

**THE TYPES AND INTERPRETATION OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
FOUND IN ADELE'S SONGS**

A THESIS



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter primarily presents the introduction of this study. There are seven parts of discussion as sub-titles in this chapter, namely background of the study, statement of problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, assumption of the study and operational definition.

1.1 Background of the Study

Basically, as means of communication, language is categorized into two forms called spoken language and written language. Chika (in Fitriatunnas, 2017, p. 1) claimed “The two forms of language is used to know and understand the interaction of human being based on their ideas or thought”. Spoken language is known as an utterance in the form of sound such as daily conversation, discussion, speech, radio, television broadcast, and so forth. Meanwhile, written language is defined as an utterance which is formed in the written form such as comics, novels, newspapers, magazines, letters, and so forth.

The scientific study of language is called linguistics. Furthermore, language is the human capacity for acquiring and using complex systems of communication, and language is any specific example of such a system (Tambunan & Sinambela, 2018 , p. 1). It is explained that language can be understood as relationship of sound and meaning. The discipline that studies linguistic sound is termed as phonetics, which is concerned with the actual properties of speech sounds and non-speech sounds, and how they are produced and perceived. The study of language meaning,

on the other hand, is concerned with how languages employ logic and real-world references to convey, process, and assign meaning, as well as to manage and resolve ambiguity (Tambunan & Sinambela, 2018).

In linguistics, the study that relates to meaning is called semantics. Semantics is one of linguistics branches, which studies about language meaning, or it can be said that meaning as the primary study in semantics term. Meanings are classified as the ideas or concepts that can be transferred from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the listener by representing them as used in the form of one language or another. (Lyons, in Saputri, 2014, p. 14). Moreover, meaning is divided into two categories namely literal and no-literal meaning. Literal meaning is meaning formed by the speaker that has natural meaning or does not have other meaning (explicit meaning). Meanwhile, non-literal meaning is known as a meaning when the speaker says something that has different meaning of what his/her words or has hidden meaning (implicit meaning). It can be concluded the literal meaning can be studied as known in figurative language.

Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Figurative language has been widely examined by linguist in the study of literature in recent years. Figurative language is usually used in literary works, such as: speech, newspaper, poem, prose and nonfiction writing as well. In line with Kennedy (in Saputri, 2014, p. 15) argues that “Figurative language refers to words, and groups of words, that elaborate or modify the usual meaning in figures of the component of words”. Based

the statements above, it can be said that figurative language is the use of words that exceed their usual meaning.

Figurative language is the essential part in literature in order to get the implicit meaning of language being used. Figurative meaning is talking about the implicit interpretation in sentences or paragraphs. Knickerbocker & Reninger in (Marliani, 2018, p. 1) argued that figurative language is an image used in particular way to explore the less known through the known. It is implied figurative language has been described in terms of categories, namely simile, metaphor, allusion, personification, and so forth. All of them can be found in literatures, such as novels, newspapers, poems, and songs.

Song is a part of literature which is used to describe written texts marked by careful use of language, including features such as creative metaphors, well-turned phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, alliteration, which are aesthetically read by the author to be aesthetically read and are deliberately somewhat open in interpretation (Arifah, 2016, p. 13). Song is one example of literature in case of the act or art of singing. Song as piece of music with words that are sung has a function to express the thoughts and feeling. Song has two elements called lyrics and music. Furthermore, Song usually consists of figurative language since the figurative language is used in the lyric that is written well. The descriptive words of figurative language have meanings in sense other than literal, even the words convey precise meaning. In this research, the researcher is going to analyze figurative language in song lyrics of Adele's songs.

Adele is a British singer. She was born on May 5th, 1988 in London. Adele has released her first album in 2008. The album had got an incredible public reception. People are amazed with her powerful voice. The album had got double platinum in the US and triple platinum in Europe. The 2009 Grammy Awards has made a big impact to her. She has strengthened her career by winning the award for best new artist and best pop vocal album. Moreover, her songs were getting progressively sadder from 2010, but have been trending to be happier starting 2017–2018 (William, 2010).

There are some reasons why the researcher chooses figurative language for analysis the semantic meaning in song lyric. First, because Adele's songs consist of figures of speech. So, they make the songs interesting to be sung and accepted in society. Second, Adele's songs become popular around the world society. On the other hand, every single word within her songs has its own meaning and contain different messages. The readers should be able to understand what is contained within that song lyrics through analyzing of figurative language and its interpretation. Based on the explanations above, the researcher conducted a study entitled: "*The Types and Interpretation Figurative Language Found in Adele's Songs*".

1.2 Statements of the Problem

The researcher formulates the research questions in this study consisting:

- 1.2.1 What are the types of figurative languages found in Adele's song lyrics?

- 1.2.2 What are the interpretation meanings of figurative languages in Adele's song lyrics?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems, the researcher has two objectives of the study as follows:

- 1.3.1 To describe the types of figurative languages found in Adele's song lyrics.
- 1.3.2 To describe the interpretation meanings of figurative languages in Adele's song lyrics.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study was conducted with the primary purpose that this research will give well contributions to all of the readers as follows:

- 1.4.1 Teachers

The result of this research will give additional information to the teachers about how interesting and important in analysis of the figurative language on songs is so that they can implement the figurative language analysis of speech as one of the activities in English classroom.

- 1.4.2 Students

The students will recognize and understand more about not only how to analyze the figurative language on songs but also how interesting activity of the figurative language analysis is. Thus, they have clear information about figurative language.

1.4.3 Other Researchers

The result of this study can be as one of references for further research of the same field in order to get more worthy contributions to develop the figurative language studies.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study was limited on types and interpretation meaning of figurative language used in Adele's songs entitled "someone like you" and "hello". This is due to the fact that the study of figurative language used in songs is essential regarding the important meanings through the songs' lyrics.

1.6 Assumption of the Study

This research is conducted under the assumption that there are a lot of figurative language used in the Adele's songs. As a result, it is essential to conduct this kind of study. Adele's songs were chosen because those songs are popular and have been trending and winning awards starting 2017–2018.

1.7 Operational Definition

In order to avoid ambiguous meaning about the terms in this research, there are three important terms that need to be clarified as follows:

- 1.7.1 Figurative language is the use of imagination words to give readers imagination of interpretation meaning in context than literal language.
- 1.7.2 The interpretation meaning is the meaning of the words pointing to the situation or condition in which they are used.
- 1.7.3 Song is the act or art of singing as piece of music with words that are sung has a function to express the thoughts and feeling.

