

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an essential part in communication (Hartmann & Stork, 1972, p.123), since language functions as a means of communication to convey ideas and meaning. Language also acts as a place for people to express themselves because it provides the tools for people to channel thoughts, emotions and imagination. Therefore, through language one will be able to communicate his deepest desires, speak any thoughtful insights, articulate the emotions felt, and narrate his life.

In expressing oneself using language, many cases happen where words are unable to describe just how great and deep the meaning one wants to convey. It is due to the fact that literal meaning often fails to seize the complexity attached to abstract concepts and emotional experiences. Lakoff and Johnsen (2003) argue that there are many important concepts that are not portray and define clearly such as emotions, ideas, morality, and even more abstract concepts like justice or democracy; those concepts needs to be understood by using other concepts that people can understand in clearer terms like the experiences of using objects, spatial orientation, and physical movement.

Lakoff and Johnsen (2003) state that the most dominant conceptual system process done by humans is metaphorical because most concepts can be understood through their connection with other concepts. They explain further because the existence of metaphors in a person's conceptual system, it creates the possibility for a person to use metaphor in his linguistic expressions (Lakoff & (Lakoff, G., & Johnson, M, 2003) Johnsen, 2003, p.6). Gibbs (1994) discusses metaphor as a tool

to convey a more complex information in a richer and detailed way while also creating a vivid image of the experience.

It has been long known that metaphor is one of the types of figurative language. Based on Kennedy & Gioia (1995) explanation regarding types of figurative language, there are twelve types of figurative language and metaphor is one of them. Therefore, as metaphor is the most dominant conceptual system used by humans, it can be concluded that humans use types of figurative language in doing most of their communication.

Figurative language is a realm where words transcend their literal meanings. Cox (2000) states "Figurative language creates correspondences and associations that are common to all of us, even if the concepts being combined wouldn't be literally associated". Kennedy and Gioia (1995) state that figurative language is a tool to strengthen and give certain effect to sentences, but in consequence words in the sentences would stray from their literal meaning. As it has been mentioned before, Kennedy and Gioia differentiate figurative language into twelve types which are symbol, imagery, metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe, hyperbole, understatement, metonymy, synecdoche, paradox, and allusion.

The use of figurative language is not something that can only be found in books or poetry. Previously it has been mentioned that figurative language occurs in most of human communication that makes figurative language also exists in song lyrics since song lyrics are known as a medium to communicate and express oneself. Song lyrics contain the lyricist's ideas, feelings, and experiences which often consists of concepts that are not fully understood by humans, therefore in order to convey those concepts fully to the listeners the use of figurative language

is inevitable. Aside from giving certain effects that can make the meaning and the emotions of song lyrics deeper and clearer, it is also believed that using figurative language in song lyrics would give an unusual aesthetic value to it (Dancygier & Sweetser, 2014, p.1). Hence, studying figurative language and its types is interesting and important so that people can discover the truest intended meaning that someone tries to deliver.

For further understanding regarding figurative language, below are examples of figurative language in a sentence:

1) "Babe, can I build my home in your mind?"

- This sentence is an example of metaphor. The speaker is not literally asking to physically build a home in the listener's mind, instead "building a home" means asking for a deeper and more intimate relationship between them. Hence, this sentence is the way the speaker expresses his/her wish to create a sense of emotional security within the listener's mind so that the speaker will always have a place in the listener's mind.

2) "But for now, the night is young"

- This sentence is categorized as personification. Night as an abstract concept is given a human characteristic which is youthfulness through the word "young". By saying "the night is young" the speaker indicates that there is still time left since it is still early in the evening.

3) "I'd kill to love you the loudest"

- This sentence is a hyperbole. The speaker exaggerates the intensity of his feeling through the word "kill" in order to show to the other person that he did that to love that person "the loudest". This exaggeration emphasizes the depth of the speaker's emotions and the lengths he would go to in order to express their love.

The examples above are several verses from songs entitled *On the Drive Home* and *Anaheim* by Nicole Zefanya. The examples above also prove that various types of figurative language exist and are very useful in song lyrics. It is because figurative language will help in explaining abstract concepts by borrowing attributes possessed by other concepts.

The use of figurative language in song lyrics is not something that is rarely found nowadays. As an example, there is a multi talented girl from Indonesia who is known for her ability using figurative language in making songs with English lyrics namely Nicole Zevanya. Nicole Zevanya is known better using her stage name NIKI with all letters in capital, in which for this research the researcher will also use NIKI to refer to Nicole Zevanya.

