

CHAPTER I

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1.1. Background of the Study

Perrine (1973:6) claims that literature is an important means of allowing us, through our imagination, to live more fully, more deeply, more richly, and with greater awareness in two ways. The first way is that literature broadens our experience and makes us acquainted with a range of experience with used in the ordinary course of events, we might have no contact. The second way is that literature deepens our experience and makes us feel more understandingly about our everyday experiences.

Literature has also much practical knowledge to offer us. As an art of words, literature helps us become more sensitive to language, both our own and other people's. Being sensitive to our own language means that we have the ability to use words to express our own feeling, thoughts and ideas in a better and clearer way. On the other hand, being sensitive to other people's language means that we have the ability to communicate and to comprehend other's language either explicitly or implicitly.

Koesnosoebroto (1988:12) states that literature exists because it pleases us by displaying its authors' vision of life as it is or as the authors think it should be. Literature also gives us more than just enjoyment or pleasure; that is understanding to refine our sense of life. This mostly depends on the authors' ability in using language in expressing it in such a way that they are successful

to communicate their feeling, thoughts and ideas through their individual style of writing.

Crystal (1987:6) states that people also have the ability to recognize individual voices and handwriting style which has already led a number of research on it. This is reasonable, because writing functions as written communication by which a writer tries to convey his ideas. It is like a speaker does through verbal or spoken communication. Therefore, through their writing, writers reveal their thoughts, ideas and imaginations in such a way that those reading their works are able to grasp and understand their intention.

Those writers may write in various types of writings such as narrative, descriptive, expository, persuasive or argumentative. They have considerations and reasons for their choices in writing their intention or their preference. Some writers write their feeling, thoughts, ideas, experience or even their imagination beautifully. They often use beautiful words in expressing something because they think that communication in the content of beauty will be more enjoyable than using ordinary words (Koesnosoebroto, 1988:11)

For this reason, the writers often use metaphors as an effective medium of expression, even they are used in poems, novels, songs and the Bible. Lakoff and Johnson claim that we cannot avoid using metaphors in language which the language can be more poetic in content of beauty.

Metaphor for most people is a device of the poetic imagination and the rhetorical flourish-a matter of extraordinary rather than ordinary language. Moreover, metaphor is typically viewed as characteristic of language alone, a matter words rather than thought or action. For this reason, most people think

they can get along perfectly well without metaphor. We found on the contrary that metaphor is pervasive in everyday life, not just in language but in thought and action. Our ordinary conceptual system, in terms of which we both think and act, is fundamentally metaphorical in nature.

Our concept structure what we perceive, how we get around in the world and how we relate to other people. Our conceptual system thus plays a central role in defining our everyday realities. If we are right in suggesting that our conceptual system is largely metaphorical, then the way we think, what we experience and what we do everyday is very much a matter of metaphor. Brown and George Yule (1984:239) states that metaphors should be faced on the description of how knowledge of the world is organized in human memory, and also how they are activated in the process of discourse understanding.

Metaphor with its universality, recognized validity and general applicability, plays an important role that is the 'magic word' by which man gains access to the concept of the ideal world (Wahab, 1986). In other words, human needs communication with his Almighty Creator in order to gain the concept of the ideal world.

In the communication, he often cannot express exactly what he means and what he feels towards God by using ordinary words. Moreover, metaphors are also used in the Bible which contains many clues as a guide to truth.

As a matter of fact, the Bible does not only contain priceless and countless amazing stories which could be put as a fresh ideas, but also books of great poems namely the Book of Psalms - with its famous *Psalm 23* "The Lord is

my Shepherd", *the Book of Job*, *the Book of Proverbs*, *the Book of Ecclesiastes* and *the Book of Song of Songs*.

In the Bible the writers often use metaphors as an effective medium in expressing their thoughts, feeling and ideas. In religion, a unique experience sometimes occurs that goes beyond humanly recognized dimensions of time and space and thus seems naturally impossible to describe accurately.

In such a case, the use of metaphor may be an effective medium for conveying the experience to others (Wahab, 1986). Keeping the church alive in a natural concrete description is difficult, because the problems deal with abstractions which go beyond the limitation of human biological experience. The use of metaphor helps to clarify the abstract concepts to make them comprehensible to man (Wahab, 1986).

