

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

When discussing language, it is impossible to ignore the importance of social interaction and communication in daily life. One of the most important parts of a human life is language. According to Fromkin (2014, p. 1), "language is the source of human life and power". Language is also a tool of self-expression and served as a tool to show their identity as well. Language allows us to show our point of view, our understanding of an issue, our nationality and country of origin, our educational level and even our character. Language becomes a mirror of us as a nation and of ourselves.

For communication to go well with both, the sender and the receiver must master their own language, and also people can increase their knowledge and learn something by using language. When communicating, individuals have the option to use either literal or figurative language, based on what they require and the situation. In addition to utilizing direct expressions, the sender may also employ indirect expressions, such as the use figurative language, to convey messages whose meanings differ from those of the typical expressions. Figurative language is language that has no real meaning and has more than one meaning. According to Carroll (2008, P. 14), figurative language is language that means one thing literally but is taken to mean something different. Figurative language can be found in song lyrics, usually songs contain figurative language. A song is like a piece of music with lyrics that have the function of expressing thoughts and feelings. A song has two elements: music and lyrics. Music is an art form that uses vocal or instrumental

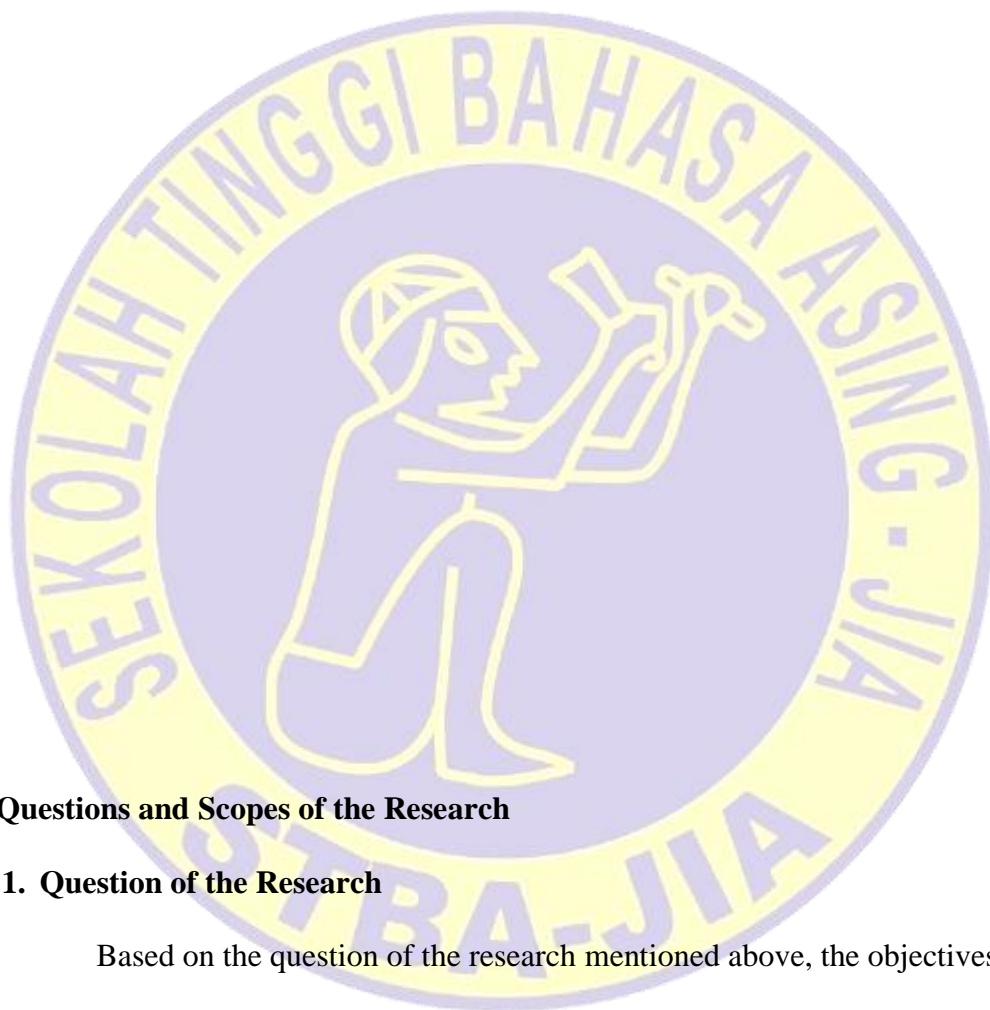
sound, or sometimes a combination of both, to convey ideas using form, harmony, and emotional expression. Lyrics can be classified as part of speech because they are made up of words or phrases that have different grammatical functions. Song lyrics as one of the elements of a builder in a song or music can be categorized as poetry in a literary works. Similes and symbols are two forms of figurative language which are very familiar in literary works. A simile is a figure of speech used mainly to compare two or more similar things, it uses words such as 'like' or 'as' to make the comparison. According to Arthur (1992, p. 935), Simile is a figure of speech, in which a more or less fanciful or unrealistic comparison is made, using like or as.

