

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Art is a beautiful skill, art can also be interpreted as the creation of all kinds of things that because of their beauty people become happy to see or hear. One of the arts that is now developing in society is the art of music. A Music is a medium of entertainment that can be enjoyed by the senses of hearing and feeling. According to Jamalus (in Husna & Rinjani, 2022) in the *Teaching Guide of the book Teaching Music through Music Experience* (1998), music is a form of sound artwork in the form of songs or musical compositions that express the thoughts and feelings of its creator through musical elements, namely rhythm, melody, harmony, song form and structure, and expression as a whole. Music is one form of sound artwork in the form of songs or musical compositions that express the thoughts and feelings of its creator.

Music is presented in several genres and usually music is packaged in the form of albums. Album is a collection of many songs or audio recordings that were previously released in physical form such as CDs or non-physical, namely on music platforms that we now often encounter among the public such as Spotify, Apple music, Billboard *etc.* Singers usually put out albums containing several songs. In 1 album there is usually 1 main song or often called the title track while other songs are called beside tracks. The title track became the most promoted song on the album.

The songs created in the album are usually interconnected, this can be seen from every lyric or genre theme in the album. The songwriter makes the songs on

each album seem to be related and have the same theme. Therefore, it makes use of stylistic elements developed through each lyric in the song. In addition, albums are usually made based on the circumstances or experiences, and these lyrics are packed with unusual language that makes the song more beautiful to hear and feel the lyrics.

In modern era, music is often found in people's daily lives as a medium of entertainment as well as a form to express hearts and feelings. Usually, listeners are carried away with songs that relate to the state or condition of their hearts. Songwriters express their feelings through song lyrics by playing diction and a unique style of language to attract the listener's heart with the aim of the listener feeling what the writer feels. Figurative language in song lyrics is very important for songwriters, because figurative language is one of the elements that make the beauty and appeal of the song.

Songwriters compose their lyrics using various figurative languages to make their songs more interesting and storytelling. However, in today's phenomenon, many listeners only enjoy the rhythm of the music or simply like the song title without understanding the overall meaning of the song, so that misunderstandings often occur. Therefore, this study is conducted so that readers understand that every lyric written by a songwriter carries a deep meaning. The songwriter does figurative stylistic processing that serves as an aesthetic support for art but still pays attention to the meaning contained in the song. The songwriter goal is to use figurative language in each so that the song can be conveyed to the listener and can feel the same emotions. Figurative language is used to convey an emotion, idea, or a notion that can't be interpreted literally. There are several types of figurative language. Kennedy and Gioia (2005) theory

which explains there are 10 types of figurative language, such as simile, metaphor, personification, irony, synecdoche, apostrophe, allegory, paradox, repetition, and hyperbole.

The researcher is interested in analyzing the figurative language used in NIKI's album *Nicole* (2022) because NIKI's songs are gaining global recognition for their beautiful lyrics and melodies, especially those in the *Nicole* album. As the entire album has not been previously studied, this research aims to share knowledge and insights about the types of figurative language present in the *Nicole* album. Previous research examined three songs from the album "*High School in Jakarta*," "*Anaheim*," and "*Ocean and Engines*" Kusumahwati et al., (2023). This study focused on identifying figurative language in these three tracks and identified five types: irony, metaphor, synecdoche, repetition, and hyperbole. However, it did not find simile, personification, apostrophe, paradox, or allegory. From the analysis, the researcher used that phenomenon for this research to provide novelty using descriptive qualitative methods and find the other expressions and types of figurative language that used in 12 songs yaitu *Before*, *High School in Jakarta*, *Backburner*, *Keeping Tabs*, *The Apartment We Don't Share*, *Facebook Friends*, *Anaheim*, *Milk Teeth*, *Autumn*, *Oceans & Engines*, *On The Drive Home*, *Take A Chance With Me* in the album *Nicole*.

Based on the explanation above, this research will focus on the figurative language used song lyrics in NIKI's album titled *NICOLE* which was released in 2022. Niki Zefanya or better known as NIKI is a soloist from Indonesia who has had a career in the United States since 2017 and is under the auspices of the music label 88rising. NIKI is famous for his songs that depict the reality of life, both in love stories and friendships. NIKI's song lyrics are packed with trendy allusions so

as to make these songs known and listened to by many people. NIKI's studio album Nicole was released on August 12, 2022, through 88rsing. Nicole's album contains old songs that were uploaded to YouTube by NIKI at the beginning of her musical career. Nicole itself is an album containing 12 songs, of which two songs are previously released singles, Before and Ocean & Engines. In early August 2022, NIKI also released the single High School in Jakarta along with its phenomenal music video at that time and has now been watched more than 31 million times on YouTube. In recording and releasing Nicole's album, NIKI taking a step back to move forward paid off. People are saying that this album feels like a warm welcome. NIKI's success in the world of music shows that the songs made by NIKI certainly have their own appeal, especially among young people.

