CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviews the general outlines of present study. It begins with background of research, statements of problem, purposes and significance of research, and clarification of key terns. At the end of the chapter, organization of writing is also elaborated.

1.1. Background of Research

Nowadays, the role of language in communication has been increasing significantly. Many people convey their ideas to communicate through language all over the world, including expressing the idea into song lyrics. The language used in the lyrics commonly contains figurative language. Reaske (1966: 33) stated that it is language which employs various figures of speech. Some examples are metaphor, simile, antithesis, hyperbole, and paradox. In general, figurative language is that kind of language which departs from the language employed in the traditional, literal ways of describing persons or objects. Using figurative language is making imaginative descriptions in fresh ways.

Figurative language which is also known as a figure of speech, rhetorical figure, or metaphorical language that is commonly used in literary works such as in prose and nonfiction writing, the figure of speech is also used in another works like poetry and lyrics. This statements are suitable with Abrams (1999: 116-117):

> Figurative language has often been divided into two classes: (1) Figures of thought, or tropes (meaning "turns," "conversions"), in which words or

phrases are used in a way that effects a conspicuous change in what we take to be their standard meaning. The standard meaning, as opposed to its meaning in the figurative use, is called the literal meaning. (2) Figures of speech, or rhetorical figures, or schemes (from the Greek word for "form"), in which the departure from standard usage is not primarily in the meaning of the words, but in the order or syntactical pattern of the words. This distinction is not a sharp one, nor do all critics agree on its application. For convenience of exposition, however, the most commonly identified tropes are treated here, and the most commonly identified figures of speech are collected in the article rhetorical figures. For recent opposition to the basic distinction between the literal and the figurative.

This kind of language is not commonly used in daily conversation, but it can be easily found in the following example of lyrics of a song.

Glaciers melting in the dead of night
And the superstars sucked into the super massive

I thought I was a fool for no one
Oh baby, I'm a fool for you
You're the queen of the superficial
And how long before you tell the truth?

Based on the example above, it is known that the figurative language included in lyric of Muse can be seen from the bolded words above, "You're the queen of superficial" is a kind of metaphor and "superstars sucked into a supermassive" is a kind of personification that can compare the thing by living things. The lyric is taken from the song *Supermassive Black Hole* by Muse. This song is interesting, because it seems to simple compared to most of muse's songs. The writer thinks it is about the commercial world, with lopsided and models, being welcomed in as people can only see the good side, the side celebrities show on TV. Only after in the whole nation is melted and fallen into the suppermassive black hole from which there is no escape, it will reveal its true colours, with most

celebrities (*queen of superficial*) being spoilt and to rich for their own good. These figurative languages should be understood by the readers.

Muse' song lyrics in "Black Holes and Revelations" album contains such figurative language, and the aim here is to ask how the respondents explain about that lyrics. The lyrics of the albums are very complex because they tell the absurdity of life that expressed by the figurative language, one of the lyrics is "Supermassive Black Holes"

Referring to the explanation of the Muse' lyrics above some of which tell about love, his lyrics are excited to be studied as they are frequently considered an ambiguous and simulating multi interpretation. Like what Abrams (1999: 10) said:

> In ordinary usage "ambiguity" is applied to a fault in style; that is, the use of a vague or equivocal expression when what is wanted is precision and particularity of reference. Since William Empson published Seven Types of Ambiguity (1930), however, the term has been widely used in criticism to identify a deliberate poetic device: the use of a single word or expression to signify two or more distinct references, or to express two or more diverse attitudes or feelings. Multiple meaning and plurisignation are alternative terms for this use of language; they have the advantage of avoiding the pejorative association with the word "ambiguity."

In accordance with the ambiguous lyrics, respondents might have assumption that the lyrics contains such figurative language or dictions that they must interpret.

Research on figurative language in lyrics of the songs had been carried out by Heri Taruna (2008), entitled "Respondents Opinion about Love Lyrics of Bruno Mars' *Doo-Wops and Hooligans* Albums". This research contains figurative language in the lyrics of the songs. His research is focused on; the first

is what kinds of figurative language of love found in Bruno Mars' lyrics by the respondents. The findings of this first question are there are ten kinds of figurative language in those lyrics namely, hyperbole, euphemism, personification, metaphor, litotes, irony, allegory, visual imagery, and simile. Second is what is the respondent's opinion on the figurative language of love found in Bruno Mars' lyrics. In relation to the second research question, the result showed that there are many interpretations about those lyrics bolded and italized in those lyrics. However, conclude that the interpretations of the respondent about those lyrics are expression of llife.

