

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an overview of the research, which includes the research background, problem statement, research objectives, research significance, and definition of key terms. With the aim of building a clear understanding of the research context and introducing the concepts used in analyzing, through this chapter the readers will gain insight into the importance of this research. The exploration of the use of figurative language as a tool to create uniquely is one of LANY's ways of working in the music industry, especially in its album entitled *A Beautiful Blur*.

1.1 Research Background

Language can be defined as means of communication of human life. People need language to interact and to get information from the other people. Language is also used to express someone's emotions or feeling, and also their thoughts and ideas.

Lakoff, a cognitive linguist, has studied how our conceptual system is reflected in language. He contends that metaphorical language structures impact how we think and speak and influence our perception of the world (Lakoff & Johnson, 2020)

Based on the use and the meaning of language, there are two types, namely literal language and figurative language. Literal language means using language according to its actual meaning. This literal meaning of a word or phrase is the most basic, uncomplicated, unexaggeration, or metaphorical interpretation.

In contrast to literal language, figurative language uses unique or non-literal words in order to describe something. According to Reaske (1996) figurative language refers to words, and groups of words, that exaggerate or change the usual meaning in the figures of speech of their component words. Figurative language or

stylistic language is an evocative language style used to enhance effect by presenting and comparing a particular object or material or generally alluding to something else.

The unique of figurative language commonly used in literary works or literary art. Literary work, in this case is the creative use of words in spoken or written works to convey concepts, feelings, stories, and experiences. The literary works often capture the viewpoints, values and culture of the period and location of their creation. One of the literary works which commonly uses figurative language is the lyrics of song to create emotional depth.

According to Berliner (2009) Berliner in his book *Thinking in Jazz*, good lyrics are those that can convey messages or stories that are relevant and evoke the emotions of the listener, because good lyrics must also have depth of meaning so that they can be interpreted uniquely by each listener. Through its lyrics and melodies, music conveys emotions and messages, and it serves as a bridge between cultures and generations.

Meanwhile, Goleman (1998) defines emotion as a biological and psychological state that includes feelings and thoughts. Emotions also have a function to respond to stimuli from the external environment and within the individual and can affect one's behaviour. Besides, according to Crow & Crow (1962) emotion is defined as a turbulent state in the individual and functions as an adjustment to the environment to achieve well-being. Therefore, emotions function adaptively in everyday life.

Related to the lyrics, emotions can create emotional depth through various interacting elements. Emotional lyrics have a very significant impact on the listener's mood. Every word can create a deep emotional connection, especially if the lyrics contain personal experiences or situations that are relevant to the listener.

This is the reason that the topic of figurative language to create emotional depth is triggered to study and the research object choosen is the song lyrics of the album *A Beautiful Blur* by LANY.

LANY is an American pop-rock band formed in 2014 in Los Angeles. LANY released their debut album in 2017 with the album title 'LANY'. Since then, this band has received gold certificates because of the most played artist, and became the most popular band in Southeast Asia for that achievement. Meanwhile, the lyrics of the album entitled *A Beautiful Blur* chosen as the research object as those deals with anxiety, feelings of hopelessness, but also the process of recovery and healing. The lyrics convey a sense of loss and confusion, but are balanced with an element of beauty inside.

The study related to figurative language has been done by several literatures. Some of them are, the first was done by Janawati (2018) entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Languages Used in Selena Gomez Songs and Its Contribution to English Teaching at Senior High School*. She analyzed figurative language with the Formalism theory and SLA as the theoretical approach. The figurative languages found in Selena Gomez' Songs were analysed into three aspects that were the types, meanings, and the contributions toward English teaching. After analyzing the data of study, she found twenty-four (24) expressions from four types of figurative languages.

The second study was conducted by Ibrahim et al (2019) entitled *The Analysis Figurative Language in 'Endless Love' Song Lyric*. The data were analyzed by using pure structuralism approach by focusing on the kinds and the meanings of the figurative language. The result of this research showed were seven kinds of figurative language in the song lyric, respectively: Repetition 36%, Hyperbole 32%, Metaphor 12%, Pleonasm 8%, Personification 4%, Dispersonification 4%, and Onomatopoeia 4%. The meanings used in the figurative languages of the song lyrics were connotative and denotative meaning.

The third was employed by Shodiq & Maryadi (2020) entitled *Type and Meaning of Figurative Language of Most Popular Football Anthem Song from English Premier League Club*. He found six types of figurative language, and metaphor was the dominant and he also found three types of meaning (connotative

meaning, affective meaning, and reflected meaning), in which connotative meaning were the dominant.

