CHAPTER 2
THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Definition of Semantics

Human language is a complex and unique system of communication characterized by the use of symbols, sounds, and gestures to convey meaning. It is a cognitive and social phenomenon that enables people to share knowledge, communicate socially, and express their thoughts, feelings, and intentions. As stated by Ronnie Cann (1994:1) semantics is the study of meaning that is expressed by the word, phrases, and sentence of human language. Semantics in human language involves a detailed investigation into how linguistic elements carry meaning, the nuances involved in interpretation, and the factors that contribute to the richness and complexity of communication.

According to Lyons (as cited by Riko, 2020) semantics has been described as the science of sign, of symbolic behavior or of communication systems. It frequently refers to the study of meaning in language or the meaning that a specific element, like a word or phrase, conveys in linguistics. Semantics is the study of signs, symbolic behavior, and communication systems, among other terms. In linguistics, it usually alludes to the study of meaning in language or the meaning that a particular component, such as a word or phrase, conveys.

Leech (as cited by Syafitri and Marlinton, 2018) stated that linguistic itself has brought to the subject of semantics a certain degree of analytic rigor combined with a view of the study of meaning as an integrated component within the total theory of how language works. In other words, semantics has benefited from the analytical rigor that comes with linguistics, as well as from the perspective that the study of meaning is an integral part of the larger theory of language functions. According to Leech (1969:5), explaining and describing the meaning in natural language is the aim of semantics.

Based on the explanation above, I conclude that semantics is a branch of linguistics that explores the meaning of language. It focuses on the study of individual words to examine how words combine to form phrases and sentences, and how meaning is conveyed through these linguistic structures. Language

comprehension, production, and interpretation all rely on semantics. It is important in many linguistic fields and has applications in some areas such as natural language processing, computational linguistics, and the study of communication system.

2.2 Definition of Figurative Language

Language is a collection of rules for mixing spoken, written, or signed symbols into a system of communication. It is an essential component of human intellect and society, allowing individuals to communicate, express ideas, and engage in social interaction. There are two types of language, literal language and figurative language. Literal language uses words at their most basic, straightforward meaning thus it is mostly used in everyday conversation. While figurative language is mostly used in poem, poetry, and song lyrics.

Figurative language is when words or expressions are used in a way that departs from their literal meaning in order to portray a picture that is more vivid, imaginative, or expressive. It entails the application of a variety of literary devices, including personification, metaphors, similes, and symbolism, to develop a more complex and in-depth comprehension of a concept, idea, or feeling. Figurative language enhances written or spoken communication by adding levels of meaning and imagery, giving the audience a deeper and more vivid experience.

According to Ratna (2017) as cited by Hulu, Sembiring, and Tarigan (2021), Figurative language is another way to say something other than the usual way of making speech more beautiful. Figurative language is usually used to beautify words, to describe a specific impression or atmosphere such as lonely, busy, romantic, etc.

According to Abrams (as cited by Syafitri and Marlinton, 2018) defined figurative languages a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect. Figures are sometimes described as primarily poetic, but they are integral to the functioning of language and indispensable to all modes of discourse.

According to Leech (1981:11) as cited by Dwiocta (2023), there are many kinds of figurative language. It is classified into 8 types, such as personification,

simile, hyperbole, metaphor, litotes, irony, metonymy, oxymoron. These types can be used to create poetry, novels, song lyrics, and a variety of other literary works. Figurative language, also known as figure of speech, is employed not only in literary works like play, poetry, and prose, but also in everyday speech and song lyrics, linguistics research, and other contexts.

2.3 Types of Figurative Language

There are several types of figurative language such as metaphor, hyperbole, personification, etc. Each experts have their own explanation regarding these types of figurative language.

2.3.1 Simile

Kennedy (1979:490) as cited by Listiani (2015), affirms that simile is a comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, usually like, as, than or verb such as resembles. Generally, simile is defined as a type of figurative language that used to explain the resemblance of two objects (in shape, colour, characteristic etc). For example:

1) *As easy as shooting fish in a barrel.*
2) *Her eyes are like a star, east star.*

The first example illustrates how he can take something that most people would consider difficult and make it incredibly simple. Since the second example uses the words "eyes" and "east star" to communicate the same meaning, it can be considered an explicit comparison. The crucial terms like and as were employed in both of the aforementioned examples to compare two dissimilar objects.

