

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Language constitutes one of the most fundamental dimensions of human existence. Individuals employ language, which represents a system of codified spoken or written symbols, for an array of purposes, including the articulation of emotions, thoughts, and information, alongside the facilitation of communication with others. In addition to its primary function in interpersonal communication, language often serves to forge connections among individuals across the globe. According to Palmer (1981), language is frequently intricately associated with a diverse range of social relationships. The nature of our interactions—whether perceived as impolite or courteous—can be contingent upon our social affiliation with the interlocutor. The field of linguistics encompasses numerous subdisciplines, spanning from those that focus on structural aspects to those that emphasize semantic interpretation, including phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, pragmatics, and semantics.

One of the foundational aspects of linguistics is semantics, which investigates the nature of meaning within language, focuses on the significance of sentence structure, and emphasizes meaning devoid of context. The specialized term for the exploration of meaning is semantics. The concept of 'meaning' encompasses a diverse array of linguistic characteristics, and there exists a lack of agreement regarding its definition or the criteria by which it should be understood (Palmer F. R. 1981). Meaning can be analyzed at the lexical, sentence, or phrase level.

Figure of speech is a skill used in both talking and writing to make sentences more creative and interesting. I can express ideas in a special way using figure of speech. However, sometimes people might not understand the real meaning behind a sentence that uses figures of speech. According to Reaske (1996:27), figurative

language is a type of language that uses different kinds of figures of speech. It is a way of speaking or writing that is not the usual, straightforward way of describing people or things. Usually, it is easy to tell whether a writer is using figurative language or literal language.

I know that figures of speech are part of semantics, which is the study of meaning. When I think about meaning, I see it in many forms, like in everyday conversations or in things like novels, movie scripts, and song lyrics. Song lyrics are short poems that are written in verses and set to music to be sung. When songwriters or composers create these lyrics, they often use beautiful language with figurative expressions. This helps make the songs more interesting and engaging for listeners. Through song lyrics, people can also discover deeper meanings that relate to their own lives. In one album, I often notice figures of speech used by Travis Scott. That's why I want to study the meaning behind song lyrics for my research. The album I will use for this study is called ASTROWORLD by Travis Scott.

Jacques Bermon Webster, who goes by the stage name Travis Scott, is an American rapper, vocalist, composer, and record producer. His stage name is a fusion of his uncle's name and the first name of one of his idols, Kid Cudi, who was born in Houston, Texas, on April 30, 1991, and raised there. Scott has amassed more than 100 songs on the US Billboard Hot 100 list and four number-one singles over his career. Scott has received 10 Grammy nominations, a Latin Grammy, a Billboard Music Award, an MTV Video Music Award, and several BET Hip Hop Awards. Scott has sold more than 49 million certified albums in the United States alone as of 2023. In Houston, Texas, on April 30, 1991, Jacques Bermon Webster II was born. Webster resided with his grandmother in Houston's South Park neighborhood from the age of one to six. The neighborhood, which was well-known for its crime, was situated in south-central Houston and had an effect on a young Webster. "Growing up, my grandmother stayed in the 'hood so I seen random crazy s**t." I observed insane hobos and insane spazzed out motherfuckers, as well as folks who were unkempt, hungry, and strange. I was always thinking, "I gotta get the hell outta this crap." It gave me my advantage and made me the person I am today. His single, "Butterfly Effect," was the album's first single, released on May

15, 2017, for digital download and streaming. The Billboard Hot 100 hit its highest point at position 50. The album's second single, "Sicko Mode," was released on rhythmic and urban contemporary radio on August 21, 2018.

Language, as an object of linguistic study, is an arbitrary sound symbol system used by members of social groups to work together, communicate, and identify themselves. In my research, I focused on semantic studies.

Semantics is the study of meaning which examines symbols or signs that express meaning, the relationship of one meaning to another, and its influence on humans and society. In other words, semantics is the study of the meaning or meanings contained in a language, symbol, or other representation. semantics can also be used in analyzing a literary work such as poetry and song lyrics by looking at the use of figurative language.

Figurative language is majas or language used by writers or speakers to convey messages or allusions that aim to make readers or listeners understand the style of language used. In this condition also figurative language is a technique to reveal the style of language whose meaning does not refer to the literal meaning of the word that supports, but to the added meaning or implied meaning. Based on the above statement, I will try to research what types of figurative language in Travis Scott's album *ASTROWORLD* (2018).

1.2 Identification of the Problem

The scope of this research is semantics, while semantics is the study of meaning. 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 Travis Scott's album titled *ASTROWORLD*. I also limited this research to using only Travis Scott album titled *ASTROWORLD*, along with 9 songs in the album titled *ASTROWORLD*.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

The study of meaning is semantics, which is the focus of this research. The issues in this study are restricted to utilizing metaphorical language analysis in the lyrics of Travis Scott's album, *ASTROWORLD*, in order to identify the real

meaning. I also restricted this study to exclusively utilizing the Travis Scott album titled *ASTROWORLD*, as well as twelve songs from the album of the same name.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

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

1. What types of figurative language songwriters used in *ASTROWORLD* album by Travis Scott?
2. What is the true meaning of the song lyrics which used figurative language in *ASTROWORLD* album by Travis Scott?
3. What types of figurative language that is most dominant in *ASTROWORLD* album by Travis Scott?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

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

1. To identify what type of figurative language songwriters used in *ASTROWORLD* album by Travis Scott.
2. To identify the true meaning which used figurative language in *ASTROWORLD* album by Travis Scott.
3. To identify the most figurative types used in *ASTROWORLD* album by Travis Scott.

1.6 Benefits of the Problems

I hope this research could give benefits to those who read it. For linguistic students, I hope that this research can be useful as reference when conducting similar research, namely ambiguity. And I also hope that my research could contribute in giving deeper knowledge related lexical ambiguity.

1.7 Systematic Organization of the Research

This writing of research uses paper organization. The framework of the term paper writing which titled “Figurative Language used by song writer in *ASTROWORLD* album by Travis Scott” is as follows:

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

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

CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter consists of the experts' theories related to research topic such as semantics and figure of speech.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHOD

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

CHAPTER 4: FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED BY SONG WRITER IN *ASTROWORLD* ALBUM BY TRAVIS SCOTT

This chapter, I examine and analyze the data from the song lyrics in the Travis Scott’s album called *ASTROWORLD* to prove my research questions.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

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

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