For ordinary people, understanding metaphors especially in religious context seems so difficult. Besides, there are still few persons who touch metaphors in religious context because of lack of interest. The writer, then was interested in investigating metaphors found in *Song of Songs*, one of the poetic books in the Bible. The writer had chosen this poetic book because it talks about love which becomes the most wonderful topic to be discussed among people. In this book, the author expresses his feeling, thoughts and ideas about bride, bridegroom, and their physical appearance including the description of love itself through the poems. King Solomon, who wrote this book, expresses his feeling when he is falling in love with a young woman beautifully. He uses his sense of imagination in giving the description both about love and the young

woman in the poetic words. This poetic book describes love which is suitable to be sung in the wedding party.

Poems employ incomprehensible words or odd diction and they are difficult to understand. Kennedy (1966:xi) comments that the learners will complain that poets are liars or poetry is just a waste of time or even just a series of gorgeous noises to be funneled through one ear and out of the other without being allowed to trouble the main.

Levin (1977) says that in the poem, there is a mixture of real world and imaginary world reference, or the world of poem is entirely one of the imagination; but some features, normally of the real world have been transferred into the imaginary world of the poem. R. Christopher Russel (1966:108) says that many poems are based on the symbolic statements. Robert Frost (in Ching, 1980:140) also says that poetry is as the art of saying one thing and meaning of another.

In this definition, metaphors have the same function as the poems. Both of them have other meanings than what is wrote or read, that is "saying one thing and meaning another". However, poetry and metaphor could be differed from one to another. The poetry is the metaphor, and in contrast, metaphor is not the poetry. Metaphors in poetry are limited at the metaphorical utterances, manifesting symbols that have certain meaning. Searle (1979:139) points out that:

Metaphor can be based not only on properties involved in literal meaning, but on associations, myths, and things we happen to know about the things referred to in the literal meaning. It is not really from the literal meaning that the

metaphor is calculated, but a complete understanding, an enriched sort of meaning with all the pragmatic gaps filled in.

Nevertheless, the reason that common people sometimes regard poems as a sacred thing and not to be disturbed from their holy position results in the fact that only few researchers were done to see the Bible's beauty as a literary work. Several studies done so far, merely debate and criticize the book's real place in the Bible, the time it was precisely written, the exact place it was written or who the real author of the book is.

The book of *Song of Songs* was originally written in Hebrew but due to her limited knowledge about the language, the writer had chosen its English translated standardized version : Contemporary English Version. This book consists of eight chapters and all of them are written in poetic words. Since the writer of this study loved to read or even made poems, she was interested to know more about how Solomon wrote his thoughts, feeling and ideas through poems. This study tries to give more knowledge in metaphor, not merely in the novels but also in the Bible.

Many Christian people make mistakes in interpreting sexual life as something dirty and taboo to be discussed. And many others think that human body is as a tool to release their desire of sex only. Through the book of *Song of Songs*, the author tries to give the right description of the sexual life and human's physical appearance. It also tells the beauty of human's body. Besides that, this book also provides us that sexual life is a blessing for God which can be enjoyed through the holy marriage so both men and women can feel the happiness in the

unity of love. This book teaches us how to appreciate love and sexual life during the marriage. This reason influences the writer to conduct this research.

So far, there have been no theses of S-1 students of English at Widya Mandala Catholic University dealing with metaphors, especially in the Bible. A previous study which suggests in analyzing the poems in the poetic books in the Bible which also encourages the writer in doing this study. It is hoped that through this study there will be other researches to analyze metaphors more. Therefore, those that have been put forward are the reasons that inspire the writer to conduct this study.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

Related to the Background of the Study, the research questions explored were formulated as follows :

1. How are metaphors used in the book of *Song of Songs* ?
2. What forms of metaphors are used in the book of *Song of Songs* ?
3. What orientational metaphors are used in the book of *Song of Songs* ?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

In line with the Statement of the Problems, this study is trying to investigate and to get information and description about the metaphors which are used in the book of *Song of Songs*. To be precise, this study tries to identify the metaphors used in the book of *Song of Songs*. It is also trying to describe the form of nominative, predicative and sentential metaphors. And it also describes the orientational metaphors in the book of *Song of Song* seen from the spatial

orientation : up-down, in-out, front-back, on-off, deep-shallow, and central-peripheral.

1.4. Significance of the Study

It is hoped that the students of English department at Widya Mandala Catholic University will broaden their mind and interest by enjoying and observing literary works found in the Bible. Furthermore, through this study - based on the metaphor - we might find other information about the metaphor symbols related to the Semantic Fields of Human Perception in the same book or even we can use the same theory about metaphor used in other books in the Bible.

The finding of this study is expected to give some contributions to the field of literature, especially the metaphors in poems.