The fourth study was written by Muhammad et al (2021) entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Maroon 5 – Nobody's Love Song Lyric*. The finding showed five types of figurative language: Personification 20%, Hyperbole 30%, Irony 20%, Simile 20%, and Repetition 20%. The researchers sought to identify words, phrases, and phrases that involved figurative language and catch each figurative language's context

From previous study above, this research uses the same topic about figurative language to analyze those types with the same research method used namely descriptive qualitative method by analysing document. However, this research was aimed at analyzing figurative language specifically to create emotional depth and the research object chosen was the lyrics of LANY's album song entitled *A Beautiful Blur*. Therefore, this research is entitled Figurative Language to Create Emotional Depth in The Song Lyric of LANY's *A Beautiful Blur* Album.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the explanation in the background, the author formulates the problem of the study as follows:

1. What types of figurative languages are presented in the song lyrics of LANY's *A Beautiful Blur* Album?
2. How does the use of figurative language create emotional depth in the song lyrics of the album *A Beautiful Blur*?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the problems of the study, the researcher formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To know about the types of the figurative language contained in the song lyrics of LANY's Album '*A Beautiful Blur*'. This objective focuses on the classification and description of various forms of figurative language such as personification, simile, metaphor, etc. used in LANY's album.
2. To explain how these elements create emotional depth in the song lyrics of *A Beautiful Blur* album.

1.4 Research Significances

To understand the role of figurative language in contemporary music, this research has both academic and practical value. Examining figurative language in *A Beautiful Blur* will show how modern songwriters use literary tools to convey complex emotional experiences, which appeal to listeners in a more profound way. This research is hoped to enhance the field of linguistic and literary analysis of music lyrics, particularly in the pop genre, by investigating figurative elements such as metaphor, simile, symbolism and more in this album.

Furthermore, this study is hoped to enhance the theoretical understanding of figurative language as a tool for shaping narrative and emotional expression in music. In addition, this study shows how figurative language reflects broader social and cultural themes relevant to young listeners, such as love, loss, identity and self-discovery. This is particularly valuable in the contemporary music industry, where songs serve as platforms for emotion and social commentary.

Moreover, by providing a framework that allows educators, students and music enthusiasts to analyze figurative language found in lyrics, this study can benefit them to enhance their appreciation and critical understanding of contemporary music. Besides, this study can serve as a basis for future research on the use of language in modern music and its impact on listeners, by filling a gap in current research that often neglects academic exploration of pop song lyrics.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

This section provides clear definitions of the key terms used in this study. Understanding the focus and scope of the research is necessary to understand the key terms. To ensure in this study, the reader has a proper understanding related to figurative language, and emotional depth in music. The following definitions will serve as the basis for analyzing the song lyrics on LANY's album *A Beautiful Blur* and interpreting the findings within the broader context of language and literature studies.

a. Lyric

Song lyrics are an expression of someone about something that has been seen, heard or experienced. In expressing his experience, the poet or creator of songs do play on words and language to create attraction and distinctiveness of the lyrics (Pradopo, 1994)

b. Figurative Language

Figurative language is used to produce a special effect or feeling. This is shown by figurative language that compares, exaggerates or means something different from the first impression. Figurative language is the use of words or expressions that deviate from their literal meaning to achieve a certain effect or to convey a deeper and more complex meaning. In the context of music lyrics, figurative language includes metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, and various other forms that allow artists to express their emotions and experiences more creatively and deeply (Reaske, 1996)

c. Emotional Depth

Emotional depth in music refers to the ability of a piece of music to evoke deep feelings and convey complex emotional experiences. It is also essential to allowing listeners to connect with songs that speak to their own experiences and feel less alone or misunderstood (Goleman, 1998)

d. Lyrical Poetry

Lyric poetry is defined as a brief poem that is typically accompanied by a beat and resembles a song in quality. It is purposefully written such that it can be sung with musical accompaniment. The language used in song lyrics is typically not all that different from the language used in poetry (Singhi & Brown, 2014)

e. LANY

LANY is an American pop-rock band formed in 2014 in Los Angeles. The name LANY is taken from the combination of two major cities in the United States, Los Angeles and New York, reflecting their ambition to be widely recognized on both coasts of America. The band consists of Paul Klein (lead vocalist), Jake Goss (drummer) (Salsabila, 2024).

