CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses several points as a part of chapter 1. There are background, reasons for choosing the topic, research questions, aims of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, data source, methods of investigation, method of analysis, clarification of terms, and finally the organization of the paper.

1.1   Background

Nowadays, singing appears to be a popular activity in many parts of the world. People sing to show their feelings both happiness and sadness. Apparently, young people's lives are strongly influenced by music and songs. Many of them are often inspired by the songs that they listen to. Such songs appear to shape their personalities and ways of thinking. For example, the song *Garuda di Dadaku*, this song was created to film about football entitled *Garuda di Dadaku*; it strongly influences young people to love football. By listening to that song, young people have come to love the Indonesian football team and many of them aspire be football players (Harsya, 2009).

A song not only consists of music and lyrics for entertainment, but also delivers some messages to listeners. The messages are delivered by the song writer through the lyrics. For example, in Ebiet G. Ade's songs, the lyrics consist of some

messages for listeners to save the environment. Iwan Fals's song lyrics also contain messages; he made the lyrics to deliver his inspiration, opinions and criticism for the government. For example, *Galang Rambu Anarki* song; it consists of criticism to government (Kholek, 2010).

In Indonesia, there is a growing interest among the younger generation to pursue a career in singing. The fact can be seen in the television music programs, such as *Derings* in Trans program and *Dahsyat* in RCTI program. In these television programs, there are many new bands that consist of some young people. They made bands because they think that with the band they can channel their talents: they can sharper their talents in instrumental musics, their talents in singing a song and their talents in creating song lyrics.

There are many song writers who are arising now. They channel their talents and thoughts to create song lyrics. A lyric writer makes the lyric as a tool or medium to express his or her feelings about what has happened around them (Cooke, 2006). Furthermore, a lyric expresses the thoughts and feelings of the poet or writer (Atmazaki, 1992). The message conveys the feelings of song writers can be disclosed from the lyrics. Those lyrics use language. Language is a tool for communication. People use language in daily life to interact with each other so people can understand what they express with their language.

There are many bands in Indonesia and each band has a different genre. Kerispatih is one of the most famous bands in Indonesia. The band was established

on April 21, 2003 on the initiative of four students of Musicians Institute Indonesia: Arief, Badai, Andika, and Anton. Their first appearance was at the Farabi on Sunday, April 22, 2003. Then, they recruited Sammy, their colleague on campus as a vocalist.

The writer of Kerispatih's songs is Badai Kerispatih and his real name is Doadibadai Hollo. Badai obtained the inspiration in creating songs based on the experiences from real life problems, including the experiences of the members of Kerispatih and their women. Badai (2009) said that there are many inspirations that arose from women. Furthermore, he said that women for him are a source of inspiration that will never end to be explored in a positive sense and serves as inspiration to create a song.

Kerispatih is one of the best bands in Indonesia; they can keep the quality of their lyrics and their music. However, nowdays there are many bands with the Malay genre, but Kerispatih is consistent with their genre, pop groovy. Their song lyrics are different from other bands; they use extraordinary words. For example, Kerispatih uses "seputih cinta ini" to reveal the purity of love. Thus, this is the reason why I chose the Kerispatih song lyrics as my data source for this research.

Kerispatih used some figurative expressions in their song lyrics. I was interested in investigating the meaning beneath their use of figurative language in their songs. Figurative language in my research is defined as language which does not mean what it says (Hawkes, as cited in Chandler, 1972). Another linguist defines figurative language as the ability of someone to express himself in beautiful words (Keraf, 2008). Many of songs now are used figurative language in their song lyrics.

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Hence, when the people want to understand the meaning of the whole song lyrics, they have to know the meaning of the figurative language first.

To reveal the meaning of figurative language, the reader can identify it by using a semiotic study. Through semiotics, the figurative language can be analyzed. Chandler (2002, p.1) states "Semiotics is the study of sign". As a study of signs, semiotics is used as a method to analyze and interpret texts or lyrics. Semiotics is the study of sign functions in a text, how to know the sign system in the text that will make the reader get the message in the texts or lyrics (Sobur, 2001). In other words, semiotics is doing interrogation toward codes used by the writer to make the reader enter the hidden meaning in texts or lyrics.

1.2   Reasons for Choosing The Topic

A semiotic study of figurative language in Kerispatih's song lyrics, *Tak Lekang oleh Waktu* album describes the meaning of figurative language in Kerispatih's song lyrics. Observing those lyrics reveals that most of the authors use figurative language in their song lyrics. I thought that it would be interesting to analyze the figurative language because the listeners will understand the meaning of the lyrics when they know the meanings of the figurative language in those song lyrics.

1.3 Research Question

To conduct this research, I formulated the following research question: How is figurative phrase constructed in Kerispatih's song lyrics, *Tak Lekang Oleh Waktu* album? In this case, the research investigates the metaphorical symbols, the meaning of metaphorical symbols and general theme in Kerispatih's song lyrics.

1.4 Aim of the study

Based on the statement and the formulation of the problem, the aim of this research is to investigate how the metaphorical symbols is conveyed in the figurative language in Kerispatih's song lyrics, *Tak Lekang Oleh Waktu* album.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The research provides an analysis of figurative language in Kerispatih's song lyrics. The term of figurative language in this research is related to the figurative language in the Kerispatih song lyrics. The research is limited to analyzing the figurative language in Kerispatih's song lyrics, *Tak Lekang oleh Waktu* album and only analyzing the metaphorical symbols in the figurative language.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Many researchers have conducted studies regarding figurative language phenomenon in the song lyrics, but they have merely investigated the types of figurative language. One of the researchers who have conducted the figurative

language is Fatonah (2006); her research is entitled "*Figurative Language in the Linkin Park's Song Lyrics*". Her study aimed to identify the dominant figurative language and to investigate the meanings in the Linkin Park song lyrics. Meanwhile, this research alternatively investigated another issue on figurative language which is the meaning of metaphorical symbols in the song lyrics by using Barthes's orders of signification.

