

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of The Study

Our system of communication before anything else is language. Humans cannot survive without language, because language has a very important role in every aspect of human life, such as economics, technology, politics education, art, sciences, and etc. Every day, we use language to communicate, argue, learn, negotiate, legislate, celebrate, etc. Furthermore, in order to make the communication goes well, there must be a good understanding between the two speakers in catching the meaning that existed behind the utterances uttered by these speakers by using their own language.

We must understand the intended meaning first in order to receive information correctly. In fact, people do not only face difficulty in interpreting the meaning, but also in expressing their thought, in which it makes miscommunication occurs in a conversation. Those conditions then make literature born. Literature is a medium of human being to express their ideas, feelings, and emotions. Poem, drama, poetry, short story, and novel are formed product of literature work which most of those used figure of speech.

In English, “meaning is divided into literal and figurative meaning”. Literal language means exactly what it says. For example: “ it's hot in here.” The literal, denotational meaning is simply a comment on the temperature. Conversely, figurative language means that the word that used don't have a literal meaning, but instead are meant to be imaginative, evocative and vivid. The example is "This weekend was a rollercoaster." The weekend wasn't actually a rollercoaster, but it felt as chaotic as a rollercoaster can make one feel.

One way that can help students understand figurative language through song lyrics. As we know figurative language is very useful for making song lyric of a song more beautiful and give energy to a lyric that we are using in the song. Many song writers create the song which are inspired from poetry. This is because in creating a beautiful song, a song writer tends to use figurative language to cover or convey the literal meaning by using different way. For everyone, listening to a song is very fun activity, but listeners cannot get pleasure if they do not understand the figurative language that commonly found in song.

Due to interest in the study of figurative language, the writer will be choosing Mariah Carey's songs to be analyzed. From many singers, Mariah Carey is chosen because we found most of her lyrics contain figurative language, they are meaningful, simple and romantic. Mariah Carey is an American singer and also song writer, she was born on March 27, 1970. She is one of the most successful artists in the world, she was selling over 200 million records worldwide. She is noted for her vocal power, melismatic style, five-octave, and signature use of the whistle register.

There are some of study which have done by previous researchers. First, Heny Listiani (2015) entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language Found on the Song Lyric by Taylor Swift's song "Speak Now" Album". The second review related to this study is "Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Songs", which Khadijah Arifah (2016), the student of Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang

The third review related to this study is "An Analysis of Students Ability and Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Texts " which has been researched by Juanita Siahaan (2013), from English Education Study Program of Indonesia University of Education. The findings revealed that the students representing the middle and high achievers had a good control about the schematic structure of descriptive text. They also were able to use appropriate linguistic features. On the other hand, it was also revealed that the low achievers were still confused in identifying the schematic structure of descriptive text.

In this study, the writer presents an analysis of student's ability in identifying figurative language in Mariah Carey's song lyrics. The writer focuses on denotative and connotative meaning of figurative language in Mariah Carey songs because the song uses many figurative languages that can be analyzed by the students. In fact, many students don't really understand figurative language, how to classify and explain the denotative meaning of each figurative meaning.

Based on the reasons mentioned above, the author decides to conduct research about figurative language, entitled : **"An Analysis of Student's Ability in Identifying Figurative Language in Mariah Carey's Songs Lyrics in a Second Grade of SMA Swasta GKPI**

**Padang Bulan Medan”**. The researcher hopes that the problem can be easily identified by the existence of this research, so that this research has a good influence in teaching English.

### **1.2 The Identification of the Problem**

From the background of the study, the writer would like to write the problem of study:

- 1) How much do the students ability in identifying Figurative Language ?
- 2) What difficulties do the students have in using Figurative Language?

### **1.3 The Limitation of the Problem**

In conducting this research, the researcher limited the research to the following items:

- 1) All of the students at the second grade of SMA Swasta GKPI Padang Bulan Medan academic year 2019/2020.
- 2) The research method used is descriptive qualitative method. It analyzes and describes the Figurative Language, they are : simile, hyperbole, personification, and metaphor.
- 3) The research instrument is essay test.

### **1.4 The Problem Statement**

Based on the limitation of the problem mentioned above, the research problem is formulated as follows:

- 1) In figurative language, to what extent do the students find out the mistakes or the error.
- 2) What is the highest percentage that can be achieved by students.

### **1.5 The Significance of Study**

By conducting this research, researchers hope to provide some benefits in the learning process to students, teachers, and other researchers. Some of the advantages of this research include :

1. This research is expected to encourage both teachers and students to understand English better, especially in figures and figurative language rules, such as hyperbole, metaphor, personification, and simile, etc.

2. The learners can find out what are the weaknesses commonly faced by students in identify figurative language.
3. This research can help teachers to measure students' abilities in identifying figurative languages.
4. This research can also be used by other researchers as additional knowledge in conducting further research.