

# **Chapter I**

## **Introduction**

### **1.1 Research Background**

Language can be a powerful medium of communication and self-expression that enables people to convey their point of view, perception or feelings. Literature uses language to express human experiences and reflect infinite complexities of life as well as relationships. As a medium through which, not only expression but also introspection and the comprehension of higher levels of life take place. Through literary works, language becomes more than just words; it becomes a way to connect with the diverse perspectives and emotions related to our world.

Literary expression, whether in the form of drama, prose, or poetry, allows us to delve into a wide variety of human issues, the complexities of humanity, and the complicated pattern of life itself. Language, with its complicated nuances and expressive capabilities, serves not only as a tool for communication but also as a means of introspection and self-expression. Through the fascinating narrative, the lively dialogue, or lively rhythms, literature gives us the opportunity to understand the different perspectives and experiences that shape our reality.

As we dive into the world of literature, we not only expand our minds but also develop empathy, compassion, and a deeper understanding of what it means to be human. Through the magic of language and storytelling, we connect with others across time, cultures, and places, sharing a common human experience.

In literature, we find both a looking glass into our own lives and a window to new worlds of imagination and creation. The diverse genres of literature, not excluding the touching lines of poetry with all their complex narrative, urge us to undertake journeys within. Each piece of literature is a work of art from symbolism, metaphor, and meanings that invite one to look into the complexities of human thought and emotion.

As we delve deeper into the world of literature, we find ourselves confronted with ethical dilemmas, moral decisions, and existential questions that challenge our perceptions and beliefs. The power of storytelling lies not only in its ability to entertain but also in its ability to encourage thought, encourage introspection, and create the sparks of creativity within us. Through the art of narrative, we are transported to different dimensions, where we confront our fears, confront our desires, and confront our vulnerabilities with courage and resilience.

Moreover, literature serves as a repository of cultural heritage, preserving the collective comprehension and traditions of societies past and present. By engaging with literary works from different cultures and time periods, we gain insights into the values, beliefs, and customs that shape human societies across the globe. Through the lens of literature, we transcend boundaries of language and geography, shaping connections with people from different walks of life and developing a sense of unity in our shared humanity. In the art of literary expression, we find comfort, inspiration, and a deep sense of belonging in a world that is both wide and interconnected.

Poetry as a form of literary expression characterized by its use of language to evoke emotions, convey ideas, and create aesthetic experiences through the use of rhyme, and various literary devices. It often employs figurative language, symbolism, and vivid imagery to communicate its message. Poetry can take on many forms, including sonnets, haikus, epics, lyrical poems, and more, each with its own unique structure and style (Khatana, 2023:1).

Words have a weight to them, especially when they are arranged in such careful order as with poetry. It may seem like poets just throw words together no matter how they rhyme, but in actuality, the form itself is what keeps poetry alive. Diction, as in this intentional placement of words, becomes even more important when it comes to a poem. Diction, the words chosen by a poet to convey their meanings and thoughts, is an accessory that holds all of those ever-changing feelings up in one hand for us.

Every poem has a different character, a unique identity that classifies it from others. This individuality can be recognized through the word choices or diction employed by poets. It is through this lens that a poem's characteristic appears, setting it apart from both the poet's other works and those by other poets. This uniqueness, rooted in diction, becomes a sign of a poet's style and artistic expression.

A notable example that exemplifies the fusion of art and literature is the work of Lala Bohang, a famous Indonesian visual artist, writer, and poet who has made significant contributions to contemporary storytelling. Born in Makassar in 1985 and originally trained as an architect, Bohang is known for

her unique exploration of personal narratives, daily routines, and often overlooked human experiences. Her ability to seamlessly blend poetic text with expressive, minimalist illustrations has not only fascinated audiences but has also led to the creation of several best-selling illustrated books. One such acclaimed work is *The Book of Forbidden Feelings* (2016), which beautifully embraces the complexities of human emotion through a visually stunning and emotionally evocative lens.

"*The Book of Forbidden Feelings*" stands as a will to Bohang's ability to infuse genuine and unapologetic emotions, thoughts, and feelings into her work through the medium of text and drawing. The harmony of good and bad, happiness and sadness, positivity and negativity, and black and white standing side by side creates a rich art of emotions that characterizes her poetic style.

