

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Language is one of the most important things for human life. Language is a system of conventional spoken or written language used by people. There are a lot of functions, it can be used to express feelings and ideas, communicate, or get information from the people around. Besides being used to communicate with people everywhere, language is commonly used to connect many people around the world. According to Palmer (1981:36), language is often deeply concerned with a variety of social relations. We can be rude or polite, and the decision to be one or the other may depend upon the social relationship with the person to whom we are speaking. There are many linguistics subfields concerned with particular aspects of linguistic structure, starting from those focused primarily on form to those focused primarily on meaning, such as phonology, morphology, syntax, pragmatics, and semantics.

Semantics is one of the roots of linguistics that studies the meaning contained in language. It is also concerned with sentence meaning and focuses on decontextualized meaning. Semantics is the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning. Unfortunately, “meaning” covers a variety of aspects of language, and there is no very general agreement either about what meaning is or about the way in which it should be described (Palmer 1981:1).

The figure of speech is an art of literacy that can be applied in oral or written form to make a sentence more imaginative. We can convey messages with specific intentions through figures of speech. But, when conveying a message through a figure of speech, some people may not get the true meaning behind the figurative sentence.

As we know, the figure of speech is part of semantics, and semantics is the study of meaning. We can study meaning at the level of words, phrases, or sentences. When we talk about meaning, it can be found in any form, such as in conversations or even in literary works, novels, movie scripts, and song lyrics. Song lyrics are short poems in a number of verses set to music to be sung. In their writing, the songwriters or composers usually beautify the language. They use figurative language so that the listeners will be more attracted to listening to the song. Through song lyrics, people could also find another meaning related to their life. That is why I am interested in analyzing the reflection of the true meaning behind song lyrics for my research. The album I am going to use is titled *Planet Her* by Doja Cat.

Amala Ratna Zandile Dlamini, professionally known as Doja Cat, is an American rapper and singer, born on October 21, 1995, and raised in Tarzana, Los Angeles, California, United States. According to Spotify, she made her first upload to Soundcloud in 2013 at just 16 years old. She developed her talent for music by studying piano and dance as a kid and listening to the likes of Busta Rhymes, Erykah Badu, Nicki Minaj, Drake, and more. Her song “So High” caught the attention of Kemosabe and RCA Records, where she signed a joint record deal at the age of 17, subsequently releasing her debut EP “Purrrr!” in 2014.

Planet Her is the third album by Doja Cat. This album was released on June 25, 2021. According to Amazon (2021), *Planet Her* is the third studio album by rapper and singer Doja Cat. The album was produced by Doja Cat’s frequent collaborators, such as Dr. Luke, Y2K, Yeti Beats, and the rapper herself and titled after the fictional planet conceived by Doja Cat. *Planet Her* is an Amalgamation of pop, R&B, and hip-hop styles. Lyrically, the album touches on femininity, loneliness, romance, sexual relationships, and many other topics. According to Doja Cat herself, the album *Planet Her* is the centre of the universe, a place where all races of the universe exist and where they can all maintain a kind of harmony. It features guest appearances from Young Thug, Ariana Grande, The Weeknd, JID, SZA, Eve and Gunna.

Planet Her album by Doja Cat has sold 2,729,009 copies in 13 countries. The album sold best in the United States (2,000,000 copies), the United Kingdom (300,000 copies), and Canada (148,000 copies). Five singles were released in support of *Planet Her*, *Kiss Me More*, *You Right*, *Need To Know*, *Woman*, and *Get into It (Yuh)*. All topped the charts ranked in the top 20. The song reached number one in New Zealand and peaked at number two on the US Billboard 200 chart for four consecutive weeks.

So, I am going to do research the reflection of figurative language in the song lyrics of Doja Cat's album titled *Planet Her*.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

Based on the background of the problem above, I identify that the problem in the song lyrics in *Planet Her* album by Doja Cat is that the songwriters use a lot of figure of speech in writing song lyrics in *Planet Her* album by Doja Cat with specific intentions and purposes. The impact of writing song lyrics using a lot of figure of speech is music listeners may not fully understand the true meaning of the lyrics, causing ignorance, misunderstanding and confusion.

1.3 Limitation of the Problems

In conducting this research, I limit the problems in the research to focus on finding the true meaning using figurative language analysis in the song lyrics of Doja Cat's album titled *Planet Her*.

1.4 Formulation of the Problems

Based on the problem limitation above, the problem formulation in this research is as follows:

1. What are the types of figurative language songwriters used in *Planet Her* album by Doja Cat?
2. What are the true meanings of the song lyrics of figurative language used in *Planet Her* album by Doja Cat?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problems, the objectives of my research are as follows:

1. To classify and explain types of figurative language used in *Planet Her* album by Doja Cat.
2. To analyze and explain the true meaning of the figurative language used in *Planet Her* album by Doja Cat.

1.6 Benefits of the Problems

I hope this research will benefit those who read it. For linguistic students, I hope that this research can be helpful as a reference when conducting similar research, namely figurative language. I also hope that my research could contribute to providing future researchers with more profound knowledge of understanding figurative language.

1.7 Systematic Organization of the Research

This writing research uses paper organization. The framework of the term paper writing, which is titled “Figurative Language used by songwriter in *Planet Her* album by Doja Cat”, is as follows:

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the background of the problems, identifications of the problems, limitations of the problems, formulation of the problems, objectives of the problem, benefits of the research, and systematic organization of the research.

CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter consists of the experts' theories related to the research topics, such as semantics and figurative language.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter consists of time and location, approach and research methods, research objects and data, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques.

CHAPTER 4: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED BY SONGWRITER IN *PLANET HER* ALBUM BY DOJA CAT

In this chapter, I will examine and analyze the data from the song lyrics in the Doja Cat's album called *Planet Her* to prove my research questions about figurative language.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

In this chapter, I conclude the research to complete this study.