Most of NIKI's songs are claimed as self-produced since NIKI is responsible for the creativity, writing, recording, and even producing each of her songs fully (Mitchell, 2022). Therefore, most of the songs and lyrics she has produced so far are based on her own experience and feelings. By listening to NIKI's songs people can connect to her story which then makes them realize her talent in creating emotional and heartfelt song lyrics. As stated by some listeners on NIKI's Official *YouTube* channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@NIKIZFNY>) :



1. @13dwi13 : "She not just singing a song, she telling us a story"  
(NIKI - *High School in Jakarta (Official Music Video)*, 2022)
2. @charlenea2840 : "She can act, she can sing, NIKI is absolutely brilliant and talented" (NIKI - *Before (Official Music Video)*, 2022)
3. @baebean7152 : "dear nicole, your songs never disappoint me. it always hit my feelings everytime i listened to your song, thank you"  
(NIKI - *Backburner (Official Lyric Video)*, 2022)
4. @prueclemente : "wow the raw emotion encapsulated in the lyricism and melody :( one of my favorite tracks on the album" (NIKI - *Take A Chance With Me (Official Lyric Video)*, 2022)

From all the songs that have been produced by NIKI, her second album entitled *Nicole* which consists of twelve songs caught the researcher's attention. The way she uses figurative language in order to enhance the feeling of the stories she puts behind in each of the song lyrics included in *Nicole* are interesting to be studied. Not only that, songs on *Nicole* are produced based on NIKI's past personal experiences and cherished most dearly by her as cited from NIKI (2022) "... to my fav thing I've ever made..." because the album contains old songs that NIKI wrote when she was still a teenager. Those old songs undergo a re-production process which then give birth to more meaningful songs embracing the past and present NIKI perfectly (Zevanya, 2022).

As NIKI uses her past personal experience in composing songs for *Nicole*, she depends on figurative language a lot in order to be able to convey her feelings accurately. Most of the songs included in *Nicole* share similar themes which are love and heartbreak. Hence, the use of figurative language is very useful in order to

convey the theme of the song that Niki chooses. Figurative language will deepen the meaning and gives a certain effect that dramatize the situation depicts from the lyrics.

Due to the reasons explained in the paragraphs above, the researcher feels interested and decided to use NIKI's second album entitled *Nicole* to be studied in this research. This research will focus on identifying, distinguishing, and explaining the types of figurative language NIKI used in twelve song lyrics included in *Nicole* in order to build emotion and convey meaning dramatically. Knowing and understanding the figurative language used in all songs on *Nicole* will help listeners to visualize what NIKI wants to convey through her lyrics. This will then definitely help listeners to understand NIKI's songs better.

## **1.2 Theoretical Framework**

### **1.2.1 Figurative Language**

Figurative language is a tool used to beautify and enrich language. However, figurative language is not only a decoration to a language, but it is also the basis of linguistic structure in which not only belong to literary language but also daily language (Dancygier & Sweetser, 2014, p.1). Gibbs (1994) says figurative language is an abnormality that needs to be observed and understood using cognitive processes carefully. Cox (2000) mentions figurative language as devices that are used as an option for writers to give variety in their writing to make a distinct yet special and rich work. Kennedy & Gioia (1995) explain figurative language as words that go beyond its literal meaning that are used in order to strengthen and give certain effect to sentences but in consequence the words used would stray from its literal meaning. After reading the explanation from some experts, the researcher

comes to a conclusion which is figurative language is a device used in sentences to enrich and deepen the meaning, however sentences that have been affected by the addition of figurative language will deviate from the literal meaning that they have before

In order to determine whether a sentence has been affected by figurative language or not, the researcher implemented the theory proposed by Lakoff and Johnsen (2003) that says the basic conceptual system of human fundamentally metaphorical which is expressing abstract concepts using other concrete concepts metaphorically. Simply, in using abstract concepts that do not yet have clear attributes and definitions, people will rely heavily on concrete concepts that already exist by borrowing their attributes to define the abstract concepts. For instance, the sentence "His anger was a raging inferno". Anger is an emotion and according to Lakoff and Johnsen (2003) emotions belong to abstract concepts. *Oxford Learner Dictionary* defines inferno as an extremely big fire that is destructive and harmful. Hence, to define "anger", the person who utters the sentence chooses to borrow the attributes that belong to the word "inferno" since the attributes possessed by that word will fit perfectly to show that his anger at that time was dangerously harmful to others and uncontrollable. In conclusion, if in a sentence there is a word that borrows the attributes of other concepts in order to explain its condition and definition then the sentence has become affected by figurative language.

Figurative language is often used to give a stronger impression and dramatize the sentences conveyed since figurative language allows people to express their thoughts and emotions beyond the literal meaning of the words they use. This is also the reason why figurative language is used very often in song lyrics,

because song lyrics are a creative medium that people use to express various types of emotions and thoughts that they have. Aside from giving certain effects that can make the meaning and the emotions of song lyrics deeper, it is also believed that using figurative language in song lyrics would give an unusual aesthetic value to it (Dancygier & Sweetser, 2014, p.1).

Kennedy and Gioia (1995) in their book explain that there are twelve types of figurative language namely symbol, imagery, metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe, hyperbole, understatement, metonymy, synecdoche, paradox, and allusion.

