Chapter II
Studies of Semantics,
Figurative Language and Song Lyrics

This chapter discuss about the theories from the expert that related to the problem of the study to support current research. It consists of three parts; semantics, figurative language, song lyrics on Who Cares Album by Rex Orange County's.

2.1 Previous Study

There are several previous research that is relevant to this study. First, related for this research "The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyric of Firework by Katy Perry (A Study of Semantic)" by Harianto (2017) Graduate Program, Lampung University. The wtiter explained the classification of figurative language use in the firework song by Katy Perry. It told in which position the figurative language occur in that song. The figurative languages found are 3 similes, 1 personification, 5 hyperboles, 1 paradox, 7 symbolics, 4 affiliations, and 1 metaphor. They are applied in that song as the messages of the text in song firework in order to create a beautiful meaning and creative literature so the reader will be interest to listen to the song.

The second related for this research "The Analysis of Figurative Language in Song Lyric by Indiana Menzel" by Fachri Yunanda , Yossy Kevin Parulian Pardede , Novia Esra Wati , Angelika Sara Deaparin , Aprilia Eka Krisdayanti Tafonao (2021) Universitas Prima Indonesia. The researcher

describes and explains some of the data that uses figurative language in the song "I Got My Love to Keep Me Warm". The figurative language of hyperbole tends to be used the most in Indina Menzel's songs to give a strong impression or emphasis on something by exaggerating the statement so that it adds to the influence of the statement.

There is actually one more previous study that uses and touches on the same aspect as the object in this research. The study is titled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Taylor Swift Song Lyrics" by Wilya Setiawati, Maryani from IKIP Siliwangi (2018). The study examined two songs by Taylor Swift from a single album, identifying seven types of figurative language: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, symbol, irony, paradox, and personification. Hyperbole and simile emerged as the most dominant, often exaggerating negative themes related to Taylor Swift's life experiences, emphasizing deep conflicts, heartache, and betrayal. The subsequent figurative languages include irony, metaphor, personification, symbol, and paradox. Composers employ these to convey implicit meanings and create lyrics that may not align with factual reality, inviting listeners to empathize with shared experiences. The research aims to assist those interested in literary analysis, serving as a reference for further studies and encouraging critical thinking in text analysis.

2.2 Semantics

Semantics is a study of meaning in language. In semantics, the main focus is on understanding how words, phrases and sentences represent meaning and how that meaning is understood by speakers of the language. There are several important aspects of semantics which include lexical meaning (understanding individual meanings), grammatical meaning (understanding how grammatical structure affects sentence meaning), and contextual meaning (understanding how the context of language use affects meaning).

According to Piirainen (2018:28) defines semantics as the study of meaning in language. This includes the relationships between words, phrases, and symbols, and how they help in communication. Semantics is important for understanding figurative language like metaphors, idioms, and irony, as it looks into deeper meanings beyond the literal words. Explain that semantics is key to understanding the complexities of figurative language from different cultural and linguistic perspectives. They show how different languages and cultures might interpret the same expressions differently. By exploring semantics this way, the book reveals how meanings can change across languages and cultures, helping us understand figurative language more deeply.

Similar to Geeraerts (2010:4), the concept of semantics is explored from various theoretical perspectives to understand how words acquire and convey meaning. This exploration looks into how words act as symbols and

carry meanings influenced by cognitive processes and sociocultural contexts. It highlights the complexity of lexical semantics and how words interact within the language system to communicate nuanced meanings. By studying semantics, researchers aim to uncover the underlying mechanisms of how words are interpreted, used, and understood in different linguistic contexts, providing valuable insights into the dynamic nature of language and communication.

Another explanation based on Glucksberg (2001:18), explains how figurative language involves a non-literal understanding of words, phrases or sentences. In his book, a comprehensive approach to exploring more deeply the use of language, specifically it focuses on figurative language and how it is processed and understood by individuals.

Gibbs (1994:76-85) examines how language goes beyond literal meanings, discussing metaphor, imagery, and figurative language to enhance our understanding of communication and cognition, how figurative thought and language contribute to cognitive processes, showing that language is not just a tool for conveying information but a complex system for making meaning that shapes our perception of the world. By using examples and case studies demonstrates how semantic processes affect our daily interactions and highlights the importance of figurative language in shaping our thinking and comprehension.

