



CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background The Problem

Language is one of the most important tools for human communication. In expressing ideas and emotions, people do not always use literal meaning. Instead, they often use figurative language to make their expressions more creative, beautiful, and meaningful. Figurative language refers to a form of expression that conveys meaning through non-literal or unconventional ways. According to Perrine cited by Sandy et al. (2021:849), figurative language is a way of expressing ideas through words that are not used in their ordinary meaning. Similarly, Abrams and Harpham (2013:132) define figurative language as a deviation from literal meaning in order to achieve a special effect or deeper meaning. By using figurative language, the message in a text can be more interesting and leave a deeper impression on the readers or listeners. One of the most popular media that contains figurative language is music, especially song lyrics. Songs have become one of the most popular literary works among the public.

However, many listeners only focus on the melody and rhythm without understanding the meaning behind the lyrics. Herwati et al. (2025:35) state that although songs are widely enjoyed, only a few listeners truly understand the messages conveyed in song lyrics. This condition may cause listeners to miss or misunderstand the intended meaning of the songwriter. Adele is a British singer-songwriter who is internationally known for her powerful voice and emotional



songs. Her album 21, released in 2011, became one of the best-selling albums in the world and received many

awards. Among the songs in the album, Rolling in the Deep, Someone Like You, and Set Fire to the Rain are the most popular tracks and have been widely listened to by people around the world. These three songs also share similar themes about love, heartbreak, and emotional struggle, which are clearly reflected in the lyrics. Because of their popularity and strong themes, these three songs were chosen as the objects of this study. The album 21 consists of 11 songs, but this study focuses only on the three selected songs. Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting a study entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language in Adele’s Album 21”. This study aims to identify the types of figurative language and to interpret the meanings of figurative language used in the three selected songs, namely Rolling in the Deep, Set fire to the rain, and Turning Tables.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, the researcher identified the problem as follow:

1. First, most people listen to songs just to enjoy the music and melody. They rarely pay attention to the meaning of the lyrics.
2. song lyrics often use figurative language. Because of that, the real message in the song is sometimes difficult to understand.



C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification, the researcher limited this study to the analysis of figurative language in three selected songs from Adele's album 21, namely Set Fire to the Rain, Rolling in the Deep, and Turning Tables. This study only focuses on identifying the types of figurative language using Perrine's theory and interpreting the meanings conveyed through those figurative languages.

D. Research Question

Based on identification above, the researcher limited the problem to make it more specific.

1. What types of figurative language are used in Rolling in the Deep, Set fire to the rain, Turning tables from Adele's album 21?
2. What are the meanings of the figurative language found in Rolling in the Deep, and Set Fire to the Rain, Turning Tables?

E. Purpose of the research

1. To identify the types of figurative language used in Rolling in the Deep, Someone Like You, and Set Fire to the Rain from Adele's album 21.
2. To interpret the meanings of the figurative language found in Rolling in the Deep, Someone Like You, and Set Fire to the Rain.

F. Significance of the Research

1. Researcher

This study is important to the researcher because it deepens the understanding of how literary devices convey emotional meaning in popular



music while meeting graduation requirements by improving the application of Perrine's theory of twelve types of figurative language in song lyrics analysis.

2. Readers

Readers can learn more about the kinds and meanings of figurative language in song lyrics thanks to this research. It is anticipated to enhance students' understanding and appreciation of English-language literary works, especially songs lyrics.

2. For Future Researchers

This research can be used as a reference for future researchers who want to conduct similar studies on figurative language, song lyrics, or other literary works. It may also provide insights and guidance for further linguistic research.

G. Definition of the Key Term

1. Adeles's Album

21 is the second studio album by British singer Adele. The album was released on January 24, 2011 in Europe by XL Recordings and on February 22, 2011 in North America by Columbia Records. The album title was taken from the singer's age at the time she wrote the album. 21 carries Motown and soul influences from her debut album, 19 (2008), and is also inspired by American country music and Southern blues. Written after the singer's breakup with her lover, 21 explores themes of heartbreak, introspection, and forgiveness.

2. Figurative Language

According to Perrine cited by Jhonson (2016:70), figurative language is divided into twelve types, including simile, metaphor, personification,

apostrophe, metonymy, synecdoche, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony.

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