

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

The series of several combinations of words used will usually form a song consisting of several stanzas that will form the lyrics. Song lyrics are one of the determining factors in the success of a song. The reason is, even though it has a beautiful melody but the lyrics of the song are not good, of course, this can damage the song as a whole. Therefore, before making song lyrics, a writer needs to understand the language features that must be used or implemented. In a song lyric, often the language features used are figurative language, so the meaning of the lyrics cannot be understood literally. Where people need to interpret the meaning of the words in it.

In the lyrics of the song, there are many meanings that can be interpreted. There are several branches of linguistics that are popularly known to people, including semantics which studies a meaning in language. According to Griffith (2006) semantics is the study of the meaning of words and the meaning of sentences, abstracted from the context of use used. Griffiths further states that semantics is the study of a "toolkit" for meaning: the knowledge that is encoded in language vocabulary and in its patterns to construct more complex meanings, down to the level of sentence meaning.

In this thesis, the researcher will examine the meanings contained in the lyrics of the song lyrics of one of the old singers, namely Richard Marx. He was born with the birth name "Richard Noel Marx". He was born on September 16, 1963 in Chicago, Illinois. Richard Marx is known as a contemporary and pop rock singer, songwriter,

musician, and record producer. All songs performed by Richard Marx have a very deep meaning in the song. Richard Marx is also famous for his songs which contain the beauty of words and uses his sensitivity to express his imaginative feelings. The most famous song is "Here Waiting". In addition, this thesis will also examine the types of figurative language contained in the lyrics of Richard Marx's songs.

(Abrams, 1999) stated figurative language is a striking deviation from what language users understand as the standard meaning of words, or the standard sequence of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect. This means that figurative language is a way of expressing oneself or a word in an unusual way or that does not use a strict or realistic meaning of the word. Generally, in comparison and exaggeration, it is usually used to add creative development to written or spoken language or to explain complex ideas. The author will focus on analyzing the types of figurative language using Laurence Perrine's theory, ex. simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, hyperbole, and others.

Many studies of figurative language have been carried out by several researchers, one of which is Sharndama & Suleiman (2013) studying the analysis of figurative language in two traditional funeral songs of the Kilba tribe in Adamawa state. The researcher found by identifying the figurative language commonly used in Kilba's funeral song performance, discussing the influence of the figurative language used in Kilba's funeral song performance on the audience, to draw conclusions about how figurative language varies from ordinary or everyday language.

Figurative language is usually found in novels and poetry, figurative language can also be found in a song. Song is an example of a literary work. Songs as musical works with sung words have the function to express thoughts, ideas, and feelings. Songs have two elements, such as lyrics and music. When listening to a song, sometimes people don't focus on the lyrics used in a song. Usually, people like the song because of the singer or maybe the music is good. And sometimes when people try to focus on the lyrics, they will find some difficulty in understanding the meaning of the lyrics of the song. Especially if the lyrics use figurative language. Whereas basically knowing the meaning of a lyric is very important so that the message the songwriter wants to convey can be understood by the listener. Therefore, one way to find out the true meaning contained in figurative language is to use semantic analysis.

Based on the description above, the writer is interested in analyzing the types of figurative language, the meaning of figurative language used and which figurative language is the most dominant in the song because almost everyone likes to listen to the song. Many people who listen to a song without understanding the meaning and intent of the song. In fact, every song has a meaning or message to be conveyed to the listener. Therefore, in this study the data will be taken from songs, especially Richard Marx's songs. The author chooses Richard Marx's songs because the songs are meaningful and pleasant to hear. The lyrics of the song are also usually poetic so that the writer can find many figurative languages contained in the lyrics of the song. Therefore, the writer is interested in finding figurative language in Richard Marx's song lyrics.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the explanation above, the researcher observed several song lyrics that used figurative language. Therefore, the researchers found a problem with the lyrics of the song. Researchers divide it into two research questions as can be seen below:

1. What are the types of figurative language used in the song lyric by Richard Marx?
2. What is the meaning of the figurative language used in the song lyric by Richard Marx?

1.3 Purpose of the Research

The purpose of this study is to find out the answers to the questions above, so there are three research objectives in this text. The research objectives can be set as follows:

1. To identify the types of figurative language used in the Richard Marx song lyrics.
2. To identify the meaning of the figurative language used in the song lyric by Richard Marx.

1.4 Limitation of the Research

In this study, the researcher focuses on the types of figurative language and the meaning of the figurative language contained in Richard Marx's songs. In addition, the author will not analyze the background of the songwriter.

1.5 Significance of the Research

Partially, this research is expected so that listeners can understand a song lyric that uses figurative language. The author also hopes that readers will know the types and meanings of the figure of speech in Richard Marx's songs so that when readers listen to Richard Marx's songs, they will know the meaning of each lyric in Richard Marx's songs. Hopefully, this research can provide information to anyone to analyze Richard Marx's songs more clearly and deeply. Finally, this research gives importance to semantic class. This will help students in semantics class to analyze the types of figurative language and figurative language concepts that are often used in semantics. In addition, this research contributes to other researchers who are interested in conducting this research for further research in this field.