

CHAPTER 2

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Definition of Semantics

According to Britannica, semantics is the scientific and philosophical study of meaning in both artificial and natural languages. The word is one of several English terms that are derived from the Greek verb *sēmainō* which means "to mean" or "to signify." *Sēmantikos* ("significant") is the root of the noun semantics and the adjective semantics; *sēmeiōtikos* ("pertaining to signs") is the root of the adjective and noun semiotics; *sēma* ("sign") + *logos* ("account") is the root of semiology; and *sēmasia* ("signification") + *logos* is the root of semasiology (Britannica, 2024).

The study of meaning in language is known as semantics. It can be used on individual words or on whole texts. For instance, although "destination" and "last stop" have the same technical meaning, semantics students examine their nuanced differences. Semantics also looks at how context affects how meaning is interpreted, showing how the same words can mean various things in different contexts (Vocabulary, 2024).

According to Palmer, semantics is the technical term for the study of meaning. Sadly, there are differing views on what "meaning" is and how to define it because it involves a vast range of linguistic aspects. In order to better understand how meaning is created and perceived, semantics research uses a variety of methodologies, such as philosophical investigation and contextual analysis. There are continuous discussions among linguists, philosophers, and cognitive scientists as a result of this intricacy which makes it difficult to agree on definitions (Palmer, 1981:1).

I conclude from some of the definitions above that semantics is a comprehensive topic that includes the scientific and philosophical investigation of meaning in language, drawing on its Greek roots to shed light on the intricacies of communication. By evaluating individual words and complete texts, as well as context and interpretation, semantics shows the subtle changes in meaning that

impact our perception of language. The ongoing discussions among scholars underscore the complexity and flexibility of meaning, making semantics a vital subject of study for linguists, philosophers, and cognitive scientists alike.

2.2 Figurative language

The following discussion is about Figurative language including definition and types from several experts especially Palmer.

2.2.1. Definition of Figurative language

There are several definitions about Figurative language. Some of them are described here. First, according to Kalandadze, figurative language was once thought to be different from so-called literal language. figurative language enriches our interactions by allowing us to express complex ideas and emotions in more relatable and vivid ways. As a result, understanding figurative language is essential for grasping the full spectrum of human communication (Kalandadze et al., 2018:100).

Meanwhile, according to Wibisono and Widodo, figurative language refers to the use of words that convey meanings apart from literal interpretation. A writer is merely presenting the facts as they are when he employs literal language. In contrast, Figurative language enhances writing by adding depth and emotion, allowing readers to connect with the text on a more imaginative level (Wibisono and Widodo, 2019:157).

Finally, according to Teja, figurative language is used to convey emotions, ideas, and perceptions that cannot be adequately conveyed through literal meaning. figurative language enhances communication by enabling authors and speakers to arouse powerful emotions and conjure up vivid images. It encourages the listener to delve deeper into meanings and establish a more intimate connection with the text by utilizing metaphors, similes, and other literary devices. (Teja et al., 2022:33).

Based on the description about the definition above, I conclude that figurative language is a form of language used to express meaning that is not literal based on the definition described above. It enhances expressiveness, produces potent

Imagery, and evokes strong feelings in the reader or listener in both literature and the arts. Furthermore, figurative language stimulates imagination and allows viewers to understand the piece in their own special and distinctive ways.

2.2.2. Types of Figurative language

Some experts give their thoughts about the types of Figurative language. Traxler states, that there are many types of figurative meaning including metaphor, idiom, metonym, juxtaposition, irony, satirical, proverbial, repetition, antithesis, hyperbole, oxymoron, and so on. Moreover, each type serves a distinct purpose and can be used to enhance the overall impact of the message. Understanding these various forms allows both writers and readers to appreciate the nuances and depths of language more fully (Traxler, 2006:841).

