

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The research background in Chapter One prepares the reader for a detailed examination of the chosen research emphasis, which is focused on clarifying relevant research questions in an effort to unearth important findings. This chapter emphasizes the advantages that could arise from answering these questions, which will further the field's scholarly debate.

A. Research Background

Language is one of the tools for human communication. Without language, people seem not able to communicate with others. Besides that, people need language to interact, to look and give people information. In literary works, people use language in various ways, including spoken and written forms. Language is used in various forms, including spoken and written forms. the spoken form of language encompasses verbal communication, including dialogue, speeches, and oral storytelling. On the other hand, the written form of language refers to text that is presented in a visual or printed format, such as novels, poems, essays, and plays. Crystal, (2010) stated that language is likely to explore the fundamental role of language in communication, discussing how language enables humans to convey meaning, express thoughts, and interact with one another. People can express their emotion, feeling, and thought by language.

According to Rahmadhanti et al., (2022) the song is a common medium used to convey something ideas, or expressions of feeling. inside lyrics song, there is a means for implementing ideas or outpouring the creator's heart song. Creator song does to get create power pull listeners and creators also think imagination on lyrics delivered with musicalization and tuning to be mesmerizing for heard. Words usually recycled tropes from medieval literature, are often experienced more as vehicles of sound than as meaning. Based on the opinion Vulchanova et al., (2015), the phrase figurative language refers to "language that is not meant to be interpreted literally, with the overall meaning of the sentence being distinct from the literal meanings of its constituent parts." By comparing or contrasting people, objects, or situations, figurative language can be used to describe feelings. From the definition Vulchanova above, it can be concluded that figurative language conveys a message that aims to have a particular impact to

listener. Figurative language in song lyrics acts as an effective tool for conveying ideas and emotions, enabling artists to connect with listeners more profoundly. According to Rahmadhanti et al. and Vulchanova et al., this linguistic style boosts the song's overall effect, turning words into sound elements that inspire feelings that go beyond their literal interpretations.

One of example related from figurative language is personification. Personification is the literary and rhetorical technique of attributing human traits and attributes to inanimate objects, non-human beings, or abstract ideas. It entails imbuing non-human entities with human characteristics, feelings, or actions. This method is frequently applied to enhance the vividness of descriptions and to produce a story that is more relatable or interesting. Personification is used in songs with the aim of making the song more interesting, beautiful and pleasant to hear. Because it is assumed to be easier to understand by using personification instead of using the literal one. The composer use personification to make listeners easily to understand the song lyrics

Mitski, also known as American singer-songwriter Mitsuki Miyawaki (sometimes known as Mitski) is a native of the United States. While enrolled in Purchase College's Conservatory of Music to study studio composition, she self-released her first two albums, *Lush* and *Retired from Sad, New Career in Business*. Originally, she created the albums as a senior project. On September 27, 1990, in Mie Prefecture, Japan she was born. Japanese was her first language. Because of her father's work at the US Department of State, she moved around a lot as a child, residing in Turkey, China, Malaysia, the Czech Republic, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo before relocating to the US. When she was eighteen and lived in Ankara, Turkey, she composed her first song on the piano "Have Yourself a Mitsuki Little Christmas" released on December 17, 2010. She was a chorus member in high school. Therefore, in this research, I enthusiastically interested to find the personification Mitski songs from *The Land Is Inhospitable and So Are We* album.

Mitski's songs contain instances of personification. Example of personification from the song "I Will": "And all the quiet nights you bear, seal them up with care". In this lyric, are personified as something that the night is quiet like human behaviour. The personification gives these abstract concepts a sense of ability to gives that night was quiet like human can do. Another example personification is from the song "Two Slow Dancers": "And the ground has been

slowly pulling us back down." In these lyrics, "the ground" are attributed to humans with the ability to "pulling". This is an example of personification that gives human traits to abstract concepts.

From i-D Magazine website, Mitski's songs have always had deep and emotional lyrics, the example is: "*'Cause I need somebody to remember my name, after all that I can do for them is so done, I need somebody to remember me*" from the song entitled Remember My Name and the other example is "*My God, I'm so lonely, so I open the window to hear sounds of the people, to hear sounds of the people*" from Nobody. Investigation on the lyrics and themes of these songs can reveal aspects that can identify and analyze, such as feelings, love, life, and human experiences. This provides a space for the exploration of psychological and social themes that may be present in the music.

Mitski is recognized for her distinctive and impactful use of language, often utilizing figurative elements such as personification, which makes her songs an excellent subject for analyzing how these techniques deepen lyrical meaning. Her music explores profound emotional themes, including heartbreak, identity, and existential questions. This complexity offers a rich opportunity to examine how personification enhances emotional expression. The album "The Land Is Inhospitable and So Are We" deals with contemporary issues and personal challenges, making it especially relevant for studying modern lyrics.

Lastly, Mitski's critical recognition has led to increased academic interest in her work, establishing her as an important figure in contemporary music analysis. By concentrating on her lyrics, the researcher aims to offer insights into the connection between music, language, and emotion. Based the explanation above, the researcher interested in analysing all song from Mitski's album "The Land Is Inhospitable and So Are We", because they generally indicate social experiences and are related to living conditions that occur in society, especially for young people. This is related to the use of personification in everyday life to express the social reality in society. The following songs from her album will be examined by the researcher in this album: Bug Like an Angel 2023, Buffalo Replaced 2023, Heaven 2023, I Don't Like My Mind 2023, The Deal 2023, When Memories Snow 2023, My Love Mine All Mine 2023, The Frost 2023, Star 2023, I'm Your Man 2023, and I Love Me After You 2023.

Why the researcher chooses this album is because the profoundly intimate and insightful in her album by Mitski explores topics of self-acceptance,

and personal challenges. Heaven is one example of a chosen song from this album, the song offers a glimpse into Mitski's feeling in love with somebody and it's like being like in the heaven. "The Land Is Inhospitable and So Are We" and its entirety demonstrate Mitski's dedication to transparent and truthful narrative, utilizing her music as a medium to convey her deepest feelings and ideas.

B. Research Focus

The goal of the study is to examine in Personification in Mitski's Song Lyrics from "The Land Is Inhospitable and So Are We" Album, as the lyrics may contain the messages of those selected song including the use of song's structure, linguistic style, and word choice.

C. Research Question

Based on the background of research, there are some questions that need to be answered through this research; they are:

1. What are the types of personification found in the Mitski's song lyrics?
2. What are the meanings of personification expressions in those songs' lyrics?

D. Research Objectives

Based on the research question, researcher concludes objective of the research. There are some objectives of the research as follow the research question:

1. To look at personification languages found in Mitski's song lyrics
2. To seek the meaning of personification expressions in the Mitski's song lyrics

E. Research Benefits

This research is expected to provide beneficial and valuable knowledge to future researcher interested in music and linguistics, especially about personification in song lyrics. Linguistic researchers can use the findings to enhance their understanding of figurative language. EFL learners, particularly students in the English Education program at Muhammadiyah University of Metro, will also improve their grasp of figurative language. Additionally, the study serves as a reference for future researchers in linguistics, especially in semantics. Overall, it seeks to enrich knowledge in linguistic studies and help students develop their skills in understanding personification.