

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. It contains the research background, statement of problems, research objectives and significances, conceptual framework, and the result of previous studies.

A. Research Background

Figurative language is an expression of language that has more than one meaning. The characteristics of figurative language can be seen from the word, phrase, sentence which difficult to understand or it uses the unusual language. The use of figurative language is to beautify the language and it gives an imaginative feeling for the reader or hearer. In some books, the word of figurative language is the same as non-literal meaning. It means that non-literal meaning is the other terms of figurative language. The figurative language is the opposite to literal meaning. It is because the literal meaning can be found in the dictionary and it refers to the real meaning, while the figurative language requires some interpretations and it does not depend on the dictionary meaning.

Figurative language is discussed to find what it really means in a phrase, sentence, or a text. The study of figurative language is one of the topics in semantics. Semantics is a study of meaning. One of the meaning is figurative meaning. According to Saeed (2016, p.3), defines that semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language. This means that semantics study tries to find out the meaning of language, including the figurative language.

In general, there are many types of figurative languages. According to Cruse (2006, p.63), figurative language related to figure of speech. As said before that there are many figures of speech but Cruse said that the main ones that have attracted the attention of linguists such as euphemism, hyperbole, irony, metaphor, metonymy, simile, and understatement or litotes. Based on that statement, those seven types of figure of speech are common to be analyzed.

In daily life, figurative language can be found in the written and spoken forms. Sometimes people use the figurative language in communication directly

and indirectly. The use of direct figure of speech can be found in daily conversation and the used of indirect figure of speech can be found in the advertisement, magazines, articles, newspapers, and also literary works. Commonly, the literary works use many figurative language to beautify and gives the imaginative feelings.

The literary works are created by human to express thoughts, ideas, and feelings. The literary works usually put the emotional and imaginative things. There are some functions of literary works such as the aesthetic function, religious function, recreation function, entertainment function, and another function. As the imaginative and aesthetic work, the literary works become an entertainment for the reader or listener. Figurative language is one of the elements that gives the aesthetic effect.

The effectiveness of figurative language has explained by Perrine (1997, p.34-35), those are (1) figurative language affords readers imaginative pleasure of literary works, (2) it is a way of bringing additional imagery into verse, making literary works more sensuous, (3) figurative is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and conveying attitudes along with information, and (4) it is a way of saying much in brief compass. Based on Perrine's explanation, the figurative language has a big influence on literary works. It gives the readers imaginative feelings and be pleased when they read a literary work. The literary works more sensuous and emotional through figurative language. It helps to convey information, idea, and thought indirectly.

Essentially, the literary works devided into several forms such as poetry, prose, and drama. It can not be denied that these three forms are often heard in daily life. Poetry, prose, and drama are interesting to read or to be watched. In the history of the literature, the oldest form of literary works is poetry. According to Perrine (1997, p.9), poetry is the literary work that choose some words for its sense, it also choose the words for what it hit at or suggest, for the way it sound and for the word pictures it creates. Poetry has related to the term of *lyric*. It derives from Greek musical instrument *lyra*. In the Middle Age, poetry was accompanied by lyra or another isntrumental of music. Nowadays, the poetry

often accompanied by the instrumental and it called by musical poetry. Poetry has the special words. Another form that have the special words is song lyrics. Some people said that poetry is similar to song lyrics. It does not means that all of song lyrics as the same as poem. It means that only the song lyrics which have the rhetoric and figurative language. Some poetry can be a song which added tone and music. To support this argumen, Dryden (1993, p.5), explained that poetry is the articulate music. It means that poetry and song lyric have the similar characteristic. Figurative language is often used in poetry. Nevertheless, it is also found in other forms such as short story, novel, movie, drama, song, newspapers, magazine, and another form, but the most interesting to analyze is song lyrics.

Song lyrics can be said as one of the literary genres. It is interesting to analyze song lyrics with semantics approach, especially figurative language. Song is one of the media for expressing human's feelings with a music and words to sing. According to Hornby, song is a short piece of music which have the word to sing (Hornby, 2010, p.1419). Song helps people to convey their feelings, ideas, and thoughts indirectly. It can also describe a person's mood and situation. It is an interesting way to entertain people. In song lyrics often contain many beautiful and nice words to make the listeners interest to listen it. The song writer will create good lyrics to attract the listeners' attention. They usually created a song lyric based on their experience, describe situation, feelings, and other things.