In addition, According to Frost (2006 as cited in Harya, 2016, p. 51), said that simile is figure of speech in which a comparison is expressed by the specific use of word or phrase such as: like, as, than, seems or as if. While, A symbol is an object, person, situation, or action that has a literal meaning in a story but suggests or represents other meanings. Symbolism refers to the use of representational imagery: a writer uses imagery with a deeper, non-literal meaning to convey more complex ideas. Symbolism is typically revealed in a short story or novel by utilizing metaphors and allegories. It is a literary device that is frequently utilized. The writer analyzes the symbol and simile in deeply way because it is very common in everyday language. Similes and symbols as part of figurative language are very important in learning English because it is very common in everyday spoken and written language but still some people do not know what it is. The writer also thought that many experts in the English department accepted the literary similarities of the songs, especially the figure of speech.

Most people like listening to music, especially pop music like Taylor Swift

and the others, sometimes the people has difficulty understanding the meanings contain in the lyric songs that the writer has never heard before, The writers goal is for readers to understand what figurative language is and apply it in everyday life. The writer is interested in examining the title of figurative language and also it is one of topics that is very interesting to be studied because in this era a lot of English songs use figurative language. In interpreting the data, the research use approach structuralism, because Structuralism views language as a system of symbols and meanings, the elements of which can only be understood in relation to each other and to the system. Every text must have a structure, according to structuralist theory; this is why it makes sense for an experienced reader to read the text more efficiently than an inexperienced reader. According to Abrams (1999), structuralism is an objective approach because its view is that literature can be independent. It is an independent object with its own world, so the literary critic can only work in its inner element. The writer gives some lyrics about the creativity of talented young singer Taylor Swift. Her lyrics contain many figurative languages such as simile and symbols but here I will review an album from 1989 that is the best in my opinion. Taylor Alison Swift was born on December 13, 1989, she is an American singer and songwriter. She was born in Wyomissing, Pennsylvania and moved to Nashville, Tennessee at age 14 to pursue a career in country music. Swift is known for her songs about personal experiences. As a songwriter, she has been honored by The Nashville Songwriters Association, the Songwriters Hall of Fame and many other achievements. Taylor is the only artist in history to have an album hit the I million first- week sales figure three times (2010's Speak Now, 2012's RED and 2014's 1989). From the explanation above, that is why the writer choose the title "**SIMILES**

**AND SYMBOLS FOUND IN THE SONG LYRICS OF 1989 ALBUM BY TAYLOR SWIFT".** For this reason, the writer intended to look at figurative language more closely especially similes and symbols in the album song 1889 by Taylor Swift. In light of this, this study will focus on the figurative language such as similes and symbols and the meaning of song lyrics



## **B. Questions and Scopes of the Research**

### **1. Question of the Research**

Based on the question of the research mentioned above, the objectives of the research are described as follow:

- a. What are types of similes and symbols in the song lyrics by Taylor Swift?
- b. What are the meanings of simile and symbol contained in the song lyrics by Taylor Swift?

