

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Figurative language is a way to say an implied meaning. Rozakis (1995, p. 28) affirmed that figurative language is a way of saying one thing by means another. Figurative language has a big role to make a language more beautiful to be read and also to be listened. When a sentence contains figurative language, what is written is not the actual meaning. It makes the meaning of a sentence is not easy to understand. The sentence becomes more beautiful because of the richness of the meaning.

Figurative language is usually found in poem, novel, short story, newspaper, advertisement, etc. The existence of figurative language within the text gives a beautiful sense in the words. The words can be attractive as needed for commercial such as newspaper and magazine. The meaning becomes rich because of figurative language. Therefore, poem is a group of beautiful words even if it is written in a short verse.

Song lyrics have a similar pattern with poem. Hornby (1974, p. 822) affirmed that song lyric is a short poem in a number of verses set to music to be sung. Most of song lyrics also contain with figurative language. As we know, song is very familiar in human life as history of them develops until this modern era. Song has no limit of age, in case young, adult, even kid, most of them are not a stranger for song. Songs have so many variations which make them become unlimited entertainment for

society. One of factor that influences richness of a song as a pleasure tool is the adding unusual way to send the message, it can be figurative language.

Figurative language in song lyric can be an attractive object to find what the meaning behind it. The researcher chose figurative language as the topic of the research because figurative language is there in many aspect of life such as song which is familiar in society. It is the importance of figurative language to guess the meaning. The listeners will listen occasionally to find out the aim that song tries to tell. The people who listen to the song will not easy to get bored because figurative meaning gives a different sense which commonly spoken in daily life.

There are many song lyrics containing figurative language. Coldplay is a British pop-rock band formed in 1996 and consists of four members. In 2000, the band became popular after the song “Yellow” was released. Their debut album *Parachutes* was nominated for the Mercury Prize in the same year. They produced seven albums until now and have received many awards. They have sold more than 100 million records worldwide, making them one of the world’s best-selling music artists.

Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends, often mentioned as simply Viva la Vida is one of the best albums of Coldplay according to NME music magazine. This album has won Grammy Award for Best Rock Album of 2009. It was the best-selling album of 2008. By 2011, the album had sold more than 10 million copies. Lyrically, the album contains references to love, life, death and war. Therefore, this research wants to study about figurative language especially in song lyrics of Coldplay album

entitled “Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends”. In this album, there are some types of figurative language in the lyrics. The following are the examples of song lyrics that consist of figurative language:

1. To the sea I offer this heavy load
2. You might be a big fish
3. I don't want to follow death and all his friends

There are many previous researchers have been conducted the research about figurative language in song lyrics. The differentiation between the previous researchers and this research is the source of data. The data of this research are taken from songs in Coldplay album “Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends” while the previous studies took the data from other sources. This research uses Laurence Perrine’s theory (1973) to analyze the types of figurative language. The title of this research is *Figurative Language in Song Lyrics of Coldplay’s Album Entitled “Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends”*.

## 1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background above, this research studies about the types of figurative language which is found in the song lyrics of Coldplay’s album, entitled “Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends”. Therefore, the problems that will be discussed in this research are expressed through the next questions as follows:

1. What are the types of figurative language in the song lyrics of Coldplay album entitled “Viva la Vida”?

2. What are the meaning of each figurative language related to the contextual meaning in the song lyrics of Coldplay album entitled “Viva la Vida”?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

Generally, the research is conducted with some purposes. Based on the research question above, this research’s objectives as follows:

1. To analyze the types of figurative language that are found in the song lyrics of Coldplay’ Album entitled “Viva la Vida”.
2. To study the meaning of each kind of figurative language found in the song lyrics of Coldplay album entitled “Viva la Vida”.