Most of song lyrics use good diction and figurative language to give the effect of beauty and to attract people's attention. In fact, there are some people listen to the music or song just for fun and they do not really pay attention to the content of the lyric, especially the English lyrics. It is because of some reasons. The first reason, they do not really understand the language because it is not their mother tongue. The second reason, they understand the language but they do not really understand when a song use some figurative languages. Based on those reasons, it requires a deep understanding to know the exact meaning of song lyrics. It is also to avoid a misunderstanding.

Every song has message in its lyric for the listeners. The message will deliver easily if the lyric is understandable. There are some lyrics use the simple

words to make the listeners understand and get the message easily. However, there are song writers decided to put some figurative languages to make the effect of beauty, but it makes the listeners feel confuse. It is because they can not get the message easily and they difficult to understand the lyric. In this case, the listeners must interpret and do a deep understanding to know the actual meaning. This is why the writer interested in analyze the figurative language in song lyrics.

For some people especially the EFL students, in understanding the figurative language is difficult. It is because the meaning of figurative language does not occur in the dictionary. For example, the words "*I am feeling blue*" and the words "*My jacket is blue*". Based on these examples, both sentences use the word "*blue*". In the words "*My jacket is blue*" means that my jacket has blue color, so blue has a meaning as a color. However in the words "*I am feeling blue*", it does not mean that blue is a color. It means that it contains figurative language. That is one of figure of speech, so the words "*I am feeling blue*" has meaning *I am feeling so sad*. That is why figurative language is difficult to understand, including the figurative language in a song lyric. The reader or listener must interpret what the word refers to.

Since the song lyrics have attracted the writer to analyze it. Avril Lavigne's songs especially in *Head Above Water* album contain a lot of figurative language. Avril Lavigne is a singer and a song writer who is considered as being expert in choosing good diction and use the figurative language in most of her song lyrics. Avril Lavigne's song lyrics are chosen become the object of this research because it has never been used as the research object in this faculty. The writer will focus on *Head Above Water* album because it is the newest album and the writer has never seen this album become the research object in other research. This album was written based on her true story and there are some themes can be found in this album. Therefore, Avril Lavigne's song lyrics are worthwhile to be analyzed in this research. This is why the writer interested in analyze the figurative language in Avril Lavigne's song lyrics of *Head Above Water* album.

There are some research that has similar topic to this research, but there are the differences between them. The object of this research is Avril Lavigne's

song lyrics of *head Above Water* album. This research will focus on seven types of figurative language based on Cruse's theory. Then, this research will identify the kinds of themes in this album. It is because the use of figurative language also influence the themes of song lyrics. Figurative language can brings the readers or listeners deeper into the theme of the work without the writer explains the theme explicitly (Littlehale, 2019). It means that the figurative language helps the readers or listeners to find what the theme of song lyric. It is one of the ways that the song writer creates every word of lyric with full of emotions and expressions than simply. Based on the explanation, the writer conducts a research entitled "*Semantics Analysis on Figurative Language in Avril Lavigne's Song Lyrics of Head Above Water Album*".

B. Statement of Problems

Based on the research background above, the writer will do the research in Avril Lavigne's song lyrics of *Head Above Water* album. These song lyrics contain several meanings that can be analyzed by semantic anlysis. Avril Lavigne's songs contain many figurative language which also influence the themes of each songs. The way people in understanding song lyrics sometimes are not accurate, for the example, the EFL students might still confuse to interpret the meaning of the English song lyrics that contain some figurative languages. Most of them listen to a song only for entertain themselves and they do not really pay attention to its content. Based on the statement, the writer already decided which problems will be discussed and relate to the background of research. In this research will be conducted to answer the following questions below:

1. What types of figurative language are used in Avril Lavigne's song lyrics of *Head Above Water* album?
2. What kinds of themes are found in Avril Lavigne's song lyrics of *Head Above Water* album that supported by figurative language?

