

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Research Background

Music is part of art, which means that music is a reflection of the delivery of art using the medium of sound. Whether through a human voice that called the song or a sound that comes from a variety of musical instruments, music has been a part of people's lives for centuries, and its presence is becoming increasingly important in modern society. As a result, music has also become a popular culture; for some people, music serves as entertainment and helps the soul relax, relieving fatigue from physical activity. Listening to the songs, we will be more relaxed and enjoy ourselves.<sup>1</sup> Music can also affect the brain works, especially for children who still able to receive any more in his brain memory. It is as expressed "the kids who take piano lessons showed improved general and spatial cognitive development, music can also making may improve the brain's natural production of regulatory hormones like melatonin."<sup>2</sup>

Lyrics can express judgments about lifestyles, values, and appearances. Then, songs can express attitudes and values. Every song's lyric has a message and suggestion for the listeners, whether good or bad. It depends on the kind of the music and on the listener. Lyrics are written as a form of the interaction between the writer and the listeners. In song can be cited as a media to transfer massage, or expressions in order to achieve the pure feeling, joyful, aspirations, or ambitions. In addition, lyrics are a part of literary element. Music and literary works are very useful since they have various values such as moral, religious, and sociological values. Literature is also one of the media to show some of the meanings.<sup>3</sup>

In speaking and writing, we can use figurative language to make our communication more unique and aesthetic, and it can also give a visible description of the human mind. Figurative language is a pervasive phenomenon in daily or everyday human communication. It includes a wide range of expressions on utterance types, such as idioms, metaphors, jokes, irony, sarcasm, hyperbola, indirect

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<sup>1</sup> Qurrotul 'Ain, "An Analysis of Figurative Language in the Song Lyrics by Maher Zain", (Skripsi: IAIN Syekh Nurjati Cirebon, 2013)

<sup>2</sup> Jonathan Harnum. PHD, "Basic Music Theory: How to Read, Write, and Understand Written Music", Miami: Sol-Ut Press, 2001

<sup>3</sup> Mohammad Muhyidin, "An Analysis of Semi Yusuf Song's Lyric Based on Islamic Moral Values", Realita Journal Vol, 14 No. 1. January 1, 2016, p.2.

requests, and stereotyped expressions such as clichés. Figure of speech is a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the world. Figures of speech may occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotations of words. Figurative language is used in many kinds of communication, such as in daily conversation, articles in the newspaper, advertisements, novels, songs, poems, and so on. In the song, figurative languages are used not only to make the song we listened to have a good lyric that is sung by the singer.<sup>4</sup>

In the process of communication, a human not only uses the basic or universal meaning of the words that can be found in the dictionary, or what is usually called literal language, but also uses non-literal language. Sometimes, when humans communicate, they say something rather than what the words mean, and if the meaning of the words humans have said is not telling the actual meaning, it means that they are using non-literal language. Humans often hear or even use non-literal language in their daily lives. One common case of non-literal language is figurative language.<sup>5</sup> Figurative language is a non-literary language that uses a figurative style of speech. It conveys a connotative meaning, or meaning "behind" and "beyond" the words. Figurative language has many functions; it is not only to give aesthetics and beauty to the sentences, but also to let the speaker say less or more than what the speaker means, or even say the opposite or something other than what the speaker means. Furthermore, figurative language helps the speaker to describe thoughts and feelings more clearly than people can do by saying them directly. For example, if the speaker has to describe how bad the weather is, the speaker might say "it rains cats and dogs", it is not raining cats and dogs literally, but by using figurative language, the receiver will understand that what the speaker means is a heavy rain. Thus, understanding the meaning of figurative languages should be based on connotative or contextual meaning.<sup>6</sup>

In the music industry, there are many bands and solo singers. One of the solo singers is Harris Jung, a young singer who is a British Muslim. Harris J began his singing career in 2003. At that time,

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<sup>4</sup> Chintia Handayani, "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Daniel Bedingfield Song Lyrics: *Never Gonna Leave Your Side*", JUSPHEN Journal Vol, 1 No. 1. August 1, 2022, p.78

<sup>5</sup> Adrian Akmaijan, Richard A. Demers, et all, "*Linguistics: An Introduction to Language and Communication 6th Edition*", (Massachusetts: MIT Press, Landon, 2010)

<sup>6</sup> Bolas Panamotan Tua, "*An Analysis of Figurative Language on Lyrics Used by Ed Sheeran*", (Skripsi: Universitas Brawijaya, Malang, 2018)

