

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses background of research, research questions, research purposes, research significance, previous studies and definition of key terms. This chapter mostly elaborates reasons as justification in conducting this research and several problems as the focus of this research.

1.1 Background of Research

Literature's definition is continuously changing. Literature, in general, refers to written and sometimes spoken material. Literature is derived from the Latin word *litteratura*, which means writing formed with letters. It most commonly refers to works of the creative imagination, such as poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, and, in some cases, journalism and song. Literary works contain any thoughts, ideas, experiences and imagination of the author. The reader can be entertained every time they read a story that is full of useful information. Literary work is not only used as something to entertain but also as something to educate. Through literary works, the reader gets information about the man, the world and life. Literature indeed reflects the society, its good values and its bad values. Literature, as an imitation of human action, often presents a picture of what people think, say and do in the society (Jakob & Saini, 1997). Thus, literature is not only a reflection of the society but also serves as a corrective mirror in which members of the society can look at themselves and find the need for positive change.

Literature as a product of a society has all that it takes to suggest solutions to the challenges in a human society. When an art form repeatedly makes certain issues its focus and debates them regularly, the state and the people will pay a serious attention to such matters. Although literature is manmade, it can well reflect the prevailing day-to-day events and occurrences. Orally or in written form, literature offers a special mode of encountering past and contemporary realities. Literature is an open concept, and therefore it is perceived differently and there are many definitions.

In terms of literature function, through the use of characters invented by writers, human actions and events are presented to carry out certain functions. Literature has the potential to give “a near perfect insight into social happenings, commentaries and critiques. From the foregoing, apart from being an instrument to increase our level of awareness through sharing information, reading literature can help make a person because it produces better ways of thinking. By disseminating different ideas, experiences, observations, feelings and findings, among other things, literature develops people’s minds and consciousness. The more you read, the better informed you become. In other words, human intelligence will be enhanced when people are exposed to many cultures (national and foreign) through the reading of literary texts from different parts of the world (Ogundokun, 2021)

In addition, literature serves as a therapeutic agent by healing people. As people read various literary texts – novels, plays and poems – they come across funny moments which make them laugh. Laughter, it is believed, keeps the body warm, repairs muscles and cures the mind. Besides, being strong will help people to cope with anxiety and uncertainty. This is one major function of literature and art generally. Besides being a means of information and communication, a source of entertainment as well as transmission of cultural norms and values or teaching of moral lessons, art is also capable of performing a therapeutic function. In other words, it can help to prevent or manage different forms of depression, nervous breakdown, heartbreak and even mental dissonance (Ogundokun, 2021).

Furthermore, Moody in Widyahening & Wardhan (2016) said that literary works have four functions, they are 1) to train four language skills; 2) to add knowledge about human life experience such as customs, religion, culture, and soon. It develops character buildings to the readers or audience; 3) to develop creation and feeling; 4) to support character building. Literary works always show human form many sides, bad and good. Through the reading activity, readers will be given the description of the figures with their characters in the story. The readers will find human’s complex nature which can be alternative way to face the real life. Based on the four function of literary work, it can develop human value, enrich the experience through the life background of the characters in the story with various culture, religion, race, and social status.

Additionally, literary work is a must to be given and introduced to children through education in family. A novel is one type of literary works. Life is frequently depicted in various guises in novels. A novel is a relatively long work of narrative fiction, normally written in prose form, and which is typically published as a book. For the most part, novels are dedicated to narrating individual experiences of characters, creating a closer, more complex portrait of these characters and the world they live in. Inner feelings and thoughts, as well as complex, even conflicting ideas or values are typically explored in novels, more so than in preceding forms of literature. It's not just the stories themselves that are more personal, but the experience of reading them as well. Where epic poetry and similar forms of storytelling were designed to be publicly read or consumed as an audience, novels are geared more towards an individual reader. In the novel there are characters with more complete (complex) story content and more complicated problems than short stories.

