CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

English language includes in many existing skills such as reading, writing, listening, or speaking there are skills that are no less important in language learning, especially linguistics. According to English scientific expert, Ferdinand de Saussure said that "Linguistic is not just the study of language but also the study of the way language is used to create meaning, and the science that studies about the signs and symbols used by humans to communicate."[1]

In our daily lives people may not realize what read or talk about every day, whether in what they see or use there is knowledge that they have not realized or even learned, specifically in Indonesian students and University of Darussalam Gontor. Linguistics there are many things that are contained in what we see consciously or unconsciously as well as when we read magazines, newspapers, news, novels, or comics most people do not realize what they are reading, only see a glimpse of whether or not someone is interested in the object of reading, which is also Indonesian knows it by low reading interest.

This research discusses linguistic research that focuses on figurative language or what is called figurative words and sentences in English. Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions that deviate from literal or ordinary language to convey meaning.[2] Figurative language expresses various thoughts and feelings. This can give a concrete explanation in the readers mind of how to construct effective and aesthetic sentences. Cited from the Oxford handbook of linguistic that "The primary function of figurative language is to add depth, richness, and complexity to language, and to enable speakers and writers to convey

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[1] Ferdinand de Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics* (University of Chicago Press, 1983).
[2] James Murray, *Oxford Dictionary* (Oxford University Press, 1957), https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/language?q=language.

subtle shades of meaning and emotion"[3]. An important aspect of figurative language is its ability to further color language. This means it allows people to express abstract ideas. It sets the tone and conveys emotional content often through humor.

This figurative research and analysis have a specific object discussion on a reading comic published by the language center University of Darussalam Gontor, Ponorogo, entitled "Hexaxifos" which is made to support and encourage interest in reading and learning English to students in an interesting form and lure students so as not to get bored in reading especially in English books, which are wrapped in the form of fictional character comics. The researcher took this subject material because, it was the first published comic book in University of Darussalam Gontor and taken from many Islamical aspects of life.

Compared to other studies, the object of this research presents the flow of life that is identical to Islamic life that occurs every day, in terms of the akhlaq of faith and behavior presented by a good Muslim. Many studies that discuss figurative language on an object. Research on comics has not been found too much, especially on fictional comics that apply storylines and fictional story concepts that contain Islamic elements. Some examples of research take more song lyrics or poetry, such as some examples of previous research conducted by a study by Syinthia Azzahra analyzed the use of figurative language in the lyrics of Imagine Dragon's album,[4] exploring how the band used metaphors, similes and other literary devices to convey meaning and emotion. Another study by I Kadek Risky Yusadana Putra analyzed the use of figurative language in Harry Style's song lyrics.[5]

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[3] Arronof M and Rees-miller J, *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistics* (Oxford University Press, 2001).

[4] azzahra, kurniasih, and wydyastuti, "Figurative Language Analysis in Album Evole Imagine Dragon."

[5] Putra and Winarta, "Figurative Language Found In Harry Styles' Song Lyrics."

B. Problems Statement

According to the explanation in the background above, this research can be concluded some of the problems listed as below:

1. What are the types of figurative language found in comic "Hexaxifos"?
2. What is the function and purpose of using figurative language in writing and making Hexaxifos comics?

C. The Objectives of The Research

Based on the formulation and processing of existing problems, there are several objectives resulting from this research, as listed below:

1. Reveal how the results data obtained from the research and analysis of the comic "Hexaxifos" in numeral and percentage data,
2. Reveal the several purpose of using figurative language in writing the comic and determining the purpose of using figurative language in general, especially in the fictional comic "Hexaxifos".

D. Practical Purposes

This research is intended by the author as the final assignment of Darussalam Gontor University students especially in the scope of English Education. This research is one of the graduation requirements for students of University of Darussalam Gontor, English teaching department. Through this research, the author was able to develop valuable research skills, such as the ability to collect data, analyzing an information, and formulate scientific arguments.

E. Significances of The Research

The usefulness of this research is intended as listed below:

1. Institution

With the existence of research conducted on one of the reading books in the form of comics published by University of Darussalam Gontor, it is hoped that it become a work of documentation that can be one of the inputs for creative works written by one of the students of English language department University of Darussalam Gontor.

2. Lecturers

This paper can be a source of material research and lecturing for students of University of Darussalam Gontor in the future, especially in the field of English language program.

3. Students

For students, it can be a means and material for further research regarding linguistics or other fields of this comic book, and can be a complement to learning suggestions for University of Darussalam Gontor students, especially in the field of English study.

F. Limitation of The Research

This study aims to investigate and analyze the use of figurative language in English comics. We will identify the types of figurative language that frequently appear in comic and analyze how their use affects the meaning and aesthetics of the story. In addition, the researcher will explore how figurative language can create a more immersive reading experience and explore its impact on readers' understanding of the characters, plot, and themes in comics. This research will provide better insight into the way figurative language enriches the medium of comics and how it plays a role in creating more complex and diverse narratives in English language works.

In this study, author brought research objects in the form of comics which are English language learning sub materials published by Darussalam Gontor University, this book is a support for English language learning which is packaged

in the form of non-lesson books presented in black and white so that it is expected to increase students' interest in reading and learning.

The author analyzes the use of figurative language implied in this comic, such as the use of simile, metaphor, hyperbole, metonymy, personification, and synecdoche. The comic analysis was conducted by the author by reading intensively and analyzing each utterance used in the conversation or dialogue in the comic. After the analysis, the author identifies the use of various kinds of figurative language and groups them in a table that has been determined per type. As for the identification of the general data obtained to obtain how much data per type there is, then the author can compare how the comic writer applies which type of figurative language that appears most often in the comic dialogue, then the author converts the numerical data into percentage data to draw a mature conclusion.

It is hoped that this research will become an educational field for all readers and people concerned with this research, both Lecturers, students and internal non-student readers at University of Darussalam Gontor can achieve the objectives as expected.