



TYPES OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN MILEY CYRUS'S SONGS

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Abstract

Figurative language is the use of words that makes the readers have to make a good interpretation not only by seeing what the words refer to or what it is said on the text, but also by interpreting it from the context. According to Anderson (2005:4), figurative language is language used in an imaginative way; different from the usual or basic meaning. The aim of this study is to find out the types of figurative language in the song lyrics of Miley Cyrus's "Breakout" album. The data were collected by listening to the song repeatedly so that they can understand the meaning of the song especially on the figurative language, searching the lyric on the internet or watching lyric video from YouTube, reading the lyrics while listen to the song, classifying the words, phrases, and sentences of the song lyric that contain of figurative language. Furthermore, in this study the writer used qualitative descriptive method. The data were also analysed by tabulating the data. The result of this study is presented in the form of sentences. The writer analysed the songs by reading them intensively. Afterwards, the writer examined the types of figurative language of the song lyrics. After analyzing the sentence in the song lyrics, the writer found two types of figurative languages that are used in the song lyrics; they are hyperbole with 5 data and metaphor with 1 data. The most dominant of figurative language used is hyperbole.

Keywords: *figurative language, song lyrics, Miley Cyrus*

Introduction

The origin of language is a challenging problem to focus upon. According to Boey (1975:1), language is a highly organized system in which each unit plays an important part, which related to other parts. The function of the language includes communication, the expression of identity, play, imaginative expression, and emotional release.

The study of language knows as linguistics. There are five main parts of linguistics and one of these main parts is semantics. Semantics is a branch of

linguistics that studies the meanings or meanings contained in language, codes, or other types of representations. In other words, semantics is the study of meaning. In semantics, there were several parts and one of that is figurative language. In addition, figurative language 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. (Perrine, 1982:61)

People do not only understand the form of language, but also the meaning in it when learning and understanding language. In order to other people can understand and grasp the meaning of the idea, there are many ways that the people convey their ideas to others. One of the ways that can be used is by song. Many people figure out their ideas and feeling into a song. A song is a composition of voice performed by a singer or by musical instrument. There are many messages delivered in a song. Through song, people can convey his voice to many people, so that people can know his feelings and idea. Currently, many songs can express our feelings, such as song with theme of love, social, political and others. In this time, people can speak to others through song. It means that the song can be used as the way to delivering idea and feeling so that the people can understand what the composer means.

As far as we know, song is a part of literature. Sometimes, people find difficulties to understand what composer means in a song, because what conventionally says is not always the same as what he intends to express. A composer usually put the meaning implicitly. In the attempt to understand the meaning of what composer means in the song, a further knowledge is needed.

The song usually consists of figurative language. The figurative language is kind of language that the speaker says less than what he means. Figurative language is commonly applied in literary works. One of the literary works is song. According to Morner and Rausch (1991, p.83) figurative language is a language that contains figurative speech, such as metaphor, simile, personification and hyperbole, namely

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expressions that make comparisons or associations which are meant to be interpreted imaginatively rather than literally.

There are some reasons why the writer studies about figurative language. First, Figurative language is used in literature like poetry, drama, prose and even speeches. Second, figurative language refers to the use of words in a way that deviates from the conventional order and meaning in order to convey a complicated meaning, colorful writing, clarity, or evocative comparison. The last reason is that figurative language can be utilized to persuade, engage and connect with an audience and amplify your intended message. The writer presented some previous studies about figurative language from theses and journal that would be explained below:

The first study was taken from a journal entitled "Figurative Language Used in One Direction's Album Entitled *Up All Night*" by Fitria (2018). The second study was taken from a journal entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Views (Opinion Column) of Online *Padang Ekspres* Newspaper" by Nurhaida (2017). The third study was taken from a thesis entitled "Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song" by Arifah (2016). The fourth study was taken from a thesis entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language Found on the Song Lyric by Taylor Swift's "Speak Now" Album" by Listiani (2015). The last study was taken from the journal entitled "Figurative Language in Song Lyrics by Saosin Band, Nelly Furtado and Bruno Mars" written by Dinata (2013). Those studies focus on Figurative Language and the main purpose of those studies are to obtain personal and universal information on songwriters, singers and their works.

