

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background, the problems of the study, the aims of the study, the limitation of the study, the method of the research, classification of key terms, and organization of the paper presentation.

1.1 Background

Language is the principal means of human being to communicate with each other. It is used to express our reaction to certain situations, and to reveal our thoughts, ideas, emotions and feelings. Language also plays important roles to the development of human and technological civilization as Lyons (1981:3) writes, “a language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbol by means of which social group cooperates”.

Communication can be built if there is an understanding between speaker and the hearer or in other word, the source person and target person. The main aim of communication is to indicate something or some relations or even some ideas, and it can be shown or called as its meaning. In this case, meaning is important and significant. If the hearer cannot comprehend the meaning of the speaker try to reveal, the meaning will not be delivered smoothly.

Meaning can be studied through scientific study of language called linguistics. The branch of linguistics which deals with meaning is called semantics. As stated by Griffiths (2006:15) semantics is the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from contexts of use, is a descriptive subject. In semantics, meaning is divided into two parts, literal meaning and non-literal meaning. Literal meaning is based on the actual words. Non-literal meaning is the other way around. The speaker means something differently from the meaning of the words; he/she has another intention which is different from the meaning of words he/she said. The hearer may find it difficult to understand what the speaker wants to convey if the speaker speaks non-literal. There are number of ways in expressing ideas which deviate from the semantic conventions, some of which are through the use of idiom and figurative language.

There are so many kinds of literary works which use the figurative language, such as lyrics song and poetry. All of them use it to give the magnificent words to interest the reader or hearer. Several research and articles already published about figurative language. In department of psychology, Colston (2002) made a research related with figurative language. The research present argument against the basis for the concern over ecological validity, but then maintain for other important reasons that language development researchers should nevertheless have knowledge of the figurative language content of the popular children's literature.

Another focus of study that relates to figurative language and psychology was conducted in 1986. This research sets out to answer the questions: What are the cognitive styles of people who frequently use metaphor like? How do these people differ from those who use metaphor infrequently? Some hypotheses are made about the cognitive styles of these two groups. This is done by integrating (a) the theoretical and experimental descriptions of figurative language and the metaphorical process with (b) ideas concerning the similarity and importance of the metaphorical process to the creative process (Fine, 1986).

Meanwhile, in the area of linguistics there was also research related to figurative language. The research employs a cognitive semantic approach to compare figurative uses of 3 oral body parts (“mouth”, “lip” and “tongue”) in English and Malay phraseology to establish whether either language shows an orientation toward metaphor or metonymy. The main finding is that where figurative language is being employed for the similar discourse function of offering an evaluation, though each language shows evidence of both figures – as well as blends between them – English has a tendency toward metonymy whereas Malay has a tendency toward metaphor (Black: 2003).

This study is inspired by previous research conducted by Roberts (1994). It is found that discourse goals are accomplished by the use of eight forms of figurative language: hyperbole, idiom, indirect request, irony, understatement, metaphor, rhetorical question, and simile. Subjects were asked to provide reasons

why they would use a particular figure of speech. Based on their responses, a discourse goal taxonomy that includes each of the eight figures was developed.

The present study aims to enrich the previous studies about figurative language. This study concerns on the types of figurative language in song lyrics from the album entitled “Pure” by Areia de Rio. This study also investigates dominant figurative language in the album.

1.2 Problems of the Study

The research problems in the study are stated as follows:

1. What types of figurative languages are used in “Pure” album?
2. What are dominant figurative languages used in “Pure” album?

1.3 Aims of The Study

The study is aimed at:

1. Finding out and identifying the figurative language in “Pure” album.
2. Finding out dominant figurative language in “Pure” album.

1.4 Method of the research

In this study, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. This method gives a detailed picture of phenomenon without an attempt to test or build theoretical models. The method is considered as the appropriate method since it

systematically and factually describes the characteristic of gained the data. This is accordance with Bogdan (1982 as cited in Moleong: 2004), who assert that descriptive qualitative research is to make description and sketches systematically, accurately and factually about the facts.

This study describes the categorization of the data found in analysis. This was done through a close reading on the lyric and sorting the words that contained figurative language. Then the words or lyrics were classified based on the figurative language that was used in the lyrics.

This study focused on 10 song lyrics that contained expressions of love. The 10 song lyrics include I'm Yours by Jason Mraz, Crush by Emaneul Kiriakou, Love Song by Sara Bareilles, Apologize by Tim Mosley, Lucky by Colbie Caillat, Pocketful of Sunshine by Natasha Bedingfield, Bleeding Love by Jesse McCartney, Bubbly by Jason Reeves, Take a Bow by Mikkel Eriksen, and Mercy by Steeve Booker.

1.5 Classification of Key Terms

To clarify the terms used in this study, their brief description is as follows:

Figurative language : a word or phrase used for vivid or dramatic effect
(Hornby, 2005: 433)

Love expressions : when you say what you think or show how you feel about
love using words or actions (Cambridge Advanced
Learner's Dictionary)

- Song : a short poem or a number of verses set to music and intended to be sung (Hornby, 2005: 822)
- Meaning : the thought that a person intends to give, especially in language.
- Classification : is the process of arranging object combination became a group to classify similarity and the difference.

1.6 Organization of The Paper

This paper is organized into five chapters: *chapter one* contains background of the study, the formulations of the problems, the aims of the study, the methodology which is used to collecting the data, the limitation of the study, the significant of the study, and the clarification of the main terms; *chapter two* describes the theoretical framework that is relevant to the present study; *chapter three* explains the appropriate approach in researching the problems, the use of appropriate method in collecting the data and in analyzes the data; *chapter four* discusses the findings gained from the respondents through observation and interview; *chapter five* presents the conclusions of the main points discuss in this study and also the suggestions for the further research related to this study.