The second research was done by Kurniawan (2004). He focused the study on semantic analysis of idiom related to part of body in Eminem's lyrics "Marshall Mather LP" albums. His research is the research that tells about, the first is the words or phrases which are classified into idiom related to part of body. The findings of this first question are that there are 14 part of body; they are head, brain, eyes, mouth, throat, tongue, lips, hands, fingers, ass, asshole, dick, pussy, and foot. Second is semantic meaning of part of body in the idioms. The result of this question is that the idiom has lexical meaning that related to daily life. Third idiom related to part of body which is semantically classified into opaque or transparent. The result is that all of the idiom are divided into opaque and transparent and the most dominant is opaque idiom.

The only differences between my research with the other research are, if with Heri's research although the topics are the same, namely discusses on figurative language, but Heri's study focused on the lyrics that contain figurative

language of love. In addition, the writer's study is the study of all figurative language not specified into specific figurative language. Difference from the later study is in object. My research is about figurative language, and his research is about idiom.

The main reason for conducting this research is started from researcher's experience form studying the Muse's lyrics because Muse' lyrics are specialized in using the figurative language that are sometimes ambiguous or head to explain. By knowing the meaning of the lyrics, the researcher is going to conduct this study to investigate the real interpretation given by the readers and the ways the readers interpret the figurative languages. Thus, the best title for the research is **RESPONDENTS' UNDERSTANDING ON MUSE SONG LYRICS IN THE ALBUMS "BLACK HOLES AND REVELATIONS"**

1.2.Statement of Problems

From the background above, in this case, the writer takes the material of figurative language as an object of study of *Muse* song lyrics Based on the description above, the writer tries to analyze the understanding of readers in song lyrics by finding the contextual meaning of the figurative language. The writer limit the issues discussed in the factor of difficulty faced by the readers. The problems of this research can be formulated as following questions:

1. What kinds of figurative language ARE found in Muse' lyrics by the respondents' questionnaire?

2. How do respondents understand the figurative language in Muse's song lyrics form the album "Black Holes and Revelation"?

1.3. Purpose and Significance of Research

Purpose and signifances of this research are concidered to the students of English Department. There are two main purposes of this research. They are:

1. To find out kinds of figurative language found in Muse' lyrics by the respondents.

2. To analyze the respondents' understanding on the figurative language of found in Muse' lyrics.

There are main significances of this research. They are:

Based on the statements of problems and the purposes of the research, the writer hopes the result that emerges from this study may have theoretical and practical contributions. Theoretically, this study will provide a beneficial reference for the study in increasing knowledge and insights about figurative language. Moreover, it is also expected that the results of the study can enrich the knowledge body of semantics.

Practically, the results of this study can provide practical contribution for students and faculty of Islamic State University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. For the students, findings of this research can provide useful activities and directions for successful implementation of lexical in their classes. By knowing the figurative language, they can easily do a literary work like poetry. For the faculty, these research findings can provide a useful curriculum in supporting this

further research about figurative language. For the other researchers, this research provides contribution as the reference for them who want to analyze or study song lyrics.

1.4.Clarification of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, this part clarifies the key terms used in this research. The words of readers' understanding, readers' interpretation, figurative language, and lyric are defined and clarified as follows:

- Respondents' understanding in this research means the readers' power of comprehending the figurative language used on Muse's lyrics of "Black Holes and Revelations" album. it is in line with the definition of understanding taken from Merriam Webster Dictionary: "Understanding is the power of comprehending".

- Figurative language in this research means all the words which departs from the literal language in Muse's lyrics of "Black Holes and Revelations" album. it is in accordance with the the definition from Rieske (1966:33), "Figurative language is the language which departs from the language employed in the traditional, literal ways of describing persons or objects"

- Lyric in this research is the words of songs from Muse's lyrics of "Black Holes and Revelations" Album. it is in line with the definiton from Oxford Dictionary (Manser, 1995:249), "Lyric is words of a song".

- "Black Holes and Revelations" is an album released in 2006. This albums comprises 12 song lyrics. For further information about Muse and this album, see the appendices.

1.5. Organization of writing

The organization of writing of this paper consist of five chapters, includes:

- Chapter I: This chapters consists of introduction, background of research, statements of problem, the purpose and significance of research, and organization of writing.

- Chapter II: This chapter consists of theoritical review of definition of language, figurative language, literary theory of reader response, and definition of semantic.

- Chapter III: This chapter consists of research method, such as: method of research, research site and subject, population and sample of study, source of data, technique of data collection, and technique of analyzing data.

- Chapter IV: This chapter consists of findings and discussions, word or phrases which are assumed as figurative language Muse lyrics based on interpretation of the reader.

- Chapter V: This chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion of the research.