

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some aspects that become foundation in analyzing problem in the study. It gives descriptions about what the background is, statement that will be analyzed, objective, limitation, significance, and a number of terms which related to the topic.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language cannot be separated from human because human uses language as the means of communication to the others. According to Wardaugh (1977:3) language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication. It is same as Boey's theory, "language is used for communication and allows people to say things to each other and express their communicative needs" (Boey, 1975:1). So, based on the two theories above the writer concludes that language is a sound or vocal symbols which is used by human to communicate with others, even, animal and other creatures too and humans also make a communication to express their thoughts, feelings, and intentions or deliver messages. Furthermore, Wellek and Warren state about language as follows:

Language is the material of literature as stone or bronze is of sculpture, paints of picture, or sounds of music. But one should realize that language is not mere inert matter like stone but is itself a creation of man and is thus charged with cultural heritage of a linguistic group (Wellek and Warren, 1949:22).

Literature also cannot be separated from human. This is because the literature of the people is the primary element of its culture. It contains the record of the people values, their thoughts, their problems and conflict, their whole way of life (Little, 1966:1). So, literature has a function to human states his or her thought and feeling through literary works. Literature, we might is a speech act or textual event that elicits certain kinds of attention (Culler, 1997:27). For further Grimes (1961:5) states that literature makes distinctive contribution to knowledge, and interpretation is a way of discovering this contribution. Because it demands activity and leads a social (audience) situation, interpretation often seems more inviting than other literary study. In this thesis literature deals with figurative language. Figurative language is used by human to express his or her thought and feeling through a language with high level more than its literal meaning. In addition, Harris and Hodges (in Damon, *et al*) define figurative language as follows:

Figurative language is the “expressive, non literal use of language for special effects, usually through images”. Navigating one’s way through figurative language requires a deeper level of text comprehension, an understanding beyond the literal level using analytical and inferential skills. For either native or non native English speakers, figurative language often seems complex and challenging (Damon *et al*, 2006:108).

Little (1966:212) also says that figurative language is the main force of expression in poetry and religion where concrete images, symbols, parables and so on, convey so much more than can be conveyed by the corresponding abstract statement. It’s may often lead to a sharper impression and a more forceful emotive tone than a bald statement will achieve. Figurative language also can be found in

movie review and song. It makes song more beautiful and full of meaning. Yamin (2012:2) states that song is a creative writing in various expression use beautiful language with its uniqueness. Human usually assert his or her thought, feel, mean and emotion through song. In each song, there are some lyrics. “It’s a short poem expressing a personal basic emotion—love, sorrow, joy, patriotism, religious feeling and any other sentiment” (McDonnel *et al*, 1989:806).

For the explanations above, it is concluded that in delivering his or her thought, feeling, and emotion people do not only use direct utterance, but also indirect utterance through the song which is the meaning of utterance is different from utterance itself. It is because people use figurative language in their utterances or maybe in the lyrics of the songs.

Lyrics of the song are chosen in this study and the writer chooses lyric of the song of John Denver. Therefore some of his songs are chosen because not only his songs are sung by many famous singers such as: The Avett Brothers, Andy Williams, Ray Charles, Lynn Anderson, Chris Nole, Allen Stone, Andrew Stein and even Indonesian’s presenter and singer, Tantowi Yahya but also he got Academy of Country Music such as: Album of the Year (1974), American Music Awards: Favorite Pop/Rock Male Artist (1975), Favorite Country Album and Favorite Country Male Artist (1976), Country Music Association: Entertainer of the Year and Song of the Year (1975), Emmy Awards: Emmy for Outstanding Variety, Music or Comedy (1975), Grammy Awards: Best Musical Album For Children (1997) and Grammy Hall of Fame Award (1998), And John Denver was inducted as Songwriter Hall of Fame in 1996. It means that the singer and his

songs are very good and awesome and makes the writer interested in research the songs.

This study serves song analysis of John Denver songs. The study may be useful for any readers or people because they are not only interested in the songs but also they can take something meaningful from lyric of the songs in their life. So, the writer is interested in research about song. The writer also would like to analyze the songs by using figurative language theory. The songs that will be analyzed are “Back Home Again”, “Rocky Mountain High”, “Sunshine on My Shoulders”, and “Take me Home, Country Roads”. The songs contain figure of speech that make them more expressive, more beautiful and full of meaning. So, the writer also wants to show the possible meaning that hidden in the lyric of the songs.