#### 1. Symbol

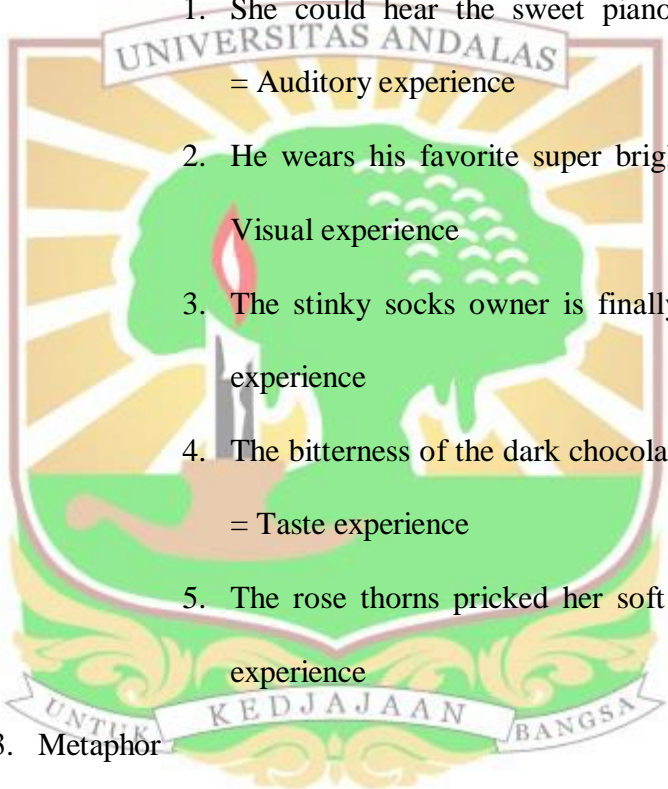
Symbol is a sign that states something. In terms of literature, a symbol is defined as a word that carries not only its actual meaning but also represents something else (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995, p.236). The authors further argue that in general, especially in literature, symbols tend to depict something tangible where its meaning could be understood by imagining it. For instance, the word "white" not only states a color shade but it is commonly known that "white" represents purity and innocence.

#### 2. Imagery

According to the Oxford Dictionary, imagery is a tool which creates pictures in the readers and listeners minds. Imagery in its broader definition means the involvement of any sensory experience that can produce vivid images in readers' minds (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995, p.660). In Nicole, imagery plays an important role as a tool



that can make NIKI's feelings become tangible and relatable to her listeners since it creates vivid images in the listeners minds. Imagery itself will deepen one's emotional connection with literary texts; song lyrics, by affecting their senses. The sensory experience given is not limited only to one's visual and touch, but also through hearing, and various types of fragrances and flavors. Here are the examples:

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1. She could hear the sweet piano plays from afar  
= Auditory experience
  2. He wears his favorite super bright yellow shirt =  
Visual experience
  3. The stinky socks owner is finally found = Odor  
experience
  4. The bitterness of the dark chocolate filled his mouth  
= Taste experience
  5. The rose thorns pricked her soft hand = Touch  
experience
3. Metaphor

Metaphors can be defined as words that are used to describe or state something even though that something is not the case in reality (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995, p.680). Comparing objects without the use of words "like" and "as" could be achieved by using metaphor (Youguo, 2013). Metaphors can be exemplified as follows:

#### 1. Time is money

- Time is not money, and vice versa, but the comparison is made in order to signify that time is as precious as money and needs to be spent wisely

#### 2. The sudden test was a nightmare for all of us

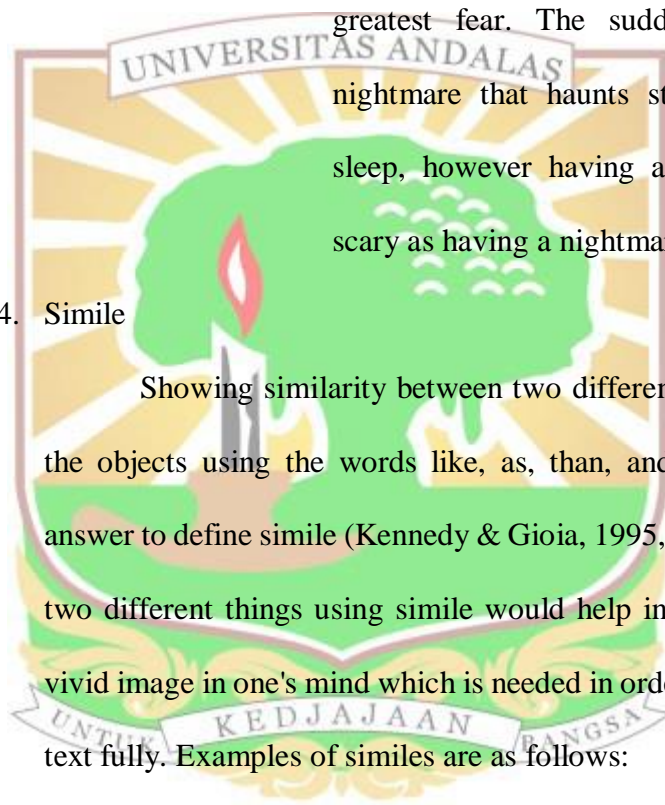
- Nightmares most of the time depict one's greatest fear. The sudden test is not a nightmare that haunts students when they sleep, however having a sudden test is as scary as having a nightmare.

