

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

In Concise Oxford Dictionary (1992), music is defined as an expression of the human soul. It has become one of the most popular communication tools. It becomes very interesting with beautiful tunes and good words and also meaningful lyrics. It is the art of combining vocal or instrumental sounds (or both) to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion. Written words created are called lyrics. Lyrics often contain political, social, and economic themes as well as aesthetic elements and so can communicate culturally significant messages. These messages can be explicit or implied through metaphor or symbolism. Lyrics can also be analyzed concerning the sense of unity (or lack of unity) it has with its supporting music.

Song lyrics are presented with words that can be analyzed because the words in the song lyrics have meaning. The meaning can be analyzed using semantics. In semantics, there is figurative language which is used to learn the meaning of the words in a lyric. According to Allen Walker (*The New International Webster's Comprehensive Dictionary of the English Language*, 2003) Figurative also has two groups that differentiate its purpose, they are literal and non-literal.

The literal language uses words exactly according to their conventionally accepted meanings or denotation. The Figurative (or non-literal) language uses words in a way that deviates from their conventionally accepted definitions to convey a more complicated meaning or heightened effect. Figurative language study is often used to analyze the actual meaning from language, as part of literary works. Figurative Language is also heavily used in song lyrics on Billie Eilish's album. She uses figurative language to deliver the messages she wants to tell. It becomes the main point to do in this research paper.

Billie Eilish is an American singer, songwriter, and musician. She gained attention when she was 15-year-old with her first single debut "*Ocean Eyes*" and after that, she continued to write and produce songs along with her brother. According to her interview on *CBS Sunday Morning* (Retrieved on Thursday, 15

April 2021: 08:20 PM <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVVN1fmUjXM>), Billie Eilish loves to express herself through the song she writes since she was young with the help of her big brother, almost of every her songs has a deep message talking about the depression she had and how she almost took herself back in 2018.

But she gained strength because of the company of her brother who always stays by her side and listens to all her stories. And then she wrote everything she felt in her songs and more and more fans recognize her because a lot of her fans can relate to the songs and their lyrics. She has many beautiful songs and beautiful melodies that are easy to listen to and has a special place for her fans. She always delivers beautiful messages through her music and how she shared the story behind its lyrics.

In 2019 she and her brother released her album called *“When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?”* and became a hit until now. I am interested in Billie Eilish’s song lyrics on her album because of the way she delivered the messages behind its lyrics, like the way she tells the first boy she liked and being rejected by the boy at her very first time. She also talks about the depression she had at a very young age because the size of her body seemed different from other girls, and she faced being mocked by her friends in her neighborhood. Besides that, she also reminded her fans to stay away from drugs because that is not good for their health. Billie Eilish uses a lot of figurative languages to express herself, she tells everything about what happened to her using figurative language.

At such a young age, Billie Eilish has become a star, surrounded by a lot of people and being watched every day. I would like to help the readers to understand the contextual lyrics meaning using figurative language and elaborating the meaning she was about to tell by her song lyrics and help the reader to get more understanding about figurative language study through Billie Eilish’s songs.

There are many kinds of figurative languages. Two experts in semantics have divided it into ten and more kinds of figurative language. Rozakis (1995) have divided them more than 10 kinds, such as allegory, ambiguity, apostrophe, conceit, connotation and denotation, contrast, metaphor, irony, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy, onomatopoeia, oxymoron, personification, sarcasm, simile, symbolism, synecdoche, synesthesia, transferred epithet, and understatement. On the other

hand, Perrine (1992) stated the figurative language has ten kinds, they are: simile, metaphor, synecdoche, personification, metonymy, allegory, hyperbole, irony, paradox, and symbol. According to two experts, they have similarities about the types of figurative language, but Rozakis (1995) elaborates them and found more than ten.

In this study I only present six kinds of figurative language that is used in six songs by Billie Eilish, they are: 1) metaphor, 2) personification, 3) irony, 4) simile, 5) sarcasm, and 6) hyperbole. In the album "*When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*" consist of fourteen songs, but the reason why I only use six out of fourteen is because the six songs use figurative language more than the others. So, this research paper will be focused on elaborating six figurative languages in six songs from the album "*When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*" by Billie Eilish.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

According to the background of the research above, song is one of literary work that I found interesting to explore. It is a single musical composition that has a melody and often, words that are sung by the singer. Because of that, I choose Billie Eilish songs on her album, the way she expresses herself ambiguously through her song. When some of her fans can relate to her story yet some of the confused about the actual meaning of the lyrics. I would like to help the readers to understand the meaning covered by figurative language and elaborating them. The expression meaning she was trying to tell them. There are many types of figurative language that the singer uses in every statement to express herself by using figurative language, the way she reminds her fans to stay away from drugs because that is not good for their health, or the story of how she being rejected by the guy she liked. Because of those reason I want to elaborate the expressions meaning and contextual meaning she tries to convey through her song lyrics.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

