

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents several essential points as introduction of this thesis. They are background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, scope and limitation, definitions of special terms, and significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Poem is one of the literary works that tells things in human mind, feeling, and life experience of the poet in an imaginatively manner. A poem is constructed in beautiful and interesting language structure, both physically and spiritually. Hooper and Pickering state, “poetry, like all literature, attempts to communicate an author’s emotional and intellectual responses to his or her own existence and to the surrounding world” (1990, 22). Meanwhile Culler asserts that “poetry is language that makes abundant use of figures of speech and language that aims to be powerfully persuasive” (1997: 69). Based on definitions quoted above, this discussion combines the above definitions to make a more general one. Hence, poetry is defined as the poet’s expressions of mind, feeling, and life experience to his or her own existence and to the surrounding world which is makes abundant use of figures of speech and language that aims to be powerfully persuasive.

In Culler’s view, many theorists of genre have historically followed the Greeks. The Greeks divided works into three broad classes according to who speaks: poetic or lyric, where the narrator speaks in the first person, epic or narrative, where the narrator speaks in his own voice but allows characters to speak in theirs, and drama, where the characters do all the talking (Culler, 1997: 72-73). Almost similarly, in Abrams’ view lyric is any fairly short

poem, consisting of the utterance by a single speaker, who expresses a state of mind or a process of perception, thought, and feeling (1999: 146).

According to Reaske, lyric, referred to originally to lyric poetry that is written to be sung to a lyre (1966: 35). Almost similarly, according to Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, lyric is "words of a song expressing strong emotion in an imaginative way" (1983: 257). When combined, it can be concluded that lyric is any fairly short poem which consist expression of strong emotion of mind, thought, and feeling that can be sung to a lyre.

However, the term "lyric" now designates a short poem which emphasizes the expression of the individual's feeling and emotion rather than external events or attitudes. When we speak of a line of poetry, or a whole poem, as being lyrical, we mean that it seems to express the personal feelings of the poet. It is as if he were singing by himself and we were allow to overhear or aevesdrop. Although lyrical poems are no longer necessarily sung, they frequently retain their musical quality. Song lyrics are consist of a group of words as poetry. As the development of music, song lyric or lyric becomes the very popular belles-lettres among people. Lyric is basically similar to poem, but it has particular rythm. Due to that, the way to reveal the content of lyric is the same with the poem, by analyzing the elements of the poem such as diction, imagery, theme, and figurative language.

In M. H. Abrams' view figurative language or figures of speech is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect (1999: 96). Figures are sometimes described as primarily poetic, but they are integral to the functioning of language and indispensable to all modes of discourse. Reaske (1966: 33) says that figurative language is language that employs various figures of speech. Based on several definitions quoted above, this paper combines the above definitions to make a more general

one. So figures of speech is a rhetorical devices that employs various figures of speech in order to achieve some special meaning or effect by using words in distinctive ways.

This study, the writer chooses some of Stephen Foster songs works as the author object of analysis. One reason that is he has been one of the best of American folk's songs composer in the history of the United State, beside that he also produces poems. According to O'connell (2007: 497),

He gave America a music and a poetry that perfectly reflected the concerns, moods, and demographics of the antebellum people. His personal despair reflected the mood of the nation as it struggled to stay together in the face of greater forces that ultimately pulled it asunder. Foster sang of the loss of the pastoral ideal to the ever more powerful forces of industrialization. He sang of migration, as both native born and immigrants abandoned the tranquility of their farms for the deafening sounds and squalor of the urban world. He sang of all the loss that afflicted these people, loss of home, families, children, nation, and peace.

Among all Stephen Foster's works, she chooses songs: "Beautiful Dreamer," and "Bury Me in the Morning Mother" because these songs talk about that is in our life. Lyrics as part of the song have many words or sentences that can be analyze as a poem. There are a number of ways in expressing ideas which deviate from the semantic convention, some of which are through the use of idiom and figurative language.

