

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background Of The Study

These days, lots of people express their feelings through literary works. Literary work itself consist of two types, fiction and non-fiction. Fiction literary work usually uses figurative language, different language to express the idea, and more imaginative compare. On the other side, the non-fiction literary work usually uses real sentence and argumentative sentence to express their idea, for example essay, biography, speech etc. According to Puttenham (2006, p.90) figurative language is “a novelty of language evidently (and yet not absurdly) estranged from the ordinary habit and manner of our daily talk and writing, and figure itself is a certain lively or good grace set upon words, speeches, and sentences some purpose and not in vain, giving them ornament or efficacy by many manner of alterations in shape, in sound, and also in sense,...”.

Concerning with figurative language, Arp & Johnson (2012) add that there are twelve types of figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole/overstatement, understatement, and irony. Some or all these types of figurative language have been found in literary works such as novel, short story, poetry including song lyric. Not only in prose, poetry, novel, and drama, figurative language can be applied in song lyrics to make the lyrics more

beautiful and poetic. Quoting from Miner (2000), lyric is the foundation genre for the poetics or literary assumptions of cultures throughout the world. Only Western poetics differs. Even the major civilizations that have not shown a need to develop a systematic poetics (the Islamic, for instance) have demonstrably based their ideas of literature on lyric assumptions. As lyric is the genre for poetic assumption of culture, lyric can be considered as literary work just like poetry, short story and novel. Followed by Bob Dylan, an American singer won Nobel Prize in literature for the song lyrics he wrote in 2016.

In song lyrics, the use of figurative language helps the song writer to add the hidden message of certain issue in their song such as depression, drug abuse, loneliness, suicide, etc. One of the most common issue is drug abuse. Besides adult, a lot of teenagers or even kids these days already know much about drugs and be a “junky” as if it is a trend to be a “junky”. This also happens in the circle of musicians. A number of musicians known for writing songs about drug abuse, telling people how addicted they are and how they fight the addiction.

Drug abuse has become a global phenomenon affecting almost every country though the extent and characteristics vary depending on the country in question. The most commonly used and abused substances are cigarettes, cannabis and alcohol. Alcohol and other related problems are becoming more and more a public health concern. The misuse of alcohol represents one of the leading causes of preventable death, illness and injury. Other common

substances are inhalants, heroine and cocaine. This abuse is believed to be associated with increasing amounts consumed, frequency of use and groups involved. Quoting from National Institute Drug Abuse (NIDA) (2018, p. 5), addiction itself defined as “a chronic, relapsing brain disease that is characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences. It is considered a brain disease because drugs change the brain—they change its structure and how it works. These brain changes can be long-lasting, and can lead to the harmful behaviors seen in people who abuse drugs.”

As stated by Milkman & Frosch (1980), The drug user is hypothesized to achieve relief via the specific altered ego states induced by psychotropic drugs. The drug of choice will be the pharmacologic agent that proves harmonious with the user’s characteristic mode of reducing stress. Having once experienced the gratification of a supportive, drug-induced pattern of ego functioning, the user may attempt to repeat this uniquely satisfying experience for defensive purposes, as a solution to conflict, or for primary delight. (1980, p. 38). The drug user choose various kind of drugs as an escape from what makes them stress or anxiety. The effect from the drug itself calming the user and creating pleasure, makes the user forget about their problems even for awhile.

Even the drug users find it hard to live without drugs beside them, with the right treatment, a drug user can escape from the addiction of the drugs. According to NIDA (2009), various treatments can be applied to cure the

addiction from drug user. Those treatments are; Medication and Behavioral Treatments

Sadly, there are a lot of musicians who is also a drug user. Even they have many fans who idolize them and set them as the role model, some of musicians still addicted to drugs. Several arguments have been advanced in support of elevated drug use among musical performers in general, irrespective of genre. Use of beta blockers, alcohol, or marijuana may serve as a strategy for reducing performance anxiety (Fishbein, Middlestadt, Ottati, Strauss, & Ellis, 1988; Kenny, 2010; Wilson, 1997). While “stage fright” is a fairly common source of psychological distress among musicians, illicit drug use may also provide an informal means of self-medication for less common, but more severe, dysfunctions which sometimes accompany artistic creativity, such as schizophrenic or affective disorders (Belli, 2009; Ludwig, 1995; Woody & McPherson, 2010).