Hopefully through the findings of the study, we will become familiar with the concept of metaphor and our understanding of metaphor will be much better. More specifically, the results of this study are expected to provide useful information for the following parties.

Petrie (in Ortony, 1982:440) claims that metaphors are essential in a number of ways namely :

1. They may provide the most memorable ways of learning in a number of ways.
2. They are epistemologically necessary in that they seem to provide a basic way of passing from the known to unknown. He comes to this assumption for

he believes that there are certain characteristics that really support his assumption dealing with the process of acquiring new knowledge. Those are :

- Experience is never directly of the world as it is, but is always in part constituted by our modes of representation and understanding.
 - The most learning consists of processing that which impinges on us in terms of a context of rules of schemata and these contexts of rules form our modes of understanding.
 - On some occasions we learn by actually changing the contexts of understanding.
3. Of suggestive importance for current philosophy of science, it seems that the activity phase of understanding metaphors has much in common with exemplars-concrete problem solution.

So in the process of teaching learning, metaphors will expectedly facilitate the students in understanding what the teacher explains. Therefore, metaphors can be used as a device to clarify the explanation of the concept which might be difficult for the students to understand.

1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

A thorough investigation about metaphors seems impossible to due a large number of metaphors categorization - there are also structural metaphors, orientational metaphors and ontological metaphor - which can be investigated. There are also various aspects to deal with metaphors, for example, investigating the metaphorical symbols related to the field of human perception and

identifying the meaning of metaphors based on the semantic and pragmatic interpretations.

Thus, this study only discusses the forms of metaphor and orientational metaphors seen from up-down, in-out, front-back, on-off, deep-shallow, and central-peripheral orientation. The forms of metaphors and orientational metaphor are chosen because the writer wants to investigate the forms of metaphors in the book of *Song of Songs* and which orientational metaphors mostly used by King Solomon in the book of *Song of Songs*.

Moreover, by investigating the forms of metaphors- nominative metaphors, predicative metaphors and sentential metaphors - we will know the concept structure in metaphors. It is important for us because if we are right in suggesting that our conceptual system largely metaphorical, then the way we think, what we experience, and what we do everyday is very much a matter of metaphor.

Oriental metaphors are used because it gives us a concept of spatial orientation which are not arbitrary. They have a basis in our physical and cultural experience. Though the polar positions up-down, in-out, front-back, on-off, deep-shallow, and central-peripheral are physical in nature, the orientational metaphors based on them vary from culture to culture. In each case, it will give a brief hint about how each metaphorical concept might have arisen from our physical and cultural experience.

The writer of this study has limited time - short time - to finish this study, in addition to other limitations, one of them is incapability in doing such literature study. Consequently, the result of the study is relatively far from

completeness and perfectness which might be achieved if it is done in a more complete analysis on the aspect of metaphors, particularly the ones which are not covered in this study.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

Below are the terms given in order to have the same understanding in this study. They are :

- Metaphor {Wahab, 1986:11) :

A linguistic expression which signifies a concept which in its literal meaning it does not signify and which normally is signified by some other words or expressions. Admittedly, this definition is quite broad in scope in that it includes not only the concept of comparison, but also the concept of substitution as well.

- Nominal Metaphor (Wahab, 1991:70):

A metaphor of which its signifier appears in the form of nominative phrase in a sentence. Example : *[Milk and honey] flow from your tongue.*

- Predicate Metaphor (Wahab, 1991:70) :

A metaphor of which its signifier functions as a predicate of the sentence. Example : *You [are perfume between my breasts].*

- Sentential Metaphor (Wahab, 1991:70) :

A metaphor of which its signifier appears in the whole components of the sentence. Example : *[I will hasten to those hills sprinkled with sweet perfume and stay there till sunrise]*

- Structural Metaphor (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980:14) :

One concept which is metaphorically structured in term of another.

- Orientational Metaphor (Lakoff and Johnson, 1980:14) :

One concept which organizes a whole system of concept with respect to one another.

- The Book of Song Of Songs :

This is one of the poetic books in the Bible. It consists of songs or poems which is expressing the deep and powerful love that a woman and a man can have for each other. The title of the book means “the most beautiful songs” which is written by King Solomon, in some translation it is called *The Song Of Solomon*.

- Contemporary English Version of The Bible :

This is the Bible published by the Indonesian Bible Society in Australian Edition (Second Edition, 1998).

- Old Testament (Unger, 1988:939) :

This is a part of the Bible extending from Genesis to Malachi. The Old Testament constitutes of five books of Pentateuch, twelve Historical Books, and five Poetical Books among which *Song of Songs* is one of them.