According to Wibisono, Figurative language has many types, such as Metaphor, Simile, Personification, metonymy, Irony, Symbolism, Hyperbole, Paradox, Alliteration, allusion, onomatopoeia, and many others. Each type of Figurative language brings its own unique flavor and effect to communication, enhancing the richness of expression. By employing these devices, writers can evoke Imagery and emotions that resonate deeply with their audience, making their work more impactful and memorable (Wibisono, 2019:157).

The following description describes each type of figurative language:

a) Metaphor

According to Ortony, Metaphor is a type of figurative language that compares two unlike things by stating that one thing is the other, without using "like" or "as." It helps to create a deeper understanding or image by highlighting similarities between two different things (Ortony, 2019:1). The examples of metaphor are as follow:

- 1) *The world is a stage*; this means that life is like a performance, where everyone plays a role.
- 2) *Her voice was music to his ears*; this implies that her voice is beautiful and enjoyable.

b) Simile

According to Harya, simile is a type of metaphor that compares two fundamentally different objects. By using the terms "like" and "as," a simile directly compares two or more items that are identified by having one or more things in common. The Latin word "*Simile*," which meaning "like," is where the word "Simile" originates. (Harya, 2017:22). The examples of simile are as follows:

- 1) *Her smile was like sunshine*; This suggests that her smile brings warmth and happiness.
- 2) *She's as busy as a bee*; This compares her busyness to that of a bee, which is known for being very active.

c) Personification

According to Fata and Aprilya, personification can be used to express abstract attributes in human form or to impart human characteristics to something that is not human. By giving human traits to inanimate objects, personification creates a deeper emotional connection, making the unfamiliar feel more relatable. This technique also enriches storytelling, allowing readers to engage with ideas, concepts, or objects in a more vivid and dynamic way (Fata and Aprilya, 2021:3). The examples of personification are as follows:

- 1) *Fear crept into the room*; This gives fear a physical presence, suggesting it can move and influence the atmosphere.
- 2) *The city never sleeps*; This personifies the city, suggesting it has energy and life as if it can be awake or asleep.

d) Hyperbole

According to Carston and Wearing, the use of strong exaggeration to highlight a point or provide a dramatic effect is known as hyperbole (Carston and Wearing, 2015:11). The examples of hyperbole are as follows:

- 1) *I've told you a million times*; This exaggerates the frequency of telling someone something to stress frustration.

2) *I have a ton of homework*; This exaggerates the amount of homework to express feeling overwhelmed.

e) Alliteration

According to Fitria, alliteration is a type of figurative language where consecutive words in a sentence or phrase begin with the same consonant sound. It's often used in poetry, literature, and even advertising to create a rhythmic or memorable effect (Fitria, 2018:73). The examples of alliteration are as follows:

- 1) *The curious cat climbed cautiously up the crooked tree*; In this sentence, the Repetition of the "c" sound creates a rhythmic effect.
- 2) *Silly snakes slither silently*; These phrases use the Repetition of initial consonant sounds to create a musical quality.

f) Imagery

According to Molla, descriptive words are used in Imagery, a form of figurative language, to help the reader visualize a scene (Molla, 2022:1,158). The examples of imagery are as follows:

- 1) *Baby, you're a firework*; The Imagery of a firework evokes feelings of excitement and potential, encouraging self-expression and confidence.
- 2) *Rolling in the deep*; The Imagery of "rolling in the deep" suggests a deep, emotional connection, while the idea of having one's heart in someone else's hands conveys vulnerability and trust.

g) Synecdoche

According to Ghufraan Abdul and Hameed Ali, synecdoche is a figure of speech in which the whole is represented by a component, or vice versa. It is employed in literature to evoke images or simplify difficult subjects (Ghufraan Abdul-Hameed Ali, 2023:73). The examples of synecdoche are as follows:

- 1) *All hands on deck*; In this line, "hands" is used as a synecdoche for people, referring to the individuals who need to come together to work or help in a situation.