#### 4. Simile

Showing similarity between two different things by linking the objects using the words like, as, than, and resembles; is the answer to define simile (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995, p.680). Comparing two different things using simile would help in producing a more vivid image in one's mind which is needed in order to understand the text fully. Examples of similes are as follows:

##### 1. Susan is as busy as a bee

- A person is not the same as a bee. However, bees are known as hardworking animals, they are busy going here and there collecting nectar. Therefore, a person who is very busy with work is said to be just like a bee



## 2. His voice is like a bell in my ears

- A bell is known for its clear and loud sounds, therefore it is used to describe how one's voice is heard.

## 5. Personification

Kennedy and Gioia (1995) describe personifications as giving human characteristics to other things such as an abstract term or a living and non-living object. Giving those non-human objects the ability to act like humans will make one imagine things more vividly since a person tends to relate easier to things if he knows and has experienced it before. For instance:

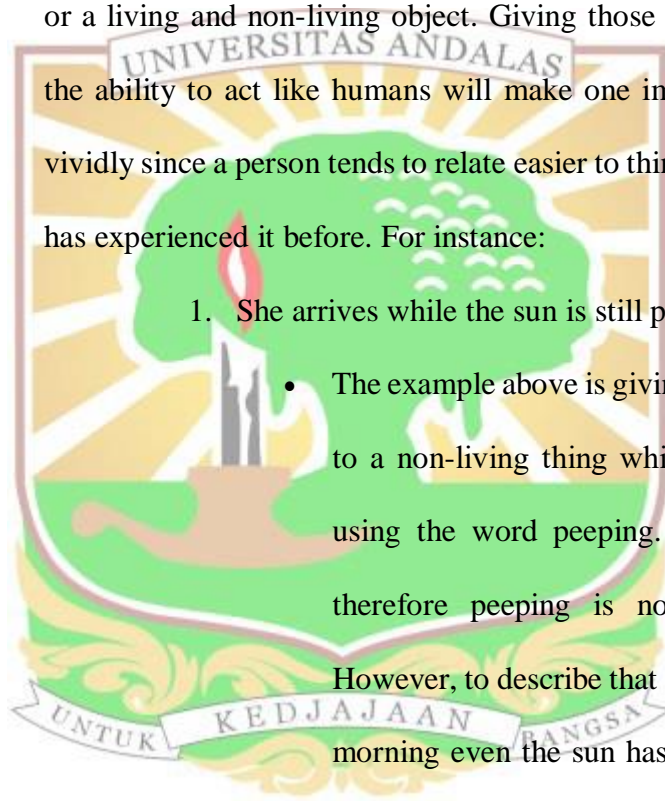
### 1. She arrives while the sun is still peeping

- The example above is giving human attributes to a non-living thing which is "the sun" by using the word peeping. Sun has no eyes, therefore peeping is not possible at all.

However, to describe that it is still early in the morning even the sun has just come out, the word peeping will describe the atmosphere better.

### 2. The wind caresses my face gently

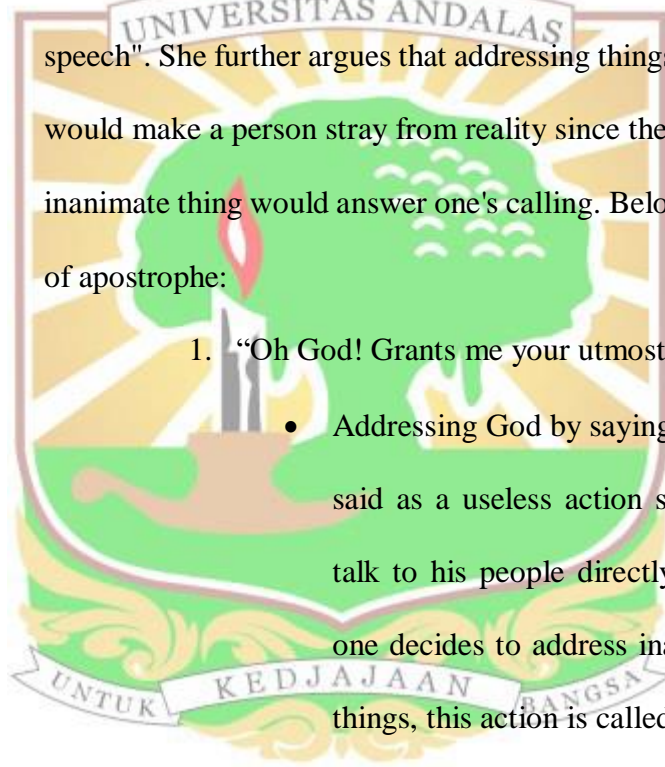
- To express that there is wind that a person can feel, the word "wind" is given human-like behavior by using the word "caress". Wind is



no one can touch but it can be felt. To describe the gentle gesture of the wind that blows around her, she uses the word “caress” to describe how her body feels the wind

