

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Indonesia is a country that has a diversity of cultures. This culture spread throughout the territories of Indonesia. The Karo community is one of the ethnic groups found in North Sumatra Province. Based on the region of the culture, Karo ethnicity is hampered in the Karo Regency area, as well as to Langkat, Deli Serdang, Serdang Bedagai, and others. Culturally, Karo people are divided into two categories, namely Karo Gugung, whose territory is in the highlands of Bukit Barisan or Karoland, and Karo Jahe which lives in the lowlands (living out from the Karoland area).

The Karo community has several art genres that were inherited by ancestors, since time immemorial. These types of arts include: carving / ornamentation, drama, dance, and music. The most developed type of art in the Karo community is the art of music; both vocal and instrumental music.

Currently there are many Karo songs that appear and compete in the local music scene. The songwriters and singers are competing to create or release their works according to the characteristics of each songwriter or singer. Various features are highlighted in the songs, as well as the figurative language that is used in writing the lyrics of the song. Figurative language is an interesting study to be analyzed. Figurative language has been widely examined by linguist in the study of literature in

recent years. It is because figurative language has the essence of style and beauty. Figurative language often provides a more effective means of saying what we mean than direct statement. It is used to refine and beautify the language.

One of the singer and song writer whose songs are popular in the Karo society and the songs are easy to attract the lover of music's attention is work of Plato Ginting. The writer chooses song lyrics from Plato Ginting as the subject of this research. The writer is interested in the lyrics expressed by songwriters through the songs that might in the life we live. The songs tell us a lot of knowledge about life, childhood, loyal love, and hope. Most artists or songwriters usually give words or statements to people. When people are attracted to their songs, people sometimes don't realize the difference in using figurative language in writing song lyric. The writer uses figurative language to analyze lyrics because, by using figurative language people can better understand the language used and attract the attention of the song's connoisseur. That's why the writer wants to analyze figurative language in song lyrics.

The reason of choosing Plato Ginting's song lyrics is because it is a familiar Karoness songs nowadays. Plato Ginting's songs are very often sung at annual event (*pesta tahunan/ kerja tahun*) at Karonese. Plato Ginting is one of most popular musician in society and he often invited in various event such PRSU/Pekan Raya Sumatera Utara. Based on the explanation above the writer is interested in analyzing the figurative language used in Plato Ginting's song lyrics. The writer conducted a study entitled Figurative Language Found in Plato Ginting's Song.

## **1.2 The Problem of the Study**

Based on the background of this study, there are questions that need to be answered and questions are the problems that need a solution, there are:

1. What types of figurative language are found in Plato Ginting's Song?
2. What kind of figurative language is dominantly used in Plato Ginting's Song?

## **1.3 The Objective of the Study**

Problem usually has a purpose. In relation to the problem, the objectives of this study are:

1. To identify the types of figurative language found in Plato Ginting's Song.
2. To find out figurative language dominantly used in Plato Ginting's Song.

## **1.4 The Scope of the Study**

It is important to limit the studies that have been chosen and it is also important to avoid study complications. It helped the writer to get the best results from it. In this analysis, the writer uses Siswanto's book about figurative language because the book is more appropriate and easier to understand in accordance with the context of culture and language itself with the data to be analyzed. According to Siswanto in his book (2002:24), there are nine types of figurative language expressions. They are simile, metaphore, personification, apostrophe, hyperbole, antithesis, synecdoche, paradox and symbol.

The scope of the analysis relates to the nine types of Figurative Language Found in Plato Ginting song. Since starting his career until 2020, Plato Ginting has released about thirty songs that use traditional language: Karo language. Based on top rate viewers the song official video on YouTube the writer decides and limits to choose fifteen songs. The writer limits the song as much as fifteen songs, they are: *Sada Min Arihta, Kam, Kuinget Sanga I kuta , Tedeh, Ula Min Melus, Kita Duana, Aku Sisada Denga, Mejuah-juah Mpal, Ciremndu, Ate-ate Kena, Sada Ia, Gejabken Bas Pusuhndu, Sentaktak Lau Mbergeh , Bagi Layang-layang, Udan.*

### **1.5 The Significances of the Study**

In this study the writer expected that the results of this study achieved some significance to contribute to the reader:

Theoretically:

1. This research contributes to the theory as model of studying figurative language found in song lyric, especially the song lyric of Plato Ginting.
2. As a reference for further research especially those that use figurative language theory. It can improve the quality of understanding of the theory.

