CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general description of the paper. It consist of background of research, research questions, research objectives, research significance, conceptual framework and previous studies.

1.1.   Research Background

Language is a vital and complex part of human interaction, acting as a key method for communication and personal expression. According to Wardaugh (2006), language goes beyond being a simple means of sharing information; it is an organized system that allows people to convey ideas, feelings, and experiences across different social environments. Although languages differ, they share fundamental cognitive and structural features that support effective communication (Chomsky, 1965). Therefore, studying language involves more than analyzing its structure—it also considers how language expresses meaning, identity, and creativity.

Linguistics, as Verhaar (1993) explains, includes several branches such as phonetics, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics, each contributing to a comprehensive understanding of language. Within linguistics, sociolinguistics investigates how language operates within society, focusing on the connection between language choices and social identity (Holmes, 2013). Jendra (2010) emphasizes that sociolinguistics studies language variation influenced by social frameworks, cultural factors, and communication contexts. This approach is essential for understanding language as both a social instrument and a form of artistic expression, especially in creative domains like music and literature.

Language style, an important element of sociolinguistic diversity, refers to the unique linguistic choices people make according to the context, audience, and communicative purpose. Chaika (1982) explains that language style includes both spoken and written forms and is shaped by situational influences such as place, social relationships, and intention. Keraf (2006) highlights that language style serves not only as a tool for clear communication but also as a form of artistic and individual identity expression. In creative fields like songwriting, language style is crucial for constructing meaning, eliciting emotions, and expressing themes that resonate with listeners.

A notable feature of language style in artistic works is the use of figurative language. This includes metaphors, similes, personification, and hyperbole, which deepen lyrical meanings and intensify emotional impact (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980). Figurative language is especially prominent in music, where artists use these devices to communicate abstract ideas, personal challenges, and societal issues. Eisenberg (2020) points out that genres known for their emotional intensity, such as hardcore and metal, often rely on figurative language to express raw personal experiences and existential themes.

The hardcore music community offers rich insights into how language style intersects with personal expression. Young audiences are drawn to lyrics that address topics like mental health, grief, resilience, and social justice (Sullivan, 2021). Such lyrics not only mirror individual emotions but also foster a collective identity among fans. The use of intimate and informal language styles in these songs strengthens the bond between artist and listener, cultivating a shared emotional experience.

The album A Eulogy For Those Still Here, released by the metallic hardcore band Counterparts on October 7, 2022, provides a valuable case for studying figurative language within intimate and casual language styles. The band's lyrics often use poetic and emotionally

charged language to explore themes like grief, impermanence, and self-reflection. This study aims to examine the album's lyrics by identifying and categorizing figurative language while analyzing how these stylistic elements correspond to the intimate and casual styles described by Joos (1967).

According to Joos (1967), language style can be divided into five levels: frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate. Casual and intimate styles are especially relevant in music as they allow for personal storytelling, emotional connection, and the use of expressive, informal language. Casual style is marked by informal word choice, contractions, and a conversational tone, whereas intimate style involves deeply personal, sometimes ambiguous language assuming close familiarity between speaker and listener.

This research will investigate how Counterparts utilize casual and intimate styles in their lyrics to produce emotional effects. By examining sentence structures, vocabulary, and figurative language, the study will demonstrate how these linguistic features contribute to the album's thematic richness and enhance the listener's emotional engagement with the music.

The theoretical framework draws on several linguistic theories. Chomsky's (1965) Universal Grammar offers insight into the cognitive foundations of language structure. Verhaar's (1993) classification of linguistic subfields provides a methodological basis. Sociolinguistic perspectives from Holmes (2013) and Jendra (2010) highlight the link between language and social identity and emphasize linguistic variation. Joos's (1967) language style classification serves as the main analytical lens, with additional guidance from Keraf (2006) and Chaika (1982) on style choices. Finally, Lakoff and Johnson's (1980) Conceptual Metaphor Theory helps analyze figurative language as a tool for constructing meaning within song lyrics.

The author's interest in this topic arises from noticing that A Eulogy For Those Still Here showcases a diverse range of language styles deserving closer study. This research aims to bridge linguistic theory and artistic expression by illustrating how language serves not just as a means of communication but also as a powerful vehicle for personal and shared reflection. Through this analysis, the study intends to deepen our understanding of how figurative language and sociolinguistic styles enhance the emotional and thematic impact of song lyrics.