## 6. Apostrophe

Addressing abstract and nonliving things in literature is the definition of apostrophe (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995, p.687). Ismael Sayakhan (2016) states "Apostrophe is an exclamatory figure of speech". She further argues that addressing things using apostrophes would make a person stray from reality since the person believes an inanimate thing would answer one's calling. Below are the examples of apostrophe:



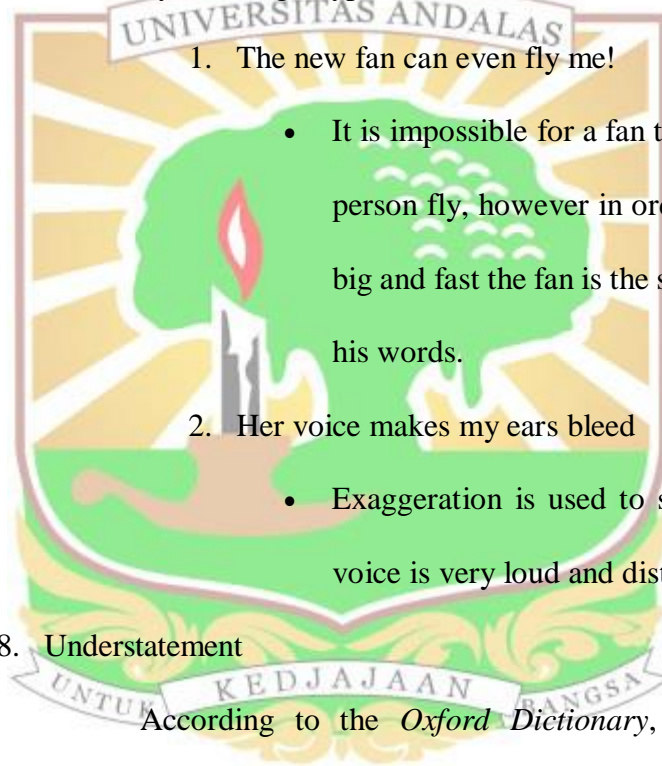
1. “Oh God! Grants me your utmost blessing!"
  - Addressing God by saying "Oh God!" can be said as a useless action since God does not talk to his people directly. Therefore, when one decides to address inanimate or abstract things, this action is called apostrophe.
2. "Oh weather! please be nice to me"
  - Talking to the weather is the same as talking to a wall since there will be no one to answer anyway. However, talking to the weather is not something uncommon. Therefore, this is



the example of an apostrophe which is speaking to abstract objects.

## 7. Hyperbole

Using words excessively to emphasize things is what hyperbole means (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995, p.687). Hyperbole or also known as overstatement is exaggeration of words which both parties understand that the words should not be interpreted by its dictionary meaning. Hyperbole can be seen in the examples below:



1. The new fan can even fly me!

- It is impossible for a fan to be able to make a person fly, however in order to describe how big and fast the fan is the speaker exaggerates his words.

2. Her voice makes my ears bleed

- Exaggeration is used to show that the girl's voice is very loud and disturbing.

## 8. Understatement

According to the *Oxford Dictionary*, understatement is where the words and its meaning do not match each other since the true intended meaning is more than what is conveyed. Kennedy and Gioia (1996) argued that understatement is giving another meaning to words than what the words already have. For instance:

1. Edward says "It was a great snack" right after eating a whole plate of roasted turkey

- Eating a whole plate of roasted turkey is not a snack at all, it is supposed to make someone full. Hence, stating "a great snack" after eating a full plate of roasted turkey is an understatement.

2. Lulu says "This is just a slight rain it won't bother us" where in fact it rains heavily outside

- Stating a slight rain when in fact it was pouring hard outside is an understatement. Walking under a slight rain will take more time to get someone become wet, however walking under a heavy rain will drench one immediately.

