

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Figurative language is an expression that deviates from everyday language by using comparison, analogy and allusion. Rozakis (1995: 28) defined that “Figurative language is saying one thing in terms of another.” Based on this definition, figurative language means that expressing something in another way to refer one thing by giving the implied meaning. It is often used in literary works to demonstrate the creativity of the author and the beauty of language itself. Besides, it is also one of the ways to interpret the meaning hidden in the literary works.

One of literary works which contains figurative language is the short story *The Nightingale and the Rose* included to the collection of short story *The Prince and the Other Stories* (1888) written by Oscar Wilde. He is a poet, playwright and novelist from Ireland. People know him as the one of persons who supports aesthetic movement *art for art's sake*.

The short story *The Nightingale and the Rose* is written aesthetically and imaginatively. This short story is intended for children, but Wilde dares to tell the story about love and sacrifice in figurative way. Briefly, it tells about the nightingale which sacrifices her blood to create the red rose for the young man. Even figurative language characterizes the characters in this short story. The researcher focuses on

analyzing *The Nightingale and the Rose* is to identify the use of figurative language which is used by the author. In addition, the researcher also wants to explore the relation of figurative language in the process of characterization in Wilde's work.

The use of language in literary works is always associated with another method, especially if we discuss about the style of the author in describing his work. This method is stylistics. Verdonk (2003: 3) said "Stylistics is concerned with the study of style in language." It means that stylistics is the study which helps us to investigate about the style of language in the text. It also helps us to disassemble how the creativity of the language used by the author in sounds, words, system structure, and the meaning of the language. Simpson (2004: 3) supported Verdonk's statement by saying "To do stylistics is to explore language, and more specifically, to explore creativity in language use." Stylistics will help the researcher to conduct this research.

The explanation above is the background of the researcher to conduct this research. From this study, the researcher hopes the result of this study can answer the reader's curiosity about figurative language relates to describe the characterization of characters in literary work.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

The researcher analyzes the use of figurative languages in characterization of *The Nigthingale and the Rose* short story by Oscar Wilde. Here, the researcher formulates some research questions, they are as follows:

1. What are the types of figurative language in characterization of the characters in the short story *The Nightingale and the Rose*?
2. How are figurative languages related to the characterization of the characters in the short story *The Nightingale and the Rose*?

### **1.3. Objective of the Study**

The objective of this research is to analyze the types of figurative language characterizing the characters in the short story *The Nightingale and the Rose*. Besides, the researcher also wants to describe the relation of figurative language use to the characterization in the short story *The Nightingale and the Rose*.

### **1.4. Scope of the Study**

The scope of this study is stylistics as method which combines linguistics and literature. The researcher analyzes the figurative language in describing the characterization in the short story. In this study, the discussions of figurative language are five; they are simile, metaphor, personification, irony, and hyperbole. The researcher limits the discussion of character into main characters because they often appear in the short story and have strong characterization by the author.

## 1.5 Method of the Study

The researcher takes the short story *The Nightingale and the Rose*. This short story is one of the collections of short story which is written by Oscar Wilde (1988). In collecting the data, the researcher applies observational method, non-participatory observational technique, and note taking technique which is presented by Sudaryanto (1993: 133-135). The researcher collects the data through library research. Then the researcher notes the data contain figurative language, especially simile, metaphor, personification, irony, and hyperbole in the corpus.

Furthermore, after collecting the data, the researcher analyzes the data by classifying the types of figurative language appearing in the short story based on the theory of Rozakis (1995: 29-38). Then, the researcher describes character and characterization by applying the theory of Abrams (1999: 32).

The last way is the method of presenting the result of analysis. The researcher combines two methods; they are informal and formal method by Sudaryanto (1993: 145). In informal method, the researcher uses the simple language and in formal method, the researcher uses the symbol to explain the research.