

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Language is very important to our life because we cannot communicate to each other without it. One of the languages that has major impact on communication is English. Since English has become an International Language in this world, then it is an obligation for us to learn English. There are many aspects of language that can be learned, and one of the ways to look at it is in its use of figurative expressions. There are two kinds of language; Literal language and Figurative language. In this research, the researcher will only explain about figurative language.

Language plays an important role in every aspect of human life, such as education, economics, politics, technology, sciences, literary works, etc. Human commonly expresses feelings, thoughts, experiences and emotions through language. According to Jones (1968), literature is simple another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination. Literature not only provides pleasure for the reader but also gives something more important to understand life.

According to Koesnoesoebroto (1988:2), there are two kinds of literature; literature of knowledge and literature of imagination. The literature of knowledge presents or interprets facts, ideas or happenings. Literature of imagination interprets experience by a fictitious presentation of person, ideas, and events. The creative writer is not only primarily concerned with the actual truth of particular events but also their imagination.

A song is one example of literature of imagination. Hornby, AS (1995) states song is a short poem or number of verses set of music and intended to be sung by singer. Song is one of literary works that has the purpose for entertainment, enjoyment and information. Song is a media to express the imagination, ideas, feeling and message to the listeners. In many songs, they commonly use figurative language and contain beautiful words. So, figurative

language is part of composer style. It means that the songwriter will express the meaning and message by using words that need interpretation.

Figurative language is commonly used when people find some difficulties in understanding the feelings, thoughts, ideas and experiences expressed in a language. In a daily conversation, people sometimes say something without saying the literal meaning of it. Instead, they choose some languages which need interpretation of the hearers to understand what the people mean. For instance, when a boy is trying to lie to his girlfriend but his girlfriend already know that he is lying, then she says it in a figurative way, “Oh come on baby, your lies are the old songs that I have heard for million times”, it means she is trying to examine that his lies is something that cannot fool her.

Figurative language has been widely examined by linguist in the research of literature in recent years. It is because figurative language has the essence of style and beauty. Figurative language is used in any form of communication, such as in daily conversation, articles in newspaper, movies, novels, poems, etc (Koesnoesobroto, 1988:4). According to Perrine (1963), poets use figurative language as “another way of adding extra dimensions to language”. Every word has many meanings and contains different messages. Figurative language can be found in the song lyric. There are some sentences in the song lyrics that are less understandable, because sometimes the lyrics are created by using figurative language which we cannot just know the meaning without knowing what the figurative language is, and what kind of figurative language that is used.

Listening to song is a popular activity in many parts of the world. In Indonesia, western songs appear to gain popularity. This condition can be seen by the increasing number of Indonesian vloggers that often use western songs on their videos and also Indonesian singers or even some people cover western songs then upload it on their YouTube channels or Instagram accounts.

The Greatest Showman is a 2017 American musical biographical drama film directed by Michael Gracey in his directorial debut, written by Jenny Bicks and Bill Condon and starring Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams, Rebecca Ferguson, and Zendaya. Featuring 9 original songs from Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, the film is inspired by the true story of P. T. Barnum's creation of the

Barnum & Bailey Circus and the lives of its star attractions. According to www.amazon.com, 93% of 2.573 reviewers give 5 of 5 stars to *The Greatest Showman Soundtracks* album, and according to Top Billboard 200 Albums Charts in 2017, *The Greatest Showman* Soundtrack Album ranks in first place. On January 7, 2018 one of *The Greatest Showman* soundtracks entitled “This Is Me” sung by Keala Settle won the Golden Globe Awards as the Best Original Song Motion Picture category. The songwriters of the soundtracks use figurative language to beautify the lyrics, instead of use literal language in order to make the songs more beautiful, interesting, and describable.