C. Research Objectives and Significances

Based on the research questions above, this research has purposes. The purpose is one of the important parts to make the research and its results become appropriate. This research helps the readers to know how Avril Lavigne

expresses her feelings in several themes of each song lyrics through figurative language. However, this research objectives are designed as follow:

1. To find out and describe the types of figurative language used in Avril Lavigne's song lyrics of *Head Above Water* album.
2. To find out and describe the kinds of themes found in Avril Lavigne's song lyrics of *Head Above Water* album that supported by figurative language.

In every reserach, it must have the research significances. The research significances also known as the benefit of the research. This research is expected to accomplish theoretical and practical significances, as follows:

1. Theoretical Significances

Theoretically, the writer hopes that this research can give the development and comprehension about the linguistics field especially the semantics field. The writer also hopes this research can enrich the knowledge about the figurative language. The figurative language often occur in poems, but by reading this research, the readers know that figurative language occur in song lyrics. After knowing the theory and all about figurative language, the readers will know how to analyze song lyrics semantically and avoid some misinterpretation in understanding a song lyric.

2. Practical Significances

Practically, the writer hopes that this research become a helpful source for the readers especially for the English Literature students who want to know the theories of figurative language and how to analyze song lyric semantically. Furthermore, the result of this research would be beneficial for lectures, students, and future researcher. For the lectures, this research can be taken as a reference for teaching semantics, especially the figurative language. For students, this research can be a reference to learn semantics, figurative language, and how to analyze song lyric. For the future researcher this research can be an additional reference for their research and help them to understand the study focus on figurative language.

D. Conceptual Framework

In this point, the writer will create a concept or a framework for the research in Semantics analysis. This research will use the semantics approach in analyze the object of the research. It is because the writer will do the research to find out the meaning. The study that relevant to find the meaning is semantics. Semantics is one branch of linguistics that studies the meaning. It means that the meaning is the language meaning. Some experts in linguistics study give their explanation about the definition of semantics. According to Saeed (2016, p.3), defines that semantics is the study of meaning communicated through language. Supporting Saeed, another theory of semantics comes from Yule (2006, p.100) also defines that semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. Kreidler (1998, p.3), gives the explanation that semantics is the systematic study of meaning and how languages organise and express the meanings. All of the experts give the same point that semantics is a study of language meaning.

The object of this research is a literary work. Literary works made by human for the specific purposes. The definition of literature itself is something that created by human in the spoken and written forms. In general, the literary works always use language which contain the creative and imaginative words. The purposes of literary works put the creative and imaginative language are to make the works become aesthetic and attract the readers' attention. That is why the literary work is interesting to be analyzed. There are several aspect that can be analyzed by the reader. It can be analyzed in literature aspect or linguistics aspect. In linguistics, there are several topic to analyze the literary works. As all people know that the literary works divided into three forms generally. Those forms of literary works are prose, poetry, and drama. Talking about the poetry, poetry is the oldest form of literature. Furthermore, as in the background of this research said that poem and song lyric have the same characteristic. This is why the writer choose song lyrics as the object of this research.

Song lyric is one of the literary works that can be a media for human to express their ideas, thoughts, and feelings. Why the writer choose song lyrics to

be analyzed semantically? It is because song lyrics are similar to poetry which have many beautiful words. Song lyrics have good diction, nice words, message, etc. Every sentences in song lyric has meaning that want to deliver to the listeners as a value or message. If the listeners are not accurate in interpreting the meaning, it will make a misunderstanding. This is why the song lyrics are interesting to be analyzed by semantic study. As well as poetry, song lyrics also contain many figurative language to make the effect of beauty.

Figurative language can be said as the language that has another meaning. It means that the meaning of figurative language does not occur in the dictionary. The use of figurative language in song lyrics is not a rare thing. In fact, there are many song writers put the figurative language in their songs. One of the song lyrics that contained figurative language is Avril Lavigne's songs. Avril Lavigne is not only the singer, but also a song writer. It means that almost her songs are created by herself. Avril also wrote the lyric based on her life story and her experiences. This is an interesting thing. Avril put the figure of speech in some lyrics to strengthen the themes of the songs.