Practically:

1. For English students, the research can explain clearly about the figurative language found in the Plato Ginting song lyrics.

2. This study explains the use of figurative language in Plato Ginting song lyrics so that the Karo people, especially young musicians, can be inspired through the work of Plato Ginting to create better works in terms of figurative language.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 Theoretical Framework**

Theory is the most important thing to be presented in a study, because it can be linked to scientific studies themselves to get the same perception on each variable between readers and authors, the concept led to a better analysis of variables because they help the authors limit scope of the problem. In addition, these theories are also useful as a theoretical foundation for analysis.

#### **2.2 Semantics**

Semantics is one of linguistics branches, which studies about language meaning or it can be said that meaning as the main study in semantic term. Patrick Griffiths (2006:15) stated: Semantics is the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from contexts of use, a descriptive subject. It is an attempt to describe and understand the nature of the knowledge about meaning in their language that people have from knowing the language and also the study how language organize and express.

Semantic is the study of meaning in language (Hurford, Heasley, and Smit, 2007:1). Language learning much meaning is contained in sentences spoken. Many factors affect in terms of the interpretation of a sentence delivered. The term of Semantics is the recent addition to the English language. Semantics is the philosophical and scientific study of meaning. The word semantics is derived from

the Greek verb *semaino* (to signify or to mean). Semantics is part of the larger study of signs, semiotics. It is the part that deals with words as signs (symbols) and language as a system of signs (words as symbols).

Meaning is expressed by just one word is utterly wrong and an obstacle to recognizing the complexities in meaningful expression and in the meaning expressed (Kreidler, 1998:58).

According to the explanation on semantics, meanings are ideas or concepts that are able to be transferred from the speaker's mind to the hearer's mind by embodying them, as it were, in the forms of one language or another. There are three main ways in which linguists and philosophers have attempted to construct explanations of meaning in natural language:

1. By defining the nature of word meaning. It describes that the word meaning is taken as the construct in terms of which sentence meaning and communication can be explained;
2. By defining the nature of sentence meaning. It is a sentence meaning which is taken as basic with words characterized in terms of systematic contribution they make to sentence meaning;

By explaining the process of communication. It means that both sentence and word meaning are explained in terms of the ways in which sentence and words are used in the act of communication (Kempson, 1980:11).

Figurative language is closely related with meaning, and the study of linguistics that learns about meaning is semantics. Kearns (2011:1) in her book says “Semantics deals with the literal meaning of words and the meaning of the way they are combined, which taken together form the core of meaning, or the starting point from which the whole meaning of a particular utterance is constructed.” The same definition of semantics comes from James R. Hurford, Brendan Heasley, and Michael B. Smith (2007:1) in their book that more simply defines “Semantics is the study of meaning in language.”

### **2.3 Figurative Language**

Figurative language is saying one thing in terms of another (Rozakis, 1995:28). Figurative language can also be called figure of speech. It is a change from the ordinary manner of expression, using words other than their literal sense to enhance the way a thought is expressed. Figurative language refers to words, and groups of words, that exaggerate or alter the usual meaning in figures of speech of the component of words.” Kennedy (1983:479) states a figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotations of words. Beckson and Ganz (1975:80) states figurative language is language which makes use of certain devices called figure of speech, most of which are techniques for comparing dissimilar objects, to achieve effects beyond the range of literal language. Crystal (1999:116) states figure of speech is an expressive use of language where words are used in a non-literal way to



suggest illuminating comparisons and resemblances. Figurative meaning and vocabulary have a great relationship that is reciprocal relationship.

Figurative language is a language which uses words or phrases that different from the literal meaning. Figurative language is a language using figures of speech and it is language that cannot be taken literally or should not be taken literally only (Perrine, 1983:581). It means that figurative language is an expression used by the person or the author indirectly by using the comparison. Thus, it cannot be interpreted literally because the comparison in figurative language expression has the meaning. Wren and Martin states a figure of speech is a departure from the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce greater effect (1981:488).

Figurative meaning and semantics also have a great relationship because without the knowledge of the meaning of the word, even connotative meaning, it is difficult to understand figurative meaning, sometimes people read the newspapers, the magazines or novel, overlooked non – literal expressions and read them literally. Of course, the meaning of the expression becomes odd or not understandable. Therefore, figurative language becomes essential in the learning of vocabularies. “While, learning of vocabularies support the learning of semantics” (Tarigan, 1995:113).