### **1.4 Scope of the Study**

This research focuses on figurative language in song lyrics. According to NME music magazine, Viva la Vida is the best album of Coldplay. This album has won Grammy Award for Best Rock Album of 2009. It was the best-selling album of 2008. By 2011, the album has sold more than 10 million copies. Lyrically, the album includes orientations to love, life, death and war. The scope of this study is to analyze the types of figurative language expression, and to study the meaning of figurative expression found in the song lyrics of Coldplay album entitled “Viva la Vida”. They are Cemeteries of London, Lost!, 42, Lovers in Japan, Yes, Viva la Vida, Violet Hill, Strawberry Swing, Death and All His Friends. This research analyzes the types of figurative language based on Laurence Perrine’s theory (1973) and meaning in Semantics.

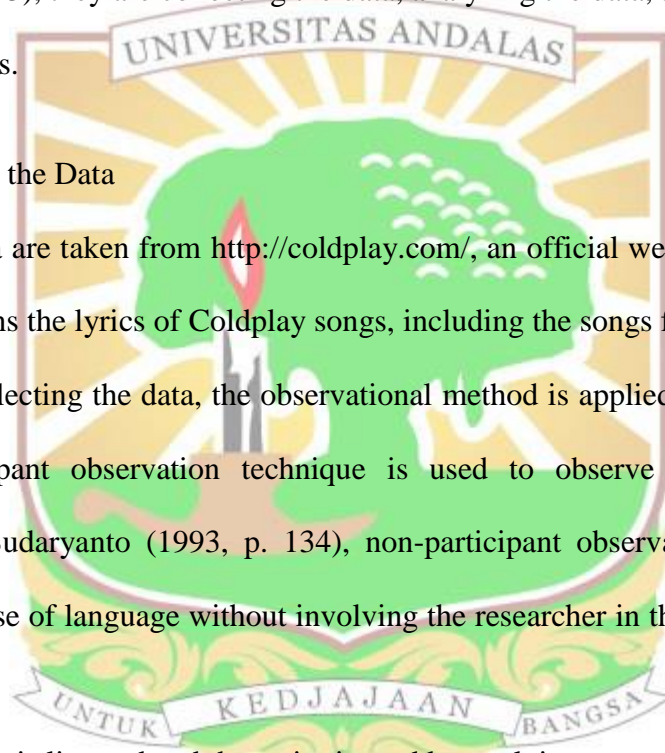
## 1.5 Method of the Study

The data of this research are song lyrics of Coldplay's album entitled "Viva la Vida". It is because this album is the best album of Coldplay according to NME music magazine. The album is assumed as one of the most popular album of Coldplay. This research is conducted based on some methods which are proposed by Sudaryanto (1993), they are collecting the data, analyzing the data, and presenting the result of analysis.

### 1.5.1 Collecting the Data

The data are taken from <http://coldplay.com/>, an official website of Coldplay. This site contains the lyrics of Coldplay songs, including the songs from album "Viva la Vida". In collecting the data, the observational method is applied. In this research, the non-participant observation technique is used to observe the song lyrics. According to Sudaryanto (1993, p. 134), non-participant observational method is observing the use of language without involving the researcher in the conversation or dialogue.

The song is listened and the script is read by applying note taking technique to classify the types of figurative language. The lyrics which are assumed to use figurative language are highlighted before classifying the figurative language. It used to identify whether the lyrics contain figurative language or not. The classification of figurative language is based on Perrine's theory (1973).



### 1.5.2 Analyzing the Data

After collecting the data, the next step is analyzing the data. In this step, the distributional method and substitution technique by Sudaryanto is used. Distributional method is a method that uses elements of a language as a parameter in the analysis process. In this method, the research is conducted to the elements of a language (Sudaryanto, 1993, p. 15). The substitution technique is used to substitute one word for another with same category (Sudaryanto, 1993, p. 48). In analyzing the data, Perrine's theory is applied to identify the types of figurative language.

### 1.5.3 Presenting the Result of Analysis

The result of analysis is presented by using both formal and informal method by Sudaryanto. Referring to Sudaryanto (1993, p. 145), formal method is a method of presenting the result of analysis by using diagram or table. On the other hand, informal method means presenting the result of analysis in form of statement or sentences.