Several prior studies have investigated language style and figurative language in popular music lyrics. For instance, Sigit et al. (2023) explored the dominant casual style in Billie Eilish's lyrics, highlighting how it fosters closeness with listeners, but their research did not focus on figurative language. Amelia and Pratama (2021) examined figurative language in metalcore lyrics using Perrine's framework, identifying metaphors, hyperbole, and imagery as key expressive devices, yet they did not address stylistic variation. Additionally, Hadi (2020) applied Joos's theory to analyze stylistic shifts in Coldplay's lyrics, finding register changes corresponding with mood, but without exploring figurative elements.

Although these studies advance knowledge on either stylistic or figurative facets of music lyrics, few have considered how these two aspects interact—particularly in emotionally charged genres like melodic hardcore. This research seeks to fill this gap by analyzing both language style and figurative language in the lyrics of Counterparts' A Eulogy For Those Still Here, providing insight into how these features collectively shape meaning and emotional resonance.

1.2. Research Questions

Based on the background above, the following research questions are formulated to guide the investigation:

1. What types of language style are found in the lyrics of the album *A Eulogy For Those Still Here* by Counterparts?

2. What types of figurative language are used in the lyrics of the album *A Eulogy For Those Still Here* by Counterparts?

3. What meanings are conveyed through the figurative language found in the album's lyrics?

1.3. Research Objective

By doing so, this research proposal implied the objective goals as followed down below:

1. To identify the types of language style used in the lyrics of the album *A Eulogy For Those Still Here* by Counterparts.

2. To classify the types of figurative language found in the lyrics of the album.

3. To examine how those figurative expressions contribute to the thematic and emotional tone of the lyrics.

1.4.   Research Significance

This research is anticipated to provide significant theoretical and practical contributions to the fields of linguistics, literature, and stylistic analysis. Theoretically, it advances our understanding of how language style and figurative language interact to shape the meaning and emotional power of song lyrics. By applying Martin Joos's language style framework alongside Perrine's literary theory and Lakoff and Johnson's Conceptual Metaphor Theory, the study offers a comprehensive, multi-layered approach to analyzing how linguistic elements convey emotion, identity, and relational connection within lyrics. Additionally, by focusing on melodic hardcore—a genre less frequently studied in this context—it brings new perspectives to the academic discourse on popular music.

From a practical standpoint, the study offers benefits to various groups. Educators and students can use it as a case study demonstrating the link between language and culture and the pedagogical potential of music in linguistics, literature, and semiotics courses. Songwriters and lyricists may gain insights into how deliberate linguistic choices—such as use of informal pronouns, emotionally rich metaphors, or style shifts—affect the transmission and reception of meaning with their audiences. Language learners and enthusiasts can deepen their appreciation of language's symbolic function in authentic cultural texts. Moreover, this research encourages interdisciplinary scholarship, connecting linguistic analysis with psychology, cultural studies, and musicology.

Overall, this study not only broadens scholarly dialogue in stylistics and figurative language analysis but also promotes a wider recognition of song lyrics as linguistically crafted, emotionally resonant, socially embedded, and artistically meaningful works.

1.5.   Conceptual Framework

Language is a vital instrument for social and cultural interaction in daily life, creating a strong bond between language and society. As a communication medium, language is learned and used within social settings, which makes it important to study its various forms, including dialects, sociolects, and idiolects. According to Hymes (1974), language operates as a complex system made up of multiple layers of abstractions. Thus, understanding language comprehensively requires looking beyond its structural elements to consider how it is spoken, the social and cultural contexts of its use, and the identities and intentions of both speakers and listeners (Wardhaugh & Fuller, 2015).

Sociolinguistics, a branch of linguistics that examines how language relates to social structures and cultural phenomena, is central to this study (Hudson, 2013). This discipline sheds light on language change, linguistic variation across societies, and the political and educational factors influencing language use (Baker, 2006). While formal linguistics typically focuses on areas like phonology, syntax, and morphology, it often overlooks linguistic diversity and style as important research variables (Crystal, 2008). In contrast, sociolinguistics recognizes language variation as a fundamental feature of communication.

Linguistic variation can be categorized in various ways, including classifications based on language users (Labov, 2001). Variants are divided into individual and societal language types, with further distinctions considering geographical location, cultural background, and situational context. This study values both spoken and written forms of language. Spoken language notably differs from written language by including non-verbal elements such as gestures and facial expressions, along with suprasegmental features like pronunciation, intonation, stress, and tempo (Gumperz, 1982). In informal speech, speakers often use discourse markers like "you know" and "well," as well as fillers such as "er" and "um."

