

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Communication becomes an essential part of learning English, especially when the students want to practice their listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. It conveys not only the literal thoughts but also the imaginations, feelings, emotions, and expressing ideas while people not only understand a form of language but also meant. Therefore, there are many ways to interpret them, one of which is figurative language.

The importance of figurative language covers all skills, such as helping the writer make a point or describing an image that a standard sentence could not. It also brings the reader deeper into the theme of the work without the author having to lay out the theme for the reader explicitly. Therefore, whatever is said, should be clear so listeners will respond as they proceed, as explained in Surat Taha verses 27 and 28 of the 20th chapter (The Clot) of the Holy Qur'an.

28 قَوْلِي يَفْقَهُوْا 27 لِسَانِي مِّنْ عَفْذَةٍ وَاخْلُنْ

Those two verses explain that the good and eloquence of a preacher's mouth helps the listener understand the preacher's speech. The context is both from the pronunciation conveyed and the language used, such as figurative language based on the situation.

According to Hutaaruk (2019), the reasons for using figurative language. (1) Figurative language creates pictures in the mind of the reader or listener so that it will help convey the message faster and more vividly than words said literally. (2) It is awakening the imagination and understand more than the simple words. (3) It describes an entity, event or quality more comprehensively and concisely and in a more complex way than is possible by using literal language.

According to Brown (2004), written products are often the result of thinking, drafting, and revising procedures that require specialized skills, skills that not every speaker develops naturally. It means that the uniqueness of the author's writing is when their products, such as advertisements, letters, magazines, news, poetry, Etc. can touch the heart of the readers. Usually, it is written, not

released from the usage of figurative language. That is why figurative languages are essential in writing products such as personal letters.

There are two types of letters such as personal letters and official letters. A *personal letter* is a letter that is written for personal needs or business, not for institutional or organization. Dalman (2012) declared that an "official letter is a letter that was written for taking on the institution business, organization, instance, Etc.". In this thesis, the researcher is interested in analyzing the figurative expressions found in a personal letter.

Writing a personal letter needs figurative language to be alive the content of the personal letter. However, without figurative language, the personal letters turn into a piece of meaningless literary works in which the social value is just stated, not more or less, and might lose attractiveness, meaning, value and beauty. In addition, the personal letter without using figurative language is also like a body without a soul because the function of figurative language is a type of language which departs from the language employed in exact ways of describing a person or object to make an imaginative description freshly. So, it can be said personal letter is one of the examples of writing products that can be used figurative language to color the contents so people can receive it quickly and understand. The contents are touchable to readers personally.

The importance of writing can be seen in facts such as scientific books, novels, reports, letters, newspapers, magazines, brochures, and commercial advertisements as products of writing. Most of those products use unique sentences to abduct the readers' attention. However, figurative language must be understood when analyzing the writing products to get meaning inside. Most teachers and students are familiar with writing products such as letters. Conversely, Teachers and students use figurative language in their daily communication in speaking or writing, especially in writing proverbs or other essays.

Nevertheless, they did not recognize the words or sentences, whether it is figurative language or not, because they were not too aware of the types of figurative language they had already used. For example: (1) He smiles flowery. It

is an example of a metaphor in figurative language because it describes the comparison of two things differently. Therefore, it can be concluded that figurative language conveys something other than the usual ways.

For the previous studies, there are many studies that have been conducted that related to figurative language. The first one is from Fatimah, Siti Hardiyanti Amri, and Rusan (2020) which focused on types of figurative languages used by EFL Lecturers, and the reason for using figurative languages in teaching. The researchers explained that rhetoric, simile, metonymy, personification, repetition, paradox, metaphor, and litotes are figurative languages employed by EFL lecturers in teaching. Also, the reasons for using figurative language are to help students understand the lessons, to motivate students in the learning process, to introduce language and culture, as feedback to increase students' understanding of the lessons and to train students' critical thinking.

The second study is from Laila Alviana Dewi (2020), which focused on the types of figurative languages in Maher Zain's songs and the most dominant types of figurative language in Maher Zain's songs at SMAN 1 Ponorogo by interviewing students X MIPA. There are 42 lyrics containing eight types of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony. Hyperbole is the most dominant type used in 5 Maher Zain's songs. The researcher suggested that the other researcher can use other theories in conducting their study.

The third study is from Nur Annisa Sharifa (2020), which focused on identifying the types of figurative language and analyzing figurative language meaning found in selected Shawn Mendes album song lyrics. The researcher found five types of figures of speech in this song: metaphor, hyperbole, personification, simile, and repetition. Hyperbole is the most figurative language used in selected Shawn Mendes album song lyrics.

Based on the previous studies above, they tend to focused on researching the types of figurative language, reason in using figurative language in a variety object such as the students and teacher, the song' of Maher Zain, and Shawn Mendes. They barely discussed about the other material such as personal letter.

The researcher found the problem that many students in the teaching-learning process can write personal letters, but they do not know if they put figurative language or not in their letters. The researcher realizes they can design a letter in various ways using figurative language. However, when they put it, they do not understand which figurative language they use for their letter. It means that the students learned English language and literature only as just the way that they knew, not understanding entirely the types of figurative language that the students used in writing to deliver their expression in the content of the writing. That is why the teacher needs to teach the students about figurative language, at least the basics that work very important in understanding people's thoughts. The teaching-learning process can illustrate the example situation of figurative language then the students can anticipate the matter reasonably. Therefore, the researcher is interested in researching An Analysis of Students' Figurative Language in Language Development Unit Class.

B. Definition Key of Term

1. Figurative language

It is expressed by the students from English Language Development Unit Class group 31st in their personal letter.

2. Language Development Unit Class

It is the program from the institution that is taught English and Arabic language in the class which are grouped based on the pre-test score. The researcher only conducted the research in English class.

3. Personal Letter

It is personal writing written from the writer to the receiver, written on paper from the students Language Development Unit Class group 31st that contains type of figurative language in it.

C. Research Question

Based on the background above, the researcher formulates the problems as follows:

1. What types of figurative language do the students use in writing a personal letter in language development unit class?
2. What type of figurative language do the students dominantly use in writing a personal letter in language development unit class?

D. Objectives of Study

1. To analyze the types of figurative language the students use in writing a personal letter in language development unit class.
2. To know the type of figurative language the students dominantly use in writing a personal letter in language development unit class.

E. Significance of Study

- a. For students

The students are expected to understand more about literature, especially in figurative language, after reading this research on personal letters because, as we know, most students only read personal text or letters without knowing the meaning every single word. This research guides the students to enrich their comprehension of figurative language in a personal letter.

- b. For other researchers

The research is expected to inspire other researchers interested in researching figurative language. This research can also help other researchers by providing many references about figurative language.

- c. For the reader

The research is expected to give new knowledge and understanding to the readers about figurative language because there were several types of figurative language that found in the personal letter, and it can be more exciting. Interpretations that give the reader understanding to use their words in daily communication.