**CHAPTER II**

**THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

**2.1 Theoretical Framework**

This chapter explores the theoretical framework that underlies the analysis of figurative expressions in Niki Zefanya's album. The framework provides definitions and concepts of figurative language, the contextual factors such as theme, age including personal experiences, and social context that influence the use of figurative expressions. These theories serve as the foundation to answer the research questions of the study.

**2.1.1 Semantic Study**

Semantic is a branch of linguistics that focuses on meaning in language. According to Hurford, Heasley, and Smith (2007), semantics is a systematic study of meaning and how it can be communicated through words, phrases, and sentences, emphasizing how people interpret and convey ideas in communication. Leech (1983) also views semantics as the study of meaning, which includes both literal and figurative aspects. These perspectives emphasize that meaning in language is not only about literal interpretation but also involves figurative and emotional meanings. Semantic is relevant to analyzing figurative expressions in texts such as song lyrics.

**2.1.2 Figurative Language**

Figurative language can be defined as a way of communicating an expression consisting of at least one statement, either verbally or in writing, where the expression has a meaning beyond its actual meaning.

According to Leech (1983) figurative language refers to non-literal meanings, demonstrating how language can express ideas beyond their literal interpretation. This is closely related to connotative meaning, which, according to Leech (1983) is relatively unstable and it varies according to age or society. According to Lakoff and Johnson (2003) figurative language is a part of the human cognitive system, not merely a rhetorical ornament. Figurative language can help people organize experiences, emotions, and abstract ideas into forms that can be understood and well communicated.

### 2.1.2.1 Metaphor

A metaphor is not just a decorative figure of speech but a fundamental way in which we understand and experience the world. It allows us to grasp abstract ideas by relating them to more familiar, concrete concepts (Lakoff and Johnson, 2003). For instance, the phrase "time is money", showing how our culture thinks about time in terms of value and spending. One example is the song "Midnight Rain" by Taylor Swift: "He was sunshine". The phrase "sunshine" highlights him as analogous to sunshine, characterized by friendliness, humility, and cheerfulness, enhancing the days of those around him and bestowing happiness, comfort, and delight on them. (Santika et al., 2023)

### 2.1.2.2 Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a form of figurative language that occurs when someone expresses something in an exaggerated way compared to the actual reality. Hyperbole is not meant to be interpreted literally but instead, but to create stronger impression (Leech, 1983). An example of hyperbole is seen in the song "Lose" by Niki Zefanya

from the album Moonchild in the lyrics "Cause I ain't tryna be the one, been through this a thousand times", which shows that Niki's statement that she is the only individual struggling with the relationship is logical. It is illogical for Niki to claim that she has completed many tasks a thousand times. It is her habit to make exaggerated statements, according to the songs, when people are upset. Niki believes that the lyrics convey her perception as the only individual who consistently puts in the effort to maintain a relationship, over and over again. (Alfiyani, 2021)

### 2.1.2.3 Irony

Irony involves the use of words to convey meaning that contrasts with expectations or reality (Leech, 1983). An example of this can be found in the song "Peace" by Taylor Swift in the Folklore album, particularly in the lyrics "I But there's robber to the east, Clowns to the West" This line express irony, and the term "West" in the statement denotes Kanye West, with whom Swift engaged in a conflict that commenced when West disrupted her speech at the 2009 Video Music Awards. (Taufik and Cahyati, 2022)

### 2.1.2.4 Simile

A simile is a figurative language that explicitly compares two fundamentally dissimilar entities using comparative terms such as "like," "as," "than," or "resembles" (Leech, 1983). Similar to Chandler (2007) simile can be seen as a form of metaphor in which the figurative status of the comparison is made explicit through the use of the word "as" or "like". An example can be seen in Troye Sivan's song "Heaven" where the lyrics "The truth runs wild, Like a tear down a cheek"

Troye uses a simile to describe that the truth is like a tear. One can only conceal or repress it for a restricted duration before it ultimately surfaces. Like a tear cascading down a cheek, the expression of the truth renders it irretrievable and lays it bare for everyone to witness. This sentence implies that a certain era in his life was a challenging experience, emotionally burdensome in various aspects. (Gadis, 2023)

### 2.1.2.5 Personification

Personification is a device that attributes human characteristics to inanimate entities, such as objects, animals, or abstract concepts (Leech, 1983). In line with Lakoff and Johnson (2003), personification enables humans to make sense of abstract or nonhuman concepts by attributing them with human qualities. An example of this can be found in the song "All of Me" by John Legend. The lyrics state, "The world is beating you down". The sentence describes a story in which, as long as we dedicate ourselves to each other, nothing can separate us. Time stops, and the present is the moment. You cannot achieve defeat, as your defeat leads to your victory, and your victory, in turn, leads to your happiness, which ultimately brings you joy. (Arifah, 2016)