The research examined the diction in "*The Book of Forbidden Feelings*" by Bohang, concentrating on denotation, connotation, general and specific meanings, and figurative language. Examples include investigations of "house" and "baby," introduction subtle connotations. Furthermore, a sentence on page 29 was underscored to exemplify the disparity between specific and general connotations of "stay." Moreover, a hyperbolic expression on page 91, "I'm gonna explode into pieces," was examined to emphasize the symbolic use of language in conveying emotions and themes in the poetry collection.

This research focused on the analysis of diction in Bohang's "*The Book of Forbidden Feelings*", aiming to unravel the nuances of word choice and the dominant diction employed within her poems. By delving into the

characteristics of her poetry through the lens of diction, the study aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of how language shapes Bohang's poetic identity and the distinctive features that define her body of work.

The research titled “Unapologetic Feelings Issues in the Poetry Book Bohang’s 'The Book of Forbidden Feelings’ ( A Diction Analysis )” draws its foundational theory from Keraf (2009:22-23), who states that this term extends beyond indicating which words are used for expressing ideas, encompassing aspects of phraseology, language style, and expressions. This theory aligns well with the current research as it delves into language style and expressions.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

The identification of the problem in in this study will revolves around the comprehensive analysis of Bohang's use of diction in "The Book of Forbidden Feelings," focusing on its contribution to the overall meaning, the characteristics of diction, and its role in understanding the poet's literary style and thematic elements.

1. The first problem lies in understanding how Bohang's use of diction contributes to the overall meaning and impact of her poems. This involves exploring how specific word choices, tone, and linguistic nuances shape the emotional resonance and thematic depth of the poetry collection, offering insights into the poet's intent and the communicative power of language in conveying emotions and ideas.

2. The second problem focuses on identifying the characteristics of diction in Bohang's work, particularly within "The Book of Forbidden Feelings." This includes an examination of connotation and denotation meanings, distinctions between general and specific language, and the use of figurative language.
3. The third problem centers on understanding how the analysis of diction in select poems from "The Book of Forbidden Feelings" contributes to unraveling Bohang's literary style and thematic elements. By delving into the poet's word choices, the research seeks to uncover recurring patterns, unique stylistic elements, and thematic consistencies, providing a deeper appreciation for the poet's distinctive voice and the underlying messages embedded in her work.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

This study would try to answer the following research questions:

1. What are the characteristics of diction found in "The Book of Forbidden Feelings"?
2. How does examining the diction in selected poems from "The Book of Forbidden Feelings" contribute to understanding her literary style and thematic elements?
3. How does Bohang's use of diction contribute to the overall meaning and impact of her poems?

#### **1.4 The Purposes of the Study**

In relation to the research questions, this study intends to:

1. To analyze and describe the characteristics and uses of diction in “The Book of Forbidden Feelings”, particularly focusing on how Bohang’s word choice contributes to the overall meaning and impact of her poems.
2. To provide insights into the specific diction characteristics found in “The Book of Forbidden Feelings”, including connotation and denotation meanings, general and specific meanings, the use of other languages, and figurative language, in order to enhance understanding of her literary style.
3. To contribute to a deeper understanding of “The Book of Forbidden Feelings” by examining the role of diction in her poetry and its influence on the portrayal of themes, emotions, and philosophical concepts within her writing.

#### **1.5 Limitation of the Problems**

To simplify the study in the context of analyzing diction in “The Book of Forbidden Feelings”, here are some potential limitations:

1. The research problem in this study is limited to exploring the characteristics and uses of diction in “The Book of Forbidden Feelings”, which may not provide a comprehensive understanding of her literary style and themes.

2. The research sample is limited to only a few pages, which may represent Bohang's entire work. This may limit the generalizability of these findings to other poems by Lala Bohang.
3. The study relies only on the textual analysis without incorporating the author's perspective. The absence of the author's insights limits the depth of understanding behind specific choices of diction, potentially leading to interpretations that may not fully align with the poet's intended meaning.

### **1.6 The Significances of the Study**

1. The study contributes to a deeper understanding of Bohang's literary works by examining the role of diction in her poetry. This analysis can provide insights into how her word choice influences the portrayal of themes, emotions, and philosophical concepts within her writing.
2. By focusing on the characteristics and uses of diction in "The Book of Forbidden Feelings", the study may offer valuable insights into her literary style and the impact of her word choice on the meaning and interpretation of her work. This contributes to the broader field of literary analysis and interpretation.
3. The study may serve as a valuable academic contribution to the understanding of poetry and the specific techniques used by renowned poets. It may also provide a framework for future research on diction and its role in poetry.