This research hopefully can contribute to the establishment of figurative language as a field of study which uses the semiotics theory. It can give much information to the reader about the figurative language and it can be used as an additional reference for linguists.

1.7   Data Sources

The data sources of this research were from Kerispatih's song lyrics, *Tak Lekang oleh Waktu* album. This album consists of eleven songs created by Badai Kerispatih and one song created by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, entitled *Kawanku.* The hit songs in this album are *Bila Rasaku Ini Rasamu* and *Demi Cinta.* The reason for choosing those songs was because those songs lyrics used figurative language that was interesting to analyze. I downloaded the song lyrics from the Internet, available at *http://funlirik.com.*

1.8   Methods of Investigation

This research primarily uses a qualitative method. The qualitative method was chosen because I believe that it is the most appropriate method to conduct in this research about figurative language. It is an appropriate method because a qualitative method is usually in the form of words rather than numbers. In this research, it can be used to analyze the meanings of figurative language.

The qualitative method is a useful method to analyze the data because it provides a method to answer questions that cannot be answered exclusively by other methods. Thus, with the qualitative method the people can interpret the meanings of the hidden words in the song lyrics.

Another method applied in this study is a descriptive method which is useful in describing the facts and phenomenon (Ratna, 2004). A descriptive method was applied in presenting the data, analysis, and its findings. I believe that descriptive method is an appropriate method for this research because the goal of this research is to systematically, factually, and accurately describe or illustrate the facts, characteristics and relationships of the researched elements. Consequently, qualitative method and descriptive methods can make an important contribution in this research.

1.9   Method of Analysis

In this research, the data were analyzed by using a semiotic approach. In semiotics, texts or lyrics are analyzed by using a sign system. How the denotative and connotative meaning in the metaphorical symbols in Kerispatih's song lyrics and

what kind of system makes the signs meaningful. Semiotics was used in this research to analyze the meanings of figurative language in Kerispatih's song lyrics, so semiotics is a tool to analyze the meanings of figurative language.

The data were analyzed by using a semiotic theory: Barthes's order of signification. From Barthes's orders of signification, the first order of signification was to analyze the data to discover the denotative meanings. Then, the second order of signification was to analyze the data to reveal the connotative meanings. While myths were discovered through the combination of the first order of signification and the second order of signification.

1.10   Clarification of Terms

In order to avoid unnecessary misunderstanding, some terms used in this chapter are clarified in this chapter as follows:

1. Lyrics: "lyric as the lyre, meant to be sung that directly expresses thought and sentiments and it can be cry straight from the heart" (Lewis cited in Indri, 2006). In this research, the term lyrics refer to words that have meaning. The lyrics in those songs used some of figurative language.

2. Symbol: "symbol as signs used in human communication and give words, images, gestures, drawings or mimetic sound" (Ogden and Richards, 1923:23). In this research, the term of symbol refers to the metaphorical symbols which are the figurative language. The symbols in this research

provide the hidden meaning. Thus, to find the hidden meaning I have to analyze the symbols meaning.

3. Kerispatih: one of the famous bands in Indonesia. In this research, the term Kerispatih refers to one of band that has good song lyrics that can 'touch' our heart and they used some of figurative language.

4. Figurative language: "language which does not mean what it says" (Hawkes 1972:1). In this research, the term figurative language refers to some languages that have the literal meanings and associative meanings of the words. The most common figurative languages are simile, metaphor, and personification. Then, in this research, I only analyze the metaphorical symbols.

5. Semiotics: "Semiotics is the study of sign" (Daniel Chandler, 2002:1). In this research, the term semiotics refers to the theory to analyze the meaning in the song lyrics. This research uses Barthes's orders of signification to analyze the research question. Barthes's orders of signification explains o the denotative meanings, connotative meanings, and myth.

1.11 Organization of the Paper

This paper covers five chapters in which the general descriptions of each chapter are elaborated as follows:

Chapter I: Introduction: this chapter provides the background of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, scope of the study, research question,

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aim of the study, data source, method of investigation, method of analysis, clarification of the key terms, and also the organization of the paper.

Chapter II: Theoretical foundation: This chapter deals with the theoretical framework of the study to reveal the meanings of figurative language in the Kerispatih song lyrics. In doing so, the writer has to discuss firstly about semiotics; sign, symbol, denotation and connotation, and myth. Furthermore, this section will also discuss about song lyrics and figurative language, especially metaphorical symbols as the point analysis in this research and the last discusses the previous research.

Chapter III: Research methodology: this chapter discusses the methodology of the research. It is uses to find the answers of research questions stated before in chapter one. It is divided into three sub-chapters: (1) research methods (2) data collection (3) data analysis (4) and data presentation.

Chapter IV: Research findings: this chapter describes the result of the study after conducting the research and obtaining the necessary data that is depicted including the analysis of the data using the theoretical framework.

Chapter V: Conclusion and Suggestion: this chapter describes several points as a part of chapter V. It consists of the writer interpretations of

the research finding in a form of conclusion and suggestion. The conclusion

and suggestion take from the analysis data in the chapter before.