2) *I've got the ticket to the other side*; In this case, "ticket" is used as a Synecdoche to represent the opportunity or means to escape or move to a new place or phase in life.

h) Paradox

According to Azmi, paradox is a figure of speech that seems contradictory but actually has some truth to it. It can be used to contrast two separate things in a single remark or to convey something ridiculous but truthful (Azmi et al., 2023:33). The examples of paradox are as follows:

- 1) *The heart is a bloom* – *from*; In this line, "heart" represents emotions or the essence of a person, not just the literal organ, symbolizing love and passion.
- 2) Give me the beat boys and free my soul; In this line, "beat" refers to the music or rhythm, using part of the Song (the beat) to represent the whole musical experience

i) Oxymoron

According to Qasim, two opposing or contradictory terms that appear side by side are called oxymorons. They are frequently utilized to produce rhetorical effects like bittersweet, sweet anguish, an open secret, or an orderly mess (Qasim, 2022:3). The examples of oxymoron are as follows:

- 1) *Hello, darkness, my old friend*; "Darkness" and "old friend" are contradictory, yet together they convey a sense of familiarity and comfort with something typically seen as negative or ominous.
- 2) *I'm a lover, not a fighter*; the oxymoron here is "lover" and "fighter," which are often considered opposites, but together they describe the internal conflict or duality of the person's nature.

j) Repetition

According to Studiobinder, repetition is a literary device where a word or phrase is used multiple times (Studiobinder, 2024). The examples of repetition are as follows:

- 1) Let it be, let it be, let it be, let it be; the repetition of "let it be" reinforces the idea of accepting things as they are and finding peace in letting go of control.
- 2) And I will always love you, I will always love you; the repetition of "I will always love you" highlights the depth and certainty of the love being expressed, reinforcing the emotional sentiment.

k) Antithesis

According to Alwi Nurzen and Mutmainnah Sopandji, a figure of speech known as antithesis juxtaposes conflicting concepts or terms side by side. It is a literary device used to accentuate conflict, draw attention to contrasts, and generate contrast (Alwi Nurzen and Mutmainnah Sopandji, 2024:145). The examples of antithesis are as follows:

- 1) *I'm in love with a monster*; the juxtaposition of "love" and "monster" creates an antithesis, highlighting the contrast between something traditionally positive (love) and something typically negative or frightening (monster).
- 2) *I'm your biggest fan, I'll follow you until you love me*; the antithesis here is between the fan's unconditional support ("I'll follow you until you love me") and the subtle suggestion of obsession or unrequited love, showing the contrast between admiration and desperation.

l) Symbolism

According to Zain, symbolism is a kind of figurative language in which concepts, persons, things, or events are represented by words or pictures. Both literal and figurative meanings are possible for symbols, and context frequently reveals or infers the metaphorical meaning (Zain, 2021:10). The examples of symbolism are as follows:

- 1) *I am a bird with broken wings*; the line "bird with broken wings" symbolizes the feeling of being hurt, vulnerable, or unable to fully soar. It represents a sense of loss or emotional pain that the Song's speaker is experiencing.

- 2) *The storm is rising, it's coming for me*; in this lyric, the "storm" symbolizes an emotional or personal crisis, representing overwhelming challenges or turmoil in life that the speaker feels is approaching.

m) Juxtaposition

According to Liberalarts, juxtaposition is a figurative language device that places contrasting elements side by side to highlight their differences (Liberalarts, 2024). The examples of juxtaposition are as follows:

- 1) *I'm living on a prayer*; the Juxtaposition here is between "living" and "prayer." While living suggests action and movement, "prayer" implies dependence and hope, creating a contrast between determination and reliance.
- 2) *I'm a mess, but I'm the best*; this line juxtaposes the contradictory concepts of being a "mess" (chaotic or imperfect) with being "the best" (successful or outstanding), highlighting the contrast between personal flaws and confidence.

2.3 Songs

The following description describes about songs including definition, genre and part of the songs.

2.3.1 Definition of Songs

In order to better understand the nuances of what defines a song, it is essential to explore expert opinions that shed light on its various elements and characteristics. Here are some of them.

