

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Created as a social being, human needs a language to communicate and build a relationship with others in social interaction. According to Tarigan (1984) in Affifatusholihah, L. & Setyawan, A.H, (2016), a good communication is needed for everyone in interaction with others in order to make the communication run well and effectively because it can avoid misunderstanding and misinterpret between the speaker and the hearer. Specifically, people express their thoughts through the language in written or spoken forms. A poem and a song is a written form made to represent a language in a text. Thus, a song can be a media to communicate with others. A singer of the song tries to tell the story of the song with good lyrics which are combined with nice music to make great art. Griffiee (2001) in Setiawati (2018) mentioned that song is a part of music that is formed through words that aim to be sung.

Actually, a song is a part of literature. According to Meyer (1997:1), literature is a term that used to explain written texts marked by careful use of language, including features such as creative metaphors, well-turned phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, alliteration, which are aesthetical to read and are deliberately somewhat open in interpretation. Literature is a canon that consists of those works in language by which a community defines itself through the course of its history. It includes works primarily artistic and those whose aesthetic qualities are only secondary Meyer (1997:2).

Nowadays songs can be applied as the materials in English language teaching. Songs in the classroom can encourage a student who still learns a new language. The use of songs in the classroom also can comfort, amuse, improves concentration, and memory, entertain students in a new activity and unite between the world of leisure and the world of learning. Moreover, it can be the way to get inspiration, motivation and to get a new living experience through the song being listen. In addition, according to Schoepp (2001) in Izzah & Sukrisno (2017) songs can create a relaxing, entertaining and non-threatening

classroom atmosphere in which the anxiety filter of learners will be made and they will be more open to learning in this regard.

Another indispensable element of songs besides music is lyric. Every single lyric has a different meaning and description of real life that are entered in the lyric by the composers. However, some people still get misunderstanding because they only focus on the conceptual meaning of the words, rather than what the singer means. In the linguistics field, the study of word meanings in conceptual is called semantics. According to Kreidler (1998), "Semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantics is the study of how language organize and express meanings. Related to the study of meaning, there are two kinds of meaning is discussed in this research, literal meaning and figurative language. Literal language means exactly what it says, while figurative language use of some words or phrases that imply a non-literal meaning which does make sense.

This research takes a study of meaning and is focused on figurative language. Besides, this research wants to find out the listener's emotion towards figurative language applied to literary work that is a song. This research uses the theory based on Griffiths (2006) to analyze figurative language and is supported by other theory from other linguists, Perrine (1992) and Juslin, Liljeström, Västfjäll, Barradas, & Silva (2008) in order to analyze the listeners' emotion. As stated before, one of the benefits listened to a song is to increase memory and concentration. Therefore, this research wants to know how a song evokes an emotion towards listeners. In some cases, there are songs that make the listeners getting more enthusiasm, but in the opposite, there are songs that make listeners feeling down and messed up. Lastly, those findings can lead me to draw the listeners emotion towards a song related to teaching-learning activity.

Adele's songs are chosen to be analyzed because her songs are always in the top chart billboard 100 in the US, which means most people love her songs. It is also no secret that Adele is loved for her voice. Adele's songwriting is about her own personal. She pulls the listener into the story of the song both with simple lyrics and beautifully artistic. In the past, she wrote heartfelt songs about love lost.

On the upcoming 25, she stated that the album was more about herself and making up for the lost time about self-discovery.

This research takes focus on the songs in album 25 which ended 2016 on top, becoming the bestselling album of the year, McIntyre (2017). The record was also the [bestselling title of 2015](#) when it was released, but that did not stop it from consistently selling tens of thousands of copies week after week throughout 2016. Adele won five Grammys for her work on 25, including album, record and song of the year in 2017.

Even though Adele's songs are popular and be listened to the college students, but the fact they did not know well what the intended meaning is. Previously, it was conducted research towards college students around Yogyakarta and Magelang in the form of an online questionnaire to gain their understanding of the meaning of the songs. There were 55 participants given to some questions about figurative language on Adele's song. The result was only 28% of participants that answer correctly. It means that most participants did not know the intended meaning of the song lyrics.

Based on the research background, this research analyzed the meaning of the selected lyrics of Adele's song in order to get understanding to the song listeners and to find out the emotion evoked by listen to the related lyrics using semantic analysis entitled "Semantic Analysis of Figurative Language on Adele's Song Towards Listeners' Emotion".

1.2 Research Questions

The problems that can be analyzed on Adele's songs are focused on the following questions:

- a) What types of figurative languages used on Adele's song lyrics?
- b) How is the listener's emotion towards figurative language on Adele's song?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the statements of the problems, the objectives of this research are:

- a) To identify the types of figurative languages used on Adele's song lyrics

- b) To find out the listener's emotion towards figurative languages used on Adele's song

1.4 Scope of the Research

The scope of this research is focused on four lyrics of Adele's songs in the different album. The title of the songs are, "Make you feel my love", "All I ask", "When we were young", and "Water under the bridge". They are chosen because have the same theme that is about sadness in a relationship and they are more popular than other Adele's song. It is proved by the result of the bestselling albums in the U.S. in 2016.

This research takes focus on the meaning of selected lyrics of Adele's song. It takes semantics field and focuses on the types of figurative language and the listener's emotion towards figurative language used on Adele's song. This research uses the theory based on Griffiths (2006) and is supported by other theory from other linguists, Perrine (1992) and Juslin et al., (2008).

1.5 Research Benefit

After studying this research, it is expected that this research can give academic and practical benefits.

- a. Theoretical benefit:

This research can take account for the development of the theory, especially in the subdivision of linguistics that is semantics.

- b. Practical benefit:

- 1) Lecturer

This research can give more references about kinds of figurative language on English language teaching, can enrich the theory in teaching linguistics, and can enrich the theories for analyzing the meaning.

- 2) Students

This research is expected can give more understanding for students to know the types of figurative language generally and the types of figurative language used in the songs by using semantic analysis.

3) Listeners

This research can be a way for listeners to understand every single lyric in the song.

4) The other researchers

This research can give more contribution or inspiration to conduct further related research and can be useful for the other researcher as material for understanding meaning.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In order to make clear and avoid misunderstanding also interpreting the terms used in this research, this part would like to describe the definition related to the research before entering this discussion further. They are:

- 1) Semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantics is the study of how language organizes and express meanings. (Kreidler, 1998:3)
- 2) A song is a part of music that is formed through the words that aim to be sung. Griffie in Setiawati (2018)
- 3) A lyric is an element of music that gives the listener deep understanding about the message delivered in the song. Dallin in Firdaus (2013)
- 4) Meaning is consequently a symbol that might be referring. (Leech, 1981:1)
- 5) Figurative language is as an explicator, interpretation that involves treating one or more words as if they had meanings different from their literal ones. (Griffiths, 2006)

Based on the definition of terms, it can be concluded that this research is focused on semantics study about meaning on the object of a song. Figurative language is chosen to be analyzed in this research and use the combination of the theory from Griffith and Perrine. For the listeners' emotion in the second research question, it is explained by the theory from Juslin, et al.