The story includes numerous moral lessons and acts of ethical kindness, as well as a message and advice. Since the composition of the story is crucial in character education, the novel, as a genre of literary works, employs good diction in relating the content of the story (E. T. Widyahening and Eko Wardhani, 2016). Moreover, literature brings society to new worlds of experience implies that the literary work is an immediate part of the literary environment, which is the sum of all socially active literary works of a given era and social circle. From a strictly historical standpoint, the individual literary work is a completely reliant and thus indistinguishable component of the literary atmosphere. (E. T. Widyahening & Eko Wardhani, 2016)

In addition to novel, Pratiwi (2019) argued that a novel is a frame story of someone's life. Novel, on the other side, do not present a true-to-life view of life. Aside from the fact that novels explore people in society, another feature that distinguishes the genre is that novels create a story. In fact, novels frequently repeat a few stories. A true story could serve as the inspiration for writing a novel. Their real story is rewritten in a story we call a life experience. This real story is more reliable than the other, which is based on fantasy. This is because the second scenario may not always be applicable in real life.

Additionally, a novel is a story written based on a fairly close imitation of humans and human qualities, and it in some aspects reflects the basis of society. The novel includes happenings, cultural, social, political, and economic ups and downs by which the writer is inspired and chooses major and minor characters, as if the writer is facing us with a mirror in which society's circumstances are reflected and he displays imaginations rooted in reality. The writer strangles the audience with events both negative and positive influences grounded in society and its people. In light of this explanation, it is possible to assume that a novel is a reflection of society by employing literary devices such as the selection of characters and point of view to deliver intended messages. Readers are affected either positively or negatively by the messages (Rosaria, 2004)

Furthermore, authors of novel use their social background in their literary work, such as a novel, and they mostly storied about the phenomena around them. The circumstance could be a social issue referring to a political issue, a cultural issue, a violent assault, and so on. The novel's structures – style, structure, and narrative techniques – conveys its world view. The work of fiction tries to imitate a world that exists before the text, and critics should attempt to recreate that world mainly through formal analysis of the text, though knowledge of the historical background and author is frequently useful.

As explained previously, the novel is a representation of its time and place. A novel, as a work of literature, depicts society's living style, culture, language, preferences, and so on. It can also have an impact on the current time while describing the upheavals of its creation time. Every period has its own author or writer. Take, for example, Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart*. *Things Fall Apart* is a novel about African people who suffer and fight during the colonial era. It describes how Africans think and react, as seen in the novel's main character, Okonkwo. Okonkwo is an Igbo, and the citizens around him who are also Igbo protectors appreciate him. He is a prideful, optimistic, and irritable man. He tries to cover his father's flaws and failings by demonstrating his own greatness so that he does not feel embarrassed of his father's name (Setianto, 2017)

Furthermore, *Things Fall Apart* is a novel that was inspired by imperialism and colonialism. Throughout the book, Achebe characterized and

criticized how Europeans changed many aspects of African life. Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart* was published in 1958. The novel presents of Okonkwo, an African man whose life has been radically changed since the arrival of western missionaries in his village of Umuofia. The missionaries transformed the people of the Umuofia clan and other villages such as Mbanta to Christianity after they had previously applied to their own teachings such as belief in the Lord of Mountains and Caves.

On the other hand, western missionaries remain to propagandize the people of Umuofia and other villages to conform to the same teachings, namely Christianity. In contradiction, they also participate in improving the Umuofia village community's economy, and anyone who break the rules that these white people have established will be put in prison and condemned to death. The novel is categorized as a modern novel since the year of publication coincides with the emergence of modernism in literary works in the 1890s. This novel can also be regarded as a post-colonial novel as it is set during a period when the British Empire's missionaries invaded and conquered several countries, as well as Africa.

Several elements of the novel were shown by the author himself because the novel discusses the lives of African people after the entrance of western missionaries who effected all aspects such as religion, social rules, and so on. These are the social-economic, beliefs, and political aspects that will be the object of research. Besides that, while analyzing these aspects, the writer choose some figurative languages. Figurative language includes personification, metaphor, simile, and symbols that emerge throughout the novel.