Another thing is also explained about semantics proposed by Bergen (2012: 67) semantics is explored as a fundamental aspect of language and

understanding. Semantics also studies the complex ways in which words, phrases, and sentences are transformed into meaning. Semantics studies how language allows us to communicate or describe complex ideas, emotions, and concepts through a system of symbols and sounds. The study of semantics provides insight into how we construct representations of thoughts based on linguistic input and how we interpret and understand the world around us through language. By examining the relationship between words and their meanings, semantics explains how our minds process information and form interpretations related to language.

In conclusion, semantics is the study of meaning in language, exploring how words, phrases, and sentences convey literal meaning, grammatical structure, and contextual impact. Figurative language, such as metaphors and idioms, plays an important role in deeper understanding by requiring non-literal interpretations that convey deeper meaning. The use and understanding of figurative language involves complex reasoning processes, which show how language shapes thinking and understanding.

2.3 Figurative Language

Figurative language is a form of language beyond its actual meaning, but is used to describe something poetically or impressively. Some figurative language includes the use of metaphor, personification, epithet, irony, synecdoche, alliteration, idiom, hyperbole, and so on. Figurative language is an integral part of literary writing. The use of figurative language in literature and everyday communication has many purposes. On the literary side,

figurative language aims to enhance the artistic value of a given image, create aesthetic and suggestive images in the mind of the reader, and express the poet's feelings poetically. Whereas in a social context, its main purpose is to soften statements by replacing vulgar or subtle words to convey unpleasant things. According to Hariyanto (2017) figurative language is a type of language in which the speaker or writer says less than what they mean, using words in a way that deviates from their literal interpretation. It is commonly applied in literary works, such as songs, and includes devices like simile, metaphor, allusion, personification, and more.

According to Pradopo (2011) Figurative Language is a crucial aspect discussed in the context of poetry. It involves using words or expressions that don't have a literal meaning and tend to convey a more imaginative or creative sense. The purpose of using figurative language in poetry is to evoke emotional effects, enrich the language, and broaden the readers understanding of the poem. In this book, the discussion on figurative language includes various types, such as metaphors, symbolism, personification, metonymy, as well as allusion.

Figurative language refers to using words or expressions in a non-literal way, often to create a specific effect or convey meaning beyond a literal interpretation. This can include metaphors, similes, personification, and other forms of non-literal language. The concept of figurative language is important in fields like linguistics, philosophy, and science, as it plays a crucial role in communication and expression. The distinction between figurative and literal

language is not always clear, and clarity is a key criterion to determine whether language is figurative. Additionally, relative frequency, proximity to etymological meaning, and interpretation priority are contributing factors to determining figurativeness Paul (1972).

Figurative language is a poetic way of describing something, going beyond its literal meaning. It includes various forms such as metaphors, personification, alliteration, and more. In literature, figurative language plays a crucial role in enhancing artistic value, creating aesthetic images in the reader's mind, and poetically expressing the author's emotions. In a social context, figurative language serves to soften statements by replacing harsh or blunt words. In essence, figurative language is intentionally used, both in literature and everyday communication, for aesthetic purposes and to convey expressions in a non-literal manner.

2.2.1 Types of Figurative Language

According to Leech (1969), figurative language is indeed divided into seven categories. These categories, outlined by Leech (1969) in his book *"A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry,"* provide a framework for understanding and analyzing the various ways in which poets use language to create figurative meaning and evoke emotions in their poetry. Figurative language consist of 7 types. They are 1) Personification, 2) Metaphor, 3) Simile, 4) Hyperbole, 5) Metonimia, 6) Litotes, 7) Irony. The following are the descriptions and examples of each type of figurative language.

1. **Personification**

    Personification involves attributing human characteristics to non-human entities or inanimate objects. This technique allows poets to infuse inanimate objects or abstract concepts with human qualities, evoking emotions and enhancing the readers engagement with the poem (Leech, 158).

    Following example of personification by "We Found Love" by Rihanna

    We found love in a hopeless place

    The lyrics personify the hopeless place where love can be found.

2. **Metaphor**

    Metaphor involves the comparison of two unrelated concepts, equating one with the other to create new images and deepen meaning. (Leech, 158) explores the different types of metaphors, such as basic and extended metaphors, and discusses the ways in which metaphors can be analyzed and understood.

    Following example of methapor by Katrina and the Waves

    I'm walking on sunshine

    Metaphorically, this phrase is meant to describe an exaggerated feeling of happiness, like walking on clouds.

3. Simile

Similar to metaphor, simile involves comparing two unrelated concepts. However, unlike metaphor, simile does so by using explicit comparative words such as "like" or "as." (Leech, 156) discusses the significance of similes in poetry and demonstrates how they contribute to the overall meaning and imagery of a poem Leech.

