

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is the most fundamental part of how people communicate with each other in their lives. Goldstein (2008) defines language as "a system of communication using sounds and symbols that enable us to express our feelings, thoughts, ideas, and experiences" (p. 297). People take it for granted that people use language in their daily conversations. Even with the ability to communicate with each other daily, some people have difficulty understanding emotions, thoughts, ideas, and experiences expressed in language. One of the problems people face in any language is the use of figurative language.

In everyday conversation, people sometimes say things without saying what they mean literally. Instead, people choose some languages for their listeners to need to interpret and understand what they mean. For example, if someone goes camping alone for a few nights, one's friends might say, figuratively, that the one is as brave as a lion. That remark is an example of figurative language.

Figurative language is not only used in conversation. It mostly applies to literary works, such as poems, dramas, and prosaic works. Perrine (1992) says that poets use figurative language as "another way of adding an extra dimension to language." Moreover, she adds that by using figurative language, she "can say what she wants to say more vividly and forcefully through numbers than she can say it directly" (p.65).

*Kata tentang senja yang kehilangan langitnya* is a novel written by Nadhifa Allya Tsana under a pseudonym, Rintik Sedu. Gagas Media published the novel in 2018. Before writing novels, Rintik Sedu had been very fond of writing prose and poetry on Blogspot since high school. Rintik Sedu has been writing since high school and has now published seven book titles, including *Geez & Ann #1* (2017), *Geez & Ann*

#2 (2017), *Geez Secret Book* (2018), *Kata* (2018), *Buku Minta Dibanting* (2020), *Masih Ingatkah Kau Jalan Pulang* (2020) in collaboration with Sapardi Djoko Darmono, and *Geez & Ann #3* (2020). The next book, *Buku Minta Dipeluk* and *Buku Tanah Banting* will be published soon.

The researcher is interested in analyzing *Kata* for two reasons. First, the figurative language used in the novel is challenging to understand. The figurative language is important in a novel because it helps the reader imagine what happens in the story and feel the emotion of the characters in the story.

The novel became one of the best sellers in several branches of Gramedia bookstores in Indonesia (Hanurachman, 2021). *Kata* tells the story of the character Binta Dineschara Pranadipta or known as Binta, a student majoring in communication science at her college. This figure does not want to show herself so that she is not known on her campus, but that makes her comfortable.

*Kata* is a romance novel. The novel is unique and exciting because the plot and the conflicts in the novel are complex. The storyline is described in detail so that the readers find it understandable. The book cover is appealing because the illustration is representatively agreeable with the novel's theme. Indeed, this will add to the impression and atmosphere of the story. This cover describes a twilight and two people facing the sky. The cover then represents what is written in the novel. The novel's theme revolves around adolescents in college who encounter inner conflict due to a love triangle. This novel involves three characters, Binta, Nugraha, and Biru. *Kata* has many figures of speech portraying the idea of a love triangle. In this thesis, the researcher will analyze the figurative language of *Kata* to find out how the figurative language used in the novel shapes the imagination and emotion of the story.

## **1.2 Field of the Study**

This research field is the study of language because this study deals with figurative language.

### **1.3 Scope of the Study**

This study focuses on five types of figurative language. They are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, and personification.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

The research questions are

1. What are the types of figurative language expressed in the novel?
2. To what extent does the most dominant figurative language help dramatize the plot of the novel?

### **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are

1. To find out the types of figurative language used in the novel.
2. To identify to what extent the most dominant figurative language in the novel can help dramatize the plot of the novel.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The study will enrich the readers' understanding of the novel. It will provide knowledge and new ideas for those interested in how novels employ figurative language to express messages and on novels.

### **1.7 Definition of Term**

#### **Figurative Language**

Figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what competent users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect (Abrams & Harpham, 2012). This means that figurative language is a method used by people or writers to convey their intentions indirectly. This figurative language cannot be translated literally, the researcher must first analyze what the author means on the language.

### **SIGNIFICANCE**

The significance of a text to a reader is the relation of its verbal meaning to other matters, such as the personal situation, beliefs, and responses of the individual reader, or the prevailing cultural milieu of the reader's own era, or a particular set of concepts or values, and so on (Abrams & Harpham, 2012). This means that significance is a method used by people or authors to convey their concepts or values in the novel. The researcher must first read the novel, so we can know what authors want to share.