Figurative language is defined as language that employs words or expressions that contain meaning that differs from the literal meaning. Figurative language can be implemented in any medium of interaction, including regular communication, news stories, advertisements, novels, poems, and so on. Some words in figurative language have meanings that are distinct from their usual meanings. It is up to the readers to use their imagination to derive the author's meaning. It makes figurative interpretation harder to comprehend because the meaning of figurative language cannot be discovered in a dictionary, unlike other

vocabulary words that we generally use in our everyday discourse. To understand the meaning of figurative language, it is required to utilize imagination to visualize what the words are telling or referring to. (Harya, 2017)

Figurative language or known as figures of speech are ways of saying something other than what the words actually mean. A figurative language word or phrase is one that deviate significantly from everyday literal language for the purposes of comparison, emphasis, clarity, or novelty. Although metaphor and simile are the most commonly used figures of speech, other literary devices such as hyperbole, synecdoche, and personification can also be found in literature. Figurative language helps improve one's fiction and can be a way of conveying an image or a point. However, when used inappropriate, figurative language can be confusing or even amusing (Khalida, 2013)

In addition, Andika (2021) that it is critical to comprehend the meaning of the original text. Meaning is language composed of a group of words, each of which has a direct relation with something beyond the language. Figurative language in novels is essential for beautifying the words contained in a text (Safitri, 2021). Additionally, as it has been known that when one read a novel, it may come across some terms that are difficult to understand since there are so many figurative representations and idioms that people as readers would never notice in ordinary conversation. It is critical for readers to find the message or meaning of figurative language in a novel so that readers are able to visualize what happens in the story and feel the passion of the story in the novel (Harya, 2017). It is also in line with Al Farabi (2019) who deduced that figurative language has a crucial function in making a novel fascinating to readers. (Safitri, 2021)

There are several major causes of applying figurative language. Firstly, figurative language allows readers to enjoy the imaginative enjoyment of literary works. Secondly, it is a strategy of incorporating more visuals into verse, attempting to make the abstract concrete and literary works more pleasurable. Thirdly, figurative, is a way to add emotional power to either simply insightful statements and expressing attitudes as well as details. Finally, it is a way of describing a lot in a small amount of time (Harya, 2016)

Harya (2016) further argued that figurative language is also is a type of imaginative language. Figurative language is commonly discovered in works of literature such as novels and short stories. When writing a novel, a writer primarily employs figurative language. it is assumed that figurative language is as a type of expression (as simile and metaphor) used to express meaning or increased effect, frequently by contrasting or classifying one thing with another that has an interpretation or connotation recognizable to the audience and reader (Harya, 2017)

The term simile is based on the Latin word 'Simile,' which means resemblance and similarities, and technically relates to the comparison of two objects that express some similarities (Fadaee, 2011). According to Shamisa in Fadaee (2011), simile is the statement of similarity between two things in one or two features. Simile is a figurative language that compares two things that are essentially different but have conditions that are in accordance with what is described. It is characterized by the use of words such as, like, as, for example, similar and so forth (Nurholis, 2016). In harmony with the previous explanation, Fadaee (2011) also stated that simile is essentially a figure of speech that necessitates explicit reference to the source and target companies, as well as an explicit construction linking them. According to Richards in Fadaee (2011), the two most common figures of speech are metaphore, simile, but there are many others that are less common, such as symbol (Fadaee, 2011). Fadaee (2011) also believed that the most important figures of speech are symbol, metaphor, and simile in almost all languages.