### **2. Scopes of the Research**



The scope of the research is limited to the figurative language used in album 1989 by Taylor Swift. The writer just focuses to analyze simile, symbols and the meaning. This research uses a qualitative concept and the writer also used the documentation, and observation method to collect the data as the writer collected the data from the songs. The data of the figurative language such as simile and symbols are taken from album 1989 song lyrics by Taylor Swift. This album consists 13 songs, but the writers choose 6 songs to analyse and the songs are namely: Welcome to new york, Blank space, Wildest dreams, I know places, Clean, Bad blood

## **C. Objectives and Significances of the Research**

### **1. Objectives of the Research**

Based of the questions of the research, the objectives will be described as follows:

- a. To identify the types of simile and symbols found in the song lyrics by Taylor swift
- b. To analyze the meaning of simile and symbols expressed in the song lyrics by Taylor swift

### **2. Significances of the Research**

Through this research, the writer hopes that the result of this research is be able to provide some benefits:

#### **a. Theoretical Significance**

The writer expects the research can be useful to enrich knowledge in figurative language. Especially, in simile, and symbols hopes this study is able to enrich the linguistic literature on figurative language and learning

motivation and can increase deeper knowledge about how the reader better understands what the writer is trying to describe or the meaning in the song

#### **b. Practical Significance**

The writer hopes this research would be useful and helpful to researchers interested in literary study, such as figurative language particularly song lyrics. It is hoped that with this research can to improve learning and understand the meaning figurative language.

### **D. Operational Definitions**

#### **1. Figurative language**

Figurative language is the use of imaginative words to convey to the reader an idea of meaning in context rather than in literal language. Figurative language is a language used by a writer or speaker to convey an artistic and colourful message that aims to make words more beautiful, imaginative and varied.

#### **2. Simile**

A simile is a figure of speech that compares two different things, often introduced by the word like or as. Similes are like metaphors, but with one important difference. The comparison in metaphor is implicit, while in similes it is explicit. Simile be easier to recognize because they are introduced by words such as like, as, Compare, resemble and so on.

#### **3. Symbolism**

Symbolism is the use of a symbol, which may be a word or image, to convey a distinct idea and the use of words or images to symbolize concepts, people, objects, or objects. specific object or event. In other words, symbolism is the idea that things represent other things

#### **E. Systematization of The Research**

The systematization of the research means that it will be written sequentially from the beginning to the end and the composition has been edited properly, namely as follows:

##### **Chapter I: Introduction:**

This chapter explains about background of the Research, question of the research, scope of the research, objectives and significances of the research which has been divided into two, such as theoretically and practically after that, operation definition and also systematization of the research. In Chapter I can explain about structuralism and figurative language theory such as simile and symbols and also what problems occur in this research

##### **Chapter II: The Theoretical Description.**

This chapter contains the description of theories used in the research which are definition of structuralism, element of poetry, definition about figurative language, kinds of figurative language, but in this research the focuses are only on similes and symbols, and also definition song and review 1989 album.

##### **Chapter III: Methodology of the Research.**

This chapter deals with method of the research, the contents of which are divided into time and place of the research, object/data resources, techniques of data collection, techniques of data analysis and data source.

**Chapter IV: Analysis Data.**

This chapter explains about the data description, data analysis, and interpretation of the research findings. Chapter IV explains the analysis of data found in the lyrics songs by Taylor Swift.

**Chapter V: Conclusion and Suggestion**

This chapter deal with conclusion which is relates to hypothesis discussion and suggestions relates to significance of the research. Chapter V explains what conclusions have been analyzed in this Research and advice for readers and writers.

