CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Language is a fundamental tool for human communication. It is a system developed over centuries, consisting of conventional spoken or written symbols used by people to convey messages and interact with one another. Around the world, people rely on language to communicate, share information, and connect with others. Over time, languages have diversified, with each country developing its own distinct language. As a result, there has been a growing need for a common language that can unite people globally. Since the 17th century, the influence of the British Empire and the rise of the United States have played a significant role in spreading the English language worldwide.

Nowadays, lyrics function as a medium of human connection, where words are able to transcend barriers of culture and context. Through lyrics, songwriters convey emotions and ideas that can be understood and felt by readers or listeners, allowing them to experience a shared sense of meaning. A single lyric line has the power to represent complex emotions and stimulate empathy toward others' experiences. In contemporary music, lyrics frequently reflect themes such as love, trauma, personal struggles, political realities, and many other aspects of life, thus illustrating the diversity of human experiences.

Considering that lyrics are part of literature, Meyer (1997, p. 4) defines literature as a term used to describe written texts characterized by the careful use of language. It involves elements such as the use of metaphors, striking expressions, refined syntax, rhyme, and alliteration, which are intended by the author to be aesthetically pleasing and open to broad interpretation. Lyrics, therefore, can be considered a form of literary expression. They are words arranged to accompany music, designed to convey stories, emotions, or ideas to the audience. In the context of music, lyrics represent the verbal element that complements the melody, providing meaning and depth to the artistic work. The song is one of the smallest

parts of music. Commonly, music is a song that is harmonically accompanied by words. Songs consist of melody and vocals; many composers have written instrumental works, or without words accompanying them. It improves the value of the singing voice. Lyrics are words that accompany a song. Each verse can be completed by the lyrics, a longer section of the song that tells the story, and the short part that is repeatedly used at the end of the verse is called a chorus.

The word 'song' has been established for a long time. It is also connected to Old Norse and Old English. As part of history (Przybylek, 2003), it states that songs are used for various purposes: to tell stories, or convey belief in faith. Sometimes the song gives instruction and helps make difficult and repetitive work a bit lighter.

A song is a form of poetry, much like a poem's lyrical essence. As Plato described (Donald & Claude, 2001, p. 6) It's a complex relationship of pitches in a melody. Lyric poetry, in its origins, was sung with the accompaniment of the lyrics, intertwining words with music. Similarly, the roots of tragedy incorporate the term ode, signifying the art of singing, highlighting the deep connection between music and poetic expression.

One form of literature is the song (Griffe, 1996). A song is a part of music that is expressed through words intended to be sung. While listening to songs can be enjoyable, the experience may feel incomplete if the listener does not understand the figurative language often embedded in the lyrics. Figurative expressions enrich the lyrics with deeper layers of meaning, enabling words to move beyond their literal sense to evoke vivid imagery and emotions while maintaining clarity of intent. Through the deliberate use of descriptive language, well-crafted lyrics invite listeners to interpret more profoundly, encouraging curiosity and analysis. This intricate relationship between language and meaning becomes the foundation of this study, in which the writer analyzes the figurative language found in Linkin Park's "*From Zero"* album weaving beauty and depth into their words. This artistic touch not only enriches the song's interpretation but also captivates listeners, drawing them closer to the emotional essence of the music.

Figurative language is a part of semantics elements. It is help to uncover the unfathomable interpretation in the song. With semantics, we can understand every inch of the values and intention behind the song's lyrics. But people usually focus on the rhythm or the one behind the song, rather than the lyrics. And some people may not know about figurative language. It makes them find it difficult to understand the interpretation behind songs. Yet, to comprehend the hidden interpretation of a song, we have to understand the figurative language in the song. So, it is necessary to comprehend it. As it helps to decipher the interpretation of a song's lyrics.

In this work, researcher adopted Reaske's theory of figurative language. According to Reaske (1996:27), figurative language employs various figures of speech, in order to break down the interpretation. Figurative languages are a kind of language that differs from languages that use traditional literal to describe objects or people. It is more like expression by presenting ideas in imaginative and symbolic ways. It provides lavish descriptions of people or objects. It is commonly noticeable whether the writer is using figurative language or literal language. Also, it is used to persuade readers or listeners to engage deeply with the literature.

For that reason, the researcher was concerned about this research because, usually, the readers as well as the researcher sometimes face few difficulties in understanding the interpretation of a song's lyrics. Researcher chose Linkin Park songs because they are violently expressive, yet it is delightful to hear. In this research, researcher was concerned with analyzing figurative language in the Linkin Park song lyrics in "From Zero" album. The "From Zero" album made its debut on 15 November 2024. The figurative language in their song lyrics cannot be unveiled in the dictionary. From this work, in order to understand the deeper interpretation of a song, knowing about figurative language is necessary. Every song's lyric had magnificent words and a poetic aspect. Readers should know about the language variations that are used in song lyrics. So, the reader can understand the interpretation of the song lyrics when they find the interpretation and value of the lyrics.

Linkin Park released their debut album, Hybrid Theory, in 2000. The album hits like a storm. With tracks like "In the End", "Crawling", and "One Step Closer". Their unique fusion of rock, metal, rap, and electronic elements echoes in the distance. Hybrid Theory sold millions of copies and earned multiple platinum certifications. Linkin Park quickly became one of the biggest names in the music industry.