Meanwhile, certain phrases like "whom" or "sincerely yours" tend to appear more frequently in formal writing (Biber et al., 1999).

Language use can also be classified according to levels of formality. Formal language is typical in official communications, legal texts, academic papers, and professional settings, whereas informal language is common in everyday casual conversations in places like cafés, public transport, and social media (Halliday, 1978).

This study centers on the seventh album by the metallic hardcore band Counterparts, A Eulogy For Those Still Here (released October 7, 2022), aiming to analyze its lyrical content through the lens of language styles as outlined by Joos (1976). Joos identifies five language styles—frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate—each representing different formality levels and marked by distinct linguistic features used across various social situations. The analysis will focus on sentence structure in the written lyrics, examining how these different language styles are employed throughout the album.

Recognizing language as a fundamental tool for communication and engagement across cultures, the study will pay special attention to how formal and informal language is pronounced and utilized within the lyrics, exploring how these contribute to the album's emotional and thematic richness.

Additionally, the research highlights the role of figurative language—including metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, and symbolism (Lakoff & Johnson, 1980)—as a key component of language style in music. These literary devices deepen the lyrics' emotional and conceptual resonance, allowing artists to express complex feelings and abstract ideas that connect profoundly with their audience. Analyzing these poetic elements will offer insights into how figurative language enhances meaning, reinforces themes, and evokes emotional

responses, underscoring its vital role in artistic expression beyond literal language (Gibbs, 1994).

The researcher's motivation for this study arises from observing the rich variety of language styles present in the lyrics of the album, which calls for a more detailed investigation and analysis. This study aims to connect linguistic theory with practical application by exploring the language styles used in Counterparts' music. Through examining these linguistic features, the research seeks to demonstrate how language operates not only as a tool for communication but also as a mirror of social circumstances and individual expression.

The outlined conceptual frameworks will provide the foundational theoretical structure guiding the analysis and interpretation throughout the study. These frameworks act as instruments for categorizing and understanding the linguistic data, thus shaping the approach and presentation of the research findings in the thesis.

1.6.   Previous Studies

A number of previous studies have investigated the use of language style and figurative language in music lyrics, offering important insights into how language functions in artistic expression. These studies serve as valuable references for the current research, though they also reveal a gap that this study aims to fill.

Sigit, W., Sedeng, I. N., & Mulyana, N. (2023), in their study entitled *"An Analysis of Language Style in Billie Eilish's Song on 'When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go' Album,"* applied language style theory to analyze the lyrics of Billie Eilish's songs. Their research found that the casual style was predominantly used in the lyrics. This casual style functions to enhance listener engagement, persuade, and create a particular atmosphere in the songs. However, this study did not specifically investigate the use of figurative language in the lyrics.

Amelia and Pratama (2021), in their study *"Figurative Language in Metal Lyrics: A Stylistic Approach,"* explored how figurative expressions—such as metaphor, symbolism, and imagery—function to enhance emotional immersion in metalcore lyrics. Applying Perrine's theoretical framework, they found that figurative language served not only as a poetic device but also as a means of constructing emotional narratives. However, their analysis centered mainly on figurative content and did not incorporate language style as an analytical lens.

Hadi (2020), in his study "*Comparative Stylistics Analysis on Coldplay's Song Lyrics*," applied Joos's theory of language styles to examine stylistic variation across multiple tracks. His findings revealed how Coldplay strategically alternated between formal, consultative, and casual styles to reflect lyrical mood and audience proximity. While the study provided valuable insight into stylistic shifts, it did not explore the interaction between language style and figurative language devices.

Zahria and Wibowo (2024), in their study titled *"An Analysis of Figurative Languages in the Niki Zefanya's Song Lyrics,"* analyzed the use of various figurative devices within selected contemporary song lyrics. Their research identified five main types of figurative language, with metaphor and hyperbole being the most dominant. These figurative forms contribute significantly to the emotional depth and thematic expression of the songs. However, their study focused primarily on identifying figurative language types without integrating the broader stylistic context of the lyrics.

Sari and Widodo (2024), in their study *"Sociolinguistics Analysis on Language Style in Niki Songs,"* applied Martin Joos's five language styles to analyze the lyrics of Niki's songs "Backburner" and "Anaheim." Their research found that **casual**, **consultative**, and **intimate** styles were dominant, each serving to convey different emotional depths and interpersonal tones. The **intimate style** was especially prevalent in songs expressing vulnerability, while **casual and consultative styles** reflected accessible and reflective tones. Although the study

did not analyze figurative language, it clearly demonstrated how language style contributes to emotional resonance and lyrical meaning—supporting the relevance of stylistic analysis in musical texts.

