose of discussing figurative language in song is to know the composer's efforts to attract the readers' or listeners' attention through the use of figurative language which carries the intended meaning that is not explicitly expressed. Referring to the important of figurative language used in lyric of

song, the researcher intends to conduct a research about figurative language entitles: *“Figurative Language found on Secondhand Serenade’s Song Lyrics Composed by John Vesely”*

B. Statement of Research Problems

Related of the background of the research above, the research problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the kinds of figurative language found in Secondhand Serenade’s song lyrics?
2. What are the meanings of figurative language found in Secondhand Serenade’s song lyrics?
3. What are the messages implied in the Secondhand Serenade’s song lyrics by the used of figurative language?

C. Objectives of the Research

Based on the statement of research problem above, the purpose of the research are:

1. To find out the kind of figurative language found in Secondhand Serenade’s song lyrics.
2. To identify the meaning of figurative language found in Secondhand Serenade’s song lyrics.
3. To know the messages of the song conveyed from the figurative language used in Secondhand Serenade’s song lyrics.

D. Significances of the Research

The findings of the research are expected give contribution both theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically

Referring to the purpose of the research above, the results of this research are expected to give worthy contribution in enlarging the horizon or knowledge of figurative language. So, the result of this research gives more explanation about figurative language and the use of figurative language especially in the song.

2. Practically

The result of this research is hopefully contributive for reader, the students and the future researcher.

For the reader, the findings can help them in understanding and appreciating literally works especially poetry. Practically, the readers' purpose is both listening to the music and understanding the meaning of the lyrics. By understanding the lyrics they can get happiness and messages of it.

Meanwhile for the students, understanding the figurative language can help them to catch the meaning and message, even the theme of song. Consequently, they can enlarge their scope of reading and they can give a certain critical analysis toward poetry.

Finally for the future researcher, this research can be used as reference in conducting a new research especially about figurative language used in different types of literature sources.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

The research is focused on the figurative language used in Secondhand Serenade's album "*A Twist in My Story*" that consists of 11 songs. They are: (1.) Like a Knife, (2.) Fall for You, (3.) Maybe, (4.) Stranger, (5.) Your Call, (6.) Suppose, (7.) A Twist in My Story, (8.) Why, (9.) Stay Close, Don't Go, (10.) Pretend, (11.) Goodbye.

F. Definitions of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding of the terms used in this research, some terms need to be defined as follows:

- a) Figurative language is defined as a way of saying something, express theme, ideas, and feeling of the author through beautiful language (Keraf, 2009).
- b) Lyric is the sentences used in the song.
- c) Song is a piece of music with words that is sung or music for the voice singing (Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary).
- d) Secondhand Serenade is an American rock band, led by vocalist, pianist and guitarist John Vesely. Vesely has released four studio albums to date under the name Secondhand Serenade: *Awake* in 2007, *A Twist in My Story* in 2008, *Hear Me Now* in 2010, and *Undefeated* in 2014.

G. Organization of the Research

In this research, it is believed that to make a good research is important to arrange it systematically. The organization of this research covers following aspects:

Chapter I Introduction, it consists of background of research, statement of research problems, objectives of the research, significances of the research, scope and limitation of the research, definitions of key terms, and organization of the research.

Chapter II Review of Related Literature, it covers literature, song, lyric, figurative language, meaning, message and previous research.

Chapter III Research Method, it covers research design, data and source of data, data collection, credibility and dependability, data analysis and interpretation.

Chapter IV Findings and Analysis, it reports the description research finding and data analysis.

Chapter V Conclusion and Suggestion, conclusion is the summary of the research finding based on the research problems. This part will be the last chapter of this research.