Metaphor is a style of language that compares two things or objects that have the same nature to create a vivid mental impression. metaphors are more explanatory so that in their use they do not use words as and like (Nurholis, 2016). A symbol signifies a deeper experience of larger and more complex concepts. A symbol is a word, sign, or gesture that is utilized to recognize something, such as an idea or a thing. Symbols can also be symbols with characteristics such as patterns and colors. Structures and movements can also be implemented to define the symbols (Irwan & Syahputra, 2020)

In addition to symbol, a symbol is characterized in figurative language as

a communication element that simply represents or stands for a complex of person, object, group, or idea. It is a type of figure of speech that has figurative meaning in addition to its literal meaning which is used to enhance the appearance of the text. According to Shaw in Fadaee (2011), a symbol is something which is used to symbolize something else. A symbol is a word, phrase, or other expression that has a complex of important. In this sense, a symbol is considered as having values that differ from those of what was being signified. In harmony with Fadaee. Nurholis (2016) said that symbols are used to describe and interpret something in order to make the work more engaging. In his work, the author employs symbols to convey their feelings and thoughts. This symbol can be interpreted by anyone, depending on how the reader interprets it. Literary works, in addition to expressing symbols, are verbal symbols that correspond to and imply a certain value. As a result, literary works can be used to study culture.

Personification is also one of figurative languages that attaches human traits to inanimate objects and abstract ideas. This is characterized by the use of diction on inanimate objects as if they were human (Nurholis, 2016). Personification is a type of figurative language in which an animal, an entity, or an idea is given human characteristics. It is a subtype of metaphor, an implied comparison in which the figurative term is always a human being (Hutauruk, 2019). According to Keraf in Hutauruk (2019), personification is a type of figurative language that identifies inanimate things like they had have human behavior.

Frost in Harya (2016) defined personification as the portrayal of inanimate objects or abstract thought as living creatures. Personification is the process of incorporating inanimate objects, animals, or thoughts with human attributes. This could have a significant impact on how the reader perceives events. Personification is the process of integrating an object with individual attributes. Personification, in reality, is the transmission of human traits to an object, animal, or system of ideas. It causes animals and inanimate objects to communicate or act like humans.

Figurative language consists of many types, such as metaphor, simile,

personification, metonymy, irony, symbol, hyperbole, paradox, alliteration, allusion, onomatopoeia, and many others. All types of figurative language would no longer be found in all works of literature. Some examples are simile, personification, hyperbole, metaphor, irony, and metonymy, which are commonly found in literature (Wibisono & Widodo, 2019). In terms of symbols, when the symbols in a piece of literary conversation (e.g., a novel) are discovered and appropriately interpreted, it is crucial. On the other hand, if its symbols are neglected, its accomplishments may be underestimated, and its significance may be misrepresentative (Chukwu, 2014). Having said this, the writer limits the figure of speech only on four kinds, they are symbols, metaphor, simile and personification to be analyzed in this research.

Regarding the literary approach, this study employed New Criticism as the literary approach. New Criticism is an approach which focuses on the text itself to find the meaning of a literary work. New Criticism refuses to pay attention to the external factors such as author's background, reader's response, and another factor which is not merely about the text of literary work. According to Tyson in Cahya (2021) the external factors such as author's background cannot always be a guide to provide information to analyze a literary work because New Criticism focuses only on the text, the validity of the text meaning is reasonable.

In terms of relevant studies, there have been similar research have also been carried out. The first one was conducted by Subekti et al in 2020 entitled "*Okonkwo's Internal Conflicts in Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart: A Psychological Analysis*". Regarding the research's findings, it is found that Okonkwo's fear of resembling Unoka, his father, and the shadow of his unhappy and embarrassing childhood due to his father's disgrace may play a major role in affecting Okonkwo's reactions in facing series of events throughout his life, resulting in several internal conflicts within himself. The internal conflict he faced was mostly on approach-avoidance where he took decisions to prove his strength whilst ignoring the risk of being mentally wounded. He still saw the possible positive outcomes as the opportunities of every choice he had made. However, he also faced avoidance-avoidance conflicts where there were only risks. These conflicts happened especially when Okonkwo thought Umuofia society began to embrace the new norms and forgot their native culture, during which Okonkwo's high reputation as a respected warrior he held so dearly seemed to be worthless in

his society.

