

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

The study of meaning has been conducted by many researchers. That shows that understanding the meaning of language is very important. Therefore, there is a scientific study of meaning namely, semantics. Leech (1974:9) explains that “Semantics as the study of meaning is central to the study of communication, and as communication becomes more and more pressing”. It can be inferred that understanding the meaning in communication will drive to the clear information.

In accordance with that, “There are two meanings in semantics, literal and non-literal meaning” (Saeed, 2009: 15). These meanings have different definition. “When the speaker speaks in a neutral, factually accurate way is called as literal meaning. Meanwhile, when the speaker deliberately describes something in untrue or impossible terms in order to achieve special effects is called as non-literal meaning” (Saeed, 2009: 15). In other words, literal meaning is the phrases or sentences are expressed based on the exact meaning of the speakers. Meanwhile, non-literal meaning is when the speaker utters phrases or sentences which imply the different meaning from its really mean.

In semantics, “Nonliteral uses of language are traditionally called figurative” (Saeed, 2009:15). Rosa and Eschholz in Tocharoen (2012:5) define “Figurative language as the language used in a creative rather than a literal sense”. This infers that, figurative language acts as semantic signifiers in texts and also helps the literary artist in achieving beauty in form. Consequently, figurative language is often used in literary works, especially in poetry. “Figurative language is one of the essential elements to write poetry since in writing poetry the poet must choose appropriate words that are able to describe something in the reader’s mind” (Tjahjono in Wulandari, 2015:1).

That is to say that the authors use figurative language in order to beautify and revives the text. For example, when the authors use personifications in their literary works is aimed to make something feels alive by imitating the characteristics of human being. That is the way how the authors attempt to beautify the texts. However, both the authors and the readers have to have a good understanding towards the meaning inside that is written in a poem in order to avoid misunderstanding. Accordance with that, poetic diction has its own characteristics that distinguish it from other literary works. According to Thomas and Laurence in (Hayani, 2016:131), “Poetry might be defined as a kind of language that says more intensely than ordinary language”. Therefore, a poem could not be understood only by understanding the literal meaning since a poem uses the extraordinary language as the essence of beauty of a poem. Therefore, it is important to reveal and understanding the language that uses in a poem.

The study of figurative language and its meaning in literary works especially poetry has become the concern of many people either professional authors or the students. However, they probably face some problems in creating and understanding the poem. Salameh (2012:3) says “One of the problems of students in studying and creating poetry is that they are difficult to appoint many of the terms of figurative language”. In accordance with the problem, the researcher intends to conduct a research to analyze the figurative language that used by English Literature students in their poetry writing. However, there are many studies deal with figurative language in poetry that written by prominent authors. Nevertheless, the current study will analyze the poetry written by English Literature students due to figure out the ability of the students in beautifying the poetry by using figurative language.

As English literature students, they must be able to write a poem. Therefore, the students are asked to write a poem as good as they can. The study object in this research is a poetry anthology book written by undergraduate students from private university in Bandarlampung. The anthology book has been published in 2018 entitled *Bicara Dalam Hati* (Self Talking). The book consists of 20 poems with different topic. Actually, this book is written into three languages; Lampungnese, Indonesian, and English. However, the researcher will only analyze the figurative language in English version.

Referring to the explanation above, the researcher decided to carry out on identifying the types of figurative language that used by English Literature

students in their poetry writing. Furthermore, the researcher will reveal the meaning of figurative language that the English Literature students used in their poetry writing.

## **1.2 Research Question**

Based on the background of the study above, this study is undertaken to answer the following questions:

1. What are the types of figurative language used by English Literature students in the poetry?
2. What are the meanings of figurative language used by English Literature students in the poetry?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

The aims of this research is to reveal the types and meaning of figurative language that used by English Literature students in their poetry writing.

## **1.4 The use of the Study**

### **1.4.1.1 Theoretical Uses**

Theoretically, this study applies the theory of Leech (1969) about the types of figurative language and seven types of meaning (1981). This study is expected to give additional knowledge about figurative language use in poetry. It can provide how the types of figurative language and seven types of meaning by Leech used in analyzing the text to unveil the meaning of figurative language in the book.

#### **1.4.1.2 Practical Uses**

Practically, the researcher hopes this result of the study can be guidance for other researchers who want to conduct similar research. For further, this study is expected to give additional information for the readers and the writers on how the figurative language used in a poetry and employed to help readers in analyzing figurative language.

#### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

This study focuses on types of figurative language used in poetry anthology book written by English Literature student. There will be 20 poems analyzed in this research. This research will use semantic approach and Leech's theory (1969) of figurative language and 7 types of meaning (1981).