CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Style in using language often makes someone becomes unique or idiosyncratic and different comparing to the others. The unique style that someone has in using language has taken a part in linguistic analysis known as stylistics. In fact, stylistics cannot be defined as simple as “the study of style”, since style is a broad term. In brief, stylistic is a study of language use by someone or a group of people who shares similar characteristics. Simpson affirms that stylistics is “a method of textual interpretation in which primacy of place is assigned to language” (Simpson, 2004:2). Simpson’s statement leads people to an idea that language is one thing that a stylistician should be concerned with. Anything which is related to language such as words, sentences, and others is very important in analyzing a text using stylistic method.

The goal of stylistics is to seek the characteristic of someone’s speech or writing or a group’s characteristics of language use. Crystal and Davy claim that the aim of stylistic is to “analyze language habits with the main purpose of identifying, ... to explain, where possible, why such features have been used” (2013:10). In addition, Simpson affirms that “to do stylistics is to explore language, and more specifically, to explore creativity in language use” (2004:3). By that means, stylistic analysis is precious for linguistic studies since it deals
with language use and creativity. Someone’s creativity in using language will enrich the knowledge of the language itself.

Thus, a stylistician could analyze the style of J. K. Rowling in her Harry Potter’s novels, or the style of Shakespeare in his Hamlet to find their idiosyncratic characteristic in writing their novel. In addition, a stylistician could also identify the language use by a person that comes from certain social background, such as the style of language in African American movie.

Related to the style of language used in African American movie, a movie entitled The Wiz is a good example. The Wiz is a movie adapted from a classical children literature The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (1900) by L. Frank Baum. The Wiz was released in 1978 and directed by Sydney Lumet. The main story of this movie is still similar with the novel, the adventure of Dorothy and friends to meet Oz.

Interestingly, the thing that makes The Wiz special is because it is considered as the African American movie. There are some famous African – American singers taking their part in this movie, such as Diana Ross as Dorothy, Michael Jackson as The Scarecrow, and many more. Almost all of the cultural content has been transformed into African American culture such as songs and dances. The setting in this movie has been moved from Kansas to the Harlem place in Manhattan, which is known as the place for the African Americans to live at that time. Equally important, the dialogue in this movie mostly has been transformed into African – American Vernacular English (AAVE), which is very rare to be found in a movie at that time.
The Wiz is an African–American Movie which is also known as one of Blaxploitation movie. The term Blaxploitation is coined by Junius Griffin to name the African American movie which is made to change people’s thoughts about the African Americans (Lee Dupree, 2014). Blaxploitation movie is usually characterized by the “honest” description of African American’s life, casting by African American stars, and putting all the stereotypes of African American into the movie. This genre is made to uncover the real African American in hope that the viewer could accept them.

Unfortunately, it seems that people do not pay much attention to this movie. The Wiz received many critics. In fact, there are many things that deserve to be analyzed such as the cultural transformation from the novel into the movie, and the language style used by the screenwriter in the movie’s dialogue. As an African American movie, the dialogue in the movie deserves to be analyzed. In fact, the way the screenwriter uses the language is unique. The choice of words that the screenwriter made is mostly idiosyncratic, such as flimflamming, 86ing, and others. The conversation becomes more alive and attractive because of the choice of words he made. Thus, this research analyzes the lexico–grammatical features of African American movie entitled The Wiz by Lumet.

1.2 Research Questions

The screenwriter’s language style in this movie triggers some questions which is interesting to be analyzed. Thus, this research attempts to answer the questions below:
a. What are the lexico–grammatical features as attempted to be revealed by the screenwriter through the characters in the movie?

b. What are the effects of the stylistic features in enhancing the literary meaning of the movie?

1.3 Objective of the Research

Relating to the question above, the writer divides the objective of this research into two parts as follows:

a. To identify the lexico–grammatical features as attempted to be revealed by the director through the characters in the movie

b. To uncover the effects of the stylistic features in enhancing the literary meaning of the movie

1.4 Scope of The Research

In this research, the writer analyzes the utterance made by all the characters. Each character’s utterance is analyzed by focusing on the lexico semantic level and the grammatical level and applying the theories from Leech and Short, Leech, and Green and Rickford. The lexico semantic analysis is limited to the figurative language only. Since The Wiz is a musical movie, the utterances that are analyzed are limited only to the non-musical speech.
1.5 Methods of the Research

Every research needs methods as the step to do the research. Litosseliti (2010:2) argues that “research methods are inextricably linked with the research questions being asked”. It means that in answering research questions, a researcher needs method(s) as the way to complete the research. Sudaryanto (1998:57) divides linguistic research methods into three steps as follows:

1.5.1 Collecting the Data

The data is collected by using observational method and note-taking technique. The technique that is used in doing the observational method is non-participant observational technique. It is applied since the data are found from a movie’s dialogue, so that the writer does not participate directly when the data happens. The writer watches The Wiz movie several times to understand the content of the movie and listens to the conversation. Then, the writer downloads the movie script from “Springfield! Springfield!” website. Next, the script is edited and rearranged so it is easier to be read. After that, the writer reads the script comprehensively for several times. While reading the script, the writer applies the note-taking technique and tries to find the lexico-semantic and grammatical features by highlighting the script and taking note. Last, the data will be categorized into the main categories namely lexico-semantic features and grammatical features of AAVE.

1.5.2 Analyzing the Data

After the data are collected, they are analyzed by applying the theory by Leech and Short, Leech, and also Green and Rickford. The data that have been
categorized are grouped into some subcategories based on the theories. This step is done by applying the distributional method. The distributional method is done by using some technics namely substitutional technique. In applying the substitutional technic, the object in the data is substituted with the literal meaning to see whether it is appropriate or not. After finding out the types of lexico – semantic and grammatical features in the script, the next step is explaining the effect of the features and its contribution for the text interpretation.

1.5.3 Presenting the Data

After the data are analyzed, the result of the analysis from each features is explained. In this step, the formal and informal methods are applied. As in other research which use the formal method, the whole data analysis is presented in the form of table, some symbols are used in the table as well. In the analysis, there are some charts that is presented to summarize the findings. Beside the charts, the informal method is also used in explaining the findings and analysis. Each feature is discussed and some sample of the features are explained. The whole data is attached in the appendix.