#### **2.4 Use of Figurative Language**

Figurative language comes in creative writers using metaphor, analogy, symbols and more to stir the reader's imagination and bring out the emotion and understanding that can't be expressed by the words dictionary meaning alone. Generally, figurative language is used to improve the speech with artificial language. It makes the sentence more interesting, fresh, and more obvious. This the way of the writer to use language as the device to expressing and the hidden feeling thought.

Figurative language makes literary work more meaningful. In addition, it also can avoid monotony on the characteristic and make easily get bored. This is can use for the reader or writer to explain their idea. Figurative language in literature has a very important role in the creations of the image of the literary work, because the beauty of the literary work can be supported with the use of figurative language.

Figurative language in literary works can bring up and develop an appreciation of the reader. Readers can enter in a literary work with the figurative language being used.

According to Nurgiyantoro (2009:297),” the use of figurative language or heating may generate impressions and a certain atmosphere, a certain sensory responses and embellish the narrative, which means supporting the goals of aesthetic literature.” Similarly, the use of figurative language plays a role in the delivery of a person's intent. Sometimes a person can have be different interpretations of the intent expressed through stylistic others. Sayuti (1985:124) adds that figurative language is a means or a tool to clarify the description of the idea, concretize an idea and grow a new perspective through comparative.

## 2.5 The Types of Figurative Language

According to Siswantoro (2002:24) there are nine kinds of figurative language expressions. They are simile, metaphore, personification, apostrophe, hyperbole, antithesis, synecdoche, paradox and symbol.

### 2.5.1 Simile

Simile is a comparison between two objects or objects of different kinds which have, however, at least one point in common. Simile usually marked with the word: like, as, so, Appear, seem, more than (Siswantoro, 2002: 24).

Siswantoro (2002:25) gives examples of simile.

1. My luv is like a red, red rose,  
That's newly sprung in June.  
O my luv is like melodie  
That's sweetly played in tune

The Example line 1 and 2 are to use the sentence that contains connotative because it use sentences that are not real. These examples the authors want to express that the red rose is not the real flower. But the

characteristic of the blooming red rose is compared to love. The line 3 and 4 mean his love (love) compare with a melody (melody).

### **2.5.2 Metaphor**

Metaphor is like a simile. Metaphor also compares between objects that have a common point, but without the use of certain words such as: like, as, so, etc Siswantoro (2002:27).

Siswantoro (2002:27) gives examples of metaphor.

1. He was a lion in the fight.
2. I see the lion in the forest.

Example 1 he acted like a lion. Lion in 2 is actually a person having similar qualities to the lion itself. However in example 2, lion show a denotative meaning because it is real to a wild animal that is the king of jungle.

### **2.5.3 Personification**

Personification is the depiction of inanimate objects or not human either invisible or abstract which are treated as if they were humans Siswantoro (2002:29).

Siswantoro (2002:27) gives examples of personification in (3a).

1. The old train crept along the narrow path.

2. My baby starts to crept.

Example 1 contains connotative meaning because the author wants to convey on an old train which crawled slowly along the narrow road. Heard that the train was treated like an old man with the word "crept". Example 2 slims denotative meaning because the word "crept" is the real meaning of activity done by a baby who is learning to crept.

#### **2.5.4 Apostrophe**

Apostrophe are still related with personification because it discusses about the depiction of abstract objects or things that are treated like human being. The apostrophe; things, object or ideas that are accosted, invited to talking to us as our interlocutor. The greeting can be used to dead human being or it is not in the place at the time of the greeting. We often heard the strain in Indonesian language "*Oh angin malam, bawa daku kepadanya*" (Oh the night wind, bring me to her) as chanted by Broery Poselima classified as using apostrophe.

Siswantoro (2002:27) gives examples of apostrophe:

1. Milton! Thon shoudst be living at this hour

This sentence is actually part of William Wordsworth's sonnet entitled "London" especially in first line. As Apostrophe, the poet greets Milton, a great 17<sup>th</sup> century English poet who composed "Paradise Lost". He was gone when greeted by Wordsworth who lived in 19<sup>th</sup> century. He called his name

because Wordsworth longing for him who was supposed to be present at the time when Britain was engulfed in cultural crisis. His presence is expected to treat his soul that is being plagued by crisis.

### **2.5.5 Hyperbole**

Hyperbole is used by the poet in the portrayal of objects, ideas and other to give weight to excessive pressure to obtain intense effects. Hyperbole statements is made emphatic by over statements.

Siswantoro (2002:34) gives example of hyperbole in (4a).

