

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Definition of Semantic

The main focus of semantics is a speaker's ability to employ the language system to create meaningful statements and comprehend those made by others. As stated by Nikelas (as quoted by Dwiocta, 2023:6), the language possesses these three traits. First of all, language makes sound. Language, second, follows a system. Third, language has significance. Language and meaning are inextricably linked. A study on meaning that offers a clear definition of the term is necessary for people.

The academic term for the investigation of meaning is semantics. "Meaning," unfortunately, encompasses many elements of language, and there is no widespread consensus on either its definition or the manner in which it should be characterized (Palmer 1981:1). The study of meaning in language, words, phrases, and sentences is known as semantics. The study of how language organizes and communicates meaning is also known as semantics.

According to Griffiths (2006:1), semantics is one of the two main areas in linguistics, and it focuses on the study of meaning. It looks at the meaning of words and sentences. Semantics is about how meaning is passed on through signs and language. It can mean the actual or intended meaning that speakers and writers want to express. Semantics is studied in many different fields of science, so the way meaning is studied might be different in each area. Semanticists look at how facial expressions, body movements, and tone can change the meaning of something, as well as how words, phrases, sentences, and punctuation connect to meaning.

Based on the explanation above, semantics is the study that discusses the meaning and real meaning. And from all the theories, i agree that semantics is the study that examines meaning. In some cases, semantics is used to detect the meaning of beautifully written song lyrics using figures of speech. Besides that,

semantics is also a study of how a language is composed and how language can convey meaning.

2.2 Definiton of Figurative Language

Language is the most important thing to communicate for humans. There are two kinds of language: literal language and figurative language. Figurative language is a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the word. The figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotations of words. According to Perrine (as cited by Qurrotul 'Ain, 2013:26), figures of speech are defined as a way of saying one thing and meaning another.

According to Safira (2020:2), figurative language is essentially a component of semantics since semantics allows us to figure out a song's true meaning. Those who are listening to music might not pay attention to the lyrics, especially if the song has a figurative element. Most of the time, their only reasons for liking it are the excellent music or perhaps the singers. Understanding a lyric's meaning is important since it conveys the song's meaning and purpose.

Figurative language is language that comprises of images. It is deviation from the usage of language ordinary. The meaning of words or series of word are used to reach and produce a certain effect. Figurative language or language style is an attractive language which is used to increase the effect by introducing and comparing an object or certain matter or more general soothing else. According to Qurrotul 'Ain (2013:26). Figurative language refers to words or phrases that do not have the same meaning as their literal meaning.

The use of the ordinary way surely result in an ordinary response as well. Communicators can always give a different sense of nuance by advancing the use of figures of speech. As long as the proposed sense essence is receivable by the communicant, that additional sense essence reinforce the meaning and present a fresh message. The advantages have been widely known that everybody uses it all the time in an attempt to give freshness and spice to what they say (Yorselina, 2017:9)

According to Yorselina (2017:9), a figure of speech is a rhetorical device that achieves a special effect by using words in distinctive ways. I use the figure of

speech in figurative language to add color and interest and to awaken the imagination. Figurative or figures of speech are not only used in the language of literature, such as drama, poetry, or prose, but they are also alive in linguistics studies or commonly used in writing lyrics for songs and daily speech. According to Yusnitasari (as cited by Dwiocta, 2023:7), figurative language is beyond literal understanding to convey meaning. The beauty of language is conveyed by the figurative language used in the song's lyrics. Without figurative language, the song's language might feel bland since it leave the listener with an interesting impression. The message of the song can be received by listeners who are engaged with it.

Based on the theory and explanation above, it can be concluded that figurative language is a language that not everyone can easily understand. Literary writers commonly use figurative language to beautify their works, but unfortunately, not everyone understands the meaning behind figurative language.

2.3 Types of Figurative Language

There are many types of figurative language. They are:

2.3.1 Metaphor

Metaphor is used to explain emotions, feelings, relationships, and other elements that could not be described in ordinary language. Metaphor is the process of comparing two unlike things as if they are one. According to Peter (as cited by Safira 2020:16), metaphor is a figurative speech that directly compares one thing to another. They may express A is B, which differs from the simile only in that the comparison is implied rather than explicit. It is to be read in the same way as a simile, but it is often more difficult to recognize since the comparison may be reduced to a phrase or a single word. When the poet uses metaphor, he transfers the qualities and associations of one subject to another in order to make it more vivid in our minds.

For Example: *His words were a dagger to her heart.*

The meaning of the first example, that his words were very hurtful, causing emotional pain.

The city was a jungle.

The meaning of the second example, the city is chaotic, crowded, or wild, like a jungle.

2.3.2 Simile

The equation or simile is an explicit comparison. Explicit comparisons are those that directly state something similar to something else. For that, it requires an effort that explicitly denotes the similarity, the words like the same, as, like, and so on. According to Shaw (as cited by Safira, 2020:12), the common heritage of similes in everyday speech usually reflects simple comparisons based on the natural world or familiar domestic objects. This characteristic is intended to express a similar thing to another directly.

For example:

His explanation was as clear as crystal

The meaning of the first example, it implies that the explanation was very easy to understand and transparent.