Following example of simile by Bon Jovi

My heart is like an open highway

This simile describes a heart that is wide and open to receive love.

4. Hyperbole

Hyperbole involves deliberate exaggeration for emphasis or dramatic effect. Poets utilize hyperbole to intensify emotions, create vivid imagery, or make a strong rhetorical statement. (Leech, 168) examines hyperbolic language in poetry and highlights its significance in conveying the poet's intended message.

Following example of hyperbole by Marvin Gaye

I would climb the highest mountain to be by your side

Climbing the highest mountain is an extreme endeavor to show your determination to stand by your loved one.

5. **Metominia**

Metonymy is a form of figurative language used in poetry. Metonymy involves using words or phrases closely related to another concept to represent or substitute for that concept. In metonymy, the words or phrases used have an associative relationship with the actual intended concept. Essentially, metonymy replaces the expected term with other words that are closely connected to that concept (Leech, 152).

Following example of metominia by The Beatles

All you need is love

"Love" here does not mean romance, but rather the qualities of love, care and compassion that represent the axis of human life.

6. **Litotes**

Litotes is a type of rhetoric in poetry that is used to downplay or diminish the strength of a statement. According to (Leech, 169) litotes is explained as a figure of speech opposite to hyperbole, where the strength or intensity of a statement is reduced or understated to achieve a specific effect. In litotes, the use of negative words such as "not," "no," or "cannot" indirectly indicates a more subtle positive statement. The goal is to convey the true meaning through the reduction or dramatic lessening of the power of words, creating an impression of a lighter or less arrogant statement.

Following example of litotes by Elvis Presley

You ain't nothing but a hound dog

The phrase "ain't nothing but" is used to show contempt, that "you" are just a dog and nothing else.

7. **Irony**

Irony is a rhetorical device that involves conveying a meaning opposite to what is expected or expressing something in a way that suggests the opposite of a literal interpretation. (Leech, 171) explores different types of irony, such as verbal, situational, and dramatic irony, and discusses how poets use irony to convey depth and complexity in their work.

Following example of irony in "True Blue" by Madonna

Just think back and remember, back when we were young and stupid

Youth that should be beautiful is considered stupid.

The writer of this research examined figurative language, using 7 types of figurative languange for this research, namely: 1) Personification, 2) Metaphor, 3) Simile, 4) Hyperbole, 5) Metonimia, 6) Litotes, 7) Irony.

2.4 Who Cares Album by Rex Orange County's

Rex Orange County is the stage name of Alexander O'Connor, a British singer and songwriter born in 1998. He gained widespread recognition for his intimate and melancholic songs. Rex Orange County first started uploading

songs to the SoundCloud platform at the age of 16 in 2015. His unique musical style and honest lyrics immediately caught a lot of attention. In 2017, Rex released his debut album, "Apricot Princess," which quickly achieved both commercial success and critical acclaim. Rex's popularity soared even more after collaborating with Tyler, The Creator on the "Flower Boy" album.

Rex Orange County's career continued to rise with the release of subsequent albums that were both critically and commercially successful, such as "Pony" (2019) and "Who Cares?" (2022). Rex is known for his gentle voice, melancholic and introspective lyrics, as well as the blend of pop, R&B, jazz, and hip-hop genres in his music. He has collaborated with several top musicians worldwide, including Benny Sings and Randy Newman. Rex Orange County has now become one of the most influential singers and songwriters from England, with millions of fans around the world.

Who Cares is the fourth studio album by British musician Rex Orange County, released on March 11, 2022, under the RCA Records label. This album marks a new phase in Rex Orange County's musical exploration after transitioning from an independent label to a major one. With the support of several renowned producers, Who Cares showcases Rex Orange County's musical maturity with bold experimentation across genres like funk, R&B, jazz, and even elements of punk and pop.

The album kicks off with the upbeat track "Keep It Up," serving as the main single for Who Cares Its simple yet catchy lyrics immediately grab the listener's attention as Rex Orange County showcases his distinctive vocals.

The second single, titled "Amazing," features a funky style with captivating brass section instruments. The lyrics encourage listeners to be open and express themselves without shame or hesitation.

Overall, Who Cares explores themes of self-acceptance, freedom of expression, and resistance against social pressures and prejudices. Across the 11 songs on the album, Rex Orange County aims to convey the message that there's nothing wrong with being true to oneself. He successfully expresses this through honest lyrics with a rich and eclectic musical touch, blending various genres from pop to jazz and punk. Who Cares once again solidifies Rex Orange County as one of the most talented young singer-songwriters from England.