CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In this section, the researcher presents about context of the study, research problems, research objectives, significance of the research, the scope and limitations of the study and the definition of key terms. Each of these items explained in detail as follows.

A. Context of the Study

Language is a very important communication tool in human life. Through language, a person can convey ideas, feelings, thoughts and experiences to other. Language is not only used to convey information directly, but also to express emotions, beauty, and creativity in various forms of literary works[1]. Humans need a means of communication to ensure their survival. Language is used in people's daily lives[2]. Therefore, language plays a very important role in human life, both in everyday communication and in works of art and literature[3].

In linguistic studies, the meaning of language is studied in a branch of science called semantics. Semantics is a branch of linguistics that studies the meaning contained in language. According to Abdul Chaer, semantics is a field of linguistics that studies the meaning contained in words, phrases, and sentences used in a language[4]. Through the study of semantics, researchers can understand how the

[1] Okarisma Mailani et al., "Bahasa Sebagai Alat Komunikasi Dalam Kehidupan Manusia," *Kampret Journal* 1, no. 1 (2022): 1–10, https://doi.org/10.35335/kampret.v1i1.8.

[2] Ummi Aisyah Siregar, Nadya Silvi, and Wahyuni Hasibuan, "Manusi," *Bama: Writer as Activist*, 2024, 30–34, https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003488538-7.

[3] Miranda Ade Tias Putri Riyanto, Silvina Noviyanti, and Maryana Tambunan, "Peran Dan Fungsi Bahasa Dalam Kehidupan Manusia Di Era Industri 4.0 Dan Abad 21," *Journal on Education* 07, no. 01 (2024): 6676–83, https://j-innovative.org/index.php/Innovative.

[4] Chaer, A. (2013). Pengantar Semantik Bahasa Indonesia. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta.

meaning of an expression is formed and how that meaning can be understood by readers or listeners.

In literary works, the use of language is of paramount importance. Various forms of literary works emerge from the creative and imaginative use of language by writers[5]. Language is not always used literally or in accordance with its literal meaning. Writers often use language indirectly to create deeper meaning and impart an aesthetic effect on the literary work to be conveyed to readers or listeners. This use of language that does not correspond to its literal meaning is known as figurative language. Figurative language is used to convey messages in a more imaginative and expressive way, so that the meaning conveyed by the writer leaves a more beautiful and profound impression.

According Knickerbocker & Reninger, figurative language is the use of language that is not interpreted literally, but is used to convey a meaning through a specific comparison or description[6]. Figurative language is often used in various literary works to enhance the language and provide a clearer and more vivid picture to readers or listeners. Some common types of figurative language include simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, irony, metonymy, and symbol[7].

One form of literary work that makes extensive use of figurative language is song. Song is a form of art that combines musical elements with words arranged

---

[5] Hermandra Hermandra, Mayang Marisya, and Nisha Nabillah, "Kajian Semantik: Implementasi Makna Kiasan Pada Lagu 'Sorai' Karya Nadin Amizah," Innovative: Journal of Social Science Research 4, no. 2 (2024): 3216–26, http://j-innovative.org/index.php/Innovative/article/view/9794.

[6] Knickerbocker, K.L & Reninger, H. Willard. 1963. Interpreting Literature. Holt, Rinehart and Winston.

[7] Song Lyrics et al., "EXAMINING TYPES OF MEANING IN ACEHNESE CONTEMPORARY" 27, no. 1 (2024): 292–304.

into lyrics[8]. Songs are a form of literary work that we can enjoy wherever and whenever we are. Song lyrics play a crucial role in conveying the messages, stories, and emotions that songwriters wish to convey to their listeners. Meanwhile, according to Wati, song lyrics serve as the best medium for songwriters to express their emotions, where they can convey their feelings through beautiful harmony. In many songs, songwriters often use figurative language to express feelings more powerfully and deeply.

Song lyrics are a beautiful form of the songwriter's inner expression, crafted through word arrangement and language to create a melody with a specific rhythm[9]. Songs are used to convey emotions, ideas, and experiences through words that possess aesthetic value[10]. They function as a form of linguistic expression that conveys meaning through word choice, word structure, and style. The use of figurative language in song lyrics makes the message more engaging, imaginative, and easily felt by the listener.

In the modern music industry, many singers use figurative language in their song lyrics to describe emotional experiences or the stories they wish to convey. One singer known for her expressive and creative lyrics is Sabrina Carpenter. She is an American singer, songwriter, and actress who has released various popular songs on diverse themes, such as relationships, personal experiences, and the dynamics of teenage and young adult life. Some of the songs performed by Sabrina Carpenter that were used as the subject of this study include "Espresso," "Feather," and "Please Please Please." These songs were selected because they feature compelling lyrics and contain various forms of figurative language used to describe

---

[8] Valentine C.I. Letsoin and Khanna Maulidia 'Ashr, "An Analysis of Illocutionary Act in Western Song Lyrics 'Espresso By Sabrina Carpenter,'" *Musamus Journal of Language and Literature* 7, no. 1 (2024): 252–58, https://doi.org/10.35724/mujolali.v7i1.6146.

[9] Hermandra, Marisya, and Nabillah, "Kajian Semantik: Implementasi Makna Kiasan Pada Lagu 'Sorai' Karya Nadin Amizah."

[10] Hermandra, Marisya, and Nabillah.

the emotions, experiences, and stories conveyed in the songs. Through the use of figurative language, the lyrics of these songs are able to provide a more vivid picture and deeper meaning for their listeners.