## **1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic**

The writer chooses NIKI's album "Nicole" because the songs created by NIKI in this album tell the story of NIKI as a teenager, when NIKI hung out and had fun and did various silly behaviors at that time. The songs on Nicole's album seem to reopen memories of high school that make listeners feel like old friends. NIKI also seemed to pursue what they missed. His calculations about love are often so thoughtful and bizarre simultaneously. The song lyrics that NIKI created are very interesting to research. Not only did NIKI re-record but also rewrite each song, NIKI reimagined the songs. Every song on Nicole's album has a deep meaning that makes the listeners feel what NIKI wants to convey through every lyric she makes.

Therefore, the author realizes that NIKI's songs have figurative language elements in them. Especially in the album "Nicole", this album contains a lot of

figurative language and tends to describe the reality of today's love life for example about the charm of love, heartbreak and so on. In this album there are 12 songs where each song has its own meaning. *Before, High School in Jakarta, Backburner, Keeping Tabs, The Apartment We Won't Share, Facebook Friends, Anaheim, Milk Teeth, Autumn, Oceans & Engines, On The Drive Home, Take A Chance With Me* has unique lyrics and deep meaning based on NIKI's experience. Unique lyrics not apart from the usage of figurative language. Identifying the types of figurative language in song lyrics will help to understand the lyrics that are important to the listener in order to know their meaning and message. Thus, this study focuses on the types of figurative language on NIKI's album "Nicole" with the theory of Kennedy and Gioia (2005) and describes each type of figurative language used.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

Based on the background above, the research questions to be raised are follows:

1. What are the types of figurative languages used in NIKI's album "Nicole"?
2. What are the meanings of figurative languages in NIKI's album "Nicole"?
3. What is the most dominant figurative language found in NIKI's album "Nicole"?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study is to identify the type of figurative languages used and analyze the meaning of figurative languages in NIKI's album Nicole.

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

This research can be seen from the theoretical and practical significance:

### 1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study is expected to give a contribution to theories relating to figurative language. In addition, this research will give the types of figurative language used in song lyrics. They will know the information about figurative languages in order to achieve the goals of English learning.

### 2. Practical Benefit

This research is expected to provide benefits for understanding science and insight to readers who will conduct research on song lyrics, especially on figurative language and its meaning. In addition, it can help readers understand the type and meaning of figurative language in the lyrics of songs in the NIKI album "Nicole".

### 3. Pedagogical

The significance of studying the use of figurative language in the album *Nicole* by NIKI lies in its pedagogical benefits, including:

#### A. Enhanced Comprehension:

Understanding the figurative language used in the album can deepen students' appreciation of lyrical content, improving their ability to analyze and interpret complex text

#### B. Critical Thinking Skills:

Analyzing figurative language fosters critical thinking by encouraging students to explore multiple layers of meaning and interpretative possibilities.

#### C. Creative Expression:

Exposure to diverse figurative language techniques can inspire students to incorporate similar techniques in their own creative writing or songwriting.

#### D. Cultural Awareness:

Studying the figurative language in *Nicole* can provide insights into cultural and emotional contexts, broadening students' understanding of different perspectives and experiences.

#### E. Language Proficiency:

Engaging with figurative language helps students enhance their vocabulary and grasp of language nuances, contributing to overall language proficiency.

#### F. Engagement with Music:

Integrating music analysis into the curriculum can make learning more engaging and relevant, connecting students with contemporary forms of artistic expression.

By focusing on the figurative language in NIKI's *Nicole*, educators can leverage these benefits to enrich students' literary and musical education.

### **1.6 Outline of the Study Report**

The study is organized into 5 chapters. Same as the other research, each chapter consist of different topic.

Chapter 1 consists an introduction to this study. In this chapter there are six sub-chapters, which are background of the study, reason for choosing the topic, research questions, purposes of the study, significance of the study and the outline of the study.

Chapter II consists of review of related literature. In this chapter there are three sub-chapters, which are previous study, theoretical background and theoretical framework. Previous research contains previous research from other researchers related to the topic to be discussed by the author. The theoretical background contains the research theory that will be used in this research. Lastly,

the framework of the present study contains the process that the author uses during the research.

Chapter III consists of the research methodology. In this chapter there are eight sub-chapters, which are research design, object of the study, roles of the researcher, type of data, instruments for collecting data, procedures of collecting data, procedures of analyzing data and procedures of reporting results.

Chapter IV is about findings and discussion of the research. This chapter contains general description, detailed results and discussion of the research result.

Chapter V is the last chapter which consists of only two sub-chapters, such as the conclusions and suggestions.