

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the introduction of this research. It consists of the research background, research problem, research purposes, research significance, previous study, and definition of key terms.

### **1.1 Research Background**

Comparative literature is an approach in literary studies that does not produce its own theory and is conducted based on the principle of comparison (Damono, 2009). In this field, folk stories are traced to their origins, their areas of dissemination, and their transformation into written literature. This approach aims to understand the universal aspects of literature, such as themes, human motivations, and narratives while appreciating the cultural and linguistic diversity that emerges in literary works from around the world. Comparative literature involves the comparison, analysis, and understanding of literary works to explore similarities, differences, and influences within literature. Comparative literature can be found in song lyrics as one of the ways to create a better understanding and convey the feelings or thoughts of the songwriters to their audience.

Similarity between works of literature is a possibility in the literary world. The portrayal of human culture in literature. "The presence of shared cultural attributes or geographical proximity can also contribute to the emergence of similarities in his literary creations." (Hidayah & Fadlullah, 2021). Hence, comparative literature is an extensive field of literary analysis that goes beyond merely contrasting the structural aspects of literary pieces. Instead, it delves deeper into scrutinizing both the resemblances and distinctions between the two literary works under examination. Damono stated that comparison can serve as a valuable tool for evaluating literary compositions across nations, languages, themes, and different authors. Consequently, this enables a piece of literature to be examined through the lens of comparative literature studies (Achsani, 2019).

As the era has progressed, popular literature has also emerged. Popular literature qualifies as a literary work due to its possession of artistic and aesthetic

value that can be appreciated by readers. While often presented for entertainment and relaxation purposes, popular literature still incorporates literary elements such as engaging plots, intricate characters, and the utilization of creative language. Furthermore, popular literature frequently mirrors everyday existence and raises pertinent social issues within society (Huang, 2018). A prime example of a popular literary work is a song. Much like other forms of literature, songs serve as expressions of praise, and they employ flattering sentiments to enhance the imagination of both the creators and their listeners. Songs often function as a means of conveying personal sentiments when a concrete or direct expression is not feasible. They are also regarded as capable of influencing and engaging listeners to comprehend their content and message. In this digital era, social media plays a pivotal role in the promotion and popularization of songs. Platforms such as TikTok and Instagram have revolutionized the way songs are discovered, disseminated, and appreciated by a vast audience.

This phenomenon is one of the contributing factors to the widespread popularity of songs by Coldplay and Arctic Monkey. The existence of a song can be incredibly powerful and impactful because it can connect with people on emotional, cultural, and social levels. Songs have the capacity to inspire, heal, entertain, and communicate messages that leave a lasting impact on individuals and societies as a whole. songs have the capacity to portray a range of emotions, encompassing feelings of happiness, sorrow, affection, grief, and numerous others. Additionally, songs possess the ability to influence human emotions, potentially intensifying existing feelings or even altering an individual's emotional state. For instance, a song characterized by a swift tempo and spirited rhythm can boost energy and a sense of joy. Songs with a leisurely tempo and calming melodies can alleviate feelings of stress and anxiety (Bernadtua Simanjuntak et al., 2022).

A song is a part of music in which there are lyrics or text that can be sung. These lyrics or texts are capable of stirring someone's emotions (Angwidya, 2017). Song lyrics serve as a medium for songwriters to convey their messages to listeners or music enthusiasts. These messages can be conveyed implicitly or explicitly.

When creating a song, writers typically showcase allure and uniqueness through their skillful use of language. Lyrics are part of the form of poetry. Lyrics and poems are nearly the same form because both are expressed through sound. Lyrics are the result of human creation, expressing the feelings of the author or forms of social and cultural expression. Additionally, lyrics are also an expression of the author's feelings derived from experiencing various realities of life (Pratama, 2017). To convey their inner feelings, lyricists strive to create a specific expressive power by manipulating language. This language manipulation includes vocal play, stylistic choices, deviation of word meanings, and so on. The language of song lyrics is akin to poetry crafted as a vehicle for aesthetics, providing expressive and emotive energy in conveying the inner ambiance of an author. Thus, to articulate the concretization of their experiences, lyricists employ words imbued with figurative language (Reza, 2010).