Sari, Santika, and Juniartha (2022), in their analysis of hyperbole in the *Sempiternal* album by Bring Me the Horizon, found that exaggerative expressions carry connotative, affective, and conceptual meanings which intensify the emotional and thematic depth of the lyrics. Their study highlighted how hyperbole functions as a critical stylistic device to convey feelings of struggle, resistance, and emotional turmoil within the post-hardcore and punk-influenced music. However, the study focused primarily on hyperbole without exploring other figurative devices or a broader stylistic framework.

In their study *"Gaya Bahasa dalam Lirik Lagu Bergenre Indie,"* Rasyid and Rachmawati (2023) explored how casual, informal, and sometimes slang-infused Indonesian language fosters emotional closeness and identity expression in indie music lyrics. They found that blending standard Indonesian with colloquial and English terms creates a conversational intimacy that resonates with contemporary listeners. The study, however, did not engage with symbolic or figurative meaning embedded in the lyrics.

Setiyono, Sukmaningrum, and Setyorini (2023), in their study *"An Analysis of Figurative Language in Song Lyrics on the Wiped Out! Album by The Neighbourhood,"* analyzed the use of metaphor, simile, hyperbole, and personification to uncover deeper emotional meanings embedded in the lyrics. The researchers concluded that figurative language served to express themes such as emotional emptiness, identity confusion, and psychological pain—common in alternative and emo-influenced music. However, while the study focused on symbolic and emotional depth, it did not explore how stylistic elements or language style frameworks enhanced these expressions.

Dewi, H. C., & Anggraeni, D. (2020), in their study *"An Analysis of Language Style in the Song 'Youth' by Troye Sivan,"* explored the use of language style in conveying emotional nuance and communicative intent in pop lyrics. Drawing on stylistic theory, their findings showed that **casual and consultative styles** dominate the lyrics, reflecting the youthfulness and intimacy embedded in the song. Although the study did not incorporate figurative language analysis, it supported the idea that style choice significantly influences listener interpretation and emotional engagement.

Finally, Maharani, H. R (2024), *in her undergraduate thesis "An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyrics of Niki's Album 'Nicole',"* examined the use of various figurative devices—such as metaphor, simile, and personification—in the lyrics of a Western artist. Although her study did not explicitly compare stylistic and figurative frameworks across cultural contexts, it demonstrated that figurative language in Western songs can be analyzed meaningfully in a local academic setting.

Although existing studies have considerably contributed to our understanding of language style and figurative language in song lyrics, they typically examine these two linguistic aspects separately and focus mainly on popular genres such as pop, indie, or rock. There is a significant lack of linguistic research on the melodic hardcore genre, which is distinguished by its intense emotional expression, raw lyricism, and introspective storytelling.

This gap is both meaningful and academically important. Melodic hardcore lyrics create a unique linguistic setting where emotions are conveyed not through polished poetic techniques but through urgent, fragmented, and symbolically rich language. Unlike commercial music that often uses predictable language patterns, hardcore lyrics require a more nuanced analytical approach—one that can consider both stylistic variations and figurative language simultaneously.

Therefore, this study is not just an exploration of lyrics out of curiosity but a purposeful effort to extend stylistic and figurative analysis into a less-explored musical domain. By utilizing an integrated framework combining Joos's theory of language styles and figurative language theories (from Perrine, Lakoff & Johnson), the research aims to reveal how linguistic forms construct emotional meanings within the hardcore genre. This will provide valuable insights not only for linguistic theory but also for the cultural and artistic understanding of alternative music expression.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

This section defines several key terms relevant to the research titled *"The Role of Figurative Language in Intimate and Casual Styles in Counterparts' A Eulogy For Those Still Here."* These definitions provide foundational understanding for readers to interpret the object of study, the theoretical framework, and linguistic elements used in the analysis.

1.7.1. Sociolinguistics

Holmes (2013) describes sociolinguistics as the discipline that explores the dynamic relationship between language and society. This field delves into how various social factors—including class, gender, ethnicity, age, and situational context—affect the ways people use language and shape patterns of linguistic variation. Sociolinguistics investigates not simply the structure of language itself, but also how language operates as a social tool, reflecting and reinforcing power dynamics, group identity, and cultural values within different communities.

