CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this research, I apply several theories and concepts related to my research topic. Some of the theories I use in "Semantic Analysis of Ariana Grande's Album 'Eternal Sunshine' Revealing Figurative Language in All Songs" include semantic theory and figurative language theory, such as personification, metaphor, hyperbole, simile, idiom, and irony.

2.1 Semantics

As we know in linguistics, there are 2 studies that study meaning. Both are semantics and pragmatics. Pragmatic studies is a science that focuses on a person's ability to obtain meaning. Meanwhile, semantic studies study how speakers use the language system to say something meaningful and understand other people's speech (Kreidler, 1998. p.18). Instead of focusing on what speakers want to convey through the use of words, phrases and sentences in a language in certain situations, linguistic semantics focuses on the conventional meaning conveyed through their use (Yule, 2006, p.100).

Basically, semantics is a scientific study that focuses on the actual meaning of words or sentences, rather than the meaning interpreted by the speaker or listener. Moreover, semantics is the systematic study of meaning, specifically examining how language organizes and expresses meaning (Kreidler, 1998, p. 66). In addition, semantics is concerned with the analysis of meaning in language, focusing on the deeper meanings conveyed by words, phrases, and sentences. It also explores how both the speaker and the listener understand and interpret these meanings in communication.

2.2 Figurative Language

In semantics, when we analyze the meaning of something, it can happen in various ways. One way is to use figures of speech. Using figures of speech can be found in literary works, especially lyric songs. When writing song lyrics, songwriters usually avoid conveying the true meaning of the lyrics in order to make them more meaningful and beautiful, or because they prefer to convey the implied meaning behind the lyrics. Figurative language can be considered beautiful even if it only conveys symbolic meaning. According to Peter (2002), figurative meaning is when language is used to relate the speaker's emotions and desires, which

can cause surprise and action. As a result, by using figurative meaning, the person speaking can convey their ideas or thoughts.

In figurative language, word components are a combination of words that exaggerate and distort. Figures of speech are necessary to emphasize the points being made and to create a sense of beauty. Using figurative language can help readers interpret facts and messages. Language style can be seen from a linguistic and non-linguistic perspective (Keraf, 2010. p.112). The use of figurative language must be carefully considered, as can be seen from this explanation. Apart from that, to choose words carefully, it is important to pay attention to the sentences used so that the meaning contained in the figurative language can be understood directly. Figurative language can also convey concepts of efficiency, freshness, or purity. In general, figurative language shows meaning implicitly through the description of something.

2.2.1 Types of Figurative Language

There are 10 types of figurative language, namely simile, metaphor, personification, symbol, metonymy, irony, hyperbole, litotes, synecdoche, and idiom (Keraf, 2009). In this research, I only used 6 types of figurative language: personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, and idiom.

2.2.2 Personification

Personification is a figurative language technique that attributes human characteristics to inanimate objects, ideas, or non-living things. It gives human-like qualities, traits, or emotions to things that do not possess them. According to Keraf (2009), personification is used to describe non-living objects as if they were human beings or living creatures, making them seem more relatable or emotionally impactful.

Personification can be recognized when inanimate objects or concepts are described as performing actions or exhibiting behaviors that are typically associated with humans. As Keraf (2009, p.140) explains, personification involves giving words to things that do not have life, making them appear as if they possess human traits or feelings. This technique can influence readers or listeners, helping them imagine or connect with the imagery on a deeper emotional level.

For example, in the song *Intro (End of the World)* by Ariana Grande, *"If the sun refused to shine,"* the lyric contains personification because it assigns human characteristics to the sun. The sun is described as "refusing" to shine, implying that it has the ability to make decisions, which is something only humans or living beings can do. This figurative language heightens the emotional impact of the lyric, creating a sense of an unnatural, world-altering event and intensifying the overall dramatic tone.

