

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

One way of communication is through the media. One of them is through music song. A song is basically a message that is conveyed to an audience or in this case a large number of listeners through a particular medium. A writer expresses every experience and feeling through a series of lyrics that are coherent with the author's language to create a beautiful song. Similar to literary works such as poetry, songs can be categorized in terms of the lyrical poem that also require discipline or procedures for writing song language.

Starcke (2010) stated that stylistics is a linguistic discipline in which the way to enjoy literary works is through stylistic studies. In other words, Stylistics is a science that studies the language style of a literary work in bridging the appreciation of literary works through the study of stylistics. Burke (2016) also stated that stylistic is analysis study of texts either in particular, although not exclusively or in literary texts. Meanwhile, Leech & Short (2007) stylistic is the study of style to explain linguistic phenomena in general and literary stylistics either implicitly or explicitly with the aim of explaining the relationship between language and its artistic function.

The main attention of stylistics is style, which is the way in which the speaker or writer expresses his point by using language as a means of which style can be translated as style of language. Style is a distinctive way used by someone to express

themselves personal style. The way of expression can cover every aspect of language: diction, use of figurative language, sentence structure, forms of discourse, and other rhetorical targets. Style refers to the way in which language is used in a given context, by a given person, for a given purpose (Leech & Short, 2007). This indicates that any work, both spoken and written, has its own uniqueness or distinctive style of a person to obtain or achieve certain targets in the form of a beauty effect to attract the attention of listeners or readers.

To identify literary works in terms of style, the researcher conducted the theory of figurative language as one of the useful categories in writing literary works (Leech & Short, 2007). Leech and Short (2007) also stated in stylistics, figurative language is divided into three by virtue of departing in some way from general norms of communication by means of the language code, they are grammatical and lexical, phonological schemes and the last is tropes (a word or expression used in a figurative sense). To express writing in an unusual form or in other words not studied literally is called a figurative language (Perrine, 1974). Compared to Abrams & Harpham (2015) briefly revealed figurative language as capturing standard meanings to achieve certain meanings or effects. Language that previously might sound ordinary with this language style will form new meanings other than lexical meaning that are presented beautifully even though sometimes the language used is not grammatically appropriate. For another reason, figurative language also serves to generate listener responses. Therefore, it can be considered figurative language as one of the categories because the exploitation of regularities of formal patterning or language deviation shows the aesthetic values in literary or non- literary contexts..

Figurative language is interesting to study because the researcher believes that it is difficult to distinguish the types of figurative language, its meaning, and its reasons. One of them is the use of figurative language in song lyrics. There are several reasons why figurative language in song lyrics is important to discuss. This is because songs are part of literary works (poetry) which are included in the imaginative literary genre which is indicated to use a lot of figurative language. In the form of short sentences accompanied by sounds which can explain a lot of meanings. Thus, a deep comprehension is needed to understand what is meant by the lyrics. Figures of speech are used by every song lyricist to add to the aesthetics of a word. Figures of speech are also used to express opinions, feelings and attitudes towards various events. The researcher believes that there are many song listeners, especially in society who do not understand and tend to interpret figurative language literally.

There are many types of figurative language based on experts. Keraf (2016) revealed that there are 16 types of figurative language. Meanwhile, Abrams & Harpham (2015) There are 11 types of figurative language. They directly groups the types of figurative languages based on their features, they are similarity, contradiction, contiguity, and sound. In this case, the focus of this research is figure of similarity, contradiction, and contiguity.

In terms of the effectiveness of work, figurative language can provide several reasons to a literary work which will later be transferred to the reader. Perrine (2018) revealed four reasons of figurative language including affording imaginative pleasure,

bringing additional imagery, adding emotional intensity, and effective means of concentration.

Consciously, figurative language is often spoken by people in everyday conversation. Generally, figures of speech are considered to be used only in literary works. Apart from that, this phenomenon is also often found in songs. It is known that the song is also very closely related to human daily life. Subconsciously, listeners feel amazed and enjoy every lyric that is sung when listeners hear the song. For example, as found on Adele's songs one of them a song entitled "I Set Fire to the Rain" which is its lyric sound "**I throw us into the flames**" in line 25. This lyric contains a form of hyperbole, due to no one normally throwing themselves into the flames. Based on contextual meaning, the lyrics mean that the composer uses this as an expression of forgetting all about relationships by a couple lovers. It is true, most of the songs use figurative language to give a certain meaning to the lyrics. As Abrams & Harpham (2015) stated that figurative language is a deviation from the language used daily, deviations from formal or standard language, deviations in meaning, and deviations from the arrangement (series) of words in order to obtain certain effects or special meanings.

The figurative phenomenon exists in a song popularized by Troye Sivan entitled "Angle Baby", the viral song in 2022 which contains many figures of speech in its lyrics. One of the figures of speech that is used right on the line that reads "**You're my angel, angel baby angle**". In this case the songwriter utilized metaphorical figurative language. According to Keraf (2016) metaphor is defined as a

figurative language that contains an implied comparison that equates one thing with another. Therefore, the songwriter, in the lyric quote, seems to describe humans who are claimed to be an angel as a lover.

A newcomer singer, Olivia Rodrigo is interesting to the researcher in studying further into what language styles are used in selected lyrics in “Sour” album. The song is ranked 10<sup>th</sup> out of her debut album entitled "Favorite Crime". This song was written by Daniel Nigro and Olivia Rodrigo based on a love story experience. She is blinded by love to the point of sacrificing many things that tend to cost him just to be able to stay together and have someone she loves. Songwriters do not forget to include figurative language in certain lyrics to strengthen the message to be conveyed to listeners, as follows.