There are a lot of musician that express their feelings about drug through the song they wrote. *Eminem, The Beatles, Elliot Smith, The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, Kelly Clarkson, The 1975* and many more wrote at least one song about drug. Whether it is about the addiction, their love for the drug or the recovery. *The 1975* is a band from United Kingdom that known for implicit messages about drug in their songs, focusing on the bad impact through the use of figurative language. The vocalist of *The 1975*, Matty Healy, was a drug user, which inspire him to makes songs based on what he experienced with drugs before he came clean. In the interview with Billboard (2018), he said

that he told his bandmates that he intended to keep smoking heroin. Healy said that he didn't need to stop because drugs helps him to produce good songs. He is the main character in his band and he felt his bandmates shouldn't stop him doing the drugs if they want Healy to produce good music. One day, Healy realize that he should stop before he destroys himself because people already lost their respect for Healy. The singer spent seven weeks at a rehab clinic in Barbados in November and December and has been clean since then. Since then, Healy express his feelings about the drugs through *The 1975's* lyrics.

To analyze how figurative language works in *The 1975's* song lyrics, the writer will use the theory of figurative language by Arp & Jonshon(2012) to figure out the types of figurative language used in each song lyrics. The writer also will use the concept of connotation and denotation by Roland Barthes(1964) to analyze the implicit message. Furthermore, the writer will use Milkman & Frosch(1977) concept to find out how the lyrics portrays the drug abuse behaviour through each line.

There are several previous related studies regarding this research. The first study is conducted by Hariyanto (2016), "The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyric of *Firework* by Katy Perry (A Study of Semantic)." The points of this exploration are to discover the figurative language utilized in *Firework* lyric and to analyze the contextual meaning of figurative language utilized in the song. There are eighteen lines contains of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, affiliation, symbolic,

paradox, and personification figurative language are utilized to express message to the audience.

Similar to Hariyanto, a study conducted by Apriono (2017) entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Languages Used in Lyrics of Scorpion Songs”. This paper analyzed the connotative meaning of figurative language in the two Scorpion album's song lyric, *Crazy World* and *Love at First Sting*. Apriono concentrated on four explicit sorts of figurative language: personification, simile, metonymy, and metaphor. He discovered three scorpion melodies connected four sorts of figurative language referenced. Four kinds of figurative language are communicated verbally so as to portray or make sense of aim, thought, or message of the essayist. The outcome likewise demonstrated that the most dominant sort of figurative language utilized in these three songs is personification.

Furthermore, Areerasada and Tapinta (2015) conducted another study entitled “Feminism through Figurative Language in Contemporary American Song of Leading Contemporary Music Icons”. This study focused on feminist issue expressed through metaphor, simile, and parallelism in the lyrics of six leading American contemporary artist; Madonna, Pink, Beyonce, Britney Spears, Lady Gaga, and Kesha. They picked 42 songs from Billboard's Hot 100 outline between the year 2007 - 2012 from the singers they mentioned on . 97 verses of the songs which utilize interesting expressions that express feminist issue are picked as the

information. Out of 97 verses, the most common used in the songs is metaphor, reaching 74% of the overall data.

As Hariyanto's study focused on the contextual meaning, Apriono's study focused on the connotative meaning and Areerasada & Tapinta's study focused on feminism issue, this study aims to analyse how figurative language potraying drug abuse in *The 1975's* songs lyrics. Different from the other previous related studies, this research focuses on how drug abuse is potrayed in song lyrics by figurative language.

## **1.2 Research Question**

The research questions of this study are as follows below :

1. What types of figurative language are used in *The 1975's* song lyrics?
2. How the use of figurative language potray drug abuse in *The 1975's* song lyrics?

## **1.3 Purpose of Research**

The purpose of the research are:

1. This study aims to reveal the types of figurative language are used in *The 1975's* song lyrics.
2. This study also aims to find out how the drug abuse is potrayed in *The 1975's* song lyrics by the use of figurative language.

#### **1.4 The Scope of Analysis**

The writer will focus on the problem of finding what type of figurative language used in *The 1975*'s song lyrics and how the drug abuse portrayed in *The 1975*'s song lyrics by figurative language.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

Through this study, the researcher hopes the analysis and the findings of the issue will give a better understanding about drug abuse in song lyrics and figurative language in song lyrics. Furthermore, the study is also intended to help the reader to understand the meanings of figurative language used in *The 1975*'s song lyrics, particularly those that portray drug abuse.