

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Figurative language deviates significantly from what language users understand as the usual meaning of words, or the standard arrangement of words, in order to produce a specific meaning or effect (Abrams, 1999). “Figurative language was supposed to be one facet of what gives a text-in-particular, a poetic text-special aesthetic value,” as stated by Dancygier and Sweetser (2014). Figurative language uses figures of speech to become more effective, persuasive, and imaginative. Figure of speech such as metaphors, similes, hyperbole, personification, alliteration are outside the literal meanings of the words to give the reader new insights.

One of the figurative languages is metaphor. 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. Nowadays, figurative language including metaphor has been used in dialogue, narrative text even in movie dialogue. This is interesting because most of that movie's dialogues have been more sparkling by the use of metaphor. Metaphor could be found in many kinds of movie genres, romantics, science fiction, detective, horror, comedy, thriller, drama, adventure even in a mystery movie. Also, metaphor becomes the lucky

charm to attract the audience.

Definitely, there are many kinds of movies and they have interesting things to be the object of research. The writer is interested to take the metaphor research on the British-Regency era's movie which is the movie series of *Bridgerton*. *Bridgerton* is an American period drama series based on Julia Quinn's novels set in the competitive world of Regency Period London's ton during the season of debutantes. The story is set in Regency-era London in 1813, and it revolves around the noble Bridgerton family. Violet, Dowager Viscountess Bridgerton, is the mother of eight children: Anthony, Benedict, Colin, and Gregory, the sons, and Daphne, Eloise, Francesca, and Hyacinth, the daughters. The Featheringtons, including Portia, Lady Featherington, her husband, the Baron, and their three daughters, Philippa, Prudence, and Penelope, as well as their intriguing cousin Marina Thompson, are also featured. Actress Julie Andrews, who plays Lady Whistledown, the nameless and ever-scandalous newsletter columnist, narrates each episode.

By today's standards, *Bridgerton* contains some words and phrases that are out of date. As a period piece, the exhibition represents not only the regency era's culture and fashion but also its language. Though the majority of what the characters say is intelligible, there are a few terms and phrases (metaphors) that may be confusing. It is interesting to examine how the figurative language, in this case, metaphors used in the previous century by the character in this movie, is presented in the year of 2020. Due to more than 100 year gap between the setting of the movie and the time when it is shown

in the cinema, the metaphorical expression used may be difficult for today's viewers. That is why this study of the metaphors used in the movie is important to reveal the dynamic of metaphorical expression over a long time period.

1.2 Research Questions

This research aims to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the types of metaphors used by Lady Whistledown in *Bridgerton* movie series?
2. What is the meaning of metaphors used by Lady Whistledown in *Bridgerton* movie series?

1.3 Purposes of The Research

The purpose of this research is to analyze metaphorical expressions showed by Lady Whistledown in *Bridgerton* movie series. From *Bridgerton*, there are eight movies that showed Lady Whistledown utterances that can be analyzed to find out the type and the meaning of metaphor used by her.

1.4 Limitation of The Research

The writer decides to only focus on the metaphorical expression used by Lady Whistledown in the movie and their meaning even though this movie can be discussed from other perspectives.

1.5 Significance of The Research

The significance of this research is the movie contains many metaphorical expressions in each episode. *Bridgerton* movie series is released in 2020. Therefore, there are no other studies about this movie. The writer considers it is important to study metaphorical expressions and the meanings from this movie series. The result of the study also can give benefits to readers and other researchers.

1. For Reader

Through this research, the reader will be able to know about metaphor, especially in British Regency Era, and its meaning.

2. For Researcher

Through this research, people can improve their knowledge about metaphor, and the writer also hopes that this study can be a reference for the readers so they can get advantage and knowledge from this recent study.