The writer interested to analyzing figurative language in song lyrics of Miley Cyrus because the lyrics contain a lot of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, etc.

Method

In a scientific writing, method plays an important role, which also explains how a research has conducted. A process that involve the definition of the problem, stating an objective and formulation, classification, analysis and interpretation to see what extent the initial objective has been achieve is called study. In this study, there are four methods would be applied such as Data Source, Data Collection, Data Analysis, and Finding Presentation.

Data Source

Data source is information, which has correlation with the study. The data in this study was taken from selected songs of Miley Cyrus's album "Breakout", which released in July 22, 2008, because "Breakout" was meeting with generally favorable reception from critics, though some believed the tracks were not a significant departure from the "Hannah Montana" franchise. The album encountered commercial success and introduced Cyrus in new countries. The album peaked at number one on the "Billboard" 200 for one week selling 370,000 copies. It is Cyrus' third album to do so, and was eventually certified platinum by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

"Breakout" topped the Canadian Albums Chart for two consecutive weeks and the Australian Albums Chart for one week. The album also charted within the top ten in Italy, Japan, and New Zealand. The writer has chosen some songs because not all the songs in this album are including figurative language. The data source of this study would be selected from ten songs, entitled: "7 Things", "The Driveway", "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun", "Full Circle", "These Four Walls", "Fly On The Wall", "Simple Song", "Goodbye", "See You Again", and "Bottom Of The Ocean". The writer has chosen to use Miley Cyrus as the data source because she is a US singer, songwriter and actress. After playing a small role in the television series *Doc* and the movie *Big Fish* as a child, he became a teen idol who played the character Miley Stewart on Disney Channel television series *Hannah Montana* in 2006. His

father Billy Ray Cyrus also starred in this series, which aired until four seasons until 2011.

Data Collection

The important part of this research is collecting the data. In collecting the data, the writer used observation method. There were several steps in collecting data, such as: Listening to the song

The writer listening to the song repeatedly, so that the writer can understand the meaning of the song especially on the figurative language.

Searching the lyric

The writer searching the lyric on the internet or watching lyric video from YouTube.

Reading the lyric

The writer reading the lyric while listening to the song

Classifying

The writer classifying the words, phrases, and sentences of the song lyric that contain of figurative language.

Data Analysis

Qualitative descriptive method was applied in analyzing the data. Qualitative research is a research method that is descriptive in nature, uses analysis, refers to data, utilizes existing theories as supporting material, and produces a theory. The meaning of descriptive qualitative method is analysis technique describe data in detail that has collected to get general conclusion.

The analysis has done by giving some explanations and the data was analyzed one by one. In analyzing the data, there were two steps that was conducted as follows: first, based on the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) the types of figurative language would be presented in Miley Cyrus's song lyrics.

This section is functioned to describe the result of the data analysis. According to Sudaryanto (1993), there were two ways in presenting the analysis data such as formal and informal method. The formal method was presented by using table to show the data tabulation in order to find out how many figurative languages that found in song lyrics of Miley Cyrus's album entitled "Breakout".

The informal method was presented by using the sentences to explain the types of figurative language and the meaning in song lyrics of Miley Cyrus album entitled "Breakout". The writer used two ways to divided formal and informal method. The first way is the writer put the types of figurative language and the types of meaning on a data tabulation table including the amount of the data and the percentage of the data. The second way is the writer used sentences to explain the types of figurative language and the types of meaning.

Result and Discussion Result

Table 1 The Calculation of the Types of Figurative Language Used in the Song Lyrics of Miley Cyrus's songs

NO	Types of Figurative Language	The Amount of the Data	Percentage
1	Hyperbole	5	83,33%
2	Metaphor	1	14%
Total		6	100%

The writer found six data from the table above and there are two types of figurative language displayed. In this Miley Cyrus's album entitled "Breakout",

shows that hyperbole with the amount of the data is 5 or 83.33%. Then, metaphor, with amount of the data are 1 or 14%.

Discussion

This section presents about how the writer analyzed the data source that classified in figurative language with a brief description. There are two types of figurative language found in this data, such as hyperbole, simile, metaphor, and allusion.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is figure of speech that used an exaggeration, which is use evoke strong feeling or to create a strong impression. Hyperbole is not meaning to taken literally. For example, "Go and catch a falling star" (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963).

