

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents six topics or points related to the study, namely the research background, problem identification, research questions, research objectives, research limitation, and the significances of the research.

1.1 Research Background

As human beings that live in this modern era, it cannot be denied that the nature of human is to communicate to each other in their daily life. Language is one of the crucial tools that can be used by human beings to do this activity, which is called *communication*. Besides being as means to communicate, language is usually used to express people's emotion, thoughts, ideas, feeling, or even their reaction over certain situation that happens in their life. This statement is also supported by Hornby (in Hariyanto, 2017), which he says that language is a non-intensive method of communicating people's ideas, desires, and feelings in the form of sound system, and also sound symbol. The language may represent the implicit and explicit feelings and thoughts carried by the people (Hariyanto, 2017). Then, Hariyanto (2017) adds that language is a tool that people use in their daily life, since it allows people to share and deliver what is going on their mind.

In the process of understanding and learning the language, people do not only learn about how the language is formed, but also the meaning contained in the language itself. According to Hariyanto (2017), there are many ways that people can use to convey their feelings or ideas to other people so they will catch up on the meaning that is being delivered. One of the ways is by using literary work. A song or music is the most outstanding one in order to be the way of conveying one's idea or feeling. Music is a cultural tool which is used in society in order to construct the society's life and reality through song lyrics (Wati, 2014). She then adds that music was once used for the traditional ceremonies or ritual, but by the development of the era, the music changes into an economic thing which can be sold and bought by the people.

Music is a short version of a poem which contains verses and choruses on its lyrics. These lyrics can have various contextual meaning on it, since the lyrics used to convey one's feeling and emotion (Wati, 2014). This becomes the reason why people have different interpretations to understand the meaning of the song itself. In order to interpret the meaning of the song, semantic skill is needed. According to Lyons (in Maulana and Laila, 2017) says that semantic is a branch of linguistics which studies about meaning. So here, semantic concerns on how the meaning is communicated by the speakers and interpreted by the listeners. Besides, semantic focuses on the internal meaning of words, phrases, or even sentences. So by doing semantic analysis, people can focus on the internal meaning of words and sentences.

As it has been known that song is a kind of popular literatures among the society. However, sometimes people find it difficult to understand the meaning of

the song composed by the composers or songwriters. This is because the songwriters do not always convey the meaning of the song literally, but rather it is expressed implicitly. In order to make the meaning to be more aesthetic, the songwriters will use certain ways that suit their style. One of those methods is using figurative language. According to Perrine (in Maulana and Laila, 2017), figurative language is a kind of speech figures which is used to create a special effect or feeling towards the songwriters' idea. Hatch (cites in Hariyanto, 2017) mentions that there are some types of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, allusion, personification, etc.

Related to this topic, there were some researchers who conducted the researches about figurative language in song lyrics in their previous studies. First by Maulana and Laila (2017), they investigated the analysis of figurative language, especially the metaphors in the song lyrics of "The Script", "Katy Perry", and "Michael Buble". In the result, he found 194 data of conceptual metaphor, 60 data of mixed metaphor, and 5 data of poetic metaphor, then described the meaning of it. Another research was conducted by Maftuhah (2018) that investigated the figurative language used in Brian McKnight's songs. She found that there were some kinds of figurative language used in the Brian McKnight's songs. She added that most of dominant figurative language used was hyperbole type of figurative language.

Contrasting to the previous studies, this study focuses on the Marshall Bruce Mathers III (Eminem)'s song lyrics as the main object. If there was a study conducted by Karina (2017) that investigated the use of slangs in Eminem's song lyrics, this study fully focuses on the figurative language which is used in the

lyrics. Eminem's songs are chosen because most of his songs contain a lot of figurative language which is used to represent his real life situation in implicit way. For example, the speech figures which are found in the song "Love the Way You Lie" by Marshall Bruce Mathers III (Eminem) featuring Rihanna. In the lyrics, there is a line which says:

"And right now there's a steel knife, in my windpipe.."

This kind of lyrics belongs to metaphor type of figurative language since Marshall Bruce Mathers III (Eminem) compares his lover's words to a steel knife. A steel knife which happens to be in his windpipe. According to Cambridge Dictionary, windpipe has similar meaning to "trachea". It is usually called "airway" as well, since it carries air from the mouth and throat to the lungs. This lyric is related to the previous one which says:

"I can't tell you what it really is. I can only tell you what it feels like.."