1. I am able to fill it with tears.
2. She laughed to tears.

Example 1 the word tear mean the real tear coming out from one's eye. It shows connotative meaning representing an effort done by "I" in filling it (the river). The other hand, the word tear in 2 refers to the real want coming out from one's eyes. This 2 slims a denotative meaning.

### **2.5.6 Antithesis**

The style of antithesis is the content of opposition, the differences between that ideas are revealed or packaged in a single sentence. One example that is already familiar with antithesis is through the phrase "*man proposes, God disposes*" human planning, God decides.

Siswanto (2002:27) gives examples of apostrophe:

1. Better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay

This sentence, we are presented with two opposing ideas. The first is fifty years in Europe (despite suffering) and the second is rather than one season in Chinese plain. We understand, the government system in China at the time was repressive authoritarian so that there was no freedom for individual, especially an individual who used freedom like in European countries.

### **2.5.7 Synecdoche**

Synecdoche is a style that is reflected in the packaging portion manifestations, but already includes a whole Siswanto (2002:39). Most of something already covered for all cases mentioned.

Siswanto (2002:39) gives example of synecdoche in (5a).

1. He has many mouths to feed.
2. He talks with her mouths.

The word mouths in 1 shows a connotative meaning, especially means of manifestation of the people. The people mouths told is probably his family at home. The other hand, mouths in 2 show part of one's body to eat or to speak, this is denotative meaning.

### **2.5.8 Paradox**

Paradox is part of a style that uses contradictory phenomenon, but if examined actually show the truth. An apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true Siswanto (2002:41).

Siswantoro (2002:41) give example of paradox.

1. The poorest man is the richest, and the rich are poor.

It shows a contradiction between the “poorest” and the “riches” which are actually true.

### **2.5.9 Symbol**

Symbol is something more that we can catch. A symbol may be defined as something that means more than what it is Siswantoro (2002:43).

Siswantoro gives example of symbol.

1. Some dirty dogs stole my wallet at the bus.
2. A black dog is rubbing its back again a wall.

Example 1 shows a symbol used to present a thief in the form of “dirty dog”. So, it is not actually the dogs which are dirty. But it symbolizes the thief’s behavior which is like a dirty dog. Example 2, the black dog refers to dog as an animal which is black.

## **2.6 Plato Ginting**

The struggle of Plato Ginting carrying Karo music does not seem tiring. The young man from Tanah Karo was born in Suka Village, Karo Simalem in April 19, 1991, after completing his education at the 2013 Jogjakarta Indonesian Art Institute (ISI), Plato has begun to socialize Karo songs, especially among the Karo people who not only live in Medan , also in other areas.



Since Plato Ginting released his single titled *Kam*, his name became popular among Karo society especially in teen generation. The song that was created does have a nuance of young people so that it can be directly received by the community.

He is a genius in making songs, after that, through the song *Kuinget Sanga I Kuta*, he won the Karo charts for several months. His name has become more and more in line with other top Karo's artists such as Usman Ginting, Antha Prima Ginting.

The work of Karo songs, which were echoed by Plato Ginting, was displayed in the concept of the band. That is, the accompaniment of the music by using the band's bandage, and also some Plato Ginting songs tucked into the accompaniment of traditional music such as Keteng-keteng and Kucapi like the song *Mejuah-juah Mpal*. This is what characterizes the songs of Plato Ginting.

## **2.7 Previous Study**

The writer required to review and have found previous research related about this subject in order to help the writer do the research.

### **2.7.1 Khadijah Arifah (2016)**

Arifah, Khadijah. 2016. *Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song*. Thesis. English Letters and Language Department, Faculty of Humanities, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang.

Figurative language is part of the semantic. As we know that with semantic we can know the true meaning in a song. Figurative language is language which employs various figures of speech. This analyses the figurative language are used in John Legend's song lyrics. It is expected that the result of this study is very useful for the students of linguistics since this study is done based on the theory of figurative language. The benefit of figurative language and category used in this thesis is that the readers comprehended that such theory can be used to give clearer and better understanding about the meanings of figurative language. Kind of figurative language was found in John Legend song selected songs lyric are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, oxymoron, paradox, symbolic, repetition, allusion, and anumerasio.