The second study was performed by Kosasih in 2019 whose paper entitled “*A Stylistic Analysis of Chinua Achebe’s Things Fall Apart*”. The findings of the research confirmed that some figures of speech, such as metaphor, simile, personification, and onomatopoeia, are foregrounded by the author to convey meaning and heighten effect so that they helped transmit the author’s purpose. They were used to describe the characterization of the protagonist, the description of the white men as the antagonist, the description of the Igbo’s traditions, and the description of the setting of place. Chinua Achebe has successfully made use of the figures of speech to clearly describe the unique life of the native Africans.

The third study was accomplished by Alimi in 2012 entitled “*A Study of the Use of Proverbs as a Literary Device in Achebe’s Things Fall Apart and Arrow of God*”. Based on the finding of this study, proverbs add poetic quality to the literary works and also reflect the culture and world culture of people to which literary experiences refer to. It is therefore, the use of proverbs lends credibility of the novel which invariably leads to general acceptability of Achebe’s literary work.

Regarding the relevant studies above, the novelty of this current study with the previous one is the research problem and the literary approach taken as the focus of this study. Those previous studies that have been explained above analyzed from the aspect of psychological and literary devices within the novel. Meanwhile, this current study focused on certain figurative language used in *Things Fall Apart* novel by employing New Literary Criticism as the literary approach to discover the employment of those selected figurative language.

I.2 Research Questions

From the explanation above in accordance with the theory, some research questions were formulated as follows:

1. How are the figurative of languages (symbol, metaphor, simile, and personification) used in *Things Fall Apart* Novel?
2. What is the most frequently type of figurative of language used in *Things Fall Apart* novel? Is it symbol, metaphor, simile, or personification?

I.3 Research Objectives

Considering the formulated research questions, below are the research objectives provided:

1. To explain the employment of figurative of languages (symbol, metaphor, simile, and personification) in *Things Fall Apart* Novel
2. To discover the most frequently type of figurative of language used in *Things Fall Apart* novel

I.4 Research Significance

1. Theoretical Significance

This research is expected to give contribution about figurative language concept especially metaphor, simile, personification and symbol. As it finds out that the results of this research are also expected to support theories and other works related with figurative language.

2. Practical Significance

The finding of this research is also expected to be used as references for the academic readers to develop their competency such as student and lecturer to have further understanding about figurative language in literary works such as novel.

I.5 Previous Studies

The previous studies contribute to the enhancing and enrichment of the scientific research and provide the writer with a solid ground and substantial information about the research that is being done. Thus, this research provides previous studies in order to be acquainted with all the information related to this study.

The first study was conducted by Enjelina (2022) whose research entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language in The Tower of Nero Novel By Rick Riordan*. Regarding the research's finding, the writer identified 44 underlined sentences in the novel that contained figurative language, namely: Metaphor found 8, irony found 9, Hyperbole found 18, Idioms found 1, Contextual

Expression found 4, Indirect request found 4. In addition, the writer examined the most prevalent figurative language in the novel, which are Metaphor (18%), Irony (20%), Hyperbole (40%), Idioms (2%), Contextual Expression (10%), and Indirect Request (10%). So, out of the six types of figurative language examined by the writer in the *Tower of Nero* novel, Hyperbole is the most prevalent, accounting for 40% of the novel's usage. In this case, the writer did not analyze types of figurative language found in the novel but also contextual language.

