

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Songs have been used as one form of human expressions for many years. With songs, words and the music can be presented to the hearers. Songs with their lyrics transmit history and feelings, songs also bring people together through its musical instrument and beautiful lyrics.

Song writers often write their songs on the basis of their feelings or what they feel at that particular moment. On other occasions, song writers can also write a song to express their concerns and criticism of society. Although this kind of voicing out opinions through songs has been around for a long time, with a freedom of speech that is already common in modern society, musicians and songwriters currently have become even braver in expressing their thoughts and revealing their true colors to their lyrics.

Generally, music consists of two elements, sounds as the primary and lyrics as the secondary (Dallin 1994). Lyrics bring something important to the songs we listen to. Yip Harburg, a popular American song lyricist best known for "Somewhere over the rainbow" and "it's only a Paper Moon," described his lyrics view, "Words make you think ... music makes you feel ... but a song makes you feel thoughts" (Alonso, 2012, Preface section, para. 12). The lyrics give the listener deep comprehension of the meaning of the song, in other words, the text clarifies the meaning of the song.

Lyrics are one of the most important things in producing a song. It cannot be ignored or acknowledged as something less important. In making lyrics for a song, song writers are expected to write beautiful wordings yet implicitly contain various meanings. It is an unwritten rule that songs have to deliver messages and the lyrics should be meaningful for the hearers. Therefore, song writers will massively add various figurative languages into a song.

The use of figurative language in song lyrics is actually not new, as the origins of the lyrics itself is from a poetry that is set to music and being sung by a performer. However, nowadays, people frequently pay more attention to the sound of the music they listen to and neglect the lyrics of the song, which causes some composers to create the most straightforward and simple-to-remember lyrics. "I Just Wanna Say I Love You" by Melly Goeslow is an example of how a composer creates a song with limited lyrics. Not to mention Mawang, who sings the song "Kasih Sayang untuk Orang Tua" with nonsensical blabbing. Although the lyrics are difficult to understand, many people still enjoy the song. However, there are plenty of singers and songwriters who compose their songs in beautiful yet meaningful lyrics and wonderfully did a great job in adding figurative language into their songs, one of whom is Troye Sivan.

The pop star Troye Sivan was born in South Africa, raised in Australia, but he now resides in Los Angeles. Sivan started his career at his very early age. Far before his vocal abilities selling out concerts, he was once performing alongside *Australian Idol* winner Guy Sebastian on the popular annual Australian fundraising program, the Channel Seven Perth *Telethon* in 2006. The next year, Sivan released his debut

Extended Play (EP) *Dare to Dream* which contains five song covers. This *Dare to Dream* EP also gave a narrow glimpse into what he had in store for his singing career.

As he gathered massive online followers from his *Youtube* personality, he made a surprising confession which later would be one of the most defining moments in his whole media career.

Troye wrote all the lyrics in *Blue Neighbourhood* himself and every song from the album is the stem of his real experience (*The Fader*). The lyrics from *Blue Neighbourhood* was beautifully written and easily touch the heart of the hearers, not to mention the figurative languages that also play a bigger role in capturing the attention of the hearers. It can be shown in his choice of poetic idioms and his ability to write beautiful wordings.

The preceding elucidation has piqued my curiosity regarding the identification of the figurative language employed in *Blue Neighbourhood*, as well as the explication of the connotative significance of said figurative language within the album. The stylistic approach is employed by me in the analysis of figurative language. As per the findings of J. Mistrik in Missikova's (2003) research, the field of stylistics pertains to the examination of the selection and utilization of linguistic, extralinguistic, and aesthetic elements, along with specific communication techniques. According to Leech and Short's (2007) assertion, stylistics pertains to the linguistic examination of style.

The application of style is observed in both literary and non-literary language, with a conventional association with written text (Leech and Short, 2007). Given

the close relationship between written text and its reception by readers, many writers prioritize not only the clarity of their writing, but also the attainment of aesthetic and dramatic values in their work.

1.2 Research Problem

- 1) What are the types of figurative languages used in Troye Sivan's *Blue Neighbourhood* album?
- 2) What are the meanings of Troye Sivan's figures of speech in *Blue Neighbourhood* album?

1.3 Objectives of the study

- 1) To discover the figurative languages that are found in Troye Sivan's *Blue Neighbourhood* album.
- 2) To uncover the meanings of figurative languages used by Troye Sivan in his *Blue Neighbourhood* album.