Although there have been many studies analyzing the use of figurative language in song lyrics by various singers, there remains a lack of research specifically addressing the use of figurative language in songs performed by Sabrina Carpenter. Therefore, this study is important to identify the types of figurative language used in these song lyrics and analysis function that used in Sabrina Carpenter's songs lyrics. The researcher chose to use Sabrina Carpenter's songs because previous studies had not yet focused on her songs, most previous studies used songs by Adele, Taylor Swift, BTS, and Blackpink. In addition, Sabrina's songs are often used in trends on social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram, and some of her lyrics are frequently shared as quotes.

In this study, the researcher reviewed several previous studies relevant to the topic under discussion. The first study is a thesis by Yudith Dianovaldi Algivari from UIN SATU Tulungagung titled "Figurative Language Used in Adele's Selected Song Lyrics." The author identified several types of figurative language found in four of Adele's songs, including personification, metaphor, synecdoche, hyperbole, allusion, paradox, symbols, and dead metaphor. The second study was conducted by Sandy et al. titled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Selected Hardy's Poems." In their research, the author identified several types of figurative language in Hardy's poems, including simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbole, hyperbole and understatement. This research employed a descriptive qualitative method, with data collected from four poems by Hardy. In a previous study conducted by Santika & Syafryudin titled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Song Lyrics of the Album "Midnights" by Taylor Swift," the researcher identified the following types of figurative language: metaphor, hyperbole, personification, simile, irony, litotes, metonymy and

oxymoron[11]. The results also indicated that metaphor was the most frequently used type of figurative language. In that study, the researchers employed a qualitative descriptive research method.

Based on the above discussion, the researcher chose to use figurative language as the topic of this study because it is an interesting subject to explore, and because the lyrics within it capture listeners' interest in the songs. Since each lyric conveys a meaning intended by the writer or singer, the researcher selected several songs by Sabrina Carpenter to analyze and identify the types and function of figurative language that used. Therefore, the researcher chooses the title **"FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FOUND IN THE LYRICS OF SABRINA CARPENTER'S SONGS."**

B. Formulation of the Research

Based on the background of the research, the researcher formulated two research problems as states below:

1. What types of figurative language appear in the lyrics of Sabrina Carpenter's songs?
2. What are the functions or figurative language used in the lyrics of Sabrina Carpenter's songs

C. Purpose of the Study

Based on the formulation of the research, the aims of this study are:

1. To identify the types of figurative language in the lyrics of Sabrina Carpenter's songs.
2. To explain the functions of figurative language in the lyrics of Sabrina Carpenter's songs.

---

[11] Pelsi Santika and Syafryadin Syafryadin, "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Song Lyrics of the Album 'Midnights' By Taylor Swift," *Wiralodra English Journal* 7, no. 1 (2023): 14–28, https://doi.org/10.31943/wej.v7i1.189.

D. Significance of Research

This study identified types of figurative language in Sabrina Carpenter's song lyrics and revealed which types are most frequently used in those songs. The findings are significant for the following reasons:

1. For English learners

This study identified types of figurative language in Sabrina Carpenter's song lyrics and showed which types are most frequently used. These findings can help students understand the types of figurative language and learn how to identify them in a text. Additionally, this study can serve as a reference for analyzing other literary works containing figurative language, such as poetry, novels, short stories, and so on.

2. For researcher

This study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the use of figurative language in song lyrics. Through this study, researchers can improve their ability to systematically identify and analyze types of figurative language. Researchers are expected to broaden their knowledge in the fields of semantics and linguistic analysis of literary works.

3. For other researchers

This study can serve as a reference for other researchers who wish to conduct research on the same topic. Other researchers can use the same methods or theories to analyze figurative language in songs or literary works that contain other forms of figurative language.

E. Scope and Limitation of the Research

1. Scope

The object of this research is the selected song lyrics by Sabrina Carpenter, namely "Espresso," "Feather," "Please Please Please," "Nonsense," and "Taste." This study focuses on identifying the types of figurative language based on Knickerbocker and Reninger's theory, and analyzing the functions of figurative language based on Perrine's theory. The data are presented in the form of words, phrases, clauses, and sentences containing figurative language found in the selected song lyrics. Through a qualitative content analysis approach, this study aims to examine how figurative language is employed to convey meanings, emotions, and messages within the songs.

2. Limitation

This study has several limitations. First, it is limited to five selected songs by Sabrina Carpenter, namely "Espresso," "Feather," "Please Please Please," "Nonsense," and "Taste," and does not include her other songs. Second, the study only focuses on the types of figurative language based on Knickerbocker and Reninger's theory, and the functions of figurative language based on Perrine's theory. Third, this study does not analyze other linguistic aspects such as diction, syntax, phonology, semantics beyond figurative language, or stylistic features. Furthermore, the analysis is restricted to the song lyrics and does not include musical elements, vocal performance, music videos, audience responses, or the songwriter's personal background. These limitations are intended to maintain the focus of the study and ensure a more detailed analysis of figurative language in the selected song lyrics.

F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Figurative Language

Figurative language is the use of language that is not interpreted literally, but is used to convey meaning indirectly through comparisons, descriptions, or specific symbols.

2. Song

A song is a work of art that combines musical elements and song lyrics to convey a specific message, emotion, or story to the listener. According to David Crystal, a song is a form of artistic expression consisting of melody, rhythm, and lyrics arranged to create meaning and an emotional experience for the listener.

3. Lyrics

Lyrics are a series of words or text written to be sung in a song. Lyrics typically convey a message, emotion, experience, or story that the songwriter wishes to share with the listener.

4. Sabrina Carpenter

Sabrina Carpenter is an American singer, songwriter, and actress known for her modern pop music. She began her career as an actress and later established herself as a singer with a variety of songs that have gained popularity among young listeners. Her songs often explore themes of life, relationships, emotions, and personal experiences, conveyed through expressive lyrics.