Figurative language in the song could make the readers understand that lyrics of the song can describe messages that must be known by learning them deeply in terms of categories. This study attempts to provide a description about figurative language in human daily life. The type of data that is used in this study is a qualitative data. The data analyzed in the study are some written texts. The texts discuss is song taken from John Legend song lyric. These classifications can recognize well which one includes each figurative speech. The result of this study able to give contribution to the readers who are interested in learning and understanding or interpreting those lyrics.

### **2.7.2 Fitratunas (2017)**

Fitratunnas. 2017. *Figurative Language Analysis on Advertisement of the Jakarta Post Newspaper*. Thesis. English Letters Department. Faculty of Humanities. Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang.

Figurative language is using words to imply another meaning. In other words, figurative language is language style used by people to communicate. The benefit of figurative language in this study is for the reader to understand that the theory can be used to provide a clearer and better understanding of the meaning of figurative language. The research questions are: (1) What are the types of figurative language of advertisement in the Jakarta Post Newspaper?, (2) How do the function of the types of figurative language on advertisement of the Jakarta Post newspaper?

This study was conducted to analyze the use of figurative language in advertisement of the Jakarta Post newspaper. This study focuses on observing the words which contain figurative language by using Reask's theory that consists of simile, metaphor, metonymy, alliteration and hyperbole. The method of this study was descriptive qualitative because the research described the utterance of the sentence that is categorized into figurative language. Whereas, data source was taken from advertisements of the Jakarta Post newspaper which were published on Augustus 2, 2017 to Augustus 30, 2017.

The result of the data shows that there are 17 sentences which contain figurative language in advertisement of the Jakarta Post newspaper. The study has found that there are 5 kinds of figurative language which appeared in advertisement of the Jakarta Post newspaper, such as are alliteration, metonymy, metaphor, simile and hyperbole. In addition, the researcher also found the functions of figurative language used in The Jakarta Post newspaper is to attract the reader's attention.

### **2.7.3 Qurrotul 'Ain (2013)**

Qurrotul 'Ain: An Analysis of Figurative language in the Song Lyrics  
by Maher Zein

There are many young people like music or song, especially English songs. They are interested to improve English to be master through English songs which are popular in this time. After they are listening and reading the text of song, not at all listener could catch the message of the song since a song consists of many messages should be understood by listener. Music and song is the part of this world of songs, an art based on the organization of sound in time. But many of them do not know about the meaning and messages of the song lyrics which they listen. In this thesis the writer would find out the figurative language of Islamic song by Maher Zain which has deep meaning and more messages for the listener, not only enjoy listening to

music but also the listener and reader gets knowledge about Islam more increase.

Figurative language is language whit its literary in compatible terms. Forces the readers to attend the connotation rather than to denotation. Figurative language is used literary work which contains the writers taste and purpose to make literary work more interesting for the readers.

The aims of the research from the thesis are: To find out the types of figurative language are used in Maher Zain"s songs, and to find out the most dominant figurative language in Maher Zain"s songs.

In this research, the writer used the qualitative research since the data are in the form of written or oral words the techniques of collecting data, the collected from the first album entitled „Thank You Allah“ by Maher Zain released in November 2009. And the writer did 8 steps to the techniques of analysis data, follows: listening the songs, reading the song lyrics, underlining the word which related in figurative language, identifying, classifies certain lyrics, reanalyzed the song lyrics, coding, and the last is make a table and a pie chart.

The result of the research the writer found the figurative language in the song lyrics of Maher Zain are, Personification, Metaphor, Simile, Alliteration, Irony, Litotes, Euphemism, Parallelism, Antithesis, Hyperbole,

and Synecdoche. The most dominant figurative language which is used in some songs is Hyperbole.

#### **2.7.4 Putri Nora Purba (2019)**

Thesis entitled "Figurative Expression in Karonese Society Nure-Nure" discuss figurative expressions which include metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, and synecdoche. The purpose of writing this thesis is analyze the use of figurative expressions in Buadaya Nure-Nure on The Karo Society is based on semantic theory from several experts such as Siregar (1992), F. R Palmer (1976), Kennedy (1983), John Lyons (1971). Literature study applied in writing this thesis, where a number of figurative expression data in the Nure-Nure Culture in the Karo Society was collected and then analyzed and after that the most dominant type of figurative expression is determined. The results analysis of figurative expressions obtained from Nure-Nure Culture in The Karo community is 59 figurative expressions consisting of 3 metaphor (7.31%), 21 simile (51.21%), 4 personifications (9.75%), 12 hyperbole (29.26%), 1 synechdoche (2.43%), while the expression metonymy is not found in Nure-Nure Culture at the Karo Society. Simile appears as a figurative expression the most dominant.