The second study was conducted by Safitri (2021) whose paper entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Novel A Thousand Splendid Suns By Khaled Khosseini*. Based on the findings, it revealed that 41 data were discovered from 12 different forms of figurative language utilized in the work (simile, metaphor, personification, irony, alliteration, repetition, allegory, symbol, shadow, imagery, parallelism, situational irony). With numerals (12) or 100 percent, symbols were the most popular sort of figurative language employed in books. The second was a simile including the number (8), which equaled 66.6 percent. a third shadow with (6) items, or 50% Imagery was the third component, accounting for 25% of the total, followed by personification, figure of speech, parallelism, and irony of situation, accounting for 16.6% of the total. Metaphor, irony, alliteration, and repetition were the lowest scoring categories, each scoring one item or 8.33 percent. This paper did not determine the types of figurative language used by the author in the novel, but rather explores the types of figurative language found in the novel.

The third study was carried out by Basuki and Saputri (2021) whose paper entitled *Analysis of Figurative Language of Jalaluddin Rumi's Poems in The "Book of Love Poems" Book*. Considering the findings, metaphor, simile, paradox, synecdoche, anaphora, personification, allusion, allegory, and alliteration were among the figurative languages discovered by the writer. Stanzas that used figurative language of metaphors appeared 51 times, simile appeared 16 times, paradox appeared 23 times, synecdoche appeared 10 times, anaphora appeared 13 times, personification appeared 8 times, allusion appeared 5 times, allegory appeared 31 times, hyperbole appeared 3 times, and alliteration appeared 1 time. Rumi's professionalism as a poet was evident in this Book of Love, in which he used a variety of figures of speech to ensure that his style of

expression was not monotonous in conveying implied and explicit messages.

The fourth study was done by Subekti, et al (2020) entitled *Okonkwo's Internal Conflicts in Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart: A Psychological Analysis*. This study focused on internal conflicts realized through the psychological approach. The conflicts that examined were approach-avoidance and avoidance-avoidance conflicts where the decisions taken by Okonkwo could have both risks and opportunities (approach-avoidance) or only risks (avoidance-avoidance). To solve his internal conflicts, the main character should choose which decision that would give more opportunities or fewer risks. Seen from all these internal conflicts, it seemed that, for Okonkwo, the purpose of his life was to change how society could see him differently from the way they saw his father, who was a coward and a loser.

The fifth research was carried out by Kosasih (2019) whose study entitled *A Stylistic Analysis of Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart*. The study concentrated the writing style used by Achebe. The stylistic analysis of figure of speech as one of stylistic categories became the focus of this study. Regarding the research's finding, some figures of speech, such as metaphor, simile, personification, and onomatopoeia, are foregrounded by the writer to convey meaning and heighten effect so that they assist transmit the writer's purpose. They were used to describe the characterization of the protagonist, the description of the white men as the antagonist, the description of the Igbo's traditions, and the description of the setting of place

The sixth research was performed by Harya in 2017 whose study entitled *"An Analysis of Figurative Languages Used in Coelho's Novel Entitled "Alchemist"*. The study has two goals: the first is to classify different types of figurative language utilized in the novel, and the second is to explain the meaning of the figurative language used in the novel. The novel "The Alchemist," written by Paulo Coelho, contains 30 or 42,9 percent simile, 27 or 38,6 percent personification, 12 or 17,1 percent methapor, and 1 or 1,4 percent hyperbole. The novel's dominant type of figurative language is simile. By employing simile in the novel, Paulo Coelho's novel "The Alchemist" contains distinction to the objects or circumstances. In this novel, the author aims to

capture something by contrasting the objects to something that already familiar with.

The seventh research was carried out by Kenalemang (2013) in whose paper entitled *Things Fall Apart: An Analysis of Pre and Post-Colonial Igbo Society*. The finding concluded that the fall of Igbo culture as well as the fall of Okonkwo cannot only be attributed to their strong belief system and rooted cultural heritage. The aim of *Things Fall Apart* is to explore the imperfections of Igbo culture as well as its strengths. Although Achebe presents these imperfections to readers that also contribute to the destruction of their culture; the main reason for the fall of the Igbo was caused by their inability and reluctance to learn English because they believed that they will never have to apply its usage in their everyday lives. Also, because the missionaries were stronger than the Igbo with regard to their advancement in modern day life and education, they had a stronger influence as well as controlling power of Igbo land and the Igbo themselves. The missionaries used a hostile approach in taking over the ruling powers of Igbo land from its natives by using their influence to spread their gospel and at the same time abolishing Igbo traditional customs and beliefs. Hence, the missionaries were particularly superior to Igbo just as the author explains.

