

CHAPTER 2

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Definition of Semantics

According to Lyons (1977:643) semantics is the study of meaning in language. Lyons states that, utterance meaning is the part of meaning of a sentence that is directly related to grammatical and lexical features, but is obtained either from associated prosodic and paralinguistics features from the content, linguistics and non-linguistics.

According to Nikelas (1988:50), there are three features of language. First, language has sound. Second, language is systematic. Third, language has meaning. Meaning has important relation with language. Because of that people also need a study about meaning that gives clear explanation of meaning.

According to Yule (1985:114), semantics is the study of the meaning of the words, phrases, and sentences. There is always an attempt to focus on what the words conventionally mean, rather than on what a speaker might want the words to mean on a particular occasion. Semantics is a study about relationship between the distinction linguistics with relationship of symbol in the activity of talking. In traditional linguistics, language is viewed as the vocabulary which is contained in literary works.

According to Safira (2020:11) Basically, figurative language is part of the semantic. As we know that with semantic we can know the true meaning in a song. When listening to a song a person may not focus on the lyrics used in the song, especially if the song contains a figurative element. Usually they just liked because the music is good, or even because they like the singer. Knowing the meaning of a lyric is important because we will know the meaning and purpose in the song.

Based on definition above, it can be concluded that semantics is the study about meaning or real meaning. The meaning of the things was come from many thoughts and many theories. And all the theory has same conclusion that every works absolutely has the meaning. Sometimes semantics uses associative meaning in the text to make a meaning of the text or in this case, song lyrics more beautiful.

2.2. Definition of Figurative language

Language is an important thing in human life, language also plays an important role in human communication. Without language we cannot communicate with each other. There are two kinds of language: they are literal language and figurative language.

Figurative language is the use of a word or sentence in another way that is used to express a message to a listener with a different meaning from the literal meaning. In some literary works, the use of figurative language provides colorful creations that can make the readers or listeners interested in reading or listening to the work.

According to Picken (2017:41) “Figurative language is noticed and frequently interpreted in considerable detail, and evaluation takes place”. It is said to have detailed analysis to peer out, discuss, explore of a certain word as the context of the figurative of language.

According to Leech (1981:11), there are many kinds of figurative language. It is classified into 8 types, they are personification, simile, hyperbole, metaphor, litotes, irony, metonymy, oxymoron. These types are suitable to make literary works such as song lyrics, poem, novels, and many other literary works. We also use this kind of language in our conversation.

According to Dale (2013:9) “figurative language is a form of language used by the writer or speaker to convey something else other than literal meaning”. It means that, figurative language is like the different or unique way to convey or deliver the exact meaning to the interlocutor.

Figurative or figure of speech is not only used in the language of literature, such as drama, poetry, or prose but they are also alive in linguistics study or common usage in writing lyrics on song and daily speech. Most of the familiar figurative language which will be analyzed in this study are some types including metaphor, simile, metonymy, hyperbola, personification etc.

According to Yusnitasari (2022:311) Figurative language uses meaning beyond the literal meaning. This figurative language in song’s lyrics to provide the beauty of language. Without figurative language, the language will feel bland. Since, figurative language will give an interesting impression to the song listener. Listeners are interested in the song will feel the contents of the song message.

Based on the theory above, figurative language is an interesting language that sometimes people find hard to understand the detail, but if they do, figurative language can make songs, novels, books etc more beautiful from the style of written figurative language, also help songwriters, novelists, journalists etc to make their work more noticeable.

2.3. Types of Figurative language

According to Mezo (as cited in Rohma, 2020:14), figures of speech are divided into three classes. The first is figurative comparison, the second one is figurative substitution, and the third is figurative exaggeration.

2.3.1. Comparison

In comparison consists of three kinds of figures of speech. They are simile, metaphor, and personification.

a) Simile

According to Mezo (as cited in Rohma, 2020:14), a simile is an “indirect” comparison between two different things using the word “like” or “as” or an equivalent term. By using similes, the literary works can become alive and powerful. Similes are also can be used in everyday conversation, they can be used to convey meaning quickly and effectively. For example:

- *You smile is like a sunshine in the morning.*

This sentence refers to simile to someone that has a beautiful warming smile.

