

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Problem

Language is one of the most important things in our lives. It is the way we communicate with each other using various expressions. The study of language is a multidisciplinary field that involves linguistics. Language, in the context of linguistic study, is a complex and dynamic system of communication used by humans. It includes both the general phenomena of human language and the methodical examination of the characteristics of specific languages. Language structure is studied by linguists at several theoretical levels, from the level of individual speech sounds to the level of a whole conversation. One of the main subfields of linguistic is semantic.

Semantics is a study of meaning, or truth, and can be applied to various disciplines, including philosophy, linguistics, and computer science. In the context of linguistics, semantics is the subfield that focuses on the meaning of words, phrases, sentences, or larger units of discourse. In our everyday life, semantics plays a crucial role in understanding the meaning of words and phrases, as well as the intentions behind them. Figure of speech or figurative language is related with meaning, and the study of meaning is semantics.

Figure of speech is a literary device that is used to enhance expressions, add emphasis, create a vivid imagery, and convey meaning. These figures frequently involve deviations from ordinary spoken language or literal meanings of words. There are 11 common types of figures of speech or figurative language which are simile, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia, oxymoron, hyperbole, litotes, idiom, alliteration, allusion, and synecdoche. Each of them has different characteristics of language and brings different meaning. Figures of speech enable writers and speakers to communicate ideas in more creative and compelling ways, adding to the richness and creativeness of language. In addition, songwriters often use figurative language in writing their songs. It's their way to convey the meaning of the song to make it more dramatic and impactful. Niki is one of those songwriters and singers that use figurative language in her songs.

Nicole Zefanya also known as NIKI, is an Indonesian singer, songwriter, and record producer. She is currently based in the United States and signed with the record label called 88rising. Born on January 24, 1999, in Jakarta, Indonesia, she gained international recognition for her soulful and genre-blending music. In 2022, a new album entitled *Nicole* was released. The album consists of 12 new songs. One of those famous songs from the album is *High School in Jakarta*. Most of the song lyrics in this album are meaningful and influential in some way. The meanings of these songs are not only interpreted with the words written literally, but the words written in the lyrics have additional and even deeper meanings if understood correctly. Some people might find it difficult to understand the meaning behind the song lyrics.

Based on the explanation above, I want to concern about the meaning behind the song lyrics because this album especially uses many figurative languages in the song lyrics. A few people might not understand the meaning of the lyrics nor to classify the types of figurative language. Which is why this study aims to analyze the types of figurative language as well as the meaning to help people to understand the meaning of the song lyrics and the types of figurative language. This study will be carried out with the title “AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN NIKI’S ALBUM ENTITLED *NICOLE*.”

### **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of the problem above, I identify the problem is about the meaning of the song lyrics in *Nicole* album that people might find it hard to understand. I assume that by analyzing the figurative language that is used in the song lyrics, the messages behind the song can be understood.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit the problem on the types of figurative language used in NIKI’s song album entitled *Nicole*. There are 12 songs in the album entitled *Before*, *High School in Jakarta*, *Backburner*, *Keeping Tabs*, *The Apartment We Won’t Share*, *Facebook Friends*, *Anaheim*, *Milk Teeth*, *Autumn*, *Oceans & Engines*, *On The Drive Home*, and *Take A Chance With Me*.

#### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the limitation of the problem above, I formulate the problem as follows:

1. Which types of figurative language are found in the lyrics of Niki's album entitled *Nicole*?
2. What is the meaning of each figurative language used in the lyrics of Niki's album entitled *Nicole*?

#### **1.5 Objectives of the Research**

In order to be able to reach the purpose of the research, the analysis is conducted as follows:

1. To classify the types of figurative language used in Niki's album entitled *Nicole*.
2. To analyze the meaning of each figurative language used in Niki's song album entitled *Nicole*.

#### **1.6 Method of the Research**

This research uses descriptive qualitative method in order to analyze the figurative language used in the song lyrics. According to Moeleong (2010: 6) descriptive qualitative research is a study that explains to understand the phenomenon of the subject of research, behavior, perception, motivation, action, etc., holistically, and the way of describing the result in the form of words and sentences. Based on the explanation before, I use this method in conducting the research because it is suitable for this type of research.

The technique that is used in collecting data is documentation and observation. The data collection technique is run through these procedures as follows: 1) listening and reading to the song lyrics; 2) I classify the lyrics based on the types of the figurative language that is used; 3) I analyze the lyrics based on the types of the figurative language that is used.

#### **1.7 Benefit of the Research**

By writing this research, I expect that this research can be useful for future researchers who are interested in figurative language. I hope that the research can help the readers to understand the meaning of the song that is conveyed by the songwriter and that it can be used as a reference.

## **1.8 Systematic Organization of the Research**

Corresponding with the title above, the order of the research is written as follows:

### **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consist of: Background of The Problem, Identification of The Problem, Limitation of The Problem, Formulation of The Problem, Objectives of The Research, Method of The Research, Benefit of The Research, and Systematic Organization of The Research

### **CHAPTER 2: THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter consist of: Explanation of concepts and theories.

### **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter consist of: Time and location of the research, the research approach and method that is used, research object and data, data collection technique, and data analysis technique.

### **CHAPTER 4: AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN NIKI'S ALBUM ENTITLED *NICOLE***

This chapter consist of: The analysis of figurative language and the meaning in Niki's album.

### **CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION**

This chapter consist of: Evaluation of the previous chapter and suggestions for future research.