2.2.3 Metaphor

Metaphor is a figure of speech that compares two different things without using expressions like "like," "as," or "same as." Instead, it conveys meaning by implying similarity rather than literal equivalence. In a metaphor, two unlike things are connected, and the comparison requires imaginative thinking (Keraf, 2009, p.139). Unlike personification, which attributes human characteristics to non-human things, metaphors create a connection between two different subjects, often enhancing meaning or understanding.

In literature, metaphors serve to describe something by comparing it to another object, enriching the imagery and offering deeper layers of meaning (Keraf, 2009, p.139). For example, in the song *The Boy is Mine* by Ariana Grande, the lyric "The boy is divine" contains a metaphor because it directly equates "the boy" with "divine." This comparison suggests that the boy possesses extraordinary qualities—similar to a deity or something sacred—without using words like "like" or "as." The metaphor is figurative, emphasizing the boy's exceptional qualities and elevating his status to something beyond the ordinary. This heightens the emotional impact of the lyric, portraying the boy as almost perfect and extraordinary in the speaker’s eyes.

2.2.4 Simile

Simile is a figure of speech that makes a direct comparison between two different things using connecting words like "like," "as," and "so." This comparative device explicitly expresses similarity between the two objects being compared. By using conjunctions, similes hint at the similarity without directly stating it. Similes are considered explicit comparisons (Keraf, 2009, p. 138) and are often used in

figurative language to convey meaning. They allow a speaker or writer to describe something by drawing parallels to other seemingly unrelated things. Through similes, language becomes more vivid, allowing for precise descriptions and conveying messages in an engaging, poetic manner.

Unlike personification, where non-human objects are given human traits, similes rely on the use of the words "like" or "as" to highlight similarities between two distinct things. This technique helps readers or listeners visualize the objects being compared, making the language livelier and more expressive.

For example, in the song *Eternal Sunshine* by Ariana Grande, the lyric "Yet you played me like Atari" contains a simile because it compares how the speaker was treated to playing an Atari game, using the word "like." This comparison suggests that the speaker was manipulated or treated as if they were a mere, disposable game, emphasizing the emotional distance and lack of genuine care in the relationship. The simile enhances the emotional impact of the lyric, conveying feelings of being undervalued or disrespected.

2.2.5 Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that involves exaggerating something in a dramatic way to create a strong impression. It aims to emphasize a point or evoke strong emotions rather than provide factual accuracy. Hyperbole is often used to describe something in an exaggerated manner, intensifying its qualities or effects for dramatic or emotional impact (Keraf, 2009, p. 135).

Rather than being literal, hyperbole serves to highlight or exaggerate the feelings or significance of a situation, making it more vivid and expressive. It is frequently employed in song lyrics, poetry, and prose to emphasize emotions, exaggerate a condition, or make a particular point stand out.

For example, in the song *We Can't Be Friends (Wait for Your Love)* by Ariana Grande, the lyric "My tongue, yeah, I think I'd rather die" contains hyperbole because it exaggerates the speaker’s emotional state to an extreme degree. The statement that the speaker would rather die than speak is not meant to be taken literally but is used to emphasize the overwhelming discomfort, frustration, or

emotional pain they feel in the situation. This hyperbole intensifies the emotional expression, underlining the depth of the speaker's emotional turmoil.

2.2.6 Idiom

An idiom is a phrase or expression with a meaning that cannot be understood by interpreting the individual words literally. Idioms are often used in language and literature to enhance expression and add richness to the language. They typically convey meanings that differ from the literal definitions of the words involved and often present challenges in translation or direct interpretation (Keraf, 2009, p. 109).

Idioms are usually composed of combinations of words, and their meaning is often dependent on cultural context. This makes idioms difficult to define strictly through linguistic analysis, as they do not follow conventional rules of meaning. The best way to understand an idiom is to interpret it within its specific context. Idioms enrich the language by adding variety and depth, and they often colour the conversations with a unique sense of expression. However, for those unfamiliar with a language or culture, idioms can be difficult to understand.