The writer choose Avril Lavigne's song lyrics of *Head Above Water* album because it is impossible to analyze one song lyric, the writer needs many data to be analyzed. The writer will choose the songs that contained figurative language only. The writer will find out the types of figurative language based on Cruse's theory. Those are euphemism, hyperbole, irony, metaphor, metonymy, simile, and understatement (litotes).

The used of figurative language in Avril Lavigne's song lyrics is able to support various themes. In another ways, figurative language build or created the themes. It means that figurative language has a function as the supporting elements of particular themes. This is the examples of figurative language found in Avril Lavigne's song lyrics of *Head Above Water* album, taken from "I Fell In Love With The Devil" song:

(1) *Hearbreak explosions in reckless motion*

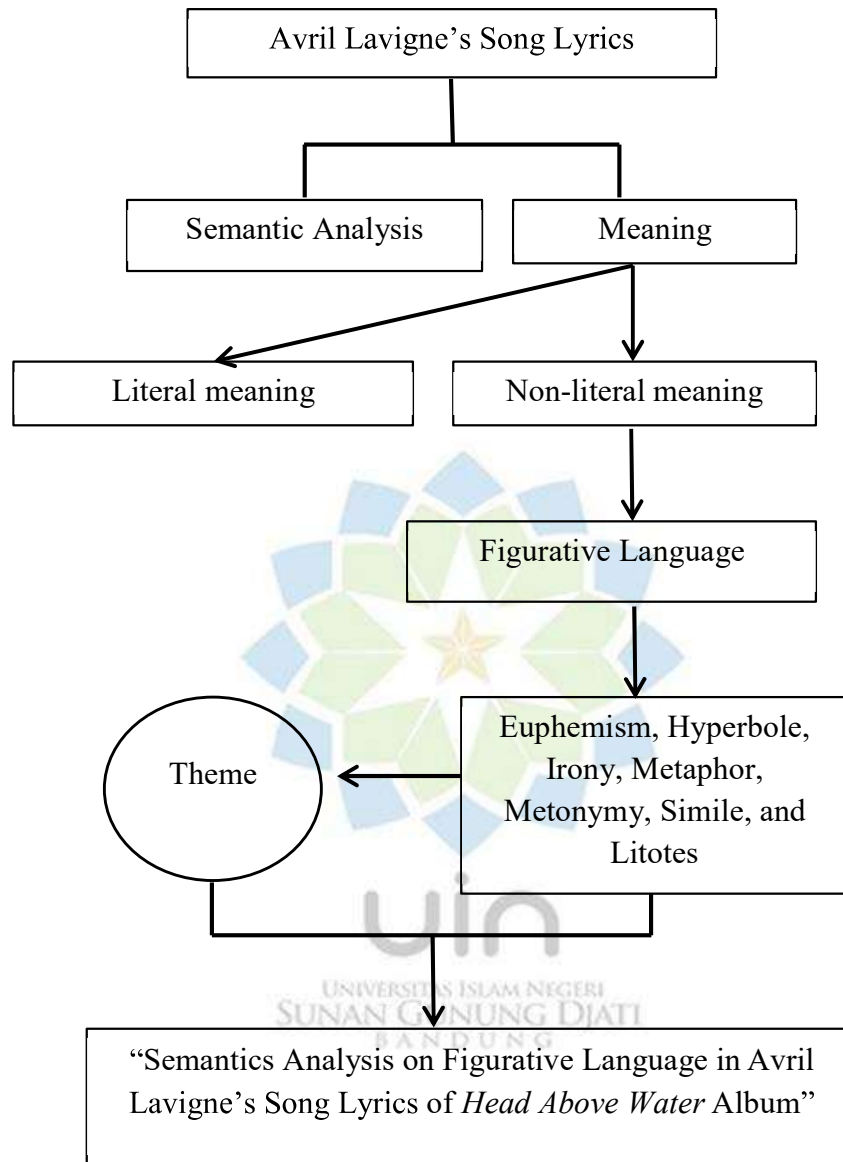
(2) *I fell in love with the Devil*

(3) *Tastes just like danger (tastes just like danger)*

Based on the examples above, those sentences contained the figurative language. In the sentence 1, it is hyperbole. This sentence is an exaggerated because it is impossible ‘heartbreak’ can explode. In general, the word ‘explode’ use to state something such as bomb, nuclear, etc. So this sentence is exaggerated statement. In the sentence 2, it is metaphor. The word “Devil” is not literally means the most powerful evil. It is a metaphor for a man who has a character like a devil. The words of this lyric means that she is loving wrong person. In the sentence 3, it is simile. This is a simile because it has the word “like” as the element of simile. It used to compare the word “tastes” to the word “danger”. The examples above give a proof that Avril Lavigne’s song lyrics contain the figurative language. This is the reason why the writer choose Avril Lavigne’s song lyrics especially *Head Above Water* album becomes the object of this research. Besides finding the types of figurative language, the writer also describe what the meaning and find out the themes that supported by figurative language in the object.

In analyzing the object, the writer uses several theories of semantics, it can be seen in the chapter II. The main theory of this research is Alan Cruse’s theory, it is to find out the types of figurative language and to describe the meaning itself. The following is the diagram of conceptual framework of this research:

Figure 1. The Diagram of Research



E. The Result of Previous Studies

This research conducted based on the previous research which have the similar object and the research topic. The previous studies presented to be a reference and also as a sign that the present research has never been done before. There are some previous studies that related to the object, topic and the theory. Those are: An international journal was conducted by Sharndama and Suleiman (2013) entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Languages in Two Selected Traditional