From these lyrics, it can be concluded that if a steel knife sticks inside someone's windpipe, it will be really hurt. It is similar to his situation at that time. He is hurt because of his lover's words toward him and he cannot even say anything to her. Those lyrics will impact the listeners about what the song is going to be about and how Eminem and his lover feel toward each other. Another type of figurative language which can be found is Irony. The lyric is as follows:

"She fucking hates me, and I love it..."

This kind of lyrics belongs to verbal irony. He does not tell the listeners what he really means. It can be said that what he feels inside his heart does not match to what he says. He uses sarcasm to define what he really feels deep inside

his heart. Everybody knows that no one wants to be hated. No one loves how they are being hated by people.

The figurative language can also be found in the song entitled “Mockingbird” released by Eminem in 2004. The song itself is about Hailee, his daughter. He is trying to tell her that he will do anything for her. since he loves his daughter so much. In the song, there is a lyric which says:

“Imma give you the world..”

According to Urban Dictionary (2006), *Imma* is a shortened version of “I am going to.” The hyperbole or overstatement type of figurative language can be found in that lyric. It is because Eminem cannot give his daughter the world. It is an impossible thing to do for a human.

Since there are many types of figurative languages can be found in the song lyrics made by Marshal Bruce Mathers III (Eminem), this study decides to describe the figurative language found in his song lyrics by using semantic analysis approach by holding on to the figurative language theory by Perrine and Tarigan, and the theory of meaning by Leech.

1.2 Problem Identification

Related to the topic above, the researcher states the problems, as follows:

In accordance with the facts in the field, the researcher found that there are many songs that have figurative meanings on it which are difficult to interpret by the listeners, especially for those who have less ability in interpreting the meaning of figurative language. Although they do not understand the intentions which are

conveyed by the singer, some of them still sing and like the song due to the acceptable beat or tone in the listeners' ears.

1.3 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study stated previously, the research questions of this study can be formulated as follows:

- 1) What are the types of figurative language found in Eminem's song lyrics?
- 2) What are the meanings of the figurative language in Eminem's song lyrics?
- 3) Which type of figurative language is most dominantly used in Eminem's song lyrics?

1.4 Research Objectives

Referring to the research questions previously mentioned, the objectives of this study can be stated as follows:

- 1) To identify the types of figurative language used in Eminem's song lyrics.
- 2) To describe the meanings of the figurative language found in Eminem's song lyrics.
- 3) To find out the types of figurative language most dominantly used in those songs.

1.5 Research Limitation

The researcher limits the study to some parts as follows:

- 1) The researcher focuses on the types of figurative language, the meanings of figurative language, the most dominant type of figurative language found in Eminem's song lyrics.
- 2) The researcher investigates the types of figurative language by using Laurence Perrine and Tarigan's theory about figurative language. Besides, the researcher investigates the meaning of the figurative language by using Leech's theory of meaning.
- 3) The researcher chooses twelve songs by Eminem, such as Mockingbird, Rap God, Stan, The Way I am, Beautiful, Lose Yourself, Love The Way You Lie, Till I Collapse, Without me, Monster, Cleanin' Out My Closet and When I am Gone.

1.6 Research Significances

This study has two research significances, namely theoretical and practical significances. The following presents the significances as follows:

- 1) Theoretical Significance

The researcher expects that the students are able to apply Perrine's figurative language theory and Leech's the theory of meaning in analyzing the figurative language and the meaning of it. In the other hand, the researcher also expects that this research will be able to give important information to the readers about the types of figurative language used in

song lyrics, and the meanings of those figurative language in song lyrics especially when it comes to Eminem's songs.

2) Practical Significance

The result of this research is expected to give benefits for the readers in the practice of education, especially for educators or teachers, students, and other researchers.

a. Educators

This research is expected to help educators to know the readers and students' difficulties in analyzing figurative language and help them to solve the problems. Besides, the educators or teachers are expected to create a new innovative strategy in teaching figurative language to help the students in improving their comprehension in analyzing figurative language.

b. Students

This study is expected to give feedback to the students and lead them to do a proper analysis in analyzing the figurative language.

c. Other Researchers

The researcher does hope that this study will be able to be a good reference as a guidance or comparison in writing thesis with similar subject, especially for those who are interested in linguistic study.