The skillful use of language is intricately linked with the adept application of figurative language. Figurative language serves as a means to establish empathetic and sharp comparisons and expressions. These comparisons and expressions employ special effects or emotions in the language to craft the essence of style and beauty (Asriadi & Irawan, 2022). The presence of figurative language is an inseparable aspect of poetry for achieving a certain subtlety and beauty. In figurative language, authors use metaphorical words that equate one thing to another (Reza, 2010). These figurative words can draw attention in poetry, eliciting new interpretations. Figurative language has the capacity to evoke emotions and ignite the imagination of the audience (Aprilia, 2020).

Hyperbole, as a literary device, employs extravagant exaggeration of quantity, size, or characteristics to emphasize a statement or situation, thereby amplifying its impact and influence (Tarigan, 2013). Hyperbole is often used to strengthen emotional expression, and humor, or to create an impressive impression on the listener or reader. While it can add allure and expressive power, it's important to remember that hyperbole is not meant to be taken literally but as a form of exaggerated simplification for expressive purposes. By employing

hyperbolic language, speakers or writers aim to intensify the effect of their message, capturing attention and provoking strong emotional responses from their audience.

Another form of figurative language frequently employed in song lyrics is metaphor, which opens the door to the realm of imagination. Metaphor not only enhances the beauty of language but also enriches the listener's experience by inviting them to delve into and comprehend hidden meanings. Metaphors or figurative language are employed in song lyrics for aesthetic purposes, aiming to make the song beautiful, pleasant to the ear, and aiding listeners in better understanding the meaning of a song. Metaphors serve as a means to express an intention or message indirectly to others, making the message not easily understood in a straightforward manner. The idea of metaphor has its roots in the Greek language, derived from the term "metaphorḗ." This term consists of two words, with "meta" signifying "above" and "phrein" meaning "to carry" (George Lakoff, 2013). The significance of metaphor in song lyrics also lies in its ability to bridge language gaps. Metaphors can embrace various layers of society and culture due to the richness of their meanings, which can be interpreted differently by each individual. In other words, metaphor invites listeners to bring their own experiences and understanding into the interpretation of the song. Metaphor in song lyrics becomes not only an artistic tool but also a gateway into human life and understanding.

Arctic Monkeys were seen as pioneers in how up-and-coming bands promote themselves and connect with the market through the Internet (Rahmad Dede Asriadi, 2022). Arctic Monkeys are a British rock band formed in 2002 in Sheffield, South Yorkshire. They are renowned as one of the most influential and successful indie rock bands globally. The group comprises four core members: Alex Turner (lead vocals and guitar), Jamie Cook (guitar), Nick O'Malley (bass), and Matt Helders (drums). In 2005, Arctic Monkeys released their breakthrough debut album, *"Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not."* It became an instant hit, topping the UK album charts. A pivotal moment in their career came in

2013 with the release of "AM." The album achieved global success and introduced them to a broader audience. Hit singles like "Do I Wanna Know?" and "R U Mine?" are still widely recognized. Arctic Monkeys remain one of the most influential forces in contemporary rock music, blending indie, rock, and experimental elements in their stylish and innovative work. The fanbase name for Arctic Monkeys is "Monkeys' Fans" often referred to as "Arctic Monkeys' Fans." There is no official name designated for their fanbase.

On the other band, Coldplay, a rock band of a different genre, has been active since 1997. Their genre spans alternative rock, pop rock, and post-britpop. They rose to fame in the early 2000s with their debut album, "Parachutes," which included hit singles like "Yellow" and "Trouble". Coldplay remains renowned for its emotionally charged lyrics, infectious melodies, and adept use of figurative language, idiomatic expressions. Their impressive track record includes seven Grammy Awards, nine Brit Awards, and seven MTV Video Music Awards. The fanbase name for Coldplay is "Coldplayers," although this title is not officially recognized.

