

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the research background, the problem identification, the scope and limitation, the research question, the research objective, and the research contribution.

### 1.1 Research Background

Certainly, the existence of literature has brought a significant impact on humanity, serving as a means to share, exchange, and disseminate information. Over time, literature, including novels, has evolved to become a rich source of knowledge, characterized by its diverse content and stylistic use of language. One notable aspect of this linguistic richness is figurative language, which, as defined by Harya (2016), refers to the utilization of language in ways that transcend the literal. Otherwise, an alternative perspective offered by Wibisono and Widodo (2018), sees figurative language as a tool for expressing one thing while conveying a different meaning, often referred to as figures of speech. In essence, figurative language encompasses non-literal expressions that are not meant to be interpreted in a strictly literal sense. This artistic and nuanced use of language within literature adds depth and layers of meaning to the written word, enhancing the overall experience for readers and fostering a deeper connection between authors and their reader.

Exploring figurative language can be a captivating endeavor, as it demands comprehension beyond the literal. Analyzing figurative language can vary in difficulty, contingent on the individual analyzing it, their approach to contextual

exploration, and their ability to discern the purpose behind the speaker's use of figurative expressions. Although analyzing may become a challenge, it certainly brings beneficial effects for the analyzer and reader in studying figurative language. First is to sharpen critical thinking where the reader has to be sensitive in questioning for searching any context related with any possibility of figurative interpretation. Second is to gain the ability to arrange creative expression where the reader may learn not to use monotonous expression in a particular occasion, such as using figurative language to make it unique and fun. Third is to improve writing ability where the reader may gain the concept and pattern in making unique expressions, especially the pattern to arrange figurative expression in a particular context. Aside from it, the reader also may gain varied unexplored vocabulary. Fourth is to learn to appreciate art and culture because figurative language may come in the form of art and cultural context, for example when an individual uses figurative language to convey emotions: sadness, disappointment, love, and so on. Last is to sharpen the aesthetic and efferent reading in which aesthetic reading refers to the reading that focuses on interpreting meanings based on interests and efferent reading focuses on digging information contained in literature work (Herlina, 2016), especially novels. Overall, analyzing and understanding figurative language enriches our language skills, fosters creativity, and deepens our engagement with written and spoken expressions.

In the novel entitled “The Crossing” written by Manjeet Maan, the use of figurative language promotes stylistic and colorful meanings. The novel simply tells the story between two teenagers from different backgrounds and situations. Natalie is portrayed as a girl who lives in England, together with her brother Ryan, her

father, and her mother who is to be passed away in the story. She is also a type of talented swimmer and has potential to be professional. Otherwise, Sammy or Samuel is portrayed as a boy who lives in Eritrea with his sister Shopia, his mother, and his father working as journalists who experienced something tragic that was murdered by the military regime. Here, the stories provide two different points of view between the girl Natalie from England and the Boy Sammy from Eritrea, they are also told beautifully with poem styles or in a verse novel. This novel is chosen with considerations of language richness including sociolinguistics and culture. One of the dominant elements of stylistic language is the existence of figurative language. For instance: it was found the expression of "I was a rock" which is indicated as a metaphor, "mom was like winter socks" which is a simile, "there's a lump the size of the moon in my throat" which is a hyperbole "dark-grey clouds rage across a starless sky" which is a personification, and many more. "Thus, this novel is very rich in figurative language sources and needs to be analyzed. Therefore, this study focuses on investigation of the uses of figurative language variation and their meanings as well as the contexts attached to them.

## **1.2 Problem Identification**

Based on the contexts in the background, the problems that are examined in this study are as provided bellow:

- 1) There are many figurative languages contained in the novel entitled "The Crossing" by Manjeet Maan that need to be identified.
- 2) There are many pragmatic and nonliteral meanings in figurative language that need to be understood and analyzed.

- 3) There are variations or types of figurative language and one of which can be dominated by certain types.

### **1.3 Scope and Limitation**

This study focuses on investigating, understanding, and analyzing figurative languages and their non literal meanings. The study takes a novel entitled "The Crossing'l" by Manjeet Maan as the subject of this study in which it is identified and analyzed the elements of expressions belonging to figurative language categories. The data collection is analyzed using a qualitative analysis approach and it is converted in the form of table and descriptive analysis.

The limitation of this study also specifically does not encompass outside of figurative language in English literature such as the novel structure, the morals and values of the novel, sociolinguistics elements, semantics analysis, and so on. This study also only focuses on several figurative language such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole, litotes, Irony, paradox, personification, and apostrophe.

### **1.4 Research Question**

There are two research questions that are focused to be answered, those are as follows:

- 1) What type of figurative language is used in the novel entitled "The Crossing" by Manjeet Maan 2021?
- 2) What is the meaning of each figurative language used in the novel entitled 'The Crossing' by Manjeet Maan 2021?

### **1.5 Research Objective**

There are two research objectives that are focused to be achieved, those are as follows:

- 1) To see the type of figurative language used in the novel entitled "The Crossing" by Manjeet Maan 2021.
- 2) To see the meaning of each figurative language used in the novel entitled 'The Crossing' by Manjeet Maan 2021.

### **1.6 Research Significance**

The contributions of this research encompass the theoretical, practical, and empirical contributions. The explanation are as follows:

- 1) Theoretically, the study is expected to have a contribution to understanding of use of figurative language in a particular context and to the goal of science development through literature and linguistics study about figurative language in written English novels.
- 2) Practically, the findings of the study are expected to have a contribution as a reference to understand several expressions of using figurative language in English literature study. It helps many non-English natives to understand the English figurative language and its types when reading or studying English literature, especially poems and novels.
- 3) Empirically, the findings of the study are expected to have contributions as references in the goal of helping the non-English natives to understand the uses of figurative language variation in English literature. It includes the researchers who have the same further terms of research which have different settings, participants or subjects, and research methodologies.