As figurative language is important to understand and the soundtracks lyrics contain some types of figurative language, the researcher intends to examine more about the figurative language used in the soundtracks lyrics. The researcher decides to analyze *The Greatest Showman* Soundtracks lyrics, because the researcher believes that *The Greatest Showman* Soundtracks lyrics have the meaning and hidden message that can inspire and motivate the listeners or the readers. To explain the meaning and message of the soundtracks lyrics that contain figurative language, the researcher needs to know first what kind of figurative language used in the soundtracks lyrics.

Hopefully this research could give benefit to the readers who like to listen to western songs, especially *The Greatest Showman* Soundtrack Album. And also this research is expected to be useful for educational purposes. As figurative languages are often used for the materials of learning English. This research can be their sources of teaching and learning about figurative languages.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research, the researcher identifies the problem in this research is the figurative language used in the lyrics that are mostly not familiar to the listeners of the songs, because figurative language is a way of saying something which different than its literal meaning, so the listeners will not be able to get the meaning or the message of the songs. The researcher assumes that she will get the meaning and message of the song lyrics by classifying and analyzing the figurative language used.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

To make the research more directional and focused, the researcher limits the problem which is the figurative language used in *The Greatest Showman* Soundtracks Lyrics. In this research, the researcher uses Perrine's theory.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the background of the research, the researcher formulated the problems by creating the research questions below:

- 1) What types of figurative language are found in *The Greatest Showman* Soundtracks Lyrics based on Perrine's theory?
- 2) What are the meanings of the figurative language used in *The Greatest Showman* Soundtracks Lyrics?

1.5 Objective of the Research

In order to be able to reach the purpose of the research, the analysis steps are conducted in the following ways:

- 1) To find-out types of figurative language used in *The Greatest Showman* Soundtracks Lyrics.
- 2) To find-out the meaning of figurative languages used in *The Greatest Showman* Soundtracks Lyrics.

1.6 Methods of the Research

As this research focuses on figurative language which can only be understood by particular people who use a particular language and know a given situation, this research employs a descriptive qualitative research method.

Descriptive qualitative research method uses technique of seeking, collecting, and analyzing data. In this case, the researcher explains and describes the data more detailed and accurate. The technique for collecting data is observation. The researcher runs observation through the following steps:

- 1) Listen to *The Greatest Showman* Soundtracks
- 2) Read the song lyrics of *The Greatest Showman* Soundtracks
- 3) Identify and select the lyrics that contain figurative language

- 4) Make all the soundtracks title into codes
- 5) Arrange the data into several parts based on classification
- 6) Explain the figurative language used per soundtrack
- 7) Count all the data
- 8) Make conclusion

1.7 Benefits of the Research

There are three benefits in conducting this research. The first benefit can be obtained by general readers who like to listen to Western songs, especially the soundtracks of *The Greatest Showman*. This research is expected to help them get more understanding about the meaning of the lyrics which contain some figurative language as there are some explanation for each type of figurative language and its examples in the lyrics of *The Greatest Showman* Soundtracks. The second benefit is that the readers will be able to reflect the hidden meaning and message from the figurative languages in the lyrics of songs on their life. The third benefit can be obtained for educational purposes. As figurative language is often used for the materials of studying English. This research can be the source of studying figurative language.

1.8 Systematic Organization of the Research

This writing of research uses paper organization. The researcher organizes it into four chapters.

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher explains about the background, identification of the problems, limitation of the problems, statement of the problems, aims of the research, framework of the theory, methods of the research, and benefits of the research about the analysis of Figurative Language Used In *The Greatest Showman* Soundtracks Lyrics.

CHAPTER 2 : FRAMEWORK OF THE THEORIES

This chapter consists of the theories of figurative

language, the use of figurative language, and the methods that will support the research.

CHAPTER 3 : FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN *THE GREATEST SHOWMAN* SOUNDTRACKS LYRICS

In this chapter, the researcher comprehends and examines the data in order to answer the research questions.

CHAPTER 4 : CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the researcher concludes the research to complete the research.

