

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

K-pop has gained immense popularity worldwide and has become a significant cultural phenomenon. As a thriving genre, K-pop is constantly evolving and pushing creative boundaries. It represents a unique blend of music, fashion, dance, and storytelling, offering rich opportunities for the analysis of figurative language and provide insights into current trends, innovations, and influences within popular music. Exploring figurative language in K-pop albums allows so many research to tap into a global cultural phenomenon and examine how artists use this linguistic device to connect with audiences and convey their artistic vision.

K-pop often incorporates elements of poetry, symbolism, and storytelling into its music and visuals. By analyzing the figurative language employed in K-pop albums, researchers can delve into the artistic techniques used to create vivid imagery, evoke emotions, and convey complex ideas. This analysis can provide valuable insights into the creative process, aesthetic choices, and the ways in which figurative language enhances the overall artistic experience.

People use language to communicate with each other, it is so fundamental because people also use it to express themselves, to channel ideas, seek knowledge etc. language can be spoken, written, or expressed or sign with hands or body gesture according to Kreidler (1998). It was believed that literature embodied a

static, complex type of language that was distinctive from the utterances used in everyday communication (Joanne Collie 1987)

Human language is not just a tool of oral communication. It may be expressed in writing, therefore it is not constrained by time or place. Each language has arbitrary and systematic elements. This refers to the fact that, even though each language has its own set of rules, no two languages behave precisely alike. There are no lesser or primitive languages, to sum up. Despite the fact that people may have the most basic living conditions, all languages appear to be equally complicated and are completely appropriate for their users' needs. A simple language was once thought to exist somewhere in the world as a sort of linguistic bridge that connects the language of primitive people and the language employed by advanced technical civilizations.

Everything that has been written is considered literature. Poetry, plays, comics, novels, and song lyrics are all included. Literature is thought to be a work of art created by the writer to convey their emotions, Tiara Nur Fitria said (2018).



We cannot separate language from our daily activities because it is so crucial to each and every facet of daily life, including technology, education, the sciences, and politics, the arts, the economy, etc (Heni Listiani 2015).

One of the many different types of poetry is the lyric, according to Okuyene (2008: a short poem that can be sung or that is musical). Song is one example of literature. The songs' inventive quality and unique linguistic usage include things like Interpretations and senses (Nana Lusiana 2017.) Songs' lyrics have a large impact since they convey ideas and help listeners understand the songs' imagery. It is essential that listeners understand the lyrics in order to grasp the messages the singer is trying to convey. A poem is presented differently than a song since its theme is taken into account when the voice is chosen. The song is also modified to fit the concept, but it also has a lovely rhythm to go along with it.

Semantics is the study of meaning in linguistics. Semantics is one of the fields of linguistics that explains language meaning; in fact, meaning may be regarded as the most crucial aspect of semantics research. The most widely recognized theory of semantics, which has been around for a while, is about how ideas or concepts can be sent from the speaker's mind to the hearer's mind by being "embodied," so to speak, in one language or another (Lyons 1984).

Knickerbocker and Reninger defined figurative language as a language that can give an object, element, or something life. Understanding the writer's meaning needs creative interpretation. Since literary works would be lifeless or monotonous without the usage of figurative language, figurative language is frequently utilized in a variety of literary works. Typically, figurative

language is used by artists to give songs a higher aesthetic value. It implies that they will use indirect means or complex sentences to convey their message. As a result, since every artist has a unique style, the lyrics of a song will reveal that style to the listener.

Figurative language is when a word or phrase is utilized to make a point without actually describing or expressing it in its true sense. Figurative language is a different technique to communicate anything than the conventional method of enhancing speech beauty (Ratna 2017). Figurative language is frequently employed to enhance the beauty of words and to depict a certain feeling or mood, such as loneliness, busyness, romance, etc. There are many different varieties of figurative language, but for this study the researcher concentrated on eight of them: metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbol, irony, metonymy, and allusion.

There are four major justifications for figurative language use by Perrine in 1982. First off, reading literary works with figurative language allows readers to enjoy their imagination. Second, it gives verse more imagery, makes the abstract concrete, and gives literary works a more sensual feel. The third, figurative, is a technique to transmit attitudes together with information and gives emotional dimension to otherwise purely informative comments. The researcher's goal in this research is to examine the figurative language used in song lyrics.

The South Korean Boy Group TXT (Tomorrow X Together) is a KPOP group whose fame is well known to the world under Bighit Music and HYBE Label. The personnels of this group consist of five young men named Choi Soobin, Choi

Yeonjun, Choi Beomgyu, Kang Taehyun, and Kai Kamal Huening. With a very melodious voice and a very eccentric style amongst the other boy groups in South Korea. Until now, TXT has 8 albums, including 2 full albums and 6 mini albums. But one of the most recognizable albums is the "Chaos Chapter: FREEZE" album, consisting of eight popular songs.

Under BigHit Music and HYBE Label, the South Korean boy band TXT (Tomorrow X Together) is a well-known KPOP group around the world. Five young attractive men by the names of Choi Soobin, Choi Yeonjun, Choi Beomgyu, Kang Taehyun, and Kai Kamal Huening make up this group's members. Among South Korean boy groups, with a very melodic voice and a unique fashion sense. TXT has released seven albums to date, including two full albums and five mini albums. The "Chaos Chapter: FREEZE" album, which has eight well-known tracks, is one of their most well-known albums. The beautiful lyrics in five songs packed in one album are successfully catching the listener and dragging their imagination into use of the figurative languages in the songs. The unique lyrics in the album succeeded hypnotize listeners and make TXT has it is own place in the hearts of their fans.