Harris entered a talent show in the UK, Awakening Talent Contest. In the talent show, Harris J who has a nice voice and character managed to come out as the winner. The event jumped started Harris J's singing career. After seeing the appearance of Harris J, Maher Zein who was also a judge on the program made a song for Harris J titled "*Salam Alaikum*". Harris J got a contract with Awakening Records for the production of his first single, which was released in August 2015 and immediately received a positive response from viewers on YouTube. Now figure Harris J has become an idol and inspiration among young Muslims through his songs. In July 2015, Harris J graduated from the world-famous BRIT School of Performing Arts in London (alumni include Adele, Amy Winehouse, and others). Harris J has appeared in charity tours in English and Mandela tribute concerts in South Africa. World Music Trends has identified Harris J as "an artist who will take the global Islamic music by storm". Harris J considers himself a proud Muslim and a true Brit and now looks forward to taking his new mix of music inspired by the faith in the world.<sup>7</sup>

One of the ways that song lyrics can help learners understand figurative language is by introducing them to its meanings. The songs are chosen as the main object because they are closest to human life. Moreover, the song can help learners develop the skills that are needed for English language learning in a creative and innovative way, motivating them and positively impacting learning. Besides, songs are often heard in formal and informal situations, even in their spare time. The research revealed that half of teens sometimes watch TV (51%), use social networking (50%) or text (60%), and listen to music (76%) while doing homework.<sup>8</sup>

As we know, English songs now dominate the world's charts because they are easily accepted and enjoyed by music lovers around the world. Moreover, Harris J's songs are widely known by young people today. People have become accustomed to listening to English songs, especially young people, who are vulnerable to following trends due to social and social media influences. Plus, listening to music has become a habit and hobby among young people because they usually feel a song can represent their feelings. Not only that, we can also learn about figurative language. Therefore, the researcher is

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<sup>7</sup> Arniatul Hasanah, "*Analysis of Moral Educational Values in Harris J's Selected Song Lyrics in Salam Album*" (Skripsi: IAIN Ponorogo, 2021), *Newspaper. Book. Scholar. JSTOR*. [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harris\\_J](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harris_J) (Accessed on July 2020)

<sup>8</sup> Henny Marliani, "*The Analysis of Figurative Language in Harris J Songs*", (Skripsi: UIN Ar-Raniry Darussalam, Banda Aceh, 2028)

conducted an analysis of song lyrics from Harris J's album to find out what types of figurative language are contained in the song. So, the researcher is interested in researching the research entitled "*An Analysis of Figurative Language in Harris J Song Lyrics by Album Salam*"

## **B. Research Focus**

Based on the background above, the researcher focuses on discussing figurative language in the lyrics of Salam Harris J's album song, and focuses on figurative language that is the most dominant in the lyrics of the song.

## **C. Research Questions**

1. What types of figurative language are found in Harris J song lyrics?
2. What kind of the most dominant figurative language in Harris J songs?

## **D. Research objectives**

1. To find out the types of figurative language are found in Harris J song lyrics
2. To find out the most dominant figurative language in Harris J songs

## **E. Research significance**

This research was expected to provide significant contribution both theoretically and practically, which are as follows:

1. Theoretical significances

This research is expected gives additional references or further references for the other researcher who is interested in literature study on pragmatic analysis of figurative language. The finding of this research is also expected to give contributions for English Language Education Department students particularly in learning about metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, and irony.

2. Practical significance

Practically the result of this research is expected to be useful, as follows:

- a. For Readers

This study will assist readers in better understanding the importance of figurative language contained in each song, especially Harris J's song. Therefore, understanding the

meaning of English songs can increase the motivation of the readers when listening to the song. Furthermore, readers can also learn and understand some of the figures of speech contained in the lyrics of the song.

b. For Students

For the students, it is advised that they should pay more attention on whether the words used literal meaning or figurative meaning. Thus, they are able to understand the meaning of the song which the author tries to convey.

c. For next Researchers

For the next researcher to continue the research to compare, because figurative language cannot be understood with a brief, should continue to be studied in some literature. In order to enrich our understanding about figurative language and to obtain more reliable justification, a wider and further scope of the study needs to be conducted.

## F. The Organization of Thesis

To understand the problems discussed in this study, the researcher describes them globally as follows, in the order of chapters I to V:

1. Initial Section

This initial section consists of: a title page, an approval sheet, statement of works originality, abstract, motto, Arabic-Latin translation guide, acknowledgement, preface, table of contents, list of tables, and list of figure.

2. Content Section

The content section includes:

This section contains an outline consisting of five chapters; between chapter one and the other chapters, which are interconnected because they are a unified whole, the five chapters are part of the following:

**Chapter I** : Introduction. It contains the research background, the research focus, research questions, research objectives, research significance and the organization of the thesis.

**Chapter II** : Review of literature. It contains the theoretical description, previous research, and conceptual framework.

**Chapter III** : Research methodology. It contains of the research method, source of data, technique of data collection, and data analysis technique.

**Chapter IV** : Research findings and discussion. It contains of the research results and discussion.

**Chapter V** : Conclusions and suggestions. It contains conclusion and suggestions.

3. Final Section

The final section includes references, an appendix, and educational curriculum vitae.