### 2.1.2.6 Paradox

A paradox is a statement that seems contradictory or doesn't make sense, but pon closer analysis, it contains a hidden truth. In other words, paradoxes make us stop for a while, think, and realize that something that doesn't make sense actually can reveal a hidden truth (Leech, 1983). Taylor Swift's song "I Wish You Would" serves as an example. The lyrics state, "We're a crooked love in a straight line down". The paradox exists here because the contradiction underlines the emotional

reality of the relationship. The affection is distorted, but it continues downward. The combination supports the sentiment despite all the complexity, and the outcome is clear and inevitable. (Nursyaheedah et al., 2017)

**2.1.2.7 Synecdoche**

Lakoff and Johnson (2003) explain that synecdoche is a figurative form in which a part represents a vice versa. In a similar way, Lanham (1969) defines it as the substitution of part for whole, whole for part, or even species for genus. Taylor Swift's song "This is Me Trying" serves as an example. "I've been having a hard time adjusting, I had the shiniest wheels". The car's wheels represent its past status, accomplishment, and identity. From "the shiniest wheel" to "the rustiest" illustrates a deterioration from perfect conditions. Rusty wheels indicate physical damage and reflect his fatigue. (Taufik and Cahyati, 2022)

**2.1.2.8 Understatement**

An understatement is a statement that deliberately undervalues something to produce a sense of irony or humour (Leech, 1983). In the song "Lost Boy" by Troye Sivan, there is a line that states, "I'm just some dumb kid trying to kid myself". In this context, Troye is portraying himself as an immature child, although being a mature teenager. He undertook this action due to his perception that he exhibited foolishness in his connection with his partner to the extent of behaving childishly. (Gadis, 2023)

**2.1.3 Factors that influence of the use of figurative expression**

The use of figurative expressions is shaped by several factors. Among the most significant are the theme of the context, the age including the experiences, and the

surrounding social context. These aspects help explain why figurative expressions can different across works and situations.

**2.1.3.1 Theme**

In the context of songs, the use of figurative expressions in lyrics often varies according to the thematic content of the song. Halliday and Matthiessen (2014) argue that language is shaped by three key variables: field, tenor, and mode. The field corresponds to the subject matter or theme, tenor describes the relationships among participants, and mode concerns the function of language within the interaction. Consequently, variations in the field result in differences in the types and frequency of figurative expressions used.

**2.1.3.2 Age and Experiences**

Figurative language develops as people grow older and gain more life experience. According to Lakoff and Johnson (2003), figurative expressions originate from conceptual metaphors shaped by the experiences people encounter in life. As individuals age, their experiences help them use more mature and complex figurative language. Kreuz and Roberts (1993) also note that a person's knowledge and mental effort influence their understanding of metaphors. This suggests that younger people may prefer more obvious or direct expressions, while adults use and understand figurative language in more subtle ways. Eisterhold, Attardo, and Boxer (2004) found that people between the ages of 20 and 40 use irony most often, indicating that age influences the frequency and manner in which people use figurative language.

**2.1.3.3 Social Context**

Social context plays a key role in how people use and understand figurative language. For example, Eisterhold, Attardo, and Boxer (2004) found that irony is more common among people who know each other, as it can be risky and relies on a shared understanding. Reyes, Rosso, and Buscaldi (2012) also note that on social media, factors such as audience and community norms influence how figurative language is interpreted. In literature, Kreuz and Roberts (1993) demonstrate that figurative language relies on social and cultural context for its meaning. In line with this, Halliday and Matthiesen (2014) explain that language not only construes experience but also enacts social relationships, meaning that figurative expressions are shaped by the social environments in which they occur. These studies highlight that figurative expressions depend heavily on social context for both their use and interpretation.

**2.2 Methods**

In this section, the researcher outlines the research methods, data collection methods, and data analysis methods employed in this project.

**2.2.1 Type of Research**

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method to examine the differences in the use of figurative expressions between Niki Zefanya's albums "Nicole" and "Buzz". This study focuses on analyzing the lyrics of each song on both albums, identifying and categorizing the types of figurative expressions that exist. This study uses textual analysis to examine the function of figurative expressions in Niki Zefanya's

albums. This study aims to identify differences in the use of figurative expressions in the themes of each album.