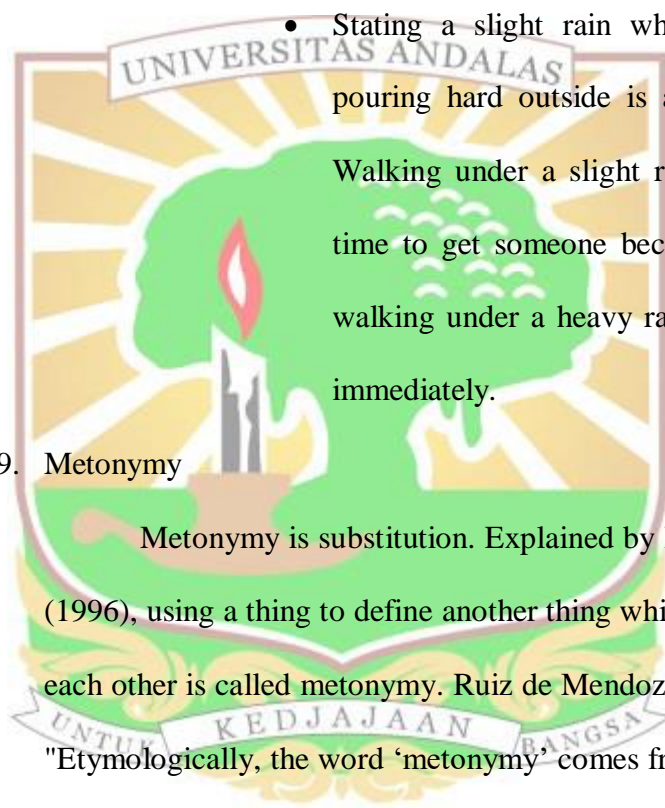
#### 9. Metonymy

Metonymy is substitution. Explained by Kennedy and Gioia (1996), using a thing to define another thing which is still related to each other is called metonymy. Ruiz de Mendoza (2002) stated that "Etymologically, the word 'metonymy' comes from classical Greek and means 'change of meaning'". Metonymy can be understood through examples below:

1. I'll swear my loyalty only to the crown

- The word crown here is used to substitute a king or the royalty.

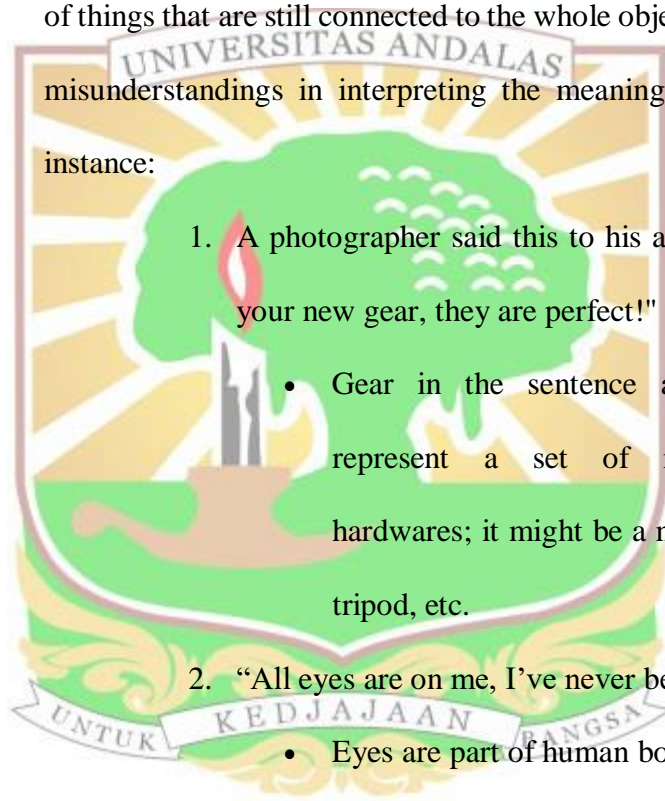
2. Whenever I am down, she always lends me her ear



- Ear here does not mean a part of human body, however ear in this sentence is used as a substitute of "giving attention"

## 10. Synecdoche

Indicating a whole object by telling only part of the object is a figure of speech called synecdoche (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995, p.688). In using synecdoche, it is very important to always use parts of things that are still connected to the whole object in order to avoid misunderstandings in interpreting the meaning of sentences. For instance:



1. A photographer said this to his assistant "I just saw your new gear, they are perfect!"

- Gear in the sentence above is used to represent a set of new photography hardwares; it might be a new camera, lenses, tripod, etc.

2. "All eyes are on me, I've never been this nervous"

- Eyes are part of human bodies, all eyes mean does not mean that others eyes are stick to her, its true meaning is that everybody is giving her the attention and is looking at her

## 11. Paradox

Kennedy and Gioia (1996) in their book say that paradox is defined as conveying meaning through statements which seem in

disagreement with one another, nevertheless those conflicting statements are acceptable for some reasons and capable of conveying the intended meaning. According to the Longman Dictionary, paradox is explained as a situation where there are two different meanings in one statement which makes the statement seem like something impossible.

1. "I never heard silence quite this loud" - Taylor swift

in Story of Us

2. The kindest villain ever existed

## 12. Allusion

Referring to anything might be real things or imaginative ones in a story indirectly is called allusion (Kennedy & Gioia, 1995, p.632). To put it simply, allusion is referring to things which could be understood through general knowledge. Examples of allusion are:

1. She is so pretty even they call her the new Marilyn Monroe
2. You are not the Superman, it's okay to ask for help

### 1.2.2 Song Lyrics

Songs are linguistic communication involving different sensory modalities which have existed from long ago until the present (Moser, 2007, p. 278). Based on *Longman Dictionary*, a song is music which is accompanied by sung words. Sung words in a song are also known as song lyrics. Song lyrics themselves are a collection of words that are arranged in such a way as to form verses that carry meaning. Hence, a song without its lyrics feels incomplete. Although lyrics are not



the only element in creating a song, lyrics give a great impact to the listeners since rather than the musical features of a song, most people are more attached to its lyrics (Jamdar et al., 2015, p.35).