- *I can read you like a magazine.*

This sentence refers to someone who can easily guess and knowing other person intention.

b) Metaphor

According to Mezo (as cited in Rohma, 2020:15), a metaphor is a “direct” comparison, explicit or implicit, between two different things. Metaphor directly refers one thing by mentioning another thing. For example:

- *Life is nothing but an endless race.*

This sentence refers to life is full of challenge but we as humans need to keep going.

- *You are falling star; you are the getaway car.*

This sentence refers to someone who is very special.

c) Personification

According to Mezo (as cited in Rohma, 2020:15), a personification is a comparison of something not human (abstract or concrete) to a human being. It gives something nonhuman the characteristics of attributes of human. Personification is a figure of speech when any inhuman objects are given human qualities and attributes to achieve dramatic effects. For Example:

- *My heart dance when he walks in front of me.*

This sentence refers to someone who really happy to see someone he/she likes.

- *Tongue is shaper than knife*

This sentence refers to words sometimes can make someone happy or sad unintentionally.

2.3.2. Subtitution

Substitution consists of two kinds of figures of speech. They are metonymy and synecdoche.

a) Metonymy

According to Mezo (as cited in Rohma, 2020:16), a metonymy is the substitution of some word or term closely related to or associated with the literal word or term meant. The example is a bottle or a glass of mineral water in Indonesia commonly is called with "Aqua" which is actually it is a mark among mineral water marks here. This happens because this brand has been here for a long time so that people are indoctrinated to even call other brands as "Aqua".

b) Synecdoche

According to Mezo (as cited in Rohma, 2020:16), a synecdoche is the substitution of the part for the whole, the whole for the part, a species for a genus (or vice versa), an individual for a class, or material for the thing (part is substituted for whole; whole is substituted for part). The second element or the pair is the literal word or term. For example, words “Wheels” usually refers to every brand of cars.

2.3.3. Exaggeration

In exaggeration consists of two kinds of figures of speech. They are hyperbole and litotes.

a) Hyperbole

According to Mezo (as cited in Rohma, 2020:17), hyperbole is an overstatement of the literal-an exaggeration. hyperbole is a figure of speech that contains an exaggeration, by exaggerating something or discussed style containing an overstatement. Overstatement or hyperbole is an outrageous exaggeration of an object’s attribute used to magnify a fact or emotion to make an emphasis of its importance. It is the same as all figures of speech. It is made by various effects such as humor or grave, fanciful, or restrained, convincing, or unconvincing. For Example:

- *My love for you is deeper than the ocean.*

This sentence refers to someone who deeply in love with special person on his/her life.

- *I told you to stop a thousand times.*

This sentence refers to someone who tired to say the same thing over and over again.

b) Litotes

According to Mezo (as cited in Rohma, 2020:17), litotes is an understatement of the literal-an exaggeration. For example:

- *This house is a result of my small business.*

This sentence refers to someone who tried to be humble about his small business.

- *Please take this small gift from me.*

This sentence refers to someone who want to give a fancy gift but tried to still look humble.

2.4. Previous related studies

In supporting this research, there are several previous studies that have similarities and differences with this research. I will write down the list of studies I use as a reference below.

The first research by Safira (2020) with the title “Figurative language in selected Shawn Mendes album song lyrics”. In her research, it was concluded that there were five types of figurative language that was found in selected Shawn Mendes album song lyrics there are metaphor, hyperbole, personification, simile, repetition. The totally is 24 figurative language that was found 4 metaphors, 11 hyperboles, 3 personifications, 1 simile, 5 repetitions. The most figurative language is hyperbole.

The second research by Rohmah (2020) with the title “An analysis on figurative language of Haris J’s song lyrics in the album Salam”. In her research, it was concluded that there are four types of figurative language used in Haris J's song lyrics album “Salam” They are simile, metaphors, personifications, and hyperbole. As a result, personification is the dominant type of figurative language in Haris J's song lyrics "Salam" album.

The third research is by Arifah (2016) with the title “Figurative language analysis in five John Legend’s song”. In her research, it was concluded that in some songs found some of the same types of figurative language such as personification, hyperbole, metaphor, and paradox. Hyperbole the most dominant types of figures in John Legend’s songs in hyperbole because it as an exaggeration use for special effect. Hyperbole is commonly used in daily conversation and also in all kinds of literature such as prose or drama and song lyrics.

The differences between the previous research above and my research now is that in my research, I use Ed Sheeran album “Divide” (2017) which is so popular since it was released, and then I, as researcher want to know the true meaning of the lyrics from Ed Sheeran songs in this album is.