The lyrics of TXT's songs in their album in The Chaos Chapter: FREEZE is interesting to study because many lyrics used figurative language and the meanings are portrait of TXT's journey and own life. They not only tell stories of love or heartbreak, but also about teenagers' problems and youth life. The researcher was drawn to this issue since it was anticipated that The Chaos Chapter: FREEZE

album uses a wide variety of figurative language. This is the reason the researcher chose to investigate this topic.

Many earlier studies have covered figurative language in literary works. One of them is an analysis of the figurative languages used in Coelho's novel "The Alchemist" by Trisna Dinillah Harya from 2016 entitled "*AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES USED IN COELHO'S NOVEL ENTITLED 'ALCHEMIST'*". Trisna explores the various forms of figurative language used in the work in order to pinpoint its contextual significance. The outcome reveals that 70 sentences include figurative language. There are 30 similes, or 42.9% of all the sentences, 27 personifications, or 38.6% of all the sentences, 12 metaphors, or 17.1% of all the sentences, and 1 hyperbole, or 1.4% of all the sentences. According to Trisna, it is apparent that similes are the most common form of figurative language throughout the book. It is clear that figurative language plays a significant part in this book. She also stated that figurative language makes the book more engaging to read and aids readers in visualizing the plot and characters based on the examples the author has already provided. By analyze this study, the utilized findings from previous studies conducted, able to strengthen the methodology used for this research.

"Figurative Language in Westlife Album 'Coast to Coast' and My Chemical Romance Album 'Welcome To Black Parade,'" is the title of research from I.A. Intan Gayatri Manuaba and I. Ketut Tika that was conducted in 2019 also examined a related topic, namely to find out how the meaning of figurative language contrasted with its lexical meaning. Westlife's Against All Odds, I Lay My Love on You, My Love, What Makes a Man, and When You're Looking Like That were chosen as the first five data sources. My Chemical Romance's I Don't Love You,

The Sharpest Live, This How I Disappear, MAMA, and Welcome to Black Parade were chosen as the second five data sources. The study's findings revealed that all 10 of the song lyrics used seven different types of figures of speech: simile, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, irony, metaphor, and paradox. Finally, they discover the difference between language's lexical and figurative meanings. They stated that whereas lexical meaning makes use of the element of meaning that is typically provided in dictionaries. Syntagmatic relationships between specific lexical items and a paradigmatic relationship between words with comparable meanings are key components in describing lexical meaning. This research conducted by Ian Gayatri and I. Ketut Tika has proven or supported the theory used as the basis for this research

Another research conducted by Putu Nana Lusiana and Yana Qomaria in 2017 entitled "*Figurative Language Used in Taylor Swift's Songs in the Album 1989*" This study focuses on identifying the figurative language used in song lyrics and on analyzing the figurative language's lexical and conceptual meaning. The information was collected from five songs from Taylor Swift's 1989 album. Knickerbocker and Reninger's (1963) theory of figurative language and Chaer's (1979) theory of lexical meaning served as the foundation for the primary theory that was used to examine the data. The findings of this study demonstrate that the five songs contain eight different types of metaphorical language. We can infer that the figurative language's meaning and its lexical meaning are mutually exclusive. where the figurative language's meaning is more profound and powerful than its lexical meaning. This research adopted most of the methods used in this study to carry out the research, with some modifications according to the environment and context.

Unfortunately, the researcher did not find any previous research discussing TXT or related works. Because the discussion about KPOP is something that is rarely discussed in formal research because many people think that KPOP is just upbeat, noisy songs from teenagers that cannot possibly have a deep meaning that can be analyzed. Instead, the author discovered a journal that discusses the use of figurative language in Korean pop music. It was covered in the article "*Uncover the Meaning of Figurative Language in BTS Selected Song Lyrics*" by Ni Putu Risma Cahyani and Desak Putu Eka Pratiwi in 2021. BTS as the main topic of research is one of the artists under the same agency as TXT, so the two are still indirectly related. The writer is intrigued by the analysis of a few BTS songs since they not only depict stories of love or heartbreak but also the current state of society. The reason the authors chose BTS songs is because, as we all know, the K-pop industry is perceived as one that solely emphasizes appearance. However, the author wants to disprove this notion by demonstrating that K-pop does not only emphasize appearance but also uses music to spread empowering messages to its audience.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study, the researcher will discuss the research questions as follows:

1. What types of figurative language are found in the album Chaos Chapter: FREEZE album by Tomorrow x Together.
2. Which type of figurative language are frequently found dominate in the album Chaos Chapter: FREEZE album by Tomorrow x Together.

1.3 Purpose of The Study

The main goal of this research is to identify the many types of figurative language, Determine the figurative language's context-specific meaning to understanding the type of figurative language that occurs most frequently in the Chaos Chapter: FREEZE album by Tomorrow x Together.

1.4 Scope of The Study

The research analyzes the study using Kennedy's theory. According to Kennedy, there are eight different categories of figurative language: metaphor, irony, simile, personification, hyperbole, allusion, metonymy, and symbol. The writer's research will be focused on identifying and determining the most common types of figurative language found in the TXT album The Chaos Chapter: FREEZE. The research also analyzes all 8 songs from the album TXT The Chaos Chapter: FREEZE, and will also be used as a source of data for this research.

1.5 Significance of The Study

The researcher expects the following benefits from this study once it is finished:

1. Practically

The study helps English academics practically with their English Literature research and provides new knowledge to English students and lecturers.

2. Theoretically

This research is intended to provide an understanding of figurative language, keywords to identify it in song lyrics, and knowledge of the subject.

3. Help the academic community for understanding of figurative language, particularly that included in the Tomorrow X Together discography and KPOP in a whole.