Based on the fourth previous study above there are differences from the research that carried out by the writer because the writer raised the study using the figurative language found in Karo song, besides the figurative language research on

Karo song has never been studied before so the writer raised the topic of analyzing Figurative Language Found in Plato Ginting's Song.

## 2.8 Conceptual Framework

The theories are needed to explain some concepts applied. The explanation is considered important. The concepts which were used might be clarified in order to having same perspective with the implementation in the field. The following is the clarification of the concept use for feasibility of the study.

The Figure of Conceptual Framework

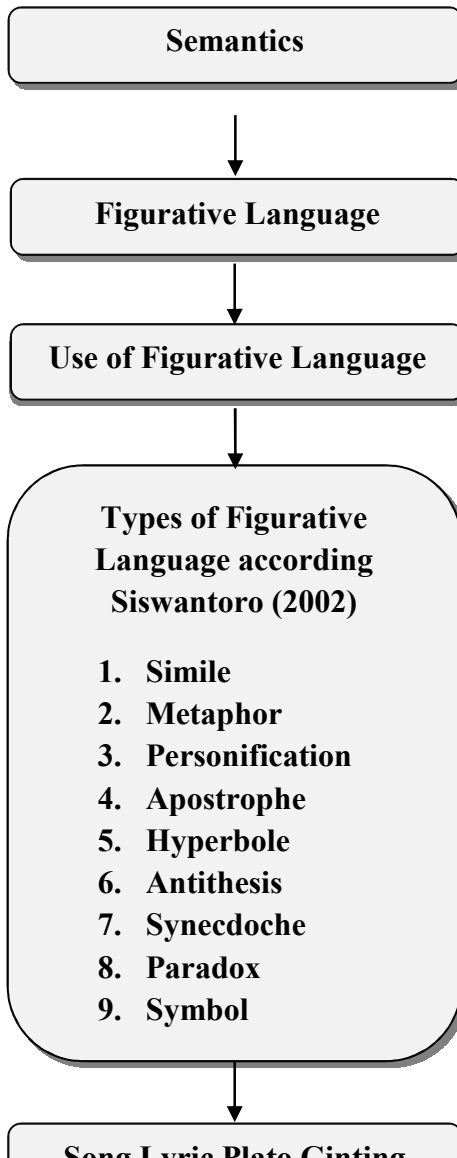


Figure 1. Figurative Language Found in Plato Ginting Song (Nampati,2020).



## CHAPTER III

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Method of Study

This is descriptive qualitative research. This research works through several other books and references such as articles and websites in conducting this research to support this topic. Here, the the writer chooses Plato Ginting's song lyric as objects. So, this research also works using several written materials such as several books on topics, several literature books, articles and websites. It aims to support topic ideas.

According to Sugiono (2008), *metode kualitatif adalah pendekatan ilmiah yang memandang suatu realitas itu dapat diklasifikasikan, konkrit, teramati dan terukur, hubungan variabelnya bersifat sebab akibat dimana data penelitiannya berupa angka-angka dan analisisnya menggunakan statistik* (qualitative methods is a scientific approach that sees a reality it can be classified , concrete , observed and measured , the variable relationship is cause of effect where data research in the form of numbers and analysis using statistical).

#### 3.2 The Source of Data

The data source in this study was taken from Plato Ginting Karo songs. The author takes fifteen song lyrics from Plato Ginting that uses Karo language. The titles of the songs are *Sada Min Arihta, Kam, Kuinget Sanga I kuta , Tedeh, Ula Min Melus, Kita Duana, Aku Sisada Denga, Mejuah-juah Mpal, Ciremndu, Ate-ate Kena,*

*Sada Ia, Gejabken Bas Pusuhandu, Sentaktak Lau Mbergeh , Bagi Layang-layang, Udan.*

### **3.3 The Techniques of Collecting Data**

In this study, the writer used data from the song lyrics of Plato Ginting. The author takes the following steps:

- Searching for or browsing the Plato Ginting's song lyrics from Google.
- Choose 15 Plato Ginting's song lyrics.
- Printing the 15 song lyrics.
- Underlining the figurative language in the Plato Ginting's song lyrics.

### **3.4 The Techniques of Analyzing Data**

After collecting the data, the writer analyzed them by:

- Identifying the figurative language in accordance with figurative language.
- Classifying the figurative language in Plato Ginting's Song Lyric.
- Tabulating the figurative language.
- Making conclusion.

