

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains the context and main issues underlying the study. The introduction provides an overview of the topic, why it is important, and the purpose of the writing. This background helps readers understand the direction and scope of the discussion, allowing them to follow the study more easily before moving to the next sections.

1.1 Background

Figurative language is the use of words to describe concepts, feelings, or ideas in a way that is not literal. It contains a range of strategies that enhance both speaking and writing, making them more captivating and memorable. Figures of speech are used in figurative language to increase its impact, persuasiveness, and effectiveness. Metaphors, similes, and allusions are examples of figures of speech that provide readers fresh perspectives by going beyond the literal meanings of words. Basically, figurative language is part of semantics.

According to Purba et al. (2021), figurative language is applied in many forms of literary works, including poems, short stories, song lyrics, and so on. Various authors use figurative language in their works to create special effects, stimulate imagination, and invite readers or listeners to interpret meanings beyond the surface level. As Perrine (1977) explains, figurative language is a technique for giving words new meanings. Similarly, Mahmood (2014) states that figurative language is a form of expression where words or sentences carry meanings that are not concrete. Perrine (1969) classifies figurative language into 12 types: allegory, metaphor, simile, apostrophe,

synecdoche, hyperbole/overstatement, metonymy, symbol, irony, personification, understatement, and paradox.

Song lyrics often employ figurative language to enrich their artistic quality. Setiawati & Maryani (2018) argue that lyrics with hidden meanings become more beautiful because of the use of figurative language. However, listeners may not fully appreciate or understand a song unless they are able to interpret these figurative elements. Analyzing figurative language in music is therefore essential, not only for academic purposes but also for enhancing the audience's appreciation and understanding of artistic messages.

In this study, Twenty One Pilots is a band that has had a significant cultural and emotional impact, especially among younger generations. Their *Vessel* album (2013) stands out for its profound and often psychologically charged lyrics, which address themes such as anxiety, depression, existential struggle, and the search for meaning in life. Unlike typical pop songs that emphasize love and relationships, *Vessel* engages directly with mental health issues—an aspect that resonates strongly with listeners who experience similar struggles. This makes the album an important subject of study, both from a linguistic perspective and within broader discussions of popular culture and mental health awareness.

1.2 Research Questions

Research problem is a research question which needs research to answer the problem. This research will be conducted to answer the following problem question:

1. What are the types of figurative language used in the album “Vessel”

by

Twenty One Pilots?

2. What are the most frequently used types of figurative language in the lyrics of the album *Vessel* by Twenty One Pilots?

1.3 Aims Of Study

Based on the research problem above, the aims of study to find out:

1. To identify the types of figurative language used in the album “*Vessel*” by Twenty One Pilots.
2. To find out what type of figurative language is most often used in the lyrics of the album *Vessel* by Twenty One Pilots.

1.4 Significance of Study

Significance of the study consist of both implication and application as below:

1.4.1 Implication

As Perrine (1977) mentions figurative language is a technique for giving words new meanings.

1.4.2 Application

1. This research can help the student in semantic class for analyzing the kind of figurative language and the concept of figurative language is frequently use in semantic.
2. For future researcher, the research findings are expected can be used as references in conducting further studies about figurative language used in different song by different singer.