By examining how people modify their speech or writing depending on who they are interacting with, where they are, and what roles they occupy, sociolinguists seek to understand the underlying social meanings that motivate linguistic choices. This includes looking at regional dialects, sociolects, gendered speech patterns, and how norms of conversation shift

across settings. Ultimately, sociolinguistics provides insight into how language both shapes and is shaped by social life, highlighting the ways in which communication is tied to social structures and human relationships.

1.7.2. Language Style

Joos (1967) defines language style as the degree of formality or the particular tone that speakers or writers adopt when communicating, which often shifts depending on the social situation and the relationship between the participants. According to Joos, language can be classified into five distinct styles: frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate. Each style reflects varying levels of formality and is associated with specific linguistic features and social contexts. This research is centered on identifying and examining these different language styles within the lyrics of selected songs, aiming to understand how shifts in formality and tone contribute to the overall communicative effect and emotional impact of the music. By analyzing these styles, the study sheds light on how language choices within song lyrics reflect social relationships, audience engagement, and expressive intent.

1.7.3. Figurative Language

According to Lakoff and Johnson (1980), figurative language consists of expressions that transcend the straightforward, literal meanings of words to convey more complex ideas, emotions, and symbolic meanings. This category includes various rhetorical devices such as metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, irony, and symbolism. These figures of speech serve an important function by enriching communication—they enable speakers and writers to express abstract concepts, emotional nuances, and vivid imagery that literal language alone often cannot capture. Through these devices, language acquires layers of meaning that connect with audiences on a deeper emotional and cognitive level, helping to shape how people understand and experience the world around them. In particular, metaphors play a central role

14

by framing one idea in terms of another, which allows individuals to conceptualize complex or intangible phenomena through more familiar or concrete terms. Overall, figurative language is essential in both everyday communication and artistic expression, as it enhances the power and effectiveness of language by making it more evocative, imaginative, and impactful.

1.7.4. Lyrics

Lyrics are the written words of a song, crafted to complement the musical arrangement. Frith (1996) describes lyrics as poetic forms that convey emotions, tell stories, and provide reflections on social issues. Within this study, the lyrics are considered the main source of data, serving as the foundation for analyzing how language is used to express meaning, evoke feelings, and communicate narratives in the context of music.

1.7.5. Hardcore Music

Hardcore music, a subgenre stemming from punk rock, is characterized by its powerful emotional expression, rapid tempo, and lyrical themes that often explore personal challenges, mental health issues, and social justice topics (Sullivan, 2021). The profound emotional content embedded in hardcore lyrics makes this genre an engaging subject for sociolinguistic and stylistic research, as it offers rich material for analyzing how language reflects and shapes individual and collective experiences within its social context.

1.7.6. Counterparts

Counterparts is a Canadian band within the melodic hardcore genre, recognized for their emotionally charged lyrics and energetic, dynamic vocal delivery. Their 2022 album, A Eulogy For Those Still Here, is the primary focus of analysis in this study, serving as a key example to explore how language and expressive styles are employed to convey deep emotional themes within their music.

1.7.7. A Eulogy For Those Still Here

A Eulogy For Those Still Here is the seventh studio album by Counterparts, released in 2022. Comprising eleven tracks, the album delves into themes such as grief, identity, and introspection. This study focuses on analyzing eight selected songs from the album to explore the use of language styles and figurative language, aiming to uncover how these linguistic features contribute to the emotional expression and thematic development within the lyrics.

1.8. Organization of the Writing

This thesis is organized into five chapters to provide a systematic presentation of the research process and its findings. Each chapter is structured as follows:

- **Chapter I – Introduction**

  This chapter explains the background of the study, research questions, objectives, scope and limitation, significance of the study, definition of key terms, previous studies, and the organization of the writing itself.

- **Chapter II – Theoretical Foundation**

  This chapter presents the theories and concepts that support the analysis, including discussions on linguistics, sociolinguistics, language style, figurative language, conceptual metaphor theory, and the sociolinguistic context of hardcore lyrics.

- **Chapter III – Research Method**

  This chapter describes the research design, object of the study, source of data, techniques of data collection and analysis, and the strategies used to ensure the trustworthiness of the data.

- **Chapter IV – Findings and Discussion**

  This chapter presents the results of the data analysis, including classifications of language style and figurative language in the lyrics, followed by interpretation and discussion based on the theoretical framework.

- **Chapter V – Conclusion and Suggestions**

  This chapter provides the concluding statements of the research based on the findings, as well as suggestions for future studies and implications for further research.