As far as the researcher's knowledge, there has been no research that anlyzes Stephen C. Foster's songs in terms of the figurative langauge. Such research will contribute to the study of literature in genaral, and the study of poetry in particular. Based this fact, the researcher tries to make a reserach on Stephen C. Foster's songs by applying the theory of figurative language.

1.2 Problems of The Study

The problems of the research that the writer proposes are formulated as follows:

1.2.1 What figures of speech are used in Stephen C. Foster's songs?

1.2.2 What are the possible meanings of the figures of speech used in the songs?

1.2.3 How do the possible meanings contribute to the beauty of the songs?

1.3 The Objectives of The Study

The objectives of the study are to describe:

1.3.1 To identify figures of speech are found in Stephen C. Foster's songs.

1.3.2 To find the possible meanings of the figures of speech used in Stephen C. Foster's songs.

1.3.3 To analyze how the possible meanings contribute to the beauty of the songs.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

There are many interesting topics that can to be discussed and analyzed in literature, especially in poem such as diction, imagery, style, symbol, syntax, and figurative language. Lyrics as part of the song have many words or sentences that can be analyzed as a poem. Therefore, the writer only focuses her study on Stephen Foster's songs, particularly "Beautiful Dreamer," and "Bury Me in the Morning Mother" what are the figures of speech of those songs.

1.5 Definition of Special Terms

In this process of the writing, the writer will give definition that related with tittle "An Analysis Figures of Speech Found in Stephen Foster's Songs" those are:

1.5.1 Figure of speech

In Abrams' view, figures of speech is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in

order to achieve some special meaning or effect (1999: 96). Meanwhile, Reaske (1966: 33) says that figurative language is a language that employs various figures of speech. Based on several definitions quoted above, this paper combines the above definitions to make a more general one. So figures of speech is a rhetorical devices that employs various figures of speech in order to achieve some special meaning or effect by using words in distinctive ways.

1.5.2 Lyrics

Abrams states that lyric is any fairly short poem, consisting of the utterance by a single speaker, who expresses a state of mind or a process of perception, thought, and feeling (1999: 146).

In Culler's view the lyric, Northrop Frye writes, 'is the genre that most clearly shows the hypothetical core of literature, narrative and meaning in their literal aspects as word-order and word-pattern'(1977: 77). So the writer concludes that lyrics is any fairly short poem, consisting of the utterance by a single speaker, who expresses a state of mind or a process of perception, thought, and feeling shows the hypothetical core of literature, narrative and meaning in their literal aspects as word-order and word-pattern.

1.5.3 Poetry

Hoepfer and Pickering say that lyric is a form of writing in which few lines run to the edge of the page (1990: 15). Meanwhile Culler asserts that "poetry is language that makes abundant use of figures of speech and language that aims to be powerfully persuasive" (1997: 69). Based on the definition quoted above, the writer concludes that poetry is a form of writing in which few lines run to the edge of the page that makes abundant use of figures of speech and language that aims to be powerfully persuasive.

1.5.4 Song

According to Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary song is short piece of music with words that you sing, song in general music for singing (1983: 412). In online source, song is a lyric poem with a number of repeating stanzas (called refrain), written to be set to music in either vocal performance or with accompaniment of musical instruments. According to Spitzer and Walters, song is as musical works, an abstract entity that serve as an umbrella for many version and rendition (*Making Sense of American Popular Song*: 1). So, song is short piece of music with words that you sing, an abstract entity that serve as an umbrella for many version and rendition.

1.6 Significance of The Study

As far as the writer's knowledge, researches that analyze a poem (such as a song lyric) in terms figures of speech are still difficult to find. Such research will offer a good input to linguistic study as well as literary study. Thus, the writer hopes that her thesis will be useful for the thesis writer herself and as the reference for the further researches. Figures of speech can help our readers understand and stay interested in what we have to say. There are many figuratives speech in Stephen C. Foster's songs that can be analyzed for the useful purposes. The figures of speech in Stephen Foster's songs have, as far as the writer's knowledge, never been analyzed. Analyzing the figures of speech in Stephen C. Foster's songs will offer some contributions to the study of literature in general and poetry (lyrics of song) in special.