First, according to Ang, song is a journey with many doors at its entrance. I discover a revitalized connection with my own family and distant ancestors by directly and transparently facing each doorway and remembering Songs I knew as a youngster. A Song is a journey that leads us through a number of doors, and each one we encounter enables us to remember Songs from our early years and rediscover our relationships with both our immediate and distant ancestors (Ang et al., 2019:81).

Second, according to Widiyanto, in order to create a musical composition with unity and continuity (rhythm), a song is an artistic arrangement of tones or sounds in sequence, combination, and temporal relationship, typically accompanied by musical instruments. Songs are potent vehicles for expression and connection because they frequently relate stories and evoke feelings. It can inspire change, bring back memories, and connect with listeners from a variety of backgrounds and experiences through its words and melody (Widiyanto, 2022:2).

I conclude that we can see that songs play an important role in our lives. By combining musical elements and lyrics, Songs serve not only as entertainment but also as a profound medium to express feelings and experiences. By having this combination, we can understand more about the meaning and impact of Songs in our daily lives.

2.3.2 Genre in Songs

According to Webster, genre is directly derived from French, a Latin-based language. It has a lot in common with the word "genus," which you might have learned in biology class. Since both words show that everything in a certain category (a genre or a genus) is a member of the same "family" and so shares the same origins, they both include the gen-root. Thus, symphonies, sonatas, and opera would be considered the primary genres of classical music, while novels, short stories, poetry, and drama would be considered the primary genres of literature. However, we may also argue that detective, science fiction, romance, and young adult novels are distinct genres under the category of novels (Merriam-Webster, 2024).

From the explanation above I conclude that a song's genre is the particular classification or style that characterizes the music according to components such as melody, rhythm, instrumentation, and lyrical content. Genres influence listeners' expectations and experiences by helping them identify the tone and qualities of a song. For example, a ballad may concentrate on slower tempos and emotional tales, but a pop song usually has catchy melodies and an energetic beat. Rock, pop, hip-hop, country, jazz, and classical are common genres, each having distinctive

customs and cultural significance. The song's audience, production techniques, and performing style can all be influenced by the genre.

2.3.3 Part of the Songs

Stoubis claims that the song consists of several parts (Stoubis, 2024:1). Additionally, he thinks that the intro, verse, pre-chorus, chorus, and bridge make up the fundamental song structure. First of all, the intro is a simple one; it opens the song and establishes many of its key, pace, rhythmic feel, intensity, and attitude, among other crucial components. Second, verse is where we really get to the point and discover the plot. It is the part that says, "Once upon a time." Pre-chorus is frequently shorter than a verse or chorus and is not a required element. Chorus is a repeated section of a song, typically featuring the main theme or hook. At last, the repetitive character of many songs is alleviated by the bridge part.

2.4 Palmer's Theory of Figurative language

This sub chapter specifically discusses the theory of figurative language according to Palmer. This discussion includes: definition, meaning and interpretation, emotional function and influence in literature.

2.4.1 Definition

According to Palmer, the use of "figurative language" allows writers and speakers to convey concepts that transcend mere word interpretations. Among the techniques employed in this manner of expression are personification, similes, metaphors, irony, and hyperbole. By creating rich images and nuanced meanings with Figurative language, authors can more effectively communicate complex ideas. Palmer emphasizes that figurative language serves a vital purpose in enhancing communication and is not only decorative by promoting a deeper understanding of the topic matter (Palmer, 1981:20).

2.4.2 Meaning and Interpretation.

Palmer emphasizes how important context is for deciphering Metaphorical language. A figurative expression's meaning is frequently influenced by situational, social, and cultural elements. For example, a metaphor that makes sense in one

cultural setting could be unclear or misunderstood in another. Palmer contends that in order to fully understand the material, listeners or readers must actively interact with it and draw on their prior knowledge and life experiences. Because meaning is created by interaction rather than passively received, this interpretation processes necessitates cooperation between the listener and the text (Palmer, 1981:15).

