

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of The Problem**

Figurative language is a way to convey something other than the normal way. Figurative is used to express the language style. Figurative language found in daily conversation, television, magazines, newspaper, poems, and novels to beautify the language used in literary works. Perrine (1988) said figurative language cannot be taken literally because it is different from the literal interpretation. Therefore, it needs a deep understanding of figurative language. There are many figurative languages but in this research, the writer is interested in metaphor.

Metaphor is one of the figurative languages. Metaphor becomes a way to understand the basic function of a term through another term, where there are some similarities or correlations between the two terms as Lakoff and Johnson (1980) mentioned. This statement supports that metaphor is related to the comparison. In comparing two objects there must be a main object or topic and symbols. But metaphors are considered difficult especially in understanding the meaning. This is certainly influenced by the background of the reader. Nigel Armstrong (2005: 189) stated that deep attention is needed because the comparison is implicitly spoken and often uses imaginary. Metaphor is an implicit comparison without using the words

"like" or "as" as stated by Beekman and Callow (1974: 127), Larson (1984: 249), Miller (1976: 226), Fraser (1979: 177) and Meolino (1989: 175) in Hasan (2018: 9).

A novel has a wealth of metaphorical expression when it's used a particular figure of speech. Novels are a form of communication in literary works that are conveyed through language. The novel is a medium that conveys the writer's opinion about certain phenomena to the reader through a story. Novels are literary works that cannot be separated from language. The language in the novel has a very high aesthetic value. One of these aesthetic values is called language style. In certain situations, the reader likes the novel because of the author, not because of the story in the novel. This certainly becomes a phenomenon in the world of authorship. Of course, there is something in the author that makes the reader like his works. The answer is because the author has his own characteristics in telling stories or writing novels.

In this research, the novel is the material that the writer examined. This is because the novel is very rich in metaphors that create beautiful language styles. The novel studied was *Tortilla Flat* (1935) is an early John Steinbeck's novel set in Monterey, California. The novel was the author's first clear critical and commercial success. The novel portrays a group of *paisanos*, a small band of errant friends enjoying life and wine in the days after the end of World War I.

The following is an example of a statement which is a metaphor in the novel John Steinbeck, *Tortilla Flat*, they are:

(1) “*He is a grasshopper brain*” (P 33)

(2) “*Danny is a nature God*” (P 12)

Based on this example there is a comparison between *he* and *grasshopper brain* which compare between two items and gives a point of similarity. The concept of *he* is a form of metaphor in *grasshopper brain* concept terms. This shows that *he* is human being, the living thing, and *grasshopper brain* is an animal’s brain which is an object are being compared. In this case, the concept of *he* involves the concept of *grasshopper brain*. In other words, the attribute that *he* has, also had by *grasshopper brain*. *He is a grasshopper brain* is a person who can change the plane easily or unplanned person. It can also be said that someone’s focus or attention jumps unpredictably from a certain subject to random subject, there is no a seriousness in that person. Since a characteristic or attribute of grasshopper is it likes to jump and its brain which is located between its eyes are going after it. Thus, the example above is considered as anthropomorphic metaphor with *he* as the topic of the metaphor, *grasshopper brain* as the image and the meaning as the point of similarity.

In the second example, *Danny is a nature God* can be categorized as a metaphor because there is a comparison between *Danny* and *nature God*. The concept of *Danny* is a form of metaphor in terms of the concept of *nature God*. The term *Danny* is human being as a concrete thing being compared to *nature God* as an abstract thing. Historically, *nature God* represents some of characteristics such as caring, helping, kindness and providing life as many things can be found and used in

nature such as fruits, animals, vegetables, woods, and so on. All of them used by human beings to survive. It is supposed that *Danny is a nature God* means Danny is a person who likes to help other people, who like to donate his wealth or who has angelic heart, however, the characteristic of Danny is not implicitly stated in the novel. Thus, the example above belongs to concrete to abstract metaphor where the topic of the metaphor is *Danny*, the image is *nature God are being compared each other* and the point of similarity is not stated.

The two sentences above contain the metaphor used in the novel *Tortilla Flat* by John Steinbeck is an example of a novelist who is called a metaphorical style writer because his work is full of metaphors. The use of metaphors makes the reader interested in reading the literary work. This research gives readers an understanding about the concept of metaphors, especially those who want to read novels. It can be concluded that metaphor is a topic that the writer wants to be further research.

The writer is interested in analyzing metaphor since it brings people to use language more vary, aesthetic, and unique. It is interested to be analyzed since one of the phenomena that happens today is people tend to use metaphor in daily life, for example, in flirting with someone. This phenomenon usually happened to the teenagers in Indonesia.

## **1.2 Identification of The Problem**

There are many problems can be seen in this research. There are many figurative of speech in novel. The writer only focuses on metaphor. Metaphor can be

found in novels, poem, short stories, films and other. In this research, the writer focuses to find out the types of metaphor and the meanings of metaphor found in novel.

### **1.3 Limitation of The Problem**

Metaphorical expressions can be analyzed from poetry, short story, movies, and others. But, in this research, the writer only focuses on the novel. The writer limits the study of the types of metaphorical expressions and their function in the novel. The data can be taken from metaphoric expression in *Tortilla Flat* novel by John Steinbeck.

### **1.4 Formulation of The Problem**

In this research the writer formulated two questions to conduct the study as follow:

1. What types of metaphors are found in *Tortilla Flat* novel by John Steinbeck?
2. What are the meaning of metaphor found in *Tortilla Flat* novel by John Steinbeck?

### **1.5 The Purpose of The Research**

The purpose of the study about metaphor as follows:

1. To find out types of metaphors used in *Tortilla Flat* novel by John Steinbeck.

2. To find out the meaning of metaphor in *Tortilla Flat* novel by John Steinbeck.

### **1.6 Significance of The Research**

This research is expected to provide benefits, both practically and theoretically:

1. Theoretical Benefits

This research is theoretically expected to provide more detailed about scientific information of the types and meanings of metaphors in the novel *Tortilla Flat* by John Steinbeck

2. Practical Benefits

Analyzing the use of metaphors in the novel *Tortilla Flat* is expected to be useful:

- a) For readers, the results of the analysis are expected to inform the types of metaphors and their meaning in the novel *Tortilla Flat* by John Steinbeck.
- b) For students, the results of the analysis are expected to be able to understand and assess literary works based on their language style, especially the use of metaphors in the novel.
- c) For further researchers, the results of analysis are expected to be a reference material for researchers who wish to examine research topics relevant to this research.