2.3.2 Metaphor

The second figurative language type is Metaphor. A metaphor is a figure of speech that involves comparing two unlike things by stating that one thing is another. Unlike similes, which use "like" or "as" for comparison, metaphors assert a direct resemblance. According to Kridalaksana (2008;152), metaphor is the use of words or other expressions for other objects or concepts based on figures of speech or similarities. For example:

1) *Time is a thief.*

While time isn't really a thief in this instance, the metaphor implies that time steals things away in a manner that is comparable to that of a thief. By establishing connections between seemingly unrelated ideas, metaphors are effective tools in figurative language, giving phrases more depth and originality.

2.3.3 Personification

It is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth or nature) is made human (Kennedy, 1979:495) as cited by Listiani (2015). Personification is a figurative language strategy that involves giving human features or qualities to non-human objects, animals, or abstract concepts. It entails giving non-human entities human characteristics, feelings, or behaviours. For example:

1) *The sun played hide and seek with the clouds.*
2) *The sky was full of dancing stars.*

The first statement means that the day's weather is constantly changing, and the second statement means that the night sky is full of stars and is incredibly beautiful. The sun and the sky are described in the two sentences above as being alive and dancing like humans do. There is an implied meaning to the terms "played" and "dancing."

2.3.4 Hyperbole

Hyperbole is defined by overstated assertions or statements that are not meant to be taken literally. It's frequently employed for comedic effect, emphasis, or vividness. According to (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995:687) as cited by Pratiwi (2023), hyperbole or overstatement is well-known as an expression that contains exaggeration in pointing out something. For example:

Even eternity is too short.

(Leech, 1969)

It is possible to interpret the previous sentence as using hyperbolic language. "Eternity is too short" is an exaggerated statement in the sentence. It is impossible for anything in this world to last forever, and no one could ever count the eternity.

2.3.5 Litotes

Litotes is a figure of speech in which understatement is used to emphasize a point by negating its opposite. According Hornby (2000:451) as cited by Listiani (2015), litotes is expression of one's meaning by saying something is the direct opposite of one's thought, it to make someone's remarks forceful. Litotes involves expressing a positive idea by negating the opposite statement, often with a double negative. For example:

The weather is not unkind today.

In this example, the use of "not unkind" is a form of litotes. Rather than stating directly that the weather is pleasant or kind, the speaker employs understatement to convey a positive and favorable impression of the weather. Litotes is a subtle way of emphasizing the positivity of a statement by negating its opposite.

2.3.6 Irony

Irony is a figure of speech where there is a discrepancy between what is said and what is meant, or between what happens and what is expected. According to Diyyani (2004:933) as cited by Listiani (2015), irony almost arises from a contrast or discrepancy between what happens and what has been expected to happen. It often involves a twist of fate or a reversal of expectations, and it can be used for various effects, including humour, emphasis, or to convey a deeper meaning. For example:

A person caught in the rain without an umbrella says, "What a beautiful day!"

The phrase is ironic in this instance because it expresses the reverse of what could be anticipated that is, that a wet day is lovely and has an amusing or surprising outcome. The ability of the audience to see the discrepancy between appearance and reality is necessary for irony to exist.

2.3.7 Metonymy

Metonymy is figurative language that typically refers to objects by names that are closely similar (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995:687) as cited by Pratiwi (2023). Unlike a metaphor, where one thing is said to be another,

metonymy involves using a related term to represent the concept being discussed. For example:

The White House issued a statement today.

In this sentence, "The White House" is a metonym for the president or the president's administration. The individuals who work in the White House and provide official remarks are replaced by this word. In actuality, remarks are not made by the White House itself, but rather by individuals who work there. In order to communicate a deeper meaning, the phrase "The White House" in this context relies on the relationship between the actual location the White House and the individuals who work there.

