

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a means of communication organized in the form of units, such as words, groups of words, clauses, and sentences that are expressed both orally and in writing. Language is a social phenomenon because it is used in communication among individuals and brings them into a relationship with their environment. Language is an important tool for individuals to share ideas with each other in conversation. Beyond conversations, language is also used in art, especially in writing song lyrics within the music genre.

Music is an art form that combines melodies and lyrics written with words or sentences. Through various musical elements, it is thought that music can be used to express ideas and send messages. One of the most important aspects in determining the ideas worth of music is through the words or language that is used within the lyrics of the music itself. As an expressive art form, music frequently uses literary devices to communicate ideas, messages, feelings, etc. When music is used as a media to convey certain ideas it often uses a creative way by utilizing figurative language.

Figurative language refers to a way of speaking in which meaning is conveyed through comparison, organization, or example with an extensive word of choice. Figurative language is frequently employed to enhance meaning and conjure specific images or ideas in poetry or song lyrics. In conclusion, music is an art form that uses unique language, like figurative

language, in its lyrics. This type of language helps create distinctive lyrics that can convey messages or ideas that are hard to express with simple, straightforward words.

Since figurative language in song lyrics does not use straightforward words or sentences, it can be challenging for listeners or readers to understand the message without deeper analysis. This analysis should focus on identifying the types of figurative language used and uncovering their meanings. By following a structured process, the interpreted meaning of the lyrics can align with the context of the song. This context thus serves as the foundation for the urgency of studying figurative language in song lyrics from the perspectives of its types and meaning. In line with this statement, this study aims to identify the types of figurative language and their meanings found in the lyrics of songs from the album “What Do You Really Know?” by Reality Club.

Reality Club is a modern band famous for creatively combining soul, indie, and alternative influences. Reality Club is a band made up of Fathia Izzati as the vocalists and keyboardist, Faiz Novascotia Saripudin as the guitarist and vocalists, Nugi Wicaksono as the bassist, and Era Patigo as the drummer. Reality Club is an indie band founded in late 2016 and was nominated for Best Alternative Track of the Year and best newcomer of 2018 by AMI (Anugerah Musik Indonesia). Since their initial release, the Jakarta-based group has continued to expand and attract attention from the public. Reality Club is considered an indie band with international fame. In 2024,

they went on an international tour across North America, performing in various cities like Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, and more. If you take an indie-rock band and give them a strong attitude and memorable lyrics, you have Reality Club.

Reality Club lyrics use of beautiful language, striking imagery, and interesting subjects set their lyrics apart. Furthermore, in their songwriting, they often use poetic lyrics filled with figurative language. Faiz (the band guitarist and vocalists) in an interview also stated their unique way of writing lyrics by using a “moodboard” they called it, he stated that:

"Kami memasukkan keywords, foto, cuplikan film hingga warna tertentu ke dalamnya setelah kami memilih tema dan mood lagunya," (Zulmi, 2024:1)

From Faiz’s statement, it can be concluded that Reality Club has a complex process for writing their song lyrics. This process includes using photos, movie clips, and even specific colors for inspiration. As a result, their lyrics have a strong visual value, drawing from various forms of visual art. Their lyrics also carry deep storytelling elements. Therefore, analyzing and interpreting the meaning of Reality Club’s lyrics is important, as it helps listeners and readers better understand their songs.

In conclusion, songs are a form of art that use language in their lyrics. The lyrics serve as a medium to convey ideas or concepts. To express these ideas, song lyrics often feature complex words or sentences with the use of figurative language. Reality Club is an indie band with international fame known for their unique and complex lyrics. Their songwriting process is

intricate, requiring special analysis of the figurative language used. In this study, the author chose Reality Club's album "What Do You Really Know?" as the focus to identify the types and meanings of figurative language in each song on the album. The writer realizes that the lyrics of the songs contain types of figurative language and tend to describe the reality of life, for example, the charm of love, heartbreak, and so on.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

The writer concludes that the meaning and message of a song are shaped by figurative language, as explained in the research background. The figurative language used helps define the overall meaning and message of the song. Figurative language also involves using unique words or phrases that create specific imagery, which can be hard to understand without deeper analysis. One band known for using figurative language and complex lyrics in their songs is Reality Club.

Reality Club is a unique band, as they are an indie group from Indonesia that has gained international attention. They have a complex process for writing lyrics, which involves incorporating various visual art forms like images, films, and specific colors. This gives their lyrics a unique imagery filled with figurative language. Therefore, it is essential to analyze the figurative language in their lyrics to better understand the meaning behind each song. In this study, the writer chose their album "What Do You Really Know?" as the focus to identify the types and meanings of figurative language

in the lyrics. The research's findings are anticipated to advance literary and linguistic studies.

1.3 Limitations of the Study

The album "What Do You Really Know?" by Reality Club has 11 songs: "Prologue", "S.S.R", "All Along All Things Were Wrong", "Caught In A Trap", "The Rush", "Vita O Morte", "Telenovia", "On My Own Again", "Alexandra", "A Sorrowful Reunion", and "2112". But in this research, only 10 songs will be analyzed. The song "Prologue" is not included because it doesn't have any lyrics, only instrumental. Since figurative language is found in lyrics, it's not possible to analyze figurative language in an instrumental song.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the study's background and the problem identification mentioned above, the following research questions can be formed as follows:

1. What are the types of Figurative language in the song lyrics of Reality Club "What Do You Really Know?" album?
2. What are the meaning of the figurative language found in the Reality Club "What Do You Really Know?" album?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is to answer the research questions and achieve other goals. The main objectives of this study are:

1. To identify the types of figurative language found in the lyrics of the album “What Do You Really Know?” by Reality Club using Kennedy’s theory of figurative language types; therefore, this study help expand the writer’s understanding of how figurative language is used in song lyrics.
2. To interpret the meaning of the figurative language found in the lyrics of the album “What Do You Really Know?” by Reality Club; thus, this study will enhance the writer’s understanding of how the meanings of figurative language are used in song lyrics.

1.6 Significances of the Study

This study is conducted to benefit the English department, fellow students, and other related individuals. The main significance of this study includes:

1. The results of this study are expected to help apply figurative language theory to identify types of figurative language in song lyrics. This can also improve the resources available for literary appreciation, analysis, and criticism in the English department at Pasundan University.
2. The findings of this study can show how figurative language is used to analyze the meaning within song lyrics. As a result, it is hoped that this study will become a reference for other students and writers interested in similar topics.