Funeral Songs of The Kilba People of Adamawa State". Thesis by Arifah (2016) entitled "*Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song*". Thesis written by Santiana (2016) entitled "*The Figurative Language in Song Lyrics of Adele's Album 25*". Thesis written by Abubakar (2017) entitled *Figurative Language Used in Mr.Big's Big Bigger Biggest*. Journal written by Fitria (2018) entitled "*Figurative Language Used in One Direction's Album Entitled Up All Night*". Thesis written by Fathurrohman (2019) entitled "*The Use of Euphemism in Violence Topics of Articles in The Guardian's Online Newspaper*". The explanation such as below:

First, an international journal was conducted by Sharndama and Suleiman (2013) entitled "*An Analysis of Figurative Languages in Two Selected Traditional Funeral Songs of The Kilba People of Adamawa State*". This journal was taken from an international journal of English and Literature vol.4 no.4 June 2013. The purposes of this study is to identify the common figurative languages, to discuss the effects of the identified figurative languages, and how figurative language varies from the ordinary language. The research uses descriptive approach. The result found some figurative language such as metaphor, simile, rhetorical questions, imagery, symbolism, and repetition of the object research. This journal has the similar topic about semantics, especially figurative language. The object of the research also similar to the current research, that is song lyrics. Based on this journal, the writer know that song lyrics can be analyzed by semantic analysis, especially figurative language.

Second, thesis written by Srudji (2014) entitled "*A Semantic Analysis on Avril Lavigne Songs*". This thesis was taken from the State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. The writer downloaded this thesis from the internet. The object of this research is Avril Lavigne's song lyrics. There are five songs lyrics that analyzed by the writer of this thesis. Those are When You're Gone, Wish You Were Here, Keep Holding On, My Happy Ending, and Everything Back But You. Although the object and the topic of the research are similar to the current research, but this thesis has different focus. This thesis uses semantic analysis which focus on the lexical and contextual meanings. The purposes of this thesis

are to explain the lexical and contextual meaning of the object. This is different with the current research which focus on figurative language.

Third, thesis by Arifah (2016) entitled "*Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song*". This thesis was taken from Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang. The writer downloaded this thesis from the internet. This research is about semantics analysis which focus on figurative language. The purposes of this thesis are to identify the types of figurative language and to analyze or describe the contextual meaning of Five John Legend's song. In identifying the types of figurative language, this thesis uses some theories such as Reaske (1996), Peter (2002), Mhiwaki (2004), Dennis (1996), Parington (2007), etc. This thesis found some types of figurative languages such as personification, hyperbole, metaphor, paradox, oxymoron, litotes, simile, allusion, repetition, symbolic, and enumeration. The most dominant of figurative language of John Legend's songs is hyperbole. This thesis has the similar topic about semantic which focus on figurative languages, but the object of the research is different from the current research.

