

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, singing appears to be a popular activity in many parts of the world. People sing to show their feeling both happiness and sadness. Apparently, a young person is strongly influenced by music and songs. Many of them are often inspired by the songs that they listen to. Song is not written automatically, there are a lot of meaning that contain in the songs when the songs are written by the author.

Song is not only consist music and lyric for entertainment, but also deliver some message to the listener. The messages are delivered by the song writer through the lyric. The use of figurative language is making rich the lyric meaning, so the listener can have different interpretation for each lyric depend on the background of the listener or their knowledge. Figurative language according to Perrine (1997: 61), is language using figures of speech that cannot be taken literally. It is used by the poets because they can say what they want to say more vividly and forcefully by figures rather than they say it directly. Figurative language causes a poem becomes more imaginative and it adds the intensity of the poets' feeling for poetry to convey their attitude. Not even in the poetry, this can be applied in the song lyric too.

The benefit of figurative language or speech contains images. The writer or speaker describes something through the use of unusual comparisons, for effect, interest, and to make things clearer. The result of using this technique is the creation of interesting meaning. The difficulty of figurative language is not intended to be interpreted in a literal sense. Appealing to the imagination, figurative language provides new ways of looking at the world. It always makes use of comparison between different things. Figurative language compares two things that are different in enough ways so that their similarities, when pointed out are interesting, unique and/or surprising.

Griffith (2006: 79) states that “when figurative language uses are recycled to the point of cliché, they frequently settle into the semantics system of the language as new sense for words”, this becomes a fact that figurative language is part of semantics as the branch of the language. Griffith (2006: 1) states that “semantics is the study of the “toolkit” for meaning, knowledge encoded in the vocabulary of the language and it is pattern for building more elaborate meaning, up to the level of the sentence”. This problem of understanding has been the subject of many formal inquiries, over a long period of time, most notably in the field of formal semantics. In linguistics, it is the study of interpretation of signs or symbols as used by agents or communities within particular circumstances and contexts.

The formal study of semantics intersects with many other fields or inquiry including lexicology, syntax, pragmatics, etymology and others, although semantics is a well-defined field in its own right, often with synthetic properties.

In philosophy of language, semantics and reference are related fields. Further related fields include philology, communication and semiotics. The formal study of semantics is therefore complex. Semantics is different with syntax, the study of the combinatory of units of a language (without reference to their meaning), and pragmatics, the study of the relationship between the symbols of a language, their meaning, and the users of the language.

The term of semantics is generally used in the study of linguistics than other science meaning like semiotics, because the other term of semantics has meaning than more extensive, that is the meaning of sign or symbol in general, included the meaning from the traffic, Morse code, mathematic symbol, and the other symbol. The limitation of semantics is the meaning in the matter of language as the tool of verbal communication.

*Coldplay* is not a new band in the music industries. *Coldplay* was formed in 1996, when Jonny Buckland, Will Champion, Guy Berryman and Chris Martin met each other at UCL in London. Chris and Jonny started the band, and though Will really was a guitarist, he joined Chris and Jonny as a drummer, though he had never played that instrument before. Now the band needs a bass player, and Guy joined the three others, and after that they had their first gigs with the name “Starfish”. The name “*Coldplay*” was actually used by another band at UCL, but they gave it up because they thought it was too depressing! In 1997 the band sent out a promo tape with two songs (“Ode to Deodorant” and “Brothers and Sisters”). “Brothers and Sisters” has after that been part of various EP’s and singles, while “Ode to Deodorant” has never been re-released since. Will

Champion later said that the song was mostly fun, and that it was actually quite bad, but had a good ending. (Daniah, 2012. <http://www.moron.nl/lyrics/coldplay/biography.html>).

*Coldplay* has released nine albums during their career. The first album *Safety (EP)* in 1998 released on the *Fierce Panda* label was notable primarily for the fact that it was the band's first release. Only 500 copies were pressed. Next to the 1999 *Coldplay* released *Blue Room (EP)* with their single "Such a Rush". *Parachutes* in 2000 the first full-length album by the group became a worldwide smash. It introduced fans to the band's unique brand of sweeping, melodic rock. In the U.S., although the album only reached #51 on the chart, its lead single "Yellow" accomplished the unusual feat of being a major hit on both the modern rock and adult top 40 charts. Eventually, the album earned the band a Grammy Award for Best Alternative Music Performance. The song "Clocks," heard across the media spectrum in the U.S., became a top 40 hit on the pop charts, in dance clubs, and on modern rock radio in their album *A Rush of Blood to the Head* in 2002. Their first live album released in 2003, these live sets include a DVD and a CD. It was a top 15 hit for *Coldplay* on the US album chart. Defying renewed rumors of a band breakup, and in the wake of the publicity swirling around lead vocalist Chris Martin's marriage to actress *Gwyneth Paltrow*, the band's third studio album *X&Y* in 2005 found them in fine form. Press comparisons to U2 among the rock elite became commonplace.

The band's fourth studio album, *Viva la Vida or Death and All His Friends* (2008), was produced by *Brian Eno* and released again to largely favorable

reviews, earning several Grammy nominations and wins at the 51<sup>st</sup> Grammy Awards. *Prospekt's March* (2008) is an EP collection of tracks left over from the studio sessions that produced Coldplay's album *Viva La Vida Or Death and All His Friends*. It met with muted commercial success. However, the song "Life In Technicolor II" was nominated for two Grammy Awards for Best Rock Performance By a Duo Or Group With Vocal and Best Short Form Video. The last album preceded by first single "Every Teardrop Is a Waterfall" Coldplay's fifth studio album, 2011's *Mylo Xyloto*, was produced by Markus Dravs, Daniel Green, and Rik Simpson (the official press release adds "with enoxification and additional composition by Brian Eno") (Bill Lamb, 2012. <http://top40.about.com/od/coldplay/tp/coldplaydisc08.htm>).

