

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses background of the study, research questions, object of the study, scope and limitation of the study, significance of the study, and also the definition of the key terms.

A. Background of the Study

One of the tools for human communication is language. Without language, we cannot communicate with each other. Language is very important in human beings because without language we cannot express our emotions, feelings, and others (Isa et al, 2017; Lusiana et al, 2017). Every aspect of human life using language, such as economic, science, technology, education, and also arts. Language is used widely for communication between people who did not share the same first or even second language (Harmer, 2007).

There are many English Language varieties which are used as a means of communication, including British English, America, etc. Obviously, one language may have terms not found in another language, but it is always possible to invent new terms to express what we mean, anything we can imagine or think, we can express in any human language. In learning and understanding, people do not only understand the form of language, but also the meaning in it (Wilya et al, 2018). People can deliver their thought in many ways until other people understand the meaning of it (Hariyanto, 2017).

The song is one kind of art. Some people use songs to show their feelings and thought. Nowadays, people like listening to music, not only for teens but also for the kids and their parents. There are many kinds of songs. Pop, classic, jazz, *dangdut*, reggae, rock, and others. Everyone has their favorite song. According to Setiawati & Maryani (2018), sometimes there are some implicit meanings in the song lyrics. Song lyrics use uncommon words, compared to the word used in daily conversation. Some songs use unusual words to make the song more enticing.

As most people know, Taylor Swift is a multitalented artist. She is a singer and also an actress. We can know it from several films that she participated in. Besides, she has written and sung her song. She has composed and sung many popular songs among the people. One of them is in her new album, *Lover* that consists of 18 songs. Most of the songs that she wrote are her own experiences. Therefore, most of the listeners enjoyed Taylor Swift's songs. They have their opinion the songs from Taylor Swift very related and truly happened in their lives.

However, Taylor Swift has a unique manner to express her experiences through the songs that she sings. She did not literally show the meaning of the lyrics. Usually, the song consists of figurative language. Figurative language is kind of language that the speakers say less than what they mean. Kennedy (1979) stated that figurative language is a language that uses a figure of speech. One way to delivers something besides its literal meaning. In addition, figure of speech is a way of saying something which has different meaning than its literal meaning and it is often occur whenever a speaker or writer departs from the usual meaning of

the words, for the sake of freshness or emphasis (Kennedy, 1979; Heny Listiani, 2015)

For example, some of Taylor Swift's songs used a figure of speech to make the song more beautiful. So that it is hard to know the real meaning of the songs. Sometimes, as the listener, we have to listen carefully to the lyrics and play it several times to understand the meaning of the song.

Figurative speech has many types. Likewise, Taylor Swift used many kinds of figurative language in her songs. She used kinds of figurative language to reveal her stories in the songs that she sang. For example, in her song, *Red*, She used hyperbole in lyric *It's miserable and magical*. It means that the thing done by her lover is terrible and impressed like magic.

This study was conducted by reviewing some relevant research concerned with figurative language in the song lyric, particularly written by some students. The investigation of the figurative language strategies found in the thesis by Listiani (2015), with title *An Analysis of Figurative Language Found on the Song Lyric by Taylor Swift's "Speak Now" Album*; Arifah (2016), her thesis entitled "*Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song*"; Maftuhah (2018) researched "*Figurative Language in Selected Brian McKnight's Songs (Semantic Analysis)*" and also Hariyanto (2017) in his research entitled *The Analysis of Figurative language Used in the Lyric of Firework by Katy Perry (A Study of Semantic)*.

Listiani (2015) in her study with title *An Analysis of Figurative Language Found on the Song Lyric by Taylor Swift's "Speak Now" Album*, the objective of

her study is to find out the types of figurative languages that is used in the song lyric by Taylor Swift's *Speak Now*. After investigating the sentence in the song lyric, the writer found seven kinds of figurative language, they are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, synecdoche, symbol and oxymoron. The dominant of figurative language that used is hyperbole.

Arifah (2016) in her study about Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song has a purpose to analyze the kinds of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and others. Besides, the researcher also analyzes the meaning of each figurative language in five John Legend's song. After analyzing and discussing the lyrics of the John Legend's songs, the writer conclude that there are many types of figurative language. In this study, hyperbole is the most dominant type of figurative language.

Hariyanto (2017) in his research entitled *The Analysis of Figurative language Used in the Lyric of Firework by Katy Perry (A Study of Semantic)* which focus on analyzing the types of figurative language and the contextual meanings of figurative language used in the song lyric of Firework by Katy Perry. There are some figurative language used in this study such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, affiliation, symbolism, paradox and personification. The writer found the most dominant figurative language that used is symbolism in his research.

Based on Maftuhah (2018), on her thesis entitled *Figurative Language in Selected Brian McKnight's Songs (Semantic Analysis)*, the focus of the study is in the types of figurative language, the meaning of the figurative language found in Brian McKnight's songs, and the types of figurative language that is mostly used

in Brian McKnight's songs. The researcher also uses theory from Laurence Perrine to analyze the data. In this study, the researcher found 5 types of figurative language being used in Brian McKnight's Songs which divided into 37 data. The figurative language that mostly used is hyperbole.

B. Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher states the problem of the study. Hence, the interest of this study to focus on the types of figurative language found in Taylor Swift's *Lover* and how they are contrasted with its lexical meaning.

C. Object of the Study

From the research question of this study, the writer has objects of study. The objects of this study is to find out the the types of figurative language in Taylor Swift's *Lover* and the meaning which contrasted with its lexical meaning.

D. Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is the types of figurative language in Taylor Swift's songs *Lover* album. The writer also describes the meaning of the figurative language in some songs in *the Lover* album. The limitation of this research is that the writer only analyzed the figurative language in Taylor Swift's songs in the *Lover* album.

E. Significance of the Study

When this research complete the writer hopes that this research can give additional knowledge to the readers about figurative language. Besides, the

readers understand the meaning of Taylor Swift's songs in the *Lover* album. After the readers understand figurative language, they can apply it in their daily life.

F. The Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding, the writer wants to give some key terms that may help the readers understand better the content. They are:

1. Figurative

Figurative is a way to tell something with a different meaning. Figurative is something that is not to be interpreted literally.

2. Language

Language is the system of words or signs that people use to express thoughts and feelings to each other. It is also the method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way.

3. Figurative language

Figurative language is word or phrase that does not have a literal meaning that usually uses in every day. It is a language that deviates from the conventional order and meaning in order to convey a complicated meaning, colorful writing, clarity, or evocative comparison.

4. Lexical meaning

Lexical meaning is the meaning of a base or root word without considering any prefix or suffix which may be attached.

5. *Lover*

Lover is the seventh album of Taylor Swift that has been launch in August 2019. 18 songs include it.

6. Taylor Swift

Taylor Swift is an American singer and song writer that was born on December 13th, 1989.