CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general description of the research. It consists of background of the research, statement of problems, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background

Language is a fundamental aspect of human life to communicate and establish relationship with other. People use language as tool of their communication. Language is also used to express someone’s feelings or emotion and also to expression their ideas, their thoughts and their imaginations, in the form of spoken or written. People cannot be separated from the writing and reading. Writing is an activity used to express imagination, ideas, and creativities. Writing can also contribute to our spiritual and emotional development. Reading is useful because by reading people will get information, knowledge about science, technology and others. Spoken language can be found in the song, speech, and conversation.

As human beings, people cannot separate them from involvement of social communication and interaction, which certainly makes ourselves impossible to live without language. Written language can be found in novel, newspaper, poem, and magazine. One is kind of literary works is novel. Novel as one form of literary works is used by the writer both to deliver messages to the readers and to
invite them to communicate through imaginative languages. One of imaginative languages is figurative language. The figurative language is usually found in some literary works such as, short story and novel. In writing a novel, a author mostly uses figurative language. A form of expression used to convey meaning or heightened effect often by comparing or identifying one thing with another that has a meaning or connotation familiar to the reader or listener.

When people talk about figurative language, they absolutely also talk about linguistics and semantics, the study relates to meaning. Sometimes, when people reading some book or hearing what the speaker said there are meaning which is easy to be understood and hard to be understood. To find out what happen about that, it is important to study of meaning. Semantics is the study for meaning, knowledge encoded in the vocabulary of the language and in its patterns for building more elaborate meaning, up to the level of sentence meaning (Patrick 2006: 2). For example, “Hold out your arm”, hold out your arm denotes a situation that the speaker wants, hold out denotes an actions, arm denotes a part of a person, your arm denotes the arm of the person being spoken to and so on.

Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Figurative language is used in any form of communication, such as in daily conversation rarely, articles in newspaper, advertisements, novels, poems, etc. Figurative language is the use of words that go beyond their ordinary meaning. It requires the readers to use the imagination to figure out the author's meaning. It makes meaning of figurative language difficult to understand because people cannot find the meaning of the
figurative language in dictionary just like the other vocabulary words that people usually use in our daily conversation. To know the meaning of figurative language people need to use our imagination to imagine what the words are said or what the words refer to. According to Saeed (1997: 15) meaning divided into two, the first is Literal meaning and the second is Non-literal meaning. Literal meaning is where the speaker speaks in a neutral, factually accurate way. It means that when the speaker speaks to other by the true meaning and the listener can understand what the speaker said, it is called literal meaning. According to Saeed (1997: 15) non-literal meaning is where the speaker deliberately describes something in untrue or impossible terms in order to achieve special effect.

There are four main reasons of using figurative language (Perrine, 1982: x). First, figurative language affords readers imaginative pleasure of literary works. Second, it is a way of bringing additional imagery into sentences, making the abstract concrete, making literary works more sensuous. The third, figurative is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements, conveying attitudes along with information, and the last it is a way of saying much in brief compass. As people know that when read a novel sometimes the reader will find some terms that are difficult to understand because there will be so many figurative expressions and some idioms that people will never find in our daily conversation. It is important for the reader to know the meaning of the figurative language found in a novel so the reader can imagine what happens in the story, and can feel the emotion of the story in the novel.
Figurative language represents one of the most difficult tasks regarding natural language processing. Unlike literal language, figurative language takes advantage of linguistic devices such as irony, humor, sarcasm, metaphor, analogy, and so on, in order to communicate indirect meanings which, usually, are not interpretable by simply decoding syntactic or semantic information. Rather, figurative language reflects patterns of thought within a communicative and social framework that turns quite challenging its linguistic representation, as well as its computational processing. In this respect, communication is more than sharing a common code, but being capable of inferring information beyond syntax and figurative language implies information not grammatically expressed.