Like in the lyric of Coldplay song, there are a lot of lyric in the Coldplay songs that the listener did not realize the meaning, like in this example that containing a figurative language from Coldplay Song *Paradise*.

*When she was just a girl  
She expected the world  
But it flew away from her reach so  
She ran away in her sleep*

The band tried to infix the lyric with a figurative language hyperbole which has meant a girl who has a big dream, she is still a girl who could not understand the world and still like to play in her dream and in the lyric *Hurts Like Heaven*.

*You Oohooh  
'Cause you do  
Oh you, use your heart as a weapon*

*And it hurts like heaven*

In the lyric above there is a word that says *Oh you, use your heart as a weapon*, this lyric contains a figurative language simile which means people who always use heart as his guide in their life. In this album *Coldplay* tried to insinuate the people always trust to something who still hangs in doubt the truth.

In this chase the writer found an issue in a song lyric, the writer found the use of a figurative language in their lyric. Figurative languages used in the lyric of *Coldplay* song are interesting phenomena. It makes the writer decides to conduct a study on the topic entitled *A Figurative Language Used in The Coldplay Album*

## **B. Previous Study**

To prove the originality of his study, the resources discussed previous studies that deal with figurative language in literary work done by student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Mustaqim (UMS, 2011) conducted a study entitled *Figurative Language in Rupert Brooke Poems*. He classified the data to know the meaning of figurative language in Rupert Brooke poems and to reveal the dominant figurative language in the Rupert Brooke poems. The figurative language in Rupert Brooke poems mostly insert an attributes of human being to animal, an object or concept to add comparison intensity, otherwise merely informative statement of the poems. Based on the analysis, this study reveals that there are many meaning and kind of figurative language in Rupert Brooke poems. The dominant figurative language in Rupert Brooke's used on his poem is personification. Brooke prefer to compare informative statement with giving the attributes of human being to an animal, an object or a concept and his

minor figures of speech are metaphor, irony, simile, apostrophe, symbol, hyperbole and synecdoche. The meaning revealed from his poem talks about love, faith and mythology.

Dwiningrum (UMS, 2009) in her research entitled *A Semantics Study on Figurative Language Use in the Westlife Album*. The writer described the use of figurative language in *Westlife* album limit from the expression based on human perception and the contextual meaning of the figurative language in *Westlife* songs lyric on *Westlife* album. As it is assumed that lyric is one of several human's medium of the language. The result of the study indicates that in *Westlife* song lyric in *Westlife* album use figurative language dominated by personification as their creativity of mind expression. Besides the writer also find other figurative language namely; hyperbole, simile, metaphor and synecdoche. In addition in *Westlife* song lyric in *Westlife* album convey various message for the audience about human life with different condition and feeling. There is information and human life behind the album and based on the frequency of occurred of contextual meaning, this album uses figurative language mostly is to describe human's life.

Based on the above studies, it is obvious that all studies used human perceptual system that is under the scope of pragmatics and semantics. The first and the second resources tried to find the dominant use of the figurative language in their research. The similarity in this research paper from both previous studies is the use of figurative language as the scope of research as the part of semantics as the branch of language. Different from those studies, although the researcher

presents his scope of semantics approach in fact, the researcher does not concern with which is the dominant figurative language used, but the researcher is concerns with figurative language in general as his studies. In addition, the researcher uses the *Coldplay* song lyrics in *Coldplay* Album which containing figurative language as the data.

### **C. Limitation of the Study**

The writer limits the research on figurative language used in *Coldplay* Song merely taken from the album of *Coldplay Viva la Vida or Death and All of His Friend* (2008) and *Mylo Xyloto* (2011). This research analyses the meaning of those song. The data will be analyzed based from the source Perrine (1997: 61 – 64), Kennedy (1983: 103 – 482), Waluyo (1995: 86), and Siswantoro (2002: 43). There are: metaphors, simile, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, overstatement, understatement, and irony.

### **D. Problem Statement**

The problems of this research are as follows:

1. What are the figurative languages used in *Coldplay* Song?
2. What is the contextual meaning of figurative languages used in *Coldplay* Song?

### **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of this research are:

1. To classify the figurative language used in *Coldplay* Song.
2. To describe the meaning of figurative language used in *Coldplay* Song.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

The study of figurative language on *Coldplay* Song hopefully has several benefits, they are:

### 1. Academic Benefit

#### a. For English Department students

This study will give a valuable contribution to the attempt of study in English Semantics especially in figurative language.

#### b. For Academic Reference

The result of this study will enrich the study of Semantics and hopefully it can be used as reference for those who are interested in analyzing song lyric.

### 2. Practical Benefit

The result of this study will add writer's comprehension and reader's knowledge about semantics especially at figurative language as part of semantics.

## **G. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper organization is classified into five chapters.

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of background of the study, previous study, limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory. It includes notion of semantics, meaning, typical language of song, and figurative language.

Chapter III is research method. It deals with type of the research, research object and data source, method of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

Chapter IV is data analysis, and research finding. This chapter focuses on analysis and discussion.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. In addition, the last part will be bibliography, virtual references, and appendix.