

# **Chapter I**

## **Introduction**

The researcher want to explore several subjects in this chapter, including the background of the study, the problem under investigation, the objectives of the research, the boundaries and constraints of the study, and the importance of the research. The presentation of each topic will be as follows.

### **1.1. Research Background**

Language holds significant importance in the lives of human beings. It serves as a crucial points of communication, allowing individuals to express their emotions, opinions, ideas, and feelings. But like the biology of eating and breathing, the machinery behind language is complex. Humans employ language in various forms, including spoken or written, as well as through explicit or implicit means. Songwriters expressing their emotions and feelings through an indirect language to deliver. The language are made to enhance the aesthetic appeal of a song is often referred to the usage of figurative language to enables the utilization of words in ways that go beyond their literal definitions, aiming for captivating the audience, evoking emotional reactions, and conveying a

more intimate and solid message. Language is a complex activity, and in that complexity is beauty (Hazen, 2015:3).

A songwriter frequently uses figurative language to enhance the song's emotional impact and depth. Every song and their lyrics illuminates the world with its own distinct melody, painting emotions with vibrant hues and transforming mere moments into symphonies of emotion. These artistic elements are skillfully combined with melodies and musical notations that harmonize with the lyrical content, resulting in a a fine song composition.

Casey “*keshi*” (written in lowercase) Thai Luong, born in November 4, 1994 in Houston, Texas. He is a singer, songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist who has experienced a significant surge in popularity. Despite not having signed with Island Records and already amassing over 40 million streams, keshi's success extends beyond mere statistics. Keshi embarked on his musical journey by sharing lo-fi hip-hop compositions on Soundcloud music platform, which eventually led to a record deal with Island Records. His artistic approach is influenced by the musical styles of John Mayer and Tomppabeats. While many refer to him as a “lo-fi hip-hop producer”, keshi himself believes that this label falls short in capturing the full scope of his artistry, considering it as an inadequate representation of his creative identity.

Keshi's mini album "*bandaids*" (from the word "*band-aid*", a small piece of sticky tape that you use to cover small cuts or wounds on your body) released by Island Records. in 2020, is a captivating musical collection that showcases the artist's exceptional talent and creative vision. In an interview, keshi revealed that the album was inspired by his personal experiences and emotions, making it a deeply intimate and honest body of work. The mini album features a fusion of genres, combining elements of lo-fi hip-hop, R&B, alternative, and indie pop, resulting in a unique and refreshing sound. The tracklist includes "*less of you*," "*alright*," "*blue*," "*right there*," and "*bandaids*." The tracks explore themes of love, heartbreak-melancholiness, self-discovery, and growth, resonating with many who have experienced similar emotions and life journeys. Just like the origin of the title "*band-aid*", The album is a beautiful expression of human emotions and a reminder of the strength of music as a medium for understanding and healing.

In this study, the writer which is concerned with metaphorical language, is interested in discovering the nature of the feeling of sadness that the singer portrayed as a result of the melancholy expressions that were included in the song lyrics. Below is an example of the song lyrics of *bandaids*:

*Friends of flowers, **fragile silence***

*Stand beside you, stop your crying*

*Fragile silence* is the part of lyrics that have a deeper meaning about melancholism state throughout the use of metaphors to portrayed it. Keshi using a combination between an adjective and a verb to build a lyrics that could have a melancholic expression if examined further. Metaphorical language plays a crucial role in keshi's effort to convey melancholic expressions in his lyrics. Semantics theory is also utilized to dissect the true meaning of the lyrics found in this mini album.

To analyze the classification of figurative language, the writer will use the Abrams (2013) "A Glossary of Literary Terms". Also, the writer will analyze the melancholic expression of metaphors that existed in the keshi's mini album entitled '*bandaids*' using the Lakoff and Johnsen's (2003) "Metaphor We Live By: Conceptual Metaphor" theory to classify the types of metaphors and the Śniedziewski's (2018) "The Melancholic Gaze: Melancholic Writing" theory to interpret the meaning of the melancholic expression that portrayed by metaphors in the keshi's mini album "*bandaids*".

## **1.2. Limitation of the Problems**

This study focuses on the analysis of melancholic expression from metaphors in keshi's mini album "*bandaids*". The fundamental goals of the research is to find the melancholic expression portrayed based on the metaphors that found in the mini album. The functions of figurative

language are to give imaginative pleasure, to give additional imagery, to add emotional intensity, and to concrete the meaning in the brief compass, Perrine (1969:71). It is important to note that the scope of this research is based on the melancholic expression portrayed throughout the usage of the metaphors found in the lyrics of five songs in total from keshi's *bandaids* mini album entitled *less of you*, *alright*, *blue*, *right there*, and *bandaids*.

### **1.3. Research Questions**

In the research background above, the researcher already explained the points that would be the main focus on this research, such as:

1. How the lyrics use the metaphors to portrays the melancholic expression in keshi's mini album “*bandaids*”?
2. What are the meaning of the lyrics that using metaphors to portrays the melancholic expression in keshi's mini album “*bandaids*”?

### **1.4. Research Objectives**

Regarding the research problems, the researcher has outlined two specific points in relation to the research objectives, which are stated as follows:

1. To identify how the lyrics use the metaphors to portrays the melancholic expression in keshi's mini album “*bandaids*”.

2. To interpret the meaning of the lyrics that using metaphors to portrays the melancholic expression in keshi's mini album “*bandaids*”.

## **1.5. Research Significances**

### **1.5.1. Theoretically**

The researcher aspires if this research will enhance the knowledge about the usage of metaphors in song lyrics could affect the depth feeling of emotions.

### **1.5.2. Practically**

The researcher hopes that this research may provide useful insight for future scholars and researchers interested in exploring the usage of metaphorical language in order to expressing, particularly in the context of song lyrics. Furthermore, the goal of this study is to help students improve their vocabulary and awareness of figurative language that could affect the depth feeling of emotions.