

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Figurative language is commonly used in poem or song lyrics. Hornby (1974, p.822) stated that song lyric is a short poem in a number of verses set to music to be sung which contain figurative language. The songwriters or composers usually beautify the language they use by any figurative language so that the listeners will be more attracted to listen to the song. Listening song is an enjoyable activity, but the listeners cannot get a pleasure if they don't understand the figurative language that commonly found in the song lyric.

Song lyric is categorized into the literary work which refers to imaginative literature Hornby (1974). It is imaginative since it is a creation of the songwriters at some time in history, and it is intended to speak to other human beings about some ideas or issues that have human relevance. To understand the society or what human being experiences in life, as Culler (1997, p.3) stated that the features of literature in song lyric is a body of thinking that is exceedingly hard to define literally. It follows from the willingness of readers to pay attention, to explore uncertainties in this sample of literary work.

Furthermore, Klarer (1999, p.27) states that poetry is related to the term "lyric," which originate etymologically from the Greek musical instrument "lyra" ("lyre" or "harp") and points to an origin in the sphere of music. In other words, lyric is related to poetry or poem with music or tone (instrument) which is called song. Song has many genres; there are jazz, rock, pop, traditional, blues and etc.

Muse is a famous English rock band from Teignmouth, Devon, formed in 1994. Muse is known for their energetic and extravagant live performances and their fusion of many music genres, including space rock, progressive rock, alternative rock, symphonic rock, and electronica. Muse has released six studio albums from 1999 to 2013. Muse has also won a collection of music awards throughout their history, including five MTV Europe Music Awards, six Q Awards, eight NME Awards, two Brit Awards—winning "Best British Live Act" twice, an MTV Video Music Award, four Kerrang! Awards and an American Music Award. They were also nominated for five Grammy Awards, of which they won Best Rock Album for *The Resistance*. As of June 2012, Muse has sold over 15 million albums worldwide.

Based on the above reason, the writer is interested to analyze the figurative language that occur in Muse's song lyrics since it contains lots of human life experiences and moral lessons, such as freedom, equality, and other social issues. Particularly, Muse songs have attracted million fans worldwide, and the lyrics which contain figurative language should be interpreted in order to get more pleasure in the listening of the songs. The writer will analyze the type of figurative language based on the figurative language theory by Kennedy (1983).

1.2 Identification of the Problem

This research focuses on:

1. What types of figurative language found in Muse's song lyrics?
2. What are the meanings of the figurative language found in Muse's song lyrics?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The first objective of this study is to identify the types of figurative language found in Muse song lyrics. By identifying the types of figurative language found in this song lyrics, the writer will know the typical figurative language frequently used in their lyrics and show the existence of figurative language in the song lyrics. The second objective of this study is to interpret the meaning of figurative language found in Muse song lyrics. After interpreting the meaning of figurative language, it is expected that the moral messages contained in the song lyrics may be intelligible.

1.4 Scope of the Study

In this study, the writer only focuses on analyzing the kinds of figurative language from the song lyrics in *Black Holes and Revelations* album. The writer chooses *Black Holes and Revelations* because almost all the songs from this album contain figurative language such as metaphor, alliteration, hyperbole, and other. In this study it contains lots of human life experiences, moral lessons, freedom, equality, and political issues. The writer uses the data from 11 songs in *Black Holes and Revelations* album lyrics. Then, the meaning of each figurative language will be interpreted by its context.

1.5 Method of the Study

In conducting this research, the data is taken from the 11 songs of *Black Holes and Revelations* album. The writer will also collect the other sources related to the history of this Muse Band Music as it may provide additional information in

making interpretation of the figurative language used in the song lyrics. The writer follows three steps of research procedures.

Firstly, the data collect by downloading Muse song in the form of mp3 on the internet and the writer also downloaded the lyrics. The name of the website is azlyrics.com. *Black Holes and Revelations* album will be selected for this study. The reason for choosing this album is because *Black Holes and Revelations* has human life experiences, moral lessons, freedom, equality, and political issues meaning behind it. The lyrics cover the topics as varied as political corruption, alien invasion, revolution and New World Order conspiracies as well as more conventional love songs. From 32 datas, the writer found 11 kinds of fogure of speech, *repetition, idiom, hyperbole, symbol, metaphor, paradox, personification, irony, oxymoron, sarcasm, and parallelism.*

Secondly is analyzing the data. The writer identifies and categorizes the song lyrics based on the types of figurative language. The types division refers to the theory of figurative language proposed by Kennedy (1983). The figurative language consists of metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, onomatopoeia, symbol, sarcasm, repetition, parallelism, and cliché. Then, the meaning of each figurative language found in the song lyrics is interpreted by applying pragmatic identity method since it needs context in making the interpretation.

Lastly is presenting the result of data analysis. The data will be in the form of figurative language found in the song lyrics in the *Black Holes and Revelations* album. In the analysis chapter, they are presented in accordance with the sequent data appeared in the songs. They will be categorized into the types of figurative

language and the interpretation of meaning for each figurative language that will be elaborated. Lastly, the finding will be recapitulated in the form of the table.

Based on the explanation above, this study uses qualitative approach to describes the kinds, messages and the general meaning of figurative language used in Muse's song lyrics. In line with the description above, the design of this research is categorized into semantic content analysis. Content analysis in literary work relies on three important assumptions of literary works. The first is objectivity. It is gone through theoretical building in the form of reliable construct analysis. The second is systematic, to be systematic has to exploit clear methods and steps. Meanwhile, the third is generalization.