In this limitation of the research, figurative language has been widely examined by a linguist in the study of literature. It has the essence of style and beauty that we cannot see. It provides a more effective meaning of saying what we mean than saying a statement directly. The problem in this thesis will be focused

on how figurative language portrays Billie Eilish's song lyrics on her album "*When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*" and what she is trying to convey through her indirect idea. There are many kinds of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia, oxymoron, hyperbole, litotes, idiom, irony, and sarcasm. On this study I only present six kinds of figurative language, they are: metaphor, personification, irony, simile, sarcasm and hyperbole on six song's lyrics on her album, they are: Bad Guy, Xanny, All The Good Girls Go to Hell, Wish You Were Gay, and When The Party is Over.

The limitation of this research paper will be focused on investigating the words, phrases and sentences used in the lyrics of Billie Eilish album entitled "*When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*"

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

According to the background above, I formulate the problems as follow:

1. What are the expression meanings of the figurative language used in Billie Eilish's song lyrics on her album "*When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*"?
2. What are the contextual meanings of song lyrics in Billie Eilish's album "*When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*"?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

The objectives of this research are to answer research questions. In order to achieve this aim, I make several steps as follow:

1. To analyze the expression of each type of figurative language found in the song lyrics on Billie Eilish's songs on her album "*When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*"
2. To Analyze and describe the contextual meaning of the figurative language used in song lyrics on Billie Eilish's songs on her album "*When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?*"

1.6 Methods of the Research

I use a qualitative method in order to determine the data or problems in this research paper. It attempts to describe analyzing content using figurative language in human daily life through music and its lyrics. The type of data used in this study is a content analysis qualitative method by Krippendorff, (2004). The reason for using theoretical content analysis in this research is because the use of symbols and

language covered in figurative language is very interesting to express the meaning or messages contained in the six songs by Billie Eilish. Understanding the content of a musical work of art becomes very challenging for me to express what the singer is trying to convey through the use of figurative language in her work.

Determining the problem in the song lyrics and the contextual meaning from the whole lyrics, research qualitative method. According to Moleong (1998) research qualitative is a scientific research problem; the purpose is to understand communication interaction between two or more people. We could understand meaning by its content and the ideas, the emotions conveyed in a work of literature. According to Wellek and Warren (1984), figurative language is being called metaphorical language, simply as metaphor. It means having a meaning beyond their literal meanings. Because of that, I am interested to elaborate on the use of figurative language in Billie Eilish songs' lyrics using the theories above. In addition to the theory of Meaning stated by Leech (2014) and Perrine (1992) to analyze the meaning of the figure of speech words found in the song lyric. According to Leech (2014) every language has its unique problems of meaning for others. He stated in his book, the meaning and grammar have an important role for us to understand English language.

According to Perrine (1992), a symbol in words, phrases, and sentences can be an object for us to observe the meaning behind them. The theories take from the book, e-book, and journals from the internet.

1.7 Benefit of the Research

The research has some benefits for the reader. I believe that this study will give useful contributions for the readers to understand the purpose of using figurative language and why some people prefer expressing themselves indirectly. After finding out the use of figurative language represented in six songs from Billie Eilish, the result of it will lead me to elaborate the intended contextual meaning that Billie Eilish is trying to convey through the figurative language contained in her songs. This research is helpful for them to know the hidden messages in six songs by Billie Eilish.

1.8 Systematic Organization of the Research

The term paper has paper organization. I organize the term paper into four chapters as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction

In this chapter, I explain about the background of the research, identification of the problems, limitation of the problems, formulation of the problems, objective of the research, methods of the research, and benefit of the research about the analysis of Figurative language Study on song lyrics on Billie Eilish's Album *"When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?"*

Chapter 2: Framework of the Theories

This chapter is about the theories that I use. I use the theory of figurative language stated by Wellek and Warren (1984). In addition to the theory of Meaning stated by Leech (1984) to analyze the contextual meaning of the figure of speech words found in the song's lyrics and content analysis theory by Krippendorf (2004).

Chapter 3: Figurative Language Study on Billie Eilish's Song Lyrics On the Album *"When We Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?"*

This chapter attempts to describe figurative language in human daily life through music and its lyrics. The data were analyzed qualitatively based on the theory of figurative language in morphology stated by Wellek and Warren (1984). In addition to the theory of Meaning stated by Leech (1984) to analyze the meaning of the figure of speech words found in the song's lyrics. And a theory of Content Analysis by Krippendorf (2004) to elaborate the expression meaning of the song.

Chapter 4: Conclusion

This chapter consists of the conclusion about my research paper.

Enclosures: Attachments