

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introduction chapter contains background of research, statement of the problem, research purposes, research significance, definition of key terms, and organization of writings.

1.1 Background of Research

Novel is one of the most widely read and written fictions. (Sumardjo & Saini, 1997). A novel is defined as a story that includes more than one event, a plot with characters, a setting, a theme, a point of view, and the character's worldview. A novel is a literary work that takes the form of a narrative story. The reader is supposed to be entertained by the story (Wellek et al., 1956).

Five Feet Apart is a romance novel about the love of two teenagers who could not be close and touch each other, due to their illness by Rachel Lippincott, Tobias Iaconis, and Mikki Daughtry. It was published in November 2018 by Simon & Schuster Children's Books in London, England, with 304 pages and 30 chapters. This is a novel that debuted at number one on the New York Times best-seller list (Nandy, 2022).

Furthermore, novels are a type of literary work that uses language as its primary medium of expression. Chomsky (1995) defines language as a set (finite or infinite) of sentences, each finite in length and constructed out of a finite set of elements. Sapir (1921, in Arini, 2019) says that language communicates ideas, emotions, and desires

with other people that is instinctively and purely human method by producing symbols in any situation.

One of the languages to understand each other, and to express emotion of the people is love language. Love language is the way individuals communicate and comprehend their emotional expressions of love and affection (Chapman, 1992). Meanwhile, according to Aulia et al. (2023), love language is how individuals convey their love toward each other and express their desired way of receiving love from others. However, Chapman (1992) introduced the concept of love language, which can be applied to various types of relationships, in which there are acts of service, physical touch, words of affirmation, quality time, and acts of service.

Something represented by the word "love" is associated with "fictional" feelings that frequently cause humans to imagine (Siniar, 2022). Not infrequently, the language of love uses beautiful language, one of which is figurative language. According to Kridalaksana (1996), figurative languages is called a figure of rhetoric or rhetorical figure which is a tool for expanding the meaning of a word or group of words in order to achieve a specific effect by comparing or associating two things. Using figurative language can make love language more engaging and interesting. However, using figurative language can be confusing or difficult to understand. Therefore, the researcher feels the need to examine the love language and figurative language with the object of novel *Five Feet Apart*.

There have been some previous studies that are related to this research. The first was employed by Damayanti (2018), entitled "The Analysis of Figurative Languages used in The Novel *The Book of Forbidden Feelings* Written by Lala Bohang". The

goals of this study were to identify the different types of figurative language and the dominant types of figurative language in the novel. The second was employed by Safitri (2021), entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language in Novel A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Khosseni”. The goal of this study was to identify the different types of figurative language and to describe the novel's contextual meaning. The third was conducted by Daniela and Faoth (2021), entitled “The Portrayal of Daphne Brigerton’s Love Language: Semiotic Analysis in Bridgerton Series”. The goal of this study was to look into Daphne Bridgerton's Love Languages in the Netflix series Bridgerton

According to the relevant research above, the difference between the research above and this research is in the research object, which is Rachel Lippincott's novel *Five Feet Apart* and its discussion. This research examines the language of love as well as the figurative language of love language. The similarity between previous studies and this study is that both use qualitative descriptive methods.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The novel *Five Feet Apart*, written by Rachael Lippincott, Tobias Iaconis, and Mikki Daughtry and published in November 2018, is the object of this study. The main issue in this study is related to love language and figurative language of love language such as hyperbole, metaphor, simile, personification, symbolism and imagery. Meanwhile, this love language theory is divided into several types, including words of affirmation, quality time, physical touch, receiving gifts, and acts of service. These must be studied and analyzed thoroughly to find out that the Novel

Five Feet Apart contains the love languages and the figurative language of love languages.

1.3 Research Question

According to the statement above, the focus of this research is on the following issues:

1. What are the types of love language in the novel *Five Feet Apart*?
2. What are the types of figurative language of love language in the novel *Five Feet Apart*?

1.4 Objective of the Study

The objectives are as follows, based on the research problems listed above:

- a. To figure out the types of love language in *Five Feet Apart* novel.
- b. To figure out the types of figurative language of love language in *Five Feet Apart* novel.

1.5 Research Significance

The result of this study are expected to have both theoretical and practical implications for the advancement of literary studies. Theoretically, the researcher gives a piece of new information to the reader that there are five love languages and also can give a valuable contribution to the study of language skills, especially in understanding the meaning of figurative language in Rachel Lippincott's *Five Feet Apart*. Practically, this study refers to the effect that love languages have on the individuals reading the study. This research can provide readers with knowledge

about the meaning of the figurative language of five love languages and can motivate them to research figurative language using different objects and theories.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

- **Novel:** In literature, a novel is a fictional creation crafted by combining different elements, both intrinsic and extrinsic. It can be seen as a prose composition comprising a sequence of narratives about a person's life and their interactions with others, with a focus on revealing the traits and behavior of the individuals involved (Nurgiyantoro, 2010).
- **Figurative Language:** A figurative language is a fundamental tool of poetic expression that helps poets create rich and evocative images, themes, and meanings in their work (Perrine, 1977). It involves the use of metaphors, similes, personification, and other techniques to create a particular effect or image in the reader's mind.
- **Five Love Languages:** Each person has a primary love language that they prefer, understanding and expressing love in this way is crucial to maintaining a healthy and fulfilling relationship. By identifying and communicating each other's love languages, couples can strengthen their relationship and feel more love also appreciated (Chapman, 1992).
- **Five Feet Apart:** This is a novel written by Rachel Lippincott, which was published in 2018. Throughout the novel, Lippincott explores themes of love, loss, and mortality. This novel is a touching and heartwarming love story that shows how two people can find hope and happiness even in the face of adversity.

1.7 Organization of Writings

The organization of writing consists of five chapters below to present the readers with the content of the paper.

Chapter I is Introduction. The chapter describes the study's background, including the researcher's descriptions of love language and figurative language, as well as the study's purpose. This chapter also includes the problem statement, research questions, study objective, research significance, definition of key terms, and writing organization.

Chapter II is theoretical framework. Several theories relevant to the study were discussed in the chapter, including figurative language, love language, novel studies, and novel introduction.

Chapter III is research method. The researcher explains the research approach used in this chapter, as well as how to address the problem statements and provide results in a relevant and sustainable manner. This chapter consists of research design, data sample, data source, data collection technique, and data analysis technique.

Chapter IV is research findings and discussion. This chapter presents the research findings as well as additional discussion. These findings were obtained from Rachel Lippincott's novel *Five Feet Apart* in order to identify the types of love language and figurative language of love language in the novel.

Chapter V presents conclusion and suggestion. The researcher draws conclusions based on the findings of the research on love language and figurative language in the novel *Five Feet Apart* and proposes suggestions for future research.