The eighth research was conducted by Behera (2013) whose paper entitled *Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart: A Practical Analysis of Figurative Expressions*. In this case, the primary aim of this study is to show how language of Chinua Achebe's novel, *Things Fall Apart* is very rich because of various figurative expression. The figurative expressions are Simile, Personification, Oxymoron, Antithesis, and Rhetorical Questions. Thus, Achebe is found using various figurative expressions in the novel.

The ninth research was undertaken by Cherrat and Temagoult (2012) whose paper entitled *The Function of Symbolism in Chinua Achebe's Novel*. In this research, the writers focused on exploring the function of symbolism in the novel by utilizing cultural and aspect of religion, beliefs and the use of African oral tradition among African society. There are such events that are highly significant and have relation with the decline of the Ibo society and its

representative, who is also the novel's protagonist Okonkwo such as the death of the hostage Ikemefuna and the murder of the missionary. In sum, the novel is highly symbolic, and that Achebe has succeeded in making symbolic function (Cherrat and Temagoult, 2012)

The last related previous research was accomplished by Tripamungkas (2012) whose study entitled *Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart as an Image of British Colonialization in Ibo Clan Nigeria*. The study concerned with British colonialization to the Ibo Clan which was colonized through religion, politics, and economy. The result found that the impact of British's colonialization to the Ibo people are realized through the clash between Ibo people who worship their tradition and those who convert to Christianity and uphold the British government. The British colonialization and clash between Ibo people caused the collapse of the ingenious Ibo's society.

In comparison to the previous studies, the selected types of figurative language (metaphor, symbol, simile, and personification) discussed in one study and the most used types of figurative language in *Things Fall Apart* novel have not yet been explored. The previous studies also did not employ the similar literary criticism with the recent one and literary works such as poem as the data source to find types of figurative language used and contextual language. Each thesis has the strength and weakness that make the thesis different from the other. The focus and data used for the present study provides a more focused and comprehensive description of determined figurative language in *Things Fall Apart* Novel.

I.6 Definition of Key Terms

Definition of key terms ensures that readers will understand the components of the research in the way that it will be presenting since readers may have their own understanding of the terms, or not be familiar with them at all. In order to clarify the key terms used in this study, some definitions are put forward;

1. Figurative Language

Figurative language is used to create a special effect or feeling. It is characterized by figures of speech such as language that compares, exaggerates, or means

something other than what it first appears to mean. It is broadly defined as any way of saying something other than ordinary way. It is more narrowly definable as a way of saying one thing and meaning another. The purpose of figurative language is to capture readers' interest and to deliver the idea and imagination in more entertaining way. It will present a lot of meaning or rich in meaning.

2. Symbol

Symbol is a way which planned to make it easier in understanding something by using some representative things. It can be used as a signal, an action, gesture, and so forth. In other words, symbol mostly has its own meaning which understandable by the people. Then, it can be words, signals, gestures, pictures, or other objects. In every symbol has its own concept either in form of spoken, written, gesture, signals, actions, things, or pictures.

3. Personification

Personification is a kind of style of figurative language that describes inanimate objects or goods lifeless as if it has characteristics humanity. It is a special feature of metaphor, which make an analogy of inanimate objects act, talk, like human in general. The point of the personification is to express the abstract ideas to inanimate objects, or aspects of nature is described as if it were human.

4. Simile

Simile is a figure of speech and type of metaphor that compares two different things using the words "like" or "as". A simile expresses a figurative meaning that literal words do not. The purpose of a simile is to help describe one thing by comparing it to another thing that is perhaps seemingly unrelated. Effective similes help readers visualize what is being described