In writing song lyrics, ideas can come from anywhere and anything, may it be from the lyricist's personal experience, or other people's experiences that are known, even the events that occur around the world. Therefore, choosing the right words that can describe all those feelings and events in the song lyrics is critical because words in the song lyrics are able to inflict ideas and images in the listeners' heads (Cox, 2000, p. 34). Due to that reason, countless songwriters make every effort to produce meaningful and emotional lyrics to attract listeners' attention.

In the present, it is a common thing for singers to compose songs and write their own lyrics. In many cases, song lyricists use their past personal experiences as ideas in writing song lyrics. However, not all ideas and emotions can be conveyed fully using words with literal meaning, hence in order to provide an image in the listener's head about the events described in the song's lyrics, figurative language is used (Cox, 2000, p. 34). Using figurative language in songs is a normal thing now since the use of figurative language in songs aims to emphasize the feelings and meaning that the lyricist wants to convey to the listener.

The example of using figurative language in songs can be seen from the songs included in an album by NIKI called *Nicole*. She wrote twelve songs for *Nicole* and she inserted several types of figurative language into her song lyrics to deepen the meaning and strengthen the emotions of each song. One of the songs included in *Nicole* namely On the Drive Home is an example of how NIKI fills her songs with figurative language. For instance, at the beginning of the bridge part of

On the Drive Home, NIKI wrote "And we'll be two pieces of driftwood". The literal meaning of this sentence is that she and her partner will become woods that are floating on the water. That meaning is unlogical since a human cannot turn into something else, moreover a wood. Accordingly, this sentence uses figurative language namely metaphor, which means that it was not them turning physically into a piece of wood but it says implicitly about she and her partner's fate seems like a driftwood that just goes where life takes them, not taking any chances to change their fate and become worn as time passes.

### 1.2.3 Context

According to Longman Dictionary, context is defined as any circumstances and any information that helps a person in understanding something. Context can also be interpreted as one's knowledge which is based on his general knowledge and also his experiences (Cox, 2003, as cited in Pranowo, 2020). Context can be concluded as any knowledge and information that is possessed by a person which can be acquired through formal education or from one's past experiences, this knowledge then plays a crucial role in understanding things and conditions better.

This research examines the album *Nicole* by NIKI, where understanding the contextual background of each song is essential. As previously mentioned, all twelve songs on *Nicole* were written and produced by NIKI herself. The songs are the reflection of her personal experiences, particularly those involving love and heartbreak. Consequently, the theme of the songs depict that emotional part of her love journey and the lyrics mostly emphasize the reasons and the feelings associated with her heartbreak.

### 1.3 Review of Previous Studies

In writing this research, the writer read and learned from several previous studies. In this part of the research, the writer will review 5 previous articles that are related to the topic of this research. They are discussed below.

The first one is a research published by Universitas Islam Negeri Salatiga in 2016 which was written by M. Sulkhan Habibi entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Edensor Novel by Andrea Hirata*. This research focuses on analyzing the figurative language from chapter 1-20 of the novel. Descriptive qualitative is the method chosen in doing this research and the data are collected using documentation techniques. The data of this research are presented using tables. The result of this research is there are 6 kinds of figurative language contained in chapter 1-20 of the Edensor novel. However, there is a major weakness the writer found from this research. The research by Habibi (2016) did not mention which expert's theory he used in discussing and determining the types of figurative language in Edensor novel. Nevertheless, the data presentation of this research is done very clearly and systematically using tables thus becoming its positive strength.

The second one is a research article published by Tanjungpura University in 2017 written by Metha Raisa, Sudarsono, and Albert Rufinus with the title *A Study on Figurative Language Covering Simile, Metaphor, Personification and Symbol in Poem*. This research focuses on finding out students' knowledge regarding figurative language expression and also how well they explain each of the figurative language functions. 70 students from Poetry class are used as the sample of the research. Using a descriptive method and measurement test for data collection, resulting in a final data where the mean score for students' knowledge

regarding figurative language expression is 60,29% or "average to good" and 55,71% for explaining its function which is categorized as "poor to average". Overall, this previous study is very insightful. This research is the same as the current one which is discussing figurative languages, however the objects of the analysis, the theory, and the method from both studies are different. As the previous one studies about students' capability regarding figurative language, the current one is discussing figurative language in song lyrics. Hence, this current study is done in order to show others how figurative language affects song lyrics.