The common theme in the music of Arctic Monkeys and Coldplay is the depth of emotion in their lyrics that delve into human feelings and life experiences. In accordance with Spotify, the top five songs by Arctic Monkey *include* "I Wanna Be Yours", "505", "Do I Wanna Know?", "Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High", and "R U Mine?", while the top five songs by Coldplay include "Yellow," "Viva La Vida," "Something Just Like This", "The Scientist", and "A Sky Full of Stars". Arctic Monkeys and Coldplay, two renowned bands, differ across various dimensions. Arctic Monkeys, recognized for their indie and alternative rock style, often explore subjects related to everyday life and personal connections, crafting a mood that's darker and introspective while employing clever lyrics and spotlighting Alex Turner's vocals and guitar skills. In contrast, Coldplay, with its fusion of pop, rock, and alternative elements, delves into more extensive emotional themes such as life, death, and love, forging a mood that's brighter and more melodious. Coldplay frequently incorporates orchestral

elements and pianos, contributing to their distinctive sound, while Arctic Monkeys lean towards experimenting with post-punk influences, shaping a more enigmatic and edgy atmosphere. Despite their distinctions, both bands have amassed vast fan followings and left an enduring impact on the realm of music.

These differences reflect the musical style and artistic focus of each band. Personal preferences play a significant role in determining which songs someone may prefer, as each song carries different feelings and messages. This research is conducted because there has been no previous study that examines comparative literature between the top five songs of Arctic Monkey and Coldplay, and to gain a better understanding of the feelings, thoughts, and messages found in the songs of each band.

## **1.2 Research Problem**

This research will concentrate on examining the author's perspective regarding the comparison of the three most popular songs by Arctic Monkey with the three top songs by Coldplay as per Spotify data. As a result, the issues to be identified in this study are as follows:

1. Problem what the use of hyperbole in the top five songs by Arctic Monkeys and the top five songs by Coldplay?
2. Problem what are the use of metaphor, in the top five songs by Arctic Monkeys and the top five songs by Coldplay?

## **1.3 Research Purpose**

Based on the statement of the study, the aim of this study is:

1. To find similarities and differences between the figurative language, specifically hyperbole, in the top five songs of ArcticMonkey and the top five songs of Coldplay
2. To find similarities and differences between the figurative language, specifically metaphor, in the top five songs of Arctic Monkey and the top five songs of Coldplay

#### 1.4 Research Significances

The purpose of this study was to obtain benefits. This research is expected to provide benefits both theoretically and practically. The theoretical benefit is expected that this research can contribute in the academic and literary fields regarding comparative literature by using the theory of Comparative Literature. Practically, this research is expected to contribute in the academic field of English literature.

In addition, the results of this research are expected to broaden scientific insight into the relevance of songs as a work of literature, and to find out the similarities and differences between the figurative language, specifically hyperbole and metaphor in the Arctic Monkey and Coldplay's top songs, offering perspectives on contemporary music and its impact on society.

#### 1.5 Previous Study

This section entails a thorough and systematic review of related studies, encompassing a comprehensive examination of prior studies that have played a pivotal role in shaping the foundation for the research presented in this thesis.

The previous study was done by Ferdian Achsani (2019) entitled "*Kajian Sastra Bandingan pada Lirik Lagu Demi Kowe Karya Pendhoza dan Merantau Karya Abah Lala*". This study aims to elucidate the similarities and distinctions within the lyrics of "*Demi Kowe*" by Pendhoza and "*Merantau*" by Abah Lala. It falls under the category of qualitative descriptive research employing a comparative literary approach. Data collection involves the read-and-record method, with the researcher reading both sets of lyrics and noting down their commonalities and disparities. Data analysis employs an interactive technique encompassing data reduction, display, and conclusion drawing. The research findings reveal that both songs exhibit similarities and differences, primarily in their portrayal of values such as mutual assistance, discipline, responsibility, and self-reliance. The similarity between this study and the research conducted by Ferdian Achsani is the employment of a comparative literature approach. However, the difference lies in the subject of investigation.

Another study was done by Momene Ghadiri and Ahmad Moinzadeh (2011) entitled “*The Comparative Analysis of Two Songs by Farhad Mehrad: The View of New Historicism*”. This study endeavors to undertake a comprehensive comparative analysis of two literary compositions, with a specific focus on the intricate interplay of historical and cultural elements embedded within them. The dataset comprises two Persian songs, “*Jomeh*” (meaning Friday) and “*Shabaneh*” (meaning of the night), both interpreted by the esteemed Persian rock vocalist, Farhad Mehrad. The analysis is conducted within the methodological framework of New Historical Literary Criticism. While the research has successfully identified numerous shared characteristics between the two literary pieces, it also examines nuanced differences. Notably, the research highlights the pronounced presence of monotony, despair, and a palpable sense of hopelessness regarding any potential for change, particularly accentuated within the second song. The similarity between this study and the research conducted by Momene Ghadiri and Ahmad Moinzadeh is the employment of a comparative literature approach. However, the difference lies in the subject of investigation.