1.4 Previous study

For this research, I have found some previous studies related to the stylistics analysis of song lyrics. The first thesis is "*The Description of Metaphor in Troye Sivan's Songs Through Wild Album*" written by Martha Cristina Girsang (2017). In this thesis, the writer analyzes the metaphor found in Troye Sivan's songs. The present study employed a library research methodology to gather metaphorical data embedded in Siva songs. The present thesis is exclusively concerned with the particular category of metaphor that is discernible in the songs composed by Sivan, as featured in his *Wild* album. According to the

gathered data, the author identified one instance of simile, thirteen instances of hyperbole, and eleven instances of personification. This study exclusively focuses on Troye's Wild EP, rather than encompassing his entire discography.

Nurun Nisa' Zukhrifah Adib (2019) conducted a semantic analysis of Troye Sivan's Blue Neighbourhood music video trilogy, which constitutes the second thesis that I have come across. The objective of this thesis is to elucidate the denotative and connotative significance of the lyrics by means of scrutinizing the signs that were featured in The Blue Neighbourhood music video trilogy. This study employs a descriptive qualitative research approach, utilizing scenes as the primary source of data. The scenes consist of various signs and lyrics that convey both denotative and connotative meanings. The author conducted an analysis of the scene utilizing Pierce's semiotic of sign and Leech's semantic of meaning theory. The author discovered that the trilogy encompasses a theme centered around the experiences of individuals in same-sex relationships who face familial rejection. Additionally, the work conveys the notion that instances of physical and mental abuse resulting from the rejection of one's identity can have severe consequences, including suicidal tendencies. Regrettably, the scope of this study is limited to an examination of solely three songs and their accompanying music videos from the Blue Neighbourhood Album, with no comprehensive analysis conducted for the entirety of the album.

Another research done for Troye Sivan's songs is *Analisis Semiotika Mengenai LGBT Dalam Video Klip "Youth" oleh Troye Sivan* done by Nurul

Aini (2017). This research highlighted the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) representation found in *Youth* music video. The song *Youth* is also a part of *Blue Neighbourhood* Album. In this study, the writer aims to know how the LGBT symbol portrayed rights in *Youth* Music Video to represent the LGBT community and their struggle to fight for their rights. The writer analyzes the denotative and connotative meaning from the song and the music video using Roland Barthes's analysis. This study shows that in this music video, this study shows that Troye Sivan is widely sponsored in this music video by corporations and nongovernmental organizations who are also battling across the globe for LGBT rights and legality. Same as the previous research, this study only covers the semiotics analysis in a music video of one song from the *Blue Neighbourhood* Album.

The subsequent scholarly work that has been discovered is a study entitled "Revealing The Voice of Gay Pride in Troye Sivan's Song Heaven: Form and Meaning," authored by Elok Surya Rachman in 2022. The present article endeavors to explicate the matter of gay pride as depicted in song lyrics through the utilization of figurative language, theory of meaning, and theory of language and gender. The present study employs Troye Sivan's musical composition entitled 'Heaven', which is featured in the *Blue Neighbourhood* Album, as the primary data source. The present study employed both descriptive and qualitative methods to analyze the data. The findings of the research indicate that the lyrics of *Heaven* employ four distinct types of figurative language as identified by Perrine, namely allegory, simile, paradox,

and hyperbole. Heaven lyrics employ two distinct types of meaning, namely connotative and affective meaning. Furthermore, the discourse revealed the presence of two distinct gender categories, namely referential gender and grammatical gender. The study revealed that referential gender was the primary gender category observed in Heaven, and it played a significant role in promoting gay pride. Regrettably, this journal solely centers on the LGBT theme conveyed by Troye Sivan in his musical composition, Heaven.

The fifth study identified pertains to the analysis of linguistic style in the album "Blue Neighbourhood" by Troye Sivan, as conducted by Hernalia Citra Dewi in 2022. The objective of this study is to conduct an analysis and description of the employment of figurative language in the song lyrics of Troye Sivan's Blue Neighbourhood album, as undertaken by Herlina. This study employs the techniques of descriptive analysis and library research. Based on the findings of the study, the author arrives at the conclusion that the number of figurative language types amounts to ten, which differs from the twelve language styles posited by Arp and Johnson in their publication titled *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry*. One limitation of this study is its exclusive emphasis on figurative language, with a disregard for its semantic content.