Fourth, journal written by Suryasa (2016) entitled "*Figurative Language Found in Printed Advertisement*". This journal was taken from the International Journal of Linguistics, Literature, and Culture vol.2 no.1 January 2016. The object of this research is printed advertisement in English Magazine namely "*Visitors' Guide to Bali*" magazine which published by PT. Media Dutaservisindo in 2002. The main theory of this journal is L. Larson's theory entitled Meaning-Based Translation and Neisfield & David Nunan's theory to support the main theory. The thesis use the library research to analyze the data. The purposes of this research is to found some types of figurative languages and to analyse the meaning of figurative language in the object of research. The result show that there are five types of figurative languages found in the Visitors' Guide to Bali's magazine. Those are metaphor, personification, hyperbole, similes, and synecdoche. There are the similarity and difference between the previous research and the current research. The similarity is the topic about semantics which focus on figurative language and the difference is the object of the reserch, the previous

study use the printed advertisement as the object while the current research use song lyrics to be analyzed.

Fifth, thesis written by Santiana (2016) entitled "*The Figurative Language in Song Lyrics of Adele's Album 25*". This thesis was taken from the State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. The purposes of this research are to describe the types of figurative language and to analyze and describe the contextual meaning of figurative language found in the research object. The object of this research is song lyrics. This research focus on types of figurative languages and the contextual meaning. The result of this research found euphemism, hyperbole, irony, metaphor, metonymy, simile and litotes. There are similarities and differences between the previous research and the current research. The similarities are focus on the figurative language and the object is song lyrics. The differences are the current research choose Avril Lavigne's song lyrics as the object and do not describe the contextual meaning.

Sixth, thesis written by Abubakar (2017) entitled *Figurative Language Used in Mr. Big's Big Bigger Biggest*. This thesis was taken from the State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. The purposes of this research are to find the kinds of figurative language and describe the meaning of figurative language that used in the research object. The main theory of this research is Rozakis's theory (1995). This research try to discuss the figurative language into simile, metaphor, personification, irony, and hyperbole. The result found there are 34 figurative languages occur in Mr Big's Big Bigger Biggest, those are 5 similes, 4 metaphors, 7 personifications, 3 ironies, and 15 hyperboles. This thesis has the same point that focus on figurative language, but the object is different.

Seventh, journal written by Fitria (2018) entitled "*Figurative Language Used in One Direction's Album Entitled Up All Night*". This journal was taken from the ELITE Journal vol.5 no.01 June 2018, and it was accessed in the internet. The purposes of this research are to know the types of figurative language and to know the most dominant figurative language in One Direction's song lyrics. The researcher of this journal tries to find some types of figurative

language such as metaphor, metonymy, personification, simile, synecdoche, litotes, paradox, hyperbole, parallelism, anaphora, alliteration, repetition, and irony. The result of the research only found six types of figurative language, those are repetition, parallelism, personification, metaphor, simile, and hyperbole. The dominant is repetition. This journal use song lyrics as the object, it is the same as the current research.

Eighth, thesis written by Fathurrohman (2019) entitled "*The Use of Euphemism in Violence Topics of Articles in The Guardian's Online Newspaper*". This thesis was taken from the State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. This thesis has the similar topic of semantics which focus on figurative language. Euphemism is one of figurative language types. The writer of this thesis may focus on euphemism because of the object is Newspaper. The purposes of this research are to find the types of euphemism and to analyze the function of euphemism in the research object. The result shows that there are 12 types of euphemism in The Guardian's Online Newspaper, those are metaphor, rhyming slang, remodelling, circumlocution, clipping, acronym, abbreviation, omission, one for one substitution, hyperbole, litotes and euphemism through borrowing. The function of euphemism are being polite, gloss over, avoiding taboo, and disguising. Based on this thesis, euphemism contain some types of figurative language itself. It is clear that the object of this research different with the current research.

Based on the previous studies, the writer sees that there are the similarities and also differences to this research. The topic is similar, but the object is different. The writer makes the previous studies as references in understanding the figurative language. Some of them use song lyrics as the object, it helps the writer to know how to analyze song lyrics by semantic approach. Therefore, the writer has decided to conduct a research in semantics analysis and the object is Avril Lavigne's song lyrics of *Head Above Water* album. The writer use Cruse's theory to analyze the data and then finding the themes of the data.