**Doe-eyed as you buried me**  
(Lyricfind, byte 2 line 2)

The author used **simile** because the lyrics provide the concept of comparing two terms using the word “as”. The singer compared herself to the term "Doe-eyed" which refers to the murder case of "Jane Doe" an unidentified female murder victim against herself as the victim in the statement "you buried me".

Another branch of figurative language such as hyperbole can be found in the song "Brutal". This song is at number one on Olivia Rodrigo's album. This song was released on May 21, 2021. Furthermore, the lyrics of the song Brutal tell about a teenager full of misleading promises. This song is reportedly a recount of Olivia Rodrigo who is learning to adapt in the harsh music industry and describes a teenager's frustration because her sweet dreams have turned into nightmares. One of

the lines of the lyrics that contain hyperbole as an example "**And I'm so caught up in the news**". Keraf, (2016) argued that hyperbole is a style of language that contains statements that are quite excessive and tend to exaggerate things.

Thus, the example of the figurative sentence above will sound very unreasonable or weird. In this lyric, the underlined part that indicates hyperbole includes "**caught up in the news**". It is physically impossible for a person to get caught up in the news, whether news is in the form of a newspaper or magazine, even when "news" is in the form of an abstract noun. As a result, the songwriter tried to imply a situation where the main character in the song is waiting for the certainty of something. Moreover, another lyric in the song such as "**Ego crush is so severe**". Songwriters use this figurative language to add a strong effect and sound more dramatic. The author implied the feelings that the main character of the ego has illustrated such as severe illness.

The previous study as a comparison, the researcher was discovered by Ambalegin & Arianto, (2020) by using Abrams and Harpham and Dancygier & Sweetser (2014) theories. Researchers examined the use of figurative language which contradicts common sense in positive language contexts from data sources these researchers take from public commentaries of Donald J. Trump's tweets on twitter. The researchers found that the most widely used types of figures of similarity include simile, metaphor, allusion, and personification. These researchers concluded that the freedom to express the ideas makes the figures of speech not only to show the "sweet and smooth" language but also "rude" language.

After that, the research conducted by Ardhyanti & Supriyatiningasih, (2020). The researchers analyzed Celine Dion's Song. The research used theory by Kennedy (2007) and the writers use qualitative descriptive methods to analyze the data. In this research, there are two songs that have been analyzed such as **fly** and **falling into you**. The writers have found such figurative language that was used in these two songs as metaphors, symbolism, imageries, simile, and personification.

Previous research mostly examined the types and meaning of figurative language. Meanwhile, the current research examines the types and reasons why writers embed figurative language in lyrics. Apart from that, this research also applies stylistic studies to analyze more clearly from the writer's point of view. The next difference is in the data source, namely the album of Sour by Olivia Rodrigo. This research used figurative language theory by Abrams and Harpham (2015) and Keraf (2016). Meanwhile, in the reasons figurative language was conducted by Perrine (2018).

The present study used the song from the new popular singer, Olivia Rodrigo to find out the types of the figurative language that occurs in the album namely "Sour" and identify the reasons of the figurative language in the song lyrics. According to the case, the writer conducted the research and carried out the study entitled, *Figurative Language Found Through the Selected Lyrics in Olivia Rodrigo Sour Album: Stylistics Approach*.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Creswell & Creswell (2018) stated that the technique to identify all problems occurring based on the background is using identification of the problem. There are some problems which can be analyzed based on previous background of the research as follows.

1. The existence of writing style found on the lyrics in Sour album
2. The misunderstanding of language style on the lyrics of songs in Sour album
3. The types of figurative language by songwriter on the lyrics of Sour album
4. The reasons of figurative language on lyrics of Sour album

## **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

As the focus of the analysis, the researcher attracted two main topics from several identified problems as shown below.

1. The types of figurative language by songwriter on the lyrics of Sour album
2. The reasons of using figurative language on lyrics of Sour album

## **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

The limitation of the problem led the researcher into following questions.

1. What are the types of figurative language applied on song lyrics of album Sour by Olivia Rodrigo?
2. What are the reasons of using figurative language on song lyrics of album Sour by Olivia Rodrigo?

## **1.5 Objectives of the Research**

This study intended to achieve some purposes as stated below.



1. To identify the types of figurative language applied on song lyrics of album Sour by Olivia Rodrigo.
2. To examine the reasons of using figurative language on song lyrics of album Sour by Olivia Rodrigo.

### **1.6 Significance of the Research**

From a theoretical perspective, this research is useful in increasing knowledge in the field of linguistics. How a literary work can be created through language as a medium. In addition, literary works like song lyrics contain figurative language that is interesting to understand because not everyone has mastered the style of language both in definition and its types. Moreover, the intention of the song is also important to connect to.

From a practical perspective, the results of this study will be as an extension in the linguistics field, related to the style or figurative language of lyrical poems. Moreover, the results of this study can be a reference for listeners or readers, especially for students who want to know about the types of language style and the function of language style in English that are applied to certain literary works of interest, specifically one of the lyrics of English songs.

## 1.7 Definition of Key Terms

<b>Stylistics</b>	Study of the devices in literary work as a field of linguistics that focuses on the analysis of language style. (Leech & Short, 2007)
<b>Figurative Language</b>	A conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect. (Abrams & Harpham, 2015).
<b>Lyrics</b>	Lyrics are words that make up a song, usually consisting of verses and choruses
<b>Album</b>	A collection of one or more audio recordings that is presented as a single unit and is typically longer than a single
<b>Sour Album</b>	Sour is the first studio album by American singer-songwriter Olivia Rodrigo.
<b>Metaphor</b>	A word or expression that in literal usage denotes one kind of thing is applied to a distinctly different kind of thing, without asserting a comparison
<b>Hyperbole</b>	Bold overstatement or the extravagant exaggeration of fact or of possibility. It may be used either for serious or ironic or comic effect.