2.3.8 Synecdoche

Synecdoche is the use of part a thing to stand for the whole of it or vice versa (Kennedy, 1979: 479) as cited by Listiani (2015). Based on the definition before, synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part of something is used to represent the whole, or the whole is used to represent a part. For example:

1) *All hands on deck.*
2) *The chef prepared a delicious dish.*

The sentence in the first example shows that "hands" represent the whole sailors or crew. While on the second example "the chef" represents the person as a whole, encompassing their skills and expertise. As we can see that synecdoche is a potent tool that enables succinct and evocative expression by symbolizing the whole or part of it.

2.3.9 Idiom

According to Setiawati & Maryani (2018) as cited by Hulu, Sembiring & Tarigan (2021), idiom is words or expressions that cannot be translated as original or literally. In other words, the literal meanings of an idiom's phrases or sentences may not always indicate of the whole meaning. Idioms can be used to communicate a certain topic in a more vivid or sentimental way, and it frequently have cultural or historical importance. For example:

"I heard that old Mr. Johnson kicked the bucket last night."

The idiom "kick the bucket" refers to someone who just passed away. The literal meaning of this sentence does not have that sense, yet the phrase is commonly used in English to refer to someone's death.

2.3.10 Apostrophe

An apostrophe is a rhetorical device used to address an absent person, an abstract concept, or an inanimate object as if it were a live, sentient being. Even if the thing being addressed is incapable of answering, the speaker may speak directly to the object of the apostrophe, frequently using the second person "you". It is a technique for increasing emotional intensity, expressing powerful emotions, or creating a dramatic impression in writing or speaking. For example:

"O, Romeo, Romeo! wherefore art thou Romeo?"

(Romeo and Juliet, 1597)

In this famous line from William Shakespeare's play "Romeo and Juliet," Juliet is addressing Romeo, expressing her feelings even though he is not physically present. The use of "O" and the direct address to Romeo are indicative of apostrophe.

2.3.11 Paradox

According to Kennedy (1979: 497) as cited by Listiani (2015), paradox occurs in a statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection make some sense. Paradoxes are often employed to provoke thought, create irony, or emphasize the complexity of a situation. For example:

1) *The more you know, the more you realize you don't know.*

2) *It's the calm before the storm.*

On the first statement, this paradox captures the idea that as one acquires knowledge, they become more aware of the vastness of what they still don't understand. The second statement describes a peaceful or quiet period that precedes a tumultuous or challenging event, creating a paradox by juxtaposing calmness with the anticipation of chaos.

2.3.12 Imagery

Imagery is a literary technique that involves the use of vivid and detailed words to create mental images in the minds of the reader or listener. It appeals to the senses which helps in the creation of a sensory experience. Imagery is also a part of figurative language. For example:

"The aroma of freshly baked bread wafted through the air."

The descriptive language involving "aroma," "freshly baked," and "wafted through the air" appeals to the sense of smell, allowing the reader to imagine the delightful scent of bread.

2.4 Related Previous Studies

In supporting this research, there are several related previous studies with some similarities. I will write down a few previous studies that is used for references in this research.

The first research is by Heny Listiani (2015) with the title "An Analysis of Figurative Language Found on The Song Lyric by Taylor Swift's *Speak Now* Album". Her research aims to analyzed the connotative and denotative meaning of figurative language in Taylor Swift's songs. The researcher used descriptive qualitative as her research method. She found seven types of figurative language such as, hyperbole, simile, personification, metaphor, symbol, synecdoche and oxymoron. In doing this research, Listiani used X.J. Kennedy (1979) theory.

The second related studies are by Deni Arnita Hulu, Elia Nova Br. Sembiring, and Natalia Widya Pasca Tarigan (2021) with "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Ariana Grande's Album *Thank U, Next*" as their title. In this study, the researchers aim to determine the most dominant type of figurative language and to identify the themes of the twelve songs in Ariana Grande's song album entitled *Thank U, Next*. The most dominant figurative language types in this research is metaphor. They used descriptive qualitative to conduct this research.

The last related studies that I used for my research is by Putu Ratna Arditami with the title "An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Katy Perry's Song Entitled *Firework*". In this study, she focuses on analyzing the types of figurative language and its meaning in Katy Perry's song "Firework". There are

six types of figurative language that are found in this study there are, symbol, hyperbole, simile, personification, metaphor, and paradox. This research uses descriptive qualitative method. To make this study happen, Arditami used many theories such as, Kennedy (1979), Perrine (1982), and Arp (2011).