The third one is a research paper published by IAIN Jember in 2019 and was done by Mohammad Hosni entitled *The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Song Lyrics "You Are The Reason" by Caluum Scott*. This research aims to find out types of figurative language in the song lyrics along with its contextual meaning and also how songs affect students' learning motivation. Data of this research are obtained through qualitative method and descriptive analysis approach. The result of this research explains that there are three types of figurative language found from the song lyrics which are metaphor, personification, and hyperbole as the most dominant type. After reading the research comprehensively, the writer finds that it would be slightly better if Hosni (2019) used tables to show the data that has been grouped according to the type of figurative language. A critical weakness of this research is that Hosni (2019) did not make any clear statement which expert's theory he used in his research.

Next one is a journal with the title *The Analysis of Figurative Language in "Endless Love" Song Lyric* by Ibrahim, Muhammad Akib, and Ruslan Hasyim which was published by Universitas Muhammadiyah Sorong in 2019. The purpose



of the journal is to find out types and meaning of figurative language in Endless Love song lyrics. According to the paper, the authors use a pure structuralism approach and descriptive method in doing the research. They found seven types of figurative language from the song lyrics which are Repetition 36%, Hyperbole 32%, Metaphor 12%, Pleonasm 8%, Personification 4%, Dispersonification 4%, and Onomatopoeia 4%. They present the final result of the research in tables after calculating the percentage of each type. However, it would be very helpful if they also present the data of the research using a table so that it would be easier to see them. The writer also thinks that this journal is missing a crucial part of a paper since they did not mention which theory they used in discussing and determining the types of figurative language in Endless Love song lyrics.

The last review is a journal published by UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta in 2023, written by Dhila Nurul Azmi, Didin Nuruddin Hidayat, Nida Husna, Alek, and Sri Lestari entitled *A Discourse Analysis of Figurative Language Used in English storytelling on BBC Learning English*. This journal is focused on finding types and describing the meaning of figurative language found in the English storytelling on BBC learning English. The authors choose a descriptive analysis approach and use a qualitative method for this journal. Using Perrine's theory, they are able to distinguish four kinds of figurative language from 15 sentences. The data is presented in a detailed way by using graphics and also percentage. Simply the journal is a good read, but it would be slightly better if the authors use simpler language but still being detailed in the part where they explain the data collection procedures.

After thoroughly reviewing numerous previous researches, the researcher

concludes that examining figurative language in songs is a significant matter as it aids in deciphering and understanding the layered meaning of the song lyrics. Hence, the researcher chooses to examine figurative language used by NIKI in her self-written album called *Nicole* which consists of twelve songs namely *Before*, *High School in Jakarta*, *Backburner*, *Keeping Tabs*, *The Apartment We Won't Share*, *Facebook Friends*, *Anaheim*, *Milk Teeth*, *Autumn*, *Oceans & Engines*, *On The Drive Home*, *Take a Chance With Me*. Even though there have been a lot of previous researches discussing figurative language in song lyrics, however there is still no research that analyzes the figurative language in *Nicole*. Thus, this study seeks to fill the gap by providing explanations and result regarding figurative language used by NIKI.

#### 1.4 Research Questions

In order for this research to remain focused on its aims, the researcher needs research questions. As this study aims to find and analyze the types of figurative language and its most dominant type from all songs included in *Nicole*, then the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are the types of figurative language found in each of the songs included on the album *Nicole*?
2. What is the explanation for each types of figurative language found in NIKI's songs on the album *Nicole*?
3. What type of figurative language appears most often/dominant out of all the types of figurative language found from all twelve songs on the album *Nicole*?

#### 1.5 Objectives of the Research

According to the research questions that has been mentioned before, this

research has three purposes, as stated below:

1. To identify and distinguish the types of figurative language used in all twelve songs on the album *Nicole*.
2. To provide explanations of each types of figurative language found in each songs on the album *Nicole*.
3. To determine the most dominant type of figurative language from all the songs included in the album *Nicole*.

### **1.6 Scope of the Research**

This study aims to comprehensively examine the figurative language used in NIKI's album namely *Nicole*. The analysis will focus on twelve selected songs entitled *Before*, *High School in Jakarta*, *Backburner*, *Keeping Tabs*, *The Apartment*, *We Won't Share*, *Facebook Friends*, *Anaheim*, *Milk Teeth*, *Autumn*, *Oceans & Engines*, *On The Drive Home*, and *Take a Chance With Me*, in which each of the song lyrics are retrieved from NIKI's official YouTube account and a website called *genius.com*. Using Kennedy and Gioia's (1996) theory on types of figurative language as a framework, this study will identify and categorize the figurative language found from the twelve selected songs. Additionally, the researcher will provide explanations regarding each type of figurative language found within the songs by still using Kennedy and Gioia's (1996) theory along with the theory regarding language and metaphor by Lakoff and Johnsen (2003). Furthermore, this study also seeks to identify the most dominant type of figurative language used by NIKI from the twelve songs included in *Nicole*