Anna Shavira (2021) conducted a study titled "The Analysis of Figurative Language in Bloom Album by Troye Sivan," which is the subsequent research that I have come across. The objective of this investigation is to identify the various forms of figurative language employed in the lyrics of Troye Sivan's

musical compilation, Bloom. The scholar utilized Knickerbocker and Reninger's theoretical framework to examine the employment of figurative language in Troye Sivan's musical compilation, Bloom. The present study reveals that the predominant linguistic device employed in Troye Sivan's Bloom Album is metaphor. The primary objective of this journal is to conduct an analysis of ten musical compositions featured in the Bloom Album, which were created by Troye Sivan.

The seventh scholarly article identified pertains to the work titled "Becoming Gay: The Performance of Gay Masculinity in Trilogy of Blue Neighbourhood (2015) By Troye Sivan," which was authored by Rakhmad Dian Bagus Pramono in 2018. The present investigation involved an analysis of the music video trilogy produced by Troye Sivan for the songs featured in his Blue Neighbourhood Album. In order to gain an understanding of the matter at hand, the author utilized a qualitative research methodology and applied Fiske's Television Culture framework. The findings of this research demonstrate that the societal enforcement of heteronormativity has a discernible effect on the construct of gay masculinity. The videos depict the concept of homosexual masculinity through the physical performance and behavioral patterns exhibited by gay men. To summarize, sexual orientation and gender identity are distinct concepts that are not interdependent. The scope of this study was limited to the analysis of the sexual orientation portrayed in the songs and trilogy videos.

The next study I found is similar to the study I have found before. The study is *Depiction of homosexuals in Troye Sivan's Blue Neighborhood Trilogy music video* done by Eka Julia Maharani (2021). This study analyzed how a gay person is depicted in a music video. This study employed a qualitative methodology, a descriptive research design, and Ferdinand de Saussure's semiotic method. This study showed homosexual identities are described as oppressed persons based on the study of signs and signs contained in this approach. Their desire to demonstrate resilience is still a struggle because it constantly clashes with society's heteronormativity worldview. However, this study only analyzed the shown symbols in the music video and not analyzing the song lyrics.

The ninth scholarly investigation identified pertains to a study titled "The Depictions of Homosexual Practice and Discrimination Towards Gay Reflected in Troye Sivan Songs," which was carried out by Siti Hardiani in 2022. This study examines the portrayal of homosexual behavior in Troye Sivan's songs featured in the Blue Neighbourhood Album, as well as the correlation between prejudice and violence towards individuals who identify as gay. The author employed Queer theory and semiotic analysis, drawing on Roland Barthes' theoretical framework, to examine the nature and function of signs. Barthes' theory posits that language constitutes a system of signals that reflects the prevailing societal assumptions of a particular historical moment. The present study reveals that Troye Sivan's musical compositions feature depictions of homosexual behavior, as evidenced by the lyrics and

accompanying visual media. Additionally, the study indicates that instances of discrimination are also present in both the lyrical content and music videos of Sivan's songs.

The tenth study I have found next in line is *Figurative Language in Troye Sivan's Blue Neighbourhood Album* done by Patrice Angelia (2022). In this study, the writer used directed content analysis as its method. The first finding revealed that there were 83 data in total that use figurative language on its lyrics, and the second finding proved that there were three main themes that become the essence from each of the songs. Namely, love-related, teenage issues, and homesickness. However, this study did not explain the meaning behind the figurative languages found in *Blue Neighbourhood Album*.

1.5 Scope of Study

I limited my study on figures of speech or tropes found in Troye Sivan's *Blue Neighbourhood album*.

1.6 Organization of the writing

This paper organizes into the following chapters:

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, research problems that will be investigated in the study, the purpose of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, previous study that shows the novelty of this research, and organization of the writing.

CHAPTER II REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter deals with numerous subjects that will help to understand the research by giving the definitions of the related study.

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter contains type of research, data, population, sample, method of collecting data and method of analyzing data.

CHAPTER IV DISCUSSION

This chapter shows the findings of the study which are swear words uttered by youtubers in their videos and how they curse to people they talk to.

CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes the final discussion and giving suggestion for further analysis concerning the topic of this study.