# CHAPTER I
# INTRODUCTION

The research examines the use of figurative language used in the novel *As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow*. In this chapter, there are research background, research questions, research objectives, research scope and limitations, research significance, and definition of key terms.

## A. Background of Study

Novels, as a form of literary work, are closest to life because readers can empathize with the characters and find reflections of their own experiences (Chuks, 2018). A novel is constructed from various elements such as plot, characters, setting, point of view, and theme. However, in addition to these elements, the style of language used also greatly determines the author's success in creating atmosphere, building characterization, and conveying messages to readers. One of the most interesting aspects of language is the use of figurative language. Figurative language enriches expression by conveying meaning indirectly, thereby not only adding to the aesthetic value of literary works but also reflecting the depth of the author's thinking.

Although reading novels is an enjoyable activity, not all readers are able to understand the messages contained within them if they do not understand figurative language. In fact, figurative language plays an important role in broadening interpretation, evoking emotions, and presenting deeper meanings. Krause (2008) asserts that figurative language refers to illogical or indirect perspectives, allowing readers to interpret more broadly. Furthermore, Lakoff (1980) explains that metaphors as a form of figurative language are not merely linguistic expressions but also a fundamental part of how humans think and understand the world. This shows that figurative language not only functions in the realm of literature but also in shaping human mindsets and perspectives on reality.

Figurative language is widely used in various literary works, including poetry, drama, song lyrics, and novels. Each author has their own way of presenting this style of language, which makes each work unique and full of hidden meanings. In novels, the use of figurative language can symbolize the author's feelings and thoughts that cannot always be expressed literally. As explained by Damayanti (2018), figurative expressions in novels are not merely decorative; rather, they serve as a means for the author to indirectly convey his or her inner world, including feelings, attitudes, and

more profound meanings that cannot be fully captured in literal language. This allows readers to imagine situations, feel the emotions of the characters, and appreciate the story as if it were real. However, there are many readers of English novels who enjoy the storyline but have difficulty understanding the meaning and message the author wants to convey. This obstacle arises due to a limited understanding of the figurative language used. Therefore, it is important for readers to have the ability to understand figurative language to understand the deeper message, appreciate the emotions being conveyed, and fully appreciate the novel they are reading.

Zoulfa Katouh's As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow is a novel that tells the story of struggle and trauma caused by the revolution war in Syria with a strong emotional approach, using many metaphors to convey traumatic experiences, feelings of loss, and hope. Current conditions show that studies of contemporary English-language novels, especially those written by young authors from Middle Eastern cultural backgrounds, are still relatively limited. In fact, these works represent relevant global issues, namely conflict, humanity, and cultural identity. The urgency of this research lies in the need to understand how writers use figurative language as a means of conveying traumatic experiences and social conflict in a more aesthetic and emotional way. The analysis of figurative language in these novels is important because it not only enriches the study of contemporary literature but also helps readers interpret the hidden meanings behind the narratives.

Therefore, this study is expected to make an academic contribution to the field of language and literature studies, while also providing a deeper understanding of how literary works can reflect human social and emotional reality. Some previous studies have investigated figurative language in literary works. First, Safira (2020) analyzed the types and meanings of figurative language in nine songs from the album Shawn Mendes (2018). The study emphasizes that figurative language reinforces the poetic and emotional aspects of songs, with hyperbole being the most dominant form. The study is limited to musical works and does not touch on long prose works such as novels. Meanwhile, this study emphasizes the figurative language used in contemporary novels set against the backdrop of war in the Syiria.

Second, Katili (2020) aims to identify, classify, and analyze the various types of figurative language and contextual meanings in the novel. The results show that hyperbole is also a dominant form, while the function of figurative language is to embellish the narrative and describe characters and events. However, this study is still

descriptive in nature and does not emphasize an in-depth analysis of contextual meaning. The difference in this study is in the theory used. In this study, the researcher uses Laurence Perrin's theory of figurative language.

Next, Marseventianti (2022) analyzes the use of figurative language in the poetry of English education students. This study found eight types of figurative language, with hyperbole being the most dominant. Although it is interesting because highlights student creativity, in her study more focuses on the production of figurative language in learning works than in professional literary works. Meanwhile, this study focuses on novels that have gone through a more professional writing and editing process.

The last is Rohmah (2020) analyzes figurative expressions in 12 songs from Haris J's album Salam. The results show that personification is used most often while also expressing Islamic values such as love, peace, and the struggle of life. This study shows how figurative language can expressing and spreading positive aspects of Islam in music. It is different with this study, which highlights novels with themes of war and trauma through symbolism.

## B. Research Question

1. What kinds of figurative languages that are used on Zoulfa Katouh's as Long as the Lemon Trees Grow?
2. What are the figurative meanings on Zoulfa Katouh's as Long as The Lemon Trees Grow?

## C. Objectives of the Study

1. To identify the types of figurative language used on Zoulfa Katouh's as Long as the Lemon Trees Grow.
2. To analyze the figurative meanings on Zoulfa Katouh's as Long as The Lemon Trees Grow.

## D. Significance of the Research

This study is expected to contribute to knowledge about types of figurative language and serve as a reference for readers of the novel As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow in understanding the meaning conveyed through analysis of the novel's narrative. In addition, this study is also expected to give insight for teachers, students, and in general who are interested in learning English, especially in terms of figurative language. The novel and the findings of this study can serve as useful learning resources or to support the learning process.

**E. Scope and Limitation of the Research**

This study focuses on analyzing the figurative language found in Zoulfa Katouh's novel *As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow*, specifically within Chapters 20 to 27. These chapters are intentionally selected because it represents the climax of the narrative, where emotional intensity and thematic tension reach its peak. To maintain analytical clarity, the investigation is limited to figurative expressions articulated by the main character, Salama Kassab, as her perspective serves as the central narrative lens.

The analysis centers on identifying and interpreting various types of figurative language according to Perrine's theory and is not limited to metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, and symbols. In addition, this study examines how these figurative expressions function within both the narrative progression and the conversational interactions experienced by Salama. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, the research aims to provide an in-depth understanding of how figurative language enriches the emotional, stylistic, and contextual depth of the story's climax.

This study is limited to the identifying, classifying, and interpreting the figurative language used within these selected chapters. This study does not cover other works by the same author or similar novels by other authors. The focus of this study is limited to identifying types of figurative language based on Laurence Perrine's theory, without delving into other linguistic or literary theories. Furthermore, this study does not analyze the interpretation of figurative language by the readers. The analysis is limited to the text itself as a literary artifact and it is observed from a literary stylistic perspective through a qualitative lens.

**F. Definition of Key Terms**

To convince readers in understanding this research, the theoretical framework is explained below:

1. **Figurative Language** is the use of linguistic expressions that deviate from their literal meanings to convey additional layers of meaning, create vivid imagery, or express ideas in more imaginative and impactful ways.

2. **Novel** is a literary work in the form of long prose, which presents a story about the lives of fictional characters and their interactions with the surrounding environment. In the context of literature, novels are often considered one of the most complex and profound forms of literature.

3. **Figurative Meaning** is non-literal interpretation of a word or phrase where the meaning deviates from its dictionary definition to convey a concept through analogy, imagery, or emotional effect.