As far as the researcher’s knowledge, researches that analyze the figure of speech of the song in terms literary theory are difficult to find and little bit of number. Indeed this kind of research will offer some contribution literary study in general and the study of figure of speech in particular This research therefore is important in terms of literary study in general and figure of speech in particular.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

Based on the background above, the writer has problems of the research which are formulated as follows:

- 1.2.1 What are the figures of speech are used in John Denver's songs "Back Home Again," "Sunshine on My Shoulders," "Rocky Mountain High," and "Take me Home, Country Roads"?
- 1.2.2 What are the possible meanings of the figures of speech used in those songs?
- 1.2.3 Why are the figures of speech used in those songs?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, the writer intends to find the figurative language which used in John Denver's song and the possible meaning of John Denver's song. Here is formulation about objective of the study as follows:

- 1.3.1 To identify the types of figures of speech which used in John Denver's songs.
- 1.3.2 To find and describe the possible meaning of figurative languages in John Denver's songs.
- 1.3.3 To find the reason why the figurative language is used in John Denver's songs.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study

John Denver has many famous songs that make the writer interested in analyze the songs, but it is more difficult and not effective if the writer researches

all of John Denver's song. John Denver has many songs which most of them created by John Denver himself. John Denver has about one hundred more songs. So, in this part the writer has limitation to analyze the songs because effectiveness. In analyze the song, the writer choose some of John Denver's song. They are: "Back Home Again", "Rocky Mountain High", "Sunshine on My Shoulders", "Take Me Home, Country Roads".

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer wants to present this thesis about figurative language on four of John Denver's song. This thesis presents a literary analysis on four of John Denver's songs. The significance of this analysis is making the readers know about figurative language and song, helping someone who wants to analyze figurative language on songs, introducing the object of analysis to the readers, and giving some knowledge about literature itself. The writer hopes this thesis can be accepted and be useful for all the readers and society.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Here, the writer wants to give definition of key terms which is related to the title of this thesis. It is intended to give the readers understanding and explaining about the terms in this thesis. The terms are: (1) Literature, (2) Lyric, (3) Song, (4) Figurative, (5) Meaning.

1.6.1 Literature

Literature is a comprehensive text-anthology of fiction, poetry, and drama designed to introduce students to the formal study of literature

(Pickering and Hoepfer, 1990:1). Literature, we might say is a speech act or textual event that elicits certain kinds of attention (Culler, 1997:27). From the definitions above, the writer concludes that Literature is a comprehensive text-anthology of fiction, poetry, and drama that elicits certain kinds of attention.

1.6.2 Lyric

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 (Abrams, 1999:146). According to Little (1966:173) lyric is defined into some forms, as follows: (a). A lyric is a poem suitable for singing, or at least with sound of a musical kind, highly patterned. (b). A lyric is a subjective work, being the words of a "single voice" speaking of personal thoughts and feelings. (c) The lyric is the record of the development of a single thought or emotion. (d) The lyric often (but not always) follows a typical plan or structure. (e) The lyric is hence very often dramatic. The writer concludes Lyric is a poem or consists of words which are used by human to express their thoughts and feelings through singing.

1.6.3 Song

Song is specifically intended for singing. This intention affects diction, content, and stanza form (Little, 1966:174). Song is a piece of music for accompanied or unaccompanied voice/voices or, "the act or art of singing," but the term is generally not used for large vocal forms

including opera and oratorio. However, the term is, "often found in various figurative and transferred senses (Wikimedia, 2013). From the definitions above, the writer concludes that Song is an art of piece of musical composition with words which is sung to express human's thought and feeling.

1.6.4 Figurative

Figurative is the use of words outside their usual or literal meaning and can be found in poetry where the writing appeals to the senses (McDonnell et al, 1989:796). According to Abrams (1999:96) Figurative 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. The writer concludes that Figurative is the use of words which different with its literal meaning where appeals to the sense and used for vivid and dramatic effect.

1.6.5 Meaning

Meaning is part of language and referent of word in a language in the real world. Meaning can be entity, event, state, action, situation, etc (Adisutrisno, 2008:13). Meaning is a notion in semantics classically defined as having two components: (1). Reference, anything in the referential realm denoted by a word or expression. (2). Sense, the system of paradigmatic and syntagmatic relationships between a lexical unit and other lexical units in a language (Lyons, 1977). The writer concludes

that Meaning is part of language which indicated by sounds, words, or signals in a language in the world to make humans understand in their communication.

1.7 The Organization of the Study

In this part, the writer explains the organization of the study in this thesis. This thesis consists of five chapters and each chapter has sub chapter. In chapter 1 introduction, there are background of the study which explains particular topic to be discussed, statement of the problem which shows the problems of the research, objective of the study which aim to solve the problems, scope and limitation of the study which the writer limits the object researched, significance of the study which this study is useful for human or the readers, and definition of key terms which explains about words used in this study. In chapter 2 review of related literature, there are some theories which related with the title of this study such as linguistics, literature, stylistics, figurative language, song or lyric. All of them are needed to analyze the object and help the writer to find the answer of the problems in chapter 1. In chapter 3 methodology, there are data sources which it becomes primary object to be analyzed, data collecting which this technique used for collect the data to be analyzed, and data analysis which this method is the way to analyze the data and finding the result of the problems in this thesis. In the chapter 3, the writer uses technique qualitative study because the aims of this study are describe kinds of figurative language and meaning in the songs. In chapter 4 analysis, there are analysis data, discusses and findings, and result of the analysis. In chapter 5 conclusion, there are conclusion and suggestion which conclude the result of the data and give suggestion for this study.