Three years after their debut success, Linkin Park released their follow-up album Meteora in 2003, which further cemented their status as one of the most influential rock bands in the global music industry. With major hits such as “Numb,” “Breaking the Habit,” and “Somewhere I Belong,” the album demonstrated that the band was far from being a one-album wonder. Their introspective lyrics, frequently exploring themes of pain, isolation, identity struggle, and resilience, resonated deeply with listeners worldwide who found reflections of their own emotional experiences within the songs. This lyrical depth became one of the defining characteristics of Linkin Park’s artistic identity.

However, after years of musical success and worldwide recognition, the music industry was shaken by the tragic suicide of Chester Bennington in 2017. His death marked a devastating moment not only for the band but also for millions of fans who had connected personally with his emotionally vulnerable performances. Later that year, Linkin Park held a tribute concert titled Linkin Park and Friends: Celebrate Life in Honor of Chester Bennington, commemorating his legacy while leaving the band’s future uncertain. For several years, the band remained relatively silent, creating ambiguity regarding whether they would continue their musical journey.

Seven years after Bennington’s passing, in September 2024, Linkin Park announced the recruitment of Emily Armstrong, former lead vocalist of Dead Sara, as their new lead singer. Her energetic stage presence and powerful vocal delivery marked a significant transition in the band’s evolution. Although some fans initially questioned the decision and expressed concerns about preserving Bennington’s legacy, others perceived it as a courageous step toward artistic renewal rather than replacement.

On November 15, 2024, Linkin Park released their new album, From Zero. The title itself symbolically reflects the band's intention to rebuild their identity from a point of vulnerability and uncertainty. The album quickly achieved commercial success, reaching number one in several countries, including Australia, Austria, the United Kingdom, and Germany. The single "Heavy Is the Crown" was released in collaboration with Riot Games as the official anthem for the 2024 League of Legends World Championship and was also featured as the opening theme for Arcane Season 2 on Netflix. Another single, "The Emptiness Machine," received recognition at the 2024 Billboard Music Awards. Despite introducing a new vocalist, From Zero maintains the band's signature emotional intensity while offering a refreshed artistic direction. Rather than diminishing Chester Bennington's legacy, the album represents continuity through transformation.

Contextually, From Zero explores themes of psychological struggle, identity reconstruction, emotional survival, and resistance against destructive cycles. The lyrics portray internal conflict, relational toxicity, emotional exhaustion, and the burden of expectations. These complex emotional states are not conveyed directly; instead, they are expressed predominantly through figurative language such as metaphor, symbol, repetition, simile, and hyperbole. Figurative language allows the band to externalize inner turmoil into vivid imagery and layered meaning (Perrine, 1969; Kennedy & Gioia, 2007). Metaphors and symbols in the album function as representations of psychological fragmentation and identity crisis, while repetition intensifies emotional tension and reinforces the sense of entrapment and inevitability. Therefore, understanding the historical and emotional context behind From Zero is essential in interpreting the deeper meanings embedded within its figurative expressions. The album stands not merely as a musical comeback, but as a narrative of resilience, reconstruction, and artistic rebirth.This work briefly explores songs by the globally popular band Linkin Park to identify the types of figurative language used and uncover their interpretations within the lyrics.

1.2 Research Question

According to the background above, the researcher tried to dissect the following questions, that are:

1. What type of figurative language are used in Linkin Park *from Zero* Album song's lyrics?

2. What is the interpretation of figurative language in Linkin Park *from Zero* album song's lyrics?

1.3 purpose of the study

Based on the research question above, the purpose of the study is:

1. Describes types of figurative language contained in the Linkin Park's songs.
2. Describes the interpretation of the figurative language contained in Linkin Park songs.

1.4 the significance of study

The discovery in this study is expected to be useful and relevant in some aspect, both theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically

The findings of this work provide insights into the various types of figurative language and help in understanding the interpretations conveyed through

figurative expressions in song lyrics. Learning about figurative language is essential, as it represents a significant aspect of language use.

2. Practically

Hopefully, this study can serve as a useful resource for students to deepen their understanding of figurative language. It may also help readers gain broader insights into figurative expressions and song interpretations, as well as provide an alternative reference for those writing related theses on different topics in their own work.

1.5 the outline of study

This work is arranged into five chapters, and each chapter consist of different topic. Chapter I consist of the introduction of the study and has six chapters in total, there are the background of the study, reason for choosing the topic, research question, purpose of the study, significance of the study, and the outline of the study.

Chapter II consist of the theoretical review of the study and have three sub chapters in total. Which is review of previous studies, review of theoretical study, and a theoretical frame work. Review of theoretical studies consists previous studies conducted by other researcher with same topics, which is figurative languages. Review of theoretical study consist elements of study in order to support this study. Last but not least, the theoretical framework provides the process that the researcher used during the work.

Chapter III consists research methodology and it has six sub-chapters in total. Which is research design, the object of study, data and source of data, procedures for collecting data, procedures for analyzing data, and procedure for reporting the work.

Chapter IV consist of the findings and discussion and it has three sub-chapters in total, it is general description, detailed result, and discussion.

Chapter V consist of the suggestion and conclusion. It only has two sub- chapters in total; it is suggestion and conclusion