The night was as black as coal

The meaning of the second example, Describes the night as being extremely dark, emphasizing the lack of light.

2.3.3 Personification

According to Kennedy (as cited by Safira, 2020:11), personification is the attribution of a personal nature or character to inanimate objects or abstract notions, especially as a rhetorical figure. Personification is a figure of speech that describes something that is not human as though it could feel, think, act, live or die in the same way as people

For example:

The wind whispered through the trees.

The meaning of the first example, the wind is described as "whispering," giving it the human ability to speak softly.

The angry clouds marched across the sky.

The meaning of the second example, the clouds are imagined as marching, suggesting movement and a foreboding presence.

2.3.4 Metonymy

According to Safira (2020:13), Metonymy is a change of name, the use of one word for another and the use of an idea by means of terms involving the association. It is also about part-whole relationship, the kind which allows the same word to be used in many languages for “hand” and “arm” or “foot” and “leg”.

For example:

The crown will decide the nation's future.

The meaning of the first example, the word "crown" refers to the monarchy or ruling authority. It substitutes the symbol (crown) for the institution of kingship or royalty.

Hollywood is obsessed with superhero movies.

The meaning of the second example, the word "Hollywood" represents the American film industry, not just the physical location.

2.3.5 Hyperbole

Hyperbole is the term used for overstatement. This figure is used by someone who has desire and expectation for the thing that happens to make the object more significant than the real object. According to Shaw (as cited by Safira 2020:13) emphasized that there is a danger of deception in the hyperbole of sensational reporting. The poet exaggerates things that will be compared in order to get accurate attention from the reader.

For example:

Her smile is brighter than the sun.

The meaning of the first example, that her smile is radiant and cheerful, though not literally brighter than the sun. It conveys warmth and beauty.

There were a billion stars in the sky last night.

The meaning of the second example, the sky was filled with stars, though not literally a billion. It emphasizes their vast number.

2.3.6 Allusion

Allusion is an indirect reference, whereas an illusion is something that is unreal or incorrect. Each of the nouns has a related verb form: *allude* “to refer indirectly to,” and *illude* (not a very common word), which may mean “to delude or deceive” or “to subject to an illusion.” According to C. Hugh Holman and William Harmon (1986). The definition of allusion is a figure of speech that makes

brief reference to a historical, literary, or cultural figure, event, or object. And he explains that the authors highlight how allusions often depend on the shared cultural knowledge of the audience to convey subtle meanings.

For example:

This place is like a Garden of Eden.

The meaning of the first example, refers to the biblical Garden of Eden, symbolizing paradise or a perfect, idyllic setting.

He has a Midas touch in business.

The meaning of the second example, refers to King Midas from Greek mythology, who could turn everything he touched into gold. It means the person has a talent for making things successful or profitable.

2.3.7 Litotes

Litotes, derived from a Greek word meaning “simple”, is a figure speech that employs an understatement by using double negatives or, in other words, a positive statement. According to Hornby (as cited by Safira 2020:16), litotes are an expression of one's meaning by saying something that is the direct opposite of one's thought, it is to make someone's remarks forceful. Litotes is a form of understatement it is always deliberated with the intention of subtle emphasis. However, the interpretation of litotes depends on context, including cultural context.

For example:

He's not bad at playing the piano.

The meaning of the first example is that the person is quite good at playing the piano, but the statement understates their ability.

He's not the worst boss I've ever had.

The meaning of the second example is that the boss is decent or relatively good, but the praise is understated.

2.4 Previous Related Studies

In supporting this research, several previous studies have similarities and differences with this research. Hereby proves the existence of research that uses the same theory and approach with different materials.

The first research by Qurrotul'ain (2013) with the title "An Analysis of Figurative Language in the Song Lyrics by Maher Zain". In her research, she used at least 13 figurative languages and several songs from Maher Zain as her research materials. The most dominant figurative language used in some songs is hyperbole.

The second research by Dwiocta (2023) with the title "Figurative Language used in Ed Sheeran Album's "Divide" (2017)". In his research, he used the album *Divide* by Ed Sheeran as his primary material. From 16 song lyrics as his research material, the research found 6 out of 7 figurative languages on the album *Divide* by Ed Sheeran. As a conclusion, figurative language metaphor data is the most he found.

The third research by Safira (2020) with the title "Figurative Language in Selected Shawn Mendes Song Lyrics". In her research, she used only selected songs as her research material. She also added the significant of the study which is theoretically and practically. To enrich her research, she is explained at least 18 types of figurative language. Besides that, the research also added the definition of Song and Lyrics.

The fourth research by Nibras Naufal H (2023) with the title "Figurative Language used by songwriters in Planet Her album by Doja Cat". In his research, he used the album *Planet Her* by Doja Cat as his primary material. In his research, he used 7 figurative languages on the album *Planet Her* by Doja Cat, as a conclusion, figurative language simile data is the most he found.

The main thing that is the same between my research and previous work is that I want to find and explain what the real meaning of song lyrics is. The main difference is that I used the album *ASTROWORLD* by Travis Scott as the focus of my study. In this research, I look at the use of figurative language. Once I group these examples by the different types of figurative language, I will explore what the real meaning behind them is in the album *ASTROWORLD* by Travis Scott.