2.4.3 Emotional Function

Palmer claims that a key element of his thesis is the emotional impact of metaphorical language. He appeals that the audience might react emotionally strong to figurative expressions. metaphors, for instance, can conjure up strong mental images that readers can relate to on a visceral level, frequently evoking emotions like happiness, sorrow, or nostalgia. Figurative language strengthens the bond between the writer and the reader by appealing to emotions, which increases the message's impact and memorability. Palmer emphasizes how this emotional resonance can increase the reader's interest in the work and cultivate compassion for the people or circumstances it portrays (Palmer, 1981:13).

2.4.4 Influence in Literature

According to Palmer, figurative language is an essential tool for writers in literary contexts. It enables them to more dynamically and captivantly portray complicated ideas, describe people, and set moods. For example, a poet may employ a Simile to invoke both beauty and the possibility of sorrow (thorns) by comparing love to a "rose." Palmer points out that a simple story may be transformed into a rich tapestry of meaning by carefully choosing and combining figurative language, allowing readers to delve into multiple levels of interpretation. This depth not only improves the piece's visual attractiveness but also stimulates further in-depth examination and conversation about it (Palmer, 1981:20).

2.5 Previous Related Studies

In supporting this research, there are several previous studies that have similarities and differences with this research. This indicates the existence of studies in linguistics that use the same method and theory for different subjects.

The first research is conducted by Elfas, Widiyanto and Sukma with the title “*An Analysis of Figurative language in Song Lyric on the S.I.G.I.T Detourn Album*”. This research took a qualitative approach and used descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research were taken from *The Sigit* Song lyrics in the Album of “Detourn”. The researchers take 11 songs on the album as their data sources. From the research findings, the types of figurative language that they found in the song lyric include hyperbole, irony, personification, synecdoche, simile, metonymy, repetition, and metaphor. The most dominant types of figurative language found in the song lyric is metaphor (Widiyanto, et al, 2022).

The second research is conducted by Azzahra, Euis and Myta with the title “*Figurative language Analysis in Album Evolve by Imagine Dragons*”. This research took a qualitative approach and used descriptive qualitative method. The researchers used theory from Mezzo (1999) which divides figurative language into three categories, namely: comparison type (metaphor, simile, and personification), substitution type (metonymy and synecdoche), and exaggeration type (hyperbole and litotes). The data of this research were taken from *Imagine Dragons* Song lyrics in the Album of “Evolve”. From the research findings, the researchers make a conclusion that the types of Figurative language which they have found include metaphor (23%), simile (8%), personification (15%), metonymy (36%), synecdoche (2%), hyperbole (10%), and litotes (6%). So, the most dominant types of figurative language found in the song lyrics album “Evolve” by Imagine Dragons is metonymy (36%) (Az-Zahra et al., 2022).

The third research is conducted by Hasanah, Siti and Ajeng with the title “*An Analysis Figurative language Used In The Song Lyrics Album Evermore by Taylor Swift*”. This research took qualitative approach and used descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research were taken from Taylor Swift song lyrics in the Album “Evermore”. From the research findings, the researchers discover figurative language utilized in song lyrics Album “Evermore” by Taylor Swift, including simile, personification, hyperbole, metaphor, synecdoche, symbolism, paradox, alliteration, metonymy, and antithesis. The researchers find most dominant types in the Song lyrics Album “Evermore” by Taylor Swift is hyperbole, which appears in 36 song lyrics and accounts for 40% of the lyrics (Hasanah et al., 2022).

Based on the three previous studies that have been explained, there are differences and similarities in each of their studies. The first difference is the number of songs being analyzed. In my research I only take 7 Songs in the Album *Between the Richness* by Fiddlehead. In the first study, the researchers took 11 songs as their data sources on the album “*Detourn*” by The Sigit. The second difference is that the researchers use theory from Mezzo (Az-Zahra et al., 2022), while I use the theory from Palmer in my research. The third difference is the types of figurative language used in the research. In my research I do not use types of figurative language, namely: synecdoche, symbolism, paradox, and antithesis. Meanwhile, in the third study, the researchers use types of figurative language, namely: synecdoche, symbolism, paradox, and antithesis.

