

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Nurcitrawati, Kareviati, & Atmawidjaja, (2019) said that understanding language form and pronunciation alone is not enough. understanding meaning is also necessary. People in the modern times communicate using a number of form, such as with the use of literary pieces like novels, poetry and song lyrics, where figurative language is can commonly be found and used to implicitly tell a message. In order to communicate, expressing identity, create plays, express one's imagination, and let out emotions, language is described as a system of communication.

Language and lyrics serve as the basis for the creation of songwriting. Within the context of music, lyrics are language that act as a medium for narrative, artistic expression. Lyrics are more than just words, they use languages to tell tales, express a range of emotions, and explaining a concept.

Lyric writing is a type of literature that aims to express their feelings, thoughts, and emotions through the use of words. Among its qualities are its self-awareness and direct, musically-focused expression on the speaker's emotions, ideas, and self-reflections. lyric comes from "Lyrikos". Greek expression that means "sung to the lyre," that indicating their connection to music and historical performance art

Lyrics form stories and feelings into expression. These lyrical imagery are created with vivid pictures by the figurative language. It goes above the literal by adding layers of meaning and through the use of linguistic device they in a way are like a poetry.

The importance of lyric are they serve as a medium which people can express in a personal emotions, ideas, and viewpoints. Because lyricism is a human memories and emotions, it allows the creation of connection between the artist and their audience. serving as a link between readers and listeners to create a group engagement.

Lyric can be found in both historical and literary traditions. The Love Sonnets by William Shakespeare are one of the well-known instances. The reflective poetry of Emily Dickinson, the passionate lyrics of John Keats, and the confessional poetry of Sylvia Plath. Nowadays, lyrics are typically connected to songwriting in genres like pop, rock, hip-hop, and folk, where they function as a poetic and self-expressive element of the song.

The relationship between language and lyrics is a fascinating one, since music and language's blend together. Linguistics has known to work with syntax, semantics, and phonetics. Language transforms, not only communicates but also deeply interacts with human emotions when it is applied to the poetic aspect of song lyrics. Lyrics form stories and feelings into a melodic form, serving as an artistic expression. It goes above the literal by layers of meaning and connection through the use of personification, metaphors, similes, and symbolism.

Perrine (1992) defines figurative language as a figure of speech that gives words additional dimensions. Poets employ it because figurative language allows them to express their ideas in words. An interesting language that reflects meaning discreetly and nicely as opposed to straight and direct. Figurative language improves a poem's creativity, attractiveness, and ability to express the poet's intense feelings to communicate their attitude. The use of figurative language is not limited to poetry

Figurative language is language that says things that are not meant to be taken literally or that can be understood in ways other than what is normally understood, frequently used in everyday speech and writing, and it is used in an imaginative rather than literal sense (Ratna & Rosa, 2013). Figurative language is a powerful and tool that artists can employ in artistic expression to convey their vision that in a way that goes above literal interpretation.

Figurative language is important in the process of lyrical writing, because it enables writers to create tales, create specific feelings in their audience, and forge close bonds with them. Figurative language is an approach

to language above the conventions of everyday speech. It adds more layers of meaning to lyrics by using personification, metaphors, similes, and symbolism.

A simple word sequence becomes an expression, a symbolism, an image of feelings, that connects with listeners on a personal level thanks to the interaction between language and its ability to move the emotion. This paper, the objective is to look into the expressions and meaning that can be found on the form of lyrics through study of figurative language on The Weeknd's EP "My Dear Melancholy,". To find and understand how figurative language usages add to the EP's depth and artistry.

The Weeknd, is an acclaimed Canadian singer-songwriter, and producer, that consistently innovate and experiment with music. The Weeknd's first extended play, titled *My Dear Melancholy* (*My Dear Melancholy*), was made available on March 30, 2018. And it is said that *My Dear Melancholy* is a return to sound and aesthetic of The Weeknd's darker earlier work.

*My Dear Melancholy* is an Extended Play or EP project by The Weeknd, that will take the listeners, to a world of chaotic feelings and reflection. This EP, features The Weeknd's trademark combination of alternative and R&B sounds, haunting production and melancholic melodies, where it develops like a cinematic experience, with each song adding to a deeper story that explores the depths of gloom. The EP carefully use language and striking visuals. It draws listeners into an atmosphere where words become the primary means of expressing feelings. When the opening song begin to ring, we set off on a journey in the EP's lyrics.

The *My Dear Melancholy* EP were chosen due to the familiarity of author with the works of The Weeknd's discography and the interest that the author had in the field of movie and music. As there is many interests and mystique of the album themes and the singer himself, the writer would like to take a dip into the many analysis and breaking down of The Weeknd's work, although in the manner of figurative language aspect.

By using Perrine's definition and approach of figurative language, the writer aims to highlighting the song's details and showing how the intentional

use of figurative language improves the lyrical content and provides the listener with an involved and pleasant experience. Examining the EP's tracks to discover what they mean and the representation that can be found on the lyrics.

Through analysis of the song lyrics from figurative language perspective, the writer trying to open up and explore the said work with the goal of revealing the details in the song, demonstrating how the intentional use of figurative language enhance the lyrical content and gives the listener an intriguing and enjoyable experience. Uncover their meanings within the EP's tracks.

## **1.2 Research Questions**

The paper primarily discusses and analyzes the song's lyrics, taking on the author's interests and the study's background. The objective of this study are as follows:

1. What are the figurative language that mostly used on the songs lyric of The Weeknd's EP, *My Dear Melancholy*?
2. What are the meaning of figurative language found in The Weeknd's *My Dear Melancholy*

## **1.3 Objective of Study**

The objective of this paper can be summarized as follows:

1. How the intentional use of figurative language enhances the lyrical content and gives the listener an enjoyable experience.
2. Uncovering deeper meanings of figurative language, within the EP's tracks.

## **1.4 Significance of The Study**

The author hopes that this study's findings will aid readers and upcoming researchers by encouraging a better understanding, appreciation, and interest for more research on The Weeknd's *My Dear Melancholy* EP. The paper's significance can be divided into two categories:

1. Academic Significance

The study's findings could encourage curiosity and provide knowledge in the fields of education and linguistic and figurative language analysis in years to come, particularly about song lyric analysis and analysis of either The Weeknd's *My Dear Melancholy* EP along with his other body of works.

2. Practical Significance

The study's findings should help readers understand and identify the example of figurative language usage in The Weeknd's song *My Dear Melancholy* through its lyrics, as well as gain knowledge of the artist's discography and other works, while additionally helping other researchers in expanding their work and increasing Indonesian literary works.