Actually the researcher is not the first researchers who conduct analysis of figurative language in the novel. However, it does not mean that the researcher only plagiarizes the previous study. To prove the originality of the research, the researcher will show the previous study. The first, study of figurative language has been conducted by Fitria Lonanda (2013), the student of Andalas University, entitled “The Use Of Figurative Language In Characterization Of The Nightingale And The Rose Short Story by Oscar”. The result of this research shows the use of figurative language which is used by the author and to explore the relation of figurative language in the process of characterization in Wilde’s work by using Rozaki’s theory.

The second previous study has been conducted by Eva Ervina Widi Saputri (2014), the student of Dian Nuswantoro University Semarang, entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Rick Riordan’s Novel Entitled...
—*The Heroes of Olympics, Book Three: The Mark of Athena*. The result of this research shows that the writer concludes that to describe the types of the figurative language found in the novel by using Crystal’s theory. The result shows that they are 94 sentences that have figurative language. From 94 sentences, there are 52 items or 55.9% of simile, 18 items or 19.4% of personification, 16 items or 17.2% of hyperbole, 6 items or 6.4% of metaphor, and 1 item or 1.1% of metonymy.

The third has been conducted by Yeni Saverina Permata Sari (2007), in her thesis entitled “*A Study On Figurative Language Used In The Novel Jane Eyre By Charlotte Bronte*”. She analyzed types of figurative language and described the message behind each type of figurative language in the novel *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte using Shaw’s theory.

In this research, the researcher has chosen novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green, because the novel has potential issues to investigate how the figurative language is. *The Fault in Our Stars* is the sixth novel by author John Green, published in January 2012. *The Fault in Our Stars* is the most typical one of John Green is unique language style. Its language is simple and natural, and has the effect of directness, clarity and freshness. *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green is very prominent.

All of the figurative languages that are used in *The Fault in Our Stars* made to be descriptive, understandable and imaginable. Some figurative language in this novel are used to describe something funny, serious, or unpredictable. From the explanation above, the researcher would like to analyze
figurative language used in the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green, to describe message behind of each types figurative language and how a meaning can be found in figurative language. Therefore, the researcher takes the title "*The Figurative Language in the Novel The Fault In Our Stars by John Green*".

1.1 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of study above, there is a major problem that the researcher wants to answer in this research. This is the problem about a semantic analysis of figurative language in the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green. The problem of the study are as follows:

1. What are the types of figurative language found in the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green?
2. How are the interpretations of non-literal meanings of figurative language in the novel *The Fault In Our Stars* by John Green?

1.2 Research Objective

In accordance with the statement of the problem, the purposes of this research are:

1. To find out the types of figurative language in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green
2. To describe the interpretations of non-literal meaning of figurative language in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green
1.3 Research Significance

In conducting the research, the researcher expects that this research will have beneficial significance, and to give a valuable contribution to:

1. Theoretically for:

   a) The study can contribute to the science of linguistics, especially the relation between meaning of figurative language.

   b) The reader can improve the ability in English language about figurative language used in the novel and enrich the knowledge of semantics.

2. Practically for:

   a) To be one of source information to the next writers whose problem related to this research for instance research about the figurative language used in the novel.

   b) For the other researches this research provides contribution as the reference for them who want to analyze or study figurative language in the novel.
1.4 Definition of Keys Terms

To avoid misapprehension on terms used in this paper, the researcher clarifies some terms that used. The terms are as follows:

1. Figurative language is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way. The figurative language is the way to express the idea by specific language, which shows the mind and the individuality of the writer as the user of language.

2. Semantics is one of branches of linguistics studying about the meaning, and it is considered as a major branch of linguistics devoted to the study of meaning in language.

3. Meaning is involving the speaker’s intention to convey a certain meaning which may or may not be evident from the message itself.

4. Non-literal meaning is where the speaker deliberately describes something in untrue or impossible terms in order to achieve special effect (Saeed, 1997: 15).

5. Context is linguists often refer to the context of a phrase or word as the text that surrounds it.