Another previous study was done by Anggi Restiani and Tajudin Nur (2019) entitled “*Metaphorical Conceptualization in Coldplay Album of A Head Full of Dreams: A Cognitive Semantics Study*”. This article utilizes Lakoff and Johnson's theory (2003) to explore various types of metaphors and employs Saeed's theory for identifying image schemas. The research data is sourced from Coldplay's song lyrics in the album *A Head Full of Dreams*, obtained from online platforms. The article argues that among the 12 songs in the “A Head Full of Dreams” album, only 9 songs incorporate metaphorical elements. The commonality between this study and the research conducted by Anggi Restiani and Tajudin Nur is that both focus on metaphors within Coldplay's song lyrics. However, the difference lies in the formulation of the problem and the theories applied.

Another previous study was done by Rahmad Dede Asriadi and Andi Muhammad Irawan (2022) “*Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Selected Song Lyrics of Arctic Monkeys in the “AM” Album*”. This study aimed to explore



and identify the various types of figurative language employed within the song lyrics selected from Arctic Monkeys' *AM* album. Across six songs featured on the album, including "R U Mine?", "Do I Wanna Know?", "Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High?", "One for the Road", "Arabella", and "Snap out of It", figurative language was discovered. The primary objective of this research was to illustrate the diverse forms through which language can manifest. By delving into the nuanced utilization of language and figurative devices, this study aimed to showcase the breadth of expressive possibilities available. Employing a qualitative methodology, this research conducted a thorough analysis of the figurative language present in the selected song lyrics from Arctic Monkeys' "*AM*" album. Data collection involved meticulous categorization of words based on their respective figurative language types as observed within the Arctic Monkeys' lyrical compositions. The findings of this study not only elucidated the distinct types of figurative languages but also shed light on the prevalence of these linguistic devices within Arctic Monkeys' songwriting. Five prominent types of figurative languages were discerned in the lyrical content of the *AM* album, namely metaphor, simile, hyperbole, metonymy, and synecdoche, thereby underscoring the richness and complexity of linguistic expression within the musical repertoire of Arctic Monkeys.

Another previous study was done by Arifin Miftahul Falah (2019) entitled "*Metafora pada Lagu Arctic Monkeys dalam Album Am*". The research aims to elucidate the concepts of metaphor and associative meaning within the Arctic Monkeys' *AM* album. The chosen method is a qualitative descriptive analysis with a semantic approach. The relevant theoretical framework draws from Geoffrey Leech's (1981) theories on metaphor and associative meaning. The study reveals four distinct types of metaphor, namely Concretive Metaphor, Animistic, Humanizing, and Synaesthetic, each further elucidated for their intended meanings. Additionally, five types of associative meaning are identified, encompassing connotative, social, affective, reflected, and connotative meanings. The findings indicate that the data analysis for associative meaning surpasses that of metaphor, with 29 instances compared to metaphor's 22 instances. Both this study and Arifin

Miftahul Falah's research share a common focus on discussing metaphors in Arctic Monkeys' song lyrics. The difference lies in the formulation of the research questions and the application of theories.

## 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To clarify and explain the terms of the title so as not to cause confusion in this research, several definitions are needed.

**Comparative Analysis:** An evaluation approach that compares the characteristics, and elements, of two or more entities to identify differences and similarities.

**Songs:** Songs are included in modern literary works that use language to convey meaning, beauty and expression.

**Top five songs:** The top five songs based on certain criteria, such as popularity, which can be found through music streaming applications or websites such as Spotify.

**Coldplay and Arctic Monkeys:** These are the music bands that will be compared, perhaps including their musical characteristics, themes, genres, rhythms, styles or creative evolution.

**Figurative language:** The use of words or phrases in a way that deviates from their literal meaning to create a deeper or more vivid understanding of a concept or idea.