

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Humans are blessed with mouth to speak; humans also have language for their everyday communication tools. It cannot be denied that language is indeed the most important thing in life, because with language, humans can understand each other through exchanging verbal messages that are coming out of the mouths of each interlocutor. According to Jakobson (1960: 353-359), language has five different functions, namely referential functions, phonetic functions, emotive, conative, phatic functions, and metalingual. Although referred to as a phoetic function, this function will be used not for literary poetry, but for modern rock songs.

As we know, a song is composed with a beautiful composition between instrumental sounds such as guitar, bass, and drums. In addition, the song was completed with the vocalist melodious voice. The vocalist will surely sing the lyrics. Good songs are usually not only because of good instrumentals, but also with good lyrics. Lyrics usually have a collection of words compiled by the songwriter. Every songwriter has different styles in composing the lyrics they wrote. This can sometimes make listeners able to directly understand the hidden message of the song, or vice versa, having difficulty in understanding what exactly the message that the songwriter wants to convey. This is the fun part of listening the song; to know what exactly the songwriter wants to convey through the lyrics of the song.

According to Heasley and Hurford (2007: 1) in linguistics, semantics is a study of meaning. Semantic has many branches. One of them is figurative language.

In songs, songwriters usually do not use language that is commonly used in daily conversation to convey the actual message which contained in the song, but songwriters usually use figurative language. The using of figurative language

is actually so important in songwriting, because the listeners will not be boring by the lyrics, but they can take some time to find out what the lyrics of their favorite song exactly means.

Figurative language is usually used to convey implicit meanings. This causes a misunderstanding in interpreting the actual meaning of the song by the listeners. To prevent this, more effort is needed to be able to analyze what exactly the message that the songwriter wants to convey.

According to Heller (2011: 63) words in literal expressions denote what they mean according to common or dictionary usage, while words in figurative expressions connote—they add layers of meaning. This means that the meaning of a sentence is more precise, cannot be only from a dictionary. This also make figurative language cannot be spoken in daily conversation, it can only found on literary works.

Figurative languages have many kinds, such as metaphor, simile, oxymoron, hyperbole, personification, idiom, onomatopoeia, synecdoche, metonymy, alliteration, and assonance. Each category has different characteristics and functions.

According to NME, one of the famous songwriters of this decade is Alex Turner of the Arctic Monkeys. Arctic Monkeys is an indie rock band from Sheffield, England. The band was formed in 2002. Their fourth album, *Suck it and See*, released in 2011, and *AM*, released in 2013, brought the name Arctic Monkeys increasingly known in the land of Hollywood.

Alex Turner, who is the vocalist and lead guitarist in the band, also has the duty as the songwriter. All songs from the six albums released by Arctic Monkeys—a total of seventy songs, are written by Alex Turner. Unlike most contemporary musicians, he uses figurative language to convey the message to each songs he wrote, this causes listeners to have different interpretations of the true meaning of the songs from the Arctic Monkeys.

Alex Turner is known as the master of deep lyrics and unusual metaphor for love songs—because he can put himself in a certain condition before he writes a song. Arctic Monkeys' songs are often described falling in love with someone in words that seems to be very complicated, yet when listeners know how to

analyzing the true meaning of the songs, they can have pleasure in both how good the songs are and how beautifully written the lyrics are.

Arctic Monkeys are currently on tour to promote their newest album *Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino*. The concert tickets are sold out everywhere which means that the band has gained more fans from their sixth album. People in the United Kingdom, especially England, agreed that Arctic Monkeys are one of the best bands that formed in the 2000s, and they believed that Alex Turner is one of the best songwriters in this decade as well.

The reasons why the writer is interested to analyze the figurative language of Arctic Monkeys' lyrics are because the writer interested in figurative language, and the writer have been a fan of the Arctic Monkeys.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem explained in the previous pages, the writer explained that the main problem is the usage of figurative language in Arctic Monkeys' songs. The writer wants to classify which figurative languages are found in some of Arctic Monkeys' songs, and what kind of figurative languages that dominate some Arctic Monkeys' songs.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem mentioned before, the limitation of the problem is that the writer may be biased on the research, both on the figurative language type and the band Arctic Monkeys itself. The difference of how the writer thinks and how the reader reacts to this research could also be a problem.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem, the formulations of the problems are as follow:

1. Which type of figurative languages that are found in some of Arctic Monkeys' songs' lyrics?

2. What type of figurative languages is dominated some of Arctic Monkeys' songs' lyrics?

1.5 Objective of the Research

In order to be able to reach the purpose of the research, the objectives of the research as follow:

1. To find out what types of figurative languages are found in some of Arctic Monkeys' songs' lyrics.
2. To find out what type of figurative languages that dominated some of Arctic Monkeys' songs' lyrics.

1.6 Methods of the Research

According to Denzin and Lincoln (2000: 3), qualitative research involves an interpretive and naturalistic approach: this means that qualitative researchers study things in their natural settings, attempting to make sense of, or to interpret, phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them.

The writer uses qualitative approach with descriptive method in this research. The writer uses purposive sampling to get the data before analyzing, by collecting the lyrics of the selected Arctic Monkeys songs from their lyrics books. The data source used for this research are song lyrics from six albums of Arctic Monkeys, they are Whatever People say I am That's What I'm Not, Favourite Worst Nightmare, Humbug, Suck it and See, AM, and Tranquility Base Hotel and Casino. In general, in one album, there are more than ten songs, so the writer will select which lyrics can be used for this research.

The procedures of the data analysis are as follow: 1) the writer collects the lyrics; 2) the writer classifies the lyrics based on the type of the figurative language; 3) the writer analyzes the lyrics based on the type of the figurative language; and 4) After all done, the writer considers which type of figurative language that dominate the lyrics

1.7 Benefit of the Research

By writing this research, the writer expects this research can be useful to the university students who are interested in semantics, especially related to figurative language. The second one, the writer expects people can be more aware that song lyrics contain more than simple meaning because the songwriter wants to convey a deeper message through the songs. And the last, the writer hopes that this research can inspire everyone, and also can be as reference in related research.

1.8 Systematic Organization of the Research

This writing of term paper uses paper organization. The writer organizes it into four sections that consist of four chapters, as follows:

Chapter 1: In this chapter, the writer explains about the background, identification of the problems, limitation of the problems, formulation of the problems, objective of the research, methods of the research, about the analysis of A Study of Figurative Language in Selected Arctic Monkeys' Songs, by semantics methods.

Chapter 2: This chapter, the writer explains the theoretical framework of linguistics. This chapter explains more specifically the theories from George Lakoff and Mark Johnson book, Daniel Heller, and James Hurford and Brendan Heasley book.

Chapter 3: In this chapter, the writer will analyse the lyrics in order to answer the research questions. The writer will discover what types of figurative languages that are found in some of Arctic Monkeys' songs, and what types of figurative languages that dominated some of the songs.

Chapter 4: In this chapter, the writer explains the conclusion from the analysis of the complete research.