For example, in the song *Eternal Sunshine*, the lyric "Get me out of this loop, yeah, yeah" employs the idiom "stuck in a loop." This expression refers to feeling trapped in a repetitive cycle, often with no apparent way to break free. The idiom conveys feelings of frustration and hopelessness, emphasizing the speaker's desire to escape from an unending situation.

2.2.7 Irony

Irony is a figure of speech where the intended meaning is opposite to the literal meaning of the words used (Keraf, 2009, p. 143). It often involves expressing something contrary to what is expected, creating a contrast between appearance and reality. Irony is a form of expression that highlights a gap between the surface meaning and the underlying message, which can evoke humor, surprise, or deeper reflection.

There are several types of irony, including situational, dramatic, and verbal irony. Verbal irony occurs when a speaker says something that is intentionally contrary to what they mean, often to emphasize a point or create a contradiction. Situational irony happens when there is a stark contrast between what is expected to occur and what actually happens. Dramatic irony is when the audience or reader knows something that the characters do not, creating tension or humor.

Irony is commonly used in literature, including song lyrics, to enhance meaning and create a more engaging experience for the listener. In song lyrics, irony can highlight emotional conflicts, contradictions, or complex situations. For example, in the song *Don't Wanna Break Up Again*, the lyric "This situationship has to end, but I just can't refuse" contains irony. The speaker acknowledges that the "situationship" is unhealthy and needs to end, yet they are unable to break free due to their emotional attachment. This creates a contrast between their rational thoughts and emotional desires, this giving a contrast between her logic and her feelings that creates irony.

2.3 Previous Related Study

Many researchers have conducted analyses of figurative language in song lyrics, but each study differs both in terms of the object and the results of the analysis. These studies provide useful insights into the application of the same linguistic methods and theories in different contexts.

The first research was conducted by Gustsa and Laili (2018) with the title "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Taylor Swift's Folklore Album". This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. The data source taken was 16 songs from the album "Folklore" by Taylor Swift. The results showed that the types of figurative language found included symbols (17.72%), metaphors (15.18%), similes (15.18%), paradoxes (13.9%), verbal irony (8.8%) , hyperbole (8.8%), personification (8.8%), allegory (5.06%), metonymy (3.8%), synecdoche totem pro parte (1.2%), and understatement (1.2 %). Symbols are the most dominant type of figurative language with a percentage of 17.72%.

The second research by Kumala and Aini (2021) with the title "An Analysis of Figurative Language on 'Speak Your Mind' Anne-Marie's Album" also employs a

qualitative approach and descriptive method. The research data is taken from 4 songs on Anne-Marie's "Speak Your Mind" album. The results show that the types of figurative language found include repetition (25%), simile (45%), onomatopoeia (5%), irony (5%), hyperbole (10%), and metaphor (5%). Simile is the most dominant type of figurative language, particularly in the song "2002".

The third research was conducted by Larasati et al. (2020) with the title "Figurative Language in Ariana Grande's Positions Album". This research also uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods, with 19 songs from Ariana Grande's "Positions" album as the data source. The research results show that the figurative language found includes simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, paradox, dead metaphor, and allusion, where hyperbole is the most dominant type of figurative language.

Based on the three studies above, there are several significant differences. First, the research objects used are different. The first study used song lyrics from Taylor Swift's "Folklore" album, the second study took songs from Anne-Marie's "Speak Your Mind" album, while the third study used Ariana Grande's "Positions" album. The second difference lies in the type of figurative language analyzed. The first study highlights figurative language such as symbols, metaphors, similes, and paradoxes, while the second study places more emphasis on similes and repetition, and the third study finds the dominance of hyperbole, similes, and synecdoche.

From this previous research review, my research has main differences in terms of object and focus of analysis. My research uses Ariana Grande's “Eternal Sunshine” album as an object, which has not been discussed in previous research. In addition, my research analyzes different types of figurative language such as idioms, which have not been analyzed in the three previous studies. The types of figurative language that I will analyze include idioms, irony, metaphors, hyperbole, personification, and similes. This shows that my research offers a different contribution in the field of semantic analysis of figurative language in song lyrics.