

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

UNIVERSITAS ANDALAS

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is one of the important things in human life. As a human being, people use language to communicate to each other because it is related to human daily activities. Furthermore, language is an important instrument of social interaction. Through language, someone can also express his or her feeling or idea.

As proposed by Barnwell in his book "*Introduction to semantics and Translation*" he defined the most important thing of communication as "The function of language is to communicate meaning of various kinds" (1980:3). Language is used to express meaning both literal and non-literal meanings. Meaning not only can be derived from hearing or reading something at once, but also by interpreting the intended meaning or hidden meaning behind it based on the context situation.

According to Perrine in his book "*Literature: Structure, Sound, and Sense*" figurative language is a figure of speech a way of adding extra dimensions to language. (1977:61) It is used by poets because figurative language can say what they want to say with interesting expression meaning by implicit and attractive rather than say it directly and flat way. Figurative language makes a poem becomes more imaginative, attractive and adds the intensity of the poets' feeling for poetry to

convey their attitude. Moreover, figurative language is not used only in the poetry. This can be applied in the song lyric also.

A song lyric, as a part of literary work which is uses literary language and ambiguously words. "As Perrine said in his book "Literature: *Structure, Sound, and Sense*"(1997:6), literature is kind of art, usually written, that offers pleasure and illumination. Later on, most of lyrics use figurative and ambiguous language to simulate a certain image. It affects the language beauty of work in both oral and written. It is a poet that pronounced with rhyme, tone, bars, and melody accompanied by music

Song is one of the ways to express someone's feeling that could be seen, heard and experienced. Song writers express their feelings by using a play of words and languages to create an attractiveness to the song's lyrics. Song becomes a part of human life and stick in their mind, because the song is easy to be found and the lyrics can be a interesting way to express the feeling. Song can be found in television, radio or been downloaded for smartphone. You can hear the song while you go to a salon, market or coffee shop, etc. Song is not only to entertain, but also can inspire people with the music and the lyric. There are many expressions that song writer make from their song, such as sad song, love song, inspire song and many more that make the people easy to express the feeling. Sometimes, when someone is sad and feeling down in their life, they will listen to the happy song which can change their mood.

A songwriter or a poet uses connotative and figurative to make appeals and the specifics of the song lyrics. The listeners can have different interpretations for

each lyric depends on the background of the listener or their knowledge. Song writers create a song with beautiful words and choose certain words to present the imagination. Some songs writers will prevent to use the usual words to write a lyric because it will not attract the listener to imagine and reveal the message between the songs. Figurative language will produce interesting meaning, but difficult to be interpreted in a literary sense completely and perfectly. Figurative cannot be separated from writer's ways or technique to express, reflect, and describe his or her song lyrics.

Yule stated that pragmatics is the study of speakers mean or 'speaker meaning'(2006:112). It means that pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader). Levinson explains that "Pragmatics is the study of the relation between that language and context are basic to an account of language understanding" (1983:21).

Pragmatics is a branch of linguistics that concerns with study of meaning between language and context used in social world and need knowledge to understanding. Pragmatics deals with communication between speaker and listener. So, the utterance which is spoken by the speaker should be interpreted by the listener. This research focuses on the study of figurative language in Owl City's songs. The data is analyzed by using Perrine's theory of figurative language.

Owl City is an American electronica project created in 2007 in Owatonna, Minnesota. It is one of several projects by singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Adam Young. The genre of Adam Young's songs is Electronica,

Synthpop, Indie Rock, Pop Music, and Christian Electronic Dance Music. Young Owl City developed the project while experimenting with music in his parent's basement. Owl City developed his followers on the social networking site MySpace, like many musicians who achieved success in the late 2000s, before signing with Universal Republic Records, and now Republic Records since 2008.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, this research attempts to study about the kinds of figurative language that is used in Owl City's songs. The writer focuses her study on this main problem:

1. What are the types of figurative language that is used in Owl City's song lyrics?
2. What the dominant type of figurative language that is used in Owl City's song lyrics?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Generally, by conducting this study, the research analyzes the type of figurative language used in Owl City's song lyrics. This is due the fact that the study of figurative language used in Owl City's songs has not been researched yet.

1.4 Scope of the Study

There are many linguists who propose the kinds of figure of speech. All of them are interesting to be discussed since it has commonly found in novels, short stories, articles, and books. In this thesis, the writer focuses on four figurative languages from ten kind of it, which are: metaphor, simile, metonymy, hyperbole, symbol, allegory, paradox, understatement and personification. Those figurative languages are familiar to the writer and widely found as general figurative language in the song lyrics.

The writer also limits the data, and focuses on 4 lyrics of Owl City's song. They are: Fireflies, To the Sky, Hot Air Balloon, and Vanilla Twilight.

1.5 Method of the Study

The source of data in this research is Owl City's song lyrics. The data are taken from <http://metrolyrics.com>, which are downloaded from the internet. Besides, the writer also listens to the songs itself. The writer choose 4 lyrics from 10 best song of Owl City on billboardat 2011. Second, the writer reads the lyrics. In the process of reading, the writer takes a note to see the figurative language in those song lyrics. And then, the writer underlines the figurative language. Third, the writer grouped the types of figurative language, such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, and understatement.

In this research, the writer uses the methods and techniques that proposed by Sudaryanto (1993). The research consists of three steps of linguistic research, which

are collecting the data, analyzing the data and the last presenting the result and finding of the analysis.

In collecting the data, the writer uses an observational method by Sudaryanto (1993: 133). In this research, the writer does not take a part in the lyrics, but listens and observes the song by using non-participant observational technique. Then, the writer read the lyrics and try to identify and underline the figurative language that found in the lyrics.

The next step is analyzing the data. The writer uses the pragmatics identity method and referential method (Sudaryanto, 1996: 15). Pragmatics identity method is used to analyze the dialogue based on the context and the context is derived from the lyrics of the songs. Then, referential method is used to analyze the data as the speaker from the lyrics that supposed with the song of the Owl City as the context.

There are two steps are used in analyzing the data. First, the writer analyzes the lyrics of the songs and finds the figurative language based on the context by using Perrine (1983) about the type of figurative language. Second, the writer interprets the meaning of figurative language. Later on, the writer analyze the types of figurative language based on the theories proposed by Beekman and Callow (1974), Perrine (1983), and Carter (2003). The writer interprets the intended or the hidden meaning of the figurative language through the guidance of the context based on Yule's theory (1996).

The last step is presenting the result of analysis. In this step, the writer used formal and informal method (Sudaryanto, 1993: 145). Informal method means the

way of presenting the data by using words or statement (verbal language). It aims to help the writer to be easier in giving explanation about this research. Meanwhile, formal method means the result of analysis is presented in the form, sign and symbol (Sudaryanto, 1993: 145).