**2.2.2 Data, Population, Sample, and Sampling Techniques**

This study uses lyrics from the albums "Nicole" (2022) and "Buzz" (2024) as primary data. The population used for the study is all lyrics from both albums. The sampling technique used is the total sampling technique, which includes lyrics from twelve songs on the album "Nicole" and thirteen songs on the album "Buzz". From 515 lines of lyrics, there are 126 figurative expressions of lyrics in the album "Nicole" while in album "Buzz" from 466 lines of lyrics there are 99 figurative expressions.

**2.2.3 Method of Collecting Data**

As previously mentioned, this study employs data collected from two albums by Niki Zefanya. Initially, all the songs from both albums were listened to in their entirety to achieve a thorough understanding. Subsequently, the lyrics of the songs were obtained from the websites https://genius.com/albums/Niki/Nicole for the "Nicole" album and https://genius.com/albums/Niki/Buzz for the "Buzz" album.

The collected lyrics are organized systematically in Microsoft Excel. First, a table is created in a spreadsheet to coordinate songs by album and categorize the figurative expressions in the lyrics. This process enables efficient analysis and allows data to be well-structured for future analysis.

**2.2.4 Method of Analyzing Data**

The data analysis process followed the framework established by Miles and Huberman (1994). The initial stage involved data reduction, which was facilitated

by organizing the information into a table with five columns. The first column recorded the song title, the second column presented the lyrics, and the third column used a binary system (✓/x) to indicate the presence or absence of figurative expressions. This step aimed to refine and concentrate on the relevant data, transforming complex information into a more accessible format. Following this, we presented the data in a systematic and structured manner.

| | TITLE | LYRICS | Figuration Expression | CATEGORIZATION | DETAIL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | |
| 2 | BUZZ | It's the anticipation when the amps turn on | x | x | x |
| 3 | BUZZ | Just cables and crackle | x | Understatement | Describing th |
| 4 | BUZZ | It's the first flicker of the neon sign | v | Symbolism | Neon signs c |
| 5 | BUZZ | It's the words stuck in your Adam's apple | x | x | x |
| 6 | BUZZ | It's a hand on the handle of the front door | x | x | x |
| 7 | BUZZ | It's making eyes in the middle of the dance floor | v | Metaphor | creates a rom |
| 8 | BUZZ | I feel like hot shit | x | x | x |
| 9 | BUZZ | Wanna make out in your car in the lot of a drug store | x | x | x |
| 10 | BUZZ | It's a bumblebee on a blossom | v | Metaphor | comparing the |
| 11 | BUZZ | The first coffee shop run in autumn | x | x | x |
| 12 | BUZZ | It's that feeling, a propeller | v | Metaphor | comparing the |

**Figure 2.1 Analyzing Data**

The fourth column categorized the identified figurative expressions, while the fifth column provides brief explanations. This tabular format facilitated the organization and visualization of the data, allowing for a clearer understanding of patterns analysis while the fifth column contains a brief explanation. This table format is made to facilitate organizing and visualizing data, thus allowing a clear understanding of the analysis pattern.

| | TITLE | LYRICS | Figuration Expressic | CATEGORIZATION | DETAIL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | | | |
| 7 | BUZZ | It's making eyes in the middle of the dance floor | v | Metaphor | creates a ro |
| 10 | BUZZ | It's a bumblebee on a blossom | v | Metaphor | comparing tl |
| 12 | BUZZ | It's that feeling, a propeller | v | Metaphor | comparing tl |
| 43 | TOO MUCH | Intentions clear and stronger than the noon sky | v | Metaphor | This phrase |
| 44 | TOO MUCH | You're the bee's knees, I'm the bull's eye | v | Metaphor | compares th |
| 79 | COLLOSAL | Burn a bridge, build a resume, nice trade | v | Metaphor | suggests tha |
| 101 | FOCUS | You're a complicated puzzle | v | Metaphor | This metaph |
| 115 | FOCUS | You'd probably burst into flames | v | Metaphor | An exaggera |
| 125 | FOCUS | I'm seething through my smile | v | Metaphor | Compares tl |
| 139 | FOCUS | You'd probably burst into flames | v | Metaphor | This is a hyp |
| 154 | DID YOU LI | Did you get past the walls, did you see through them all? | v | Metaphor | Describes e |

**Figure 2.2 Identifying Figurative Expression**

Then the next step is to filter the table based on the category of figurative expression types. The researcher counts the number of each figurative expression found. This process also identifies patterns for ranking figurative expressions within each album.



**Figure 2.3 Filtering The Categorization**