Datum 1: I have a heart that will never be tamed

Source: Miley Cyrus Songs, See You Again, Line 2

The lyric above belongs to hyperbole, because there is a word "tamed" that shows an exaggeration, which is use evoke strong feeling. The lyric tells the readers and the listeners that the songwriter is a selfish person; more precisely, she is not a friendly person so that the person who wants to get close with her is difficult because her selfishness cannot be controlled. In this song, the songwriter is looking forward to seeing a guy she really likes. She got choked up the last time they saw each other, and wants another shot. Musically, the track is a dance-pop number that contains influences from various musical genres, including electronic music.

Datum 2: I got this crazy feeling deep inside

Source: Miley Cyrus's song, See You Again, Line 18

The lyric above belongs to hyperbole, because there is a word “crazy” that shows an exaggeration, which is use evoke strong feeling. The lyric tells the readers and the listeners that the songwriter feels so happy because of the person she likes wants to invite her to meet again. This song basically means that the songwriter cannot wait to see someone again because she feels that she was in love with her boyfriend.

Datum 3: But it burned too hot to survive

Source: Miley Cyrus’s song, Bottom of the Ocean, Line 7

The lyric above belongs to hyperbole, because there is a phrase “burned too hot to survive” that shows an exaggeration, which is use evoke strong feeling. The lyric tells the readers and the listeners that the songwriter feels stressed because her boyfriend leaves her for no reason when she feels so loved with him. The lyrics reflect the chill inducing song, depicting a melancholic breakup, and uses their breakup as a figure of speech to explain the boy is somewhere she will never find again.

Datum 4: I draw a map, connect the dots with the memories that I got

Source: Miley Cyrus’s song, Bottom of the Ocean, Line 28-30

The lyric above belongs to hyperbole, because it shows an exaggeration, which is use evoke strong feeling. The lyric tells the readers and the listeners that the songwriter has so many memories with her boyfriend so that the memories still stuck in her mind. She still confused why her boyfriend leave her for no reason, and it makes her feel so sad every time. This song is also tells about anyone’s dreams, boyfriends, a lost parents, an abusive relationship. It was saying if there is someone you have loved but for some reason you cannot love them anymore, you have to take your feelings, scoop them out and put them at the bottom of the ocean.

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Datum5: It hits me like a ton of those red bricks

Source: Miley Cyrus's song, Simple Song, Line 5

The lyric above belongs to hyperbole, because it shows an exaggeration, which is use evoke strong feeling. The lyrics tells the readers and the listeners that the songwriter when she grows up to be a teenager, the burden of life that she lived was so much that it made her startled and realized that she was no longer a child who could only play without thinking about what she would do in the future so that she feels the need to alienate herself for few time. Lyrically, this song tells about how in the industry that she was in, there is so much pressure and stress and sometimes she just need to step back and remember all the easy things.

Metaphor

Similar with simile, metaphor is comparing two things by using one kind of object or using in place of another to suggest the comparison between them. Metaphor is an implied comparison in which the word "like" or "as" is omitting. For example, "life's but a walking shadow" (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963).

Datum6: oh daddy dear you know you're still number one

Source: Miley Cyrus's song, Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, Line 8

The lyric above belongs to metaphor because there is a comparison between "you" and "number one". The word "you" means the songwriter's father. In this case, the songwriter wants to tell that she already to be a teenager and she tells her father to not too worry about her because she can handle by herself. She will not do the bad things outside; she just wants to hang out with her friends for happiness. She will not forget her father when she hangs out so that she said that her father still number one for her. This song is about the liberal attitudes of adolescents today who

feel confident about being themselves and about being self-assertive, especially towards their parents' conservativeness.

Conclusion

The study has analyzed four songs of Miley Cyrus from one album. Based on the discussion and analytical data in the previous chapter, the writer found six data that contains figurative language in Miley Cyrus's album entitled "Breakout". There were two types of figurative language such as hyperbole and metaphor.

The most dominant of figurative language in this Miley Cyrus song is hyperbole, the words used in the songs is exaggerated from the original meaning comparison with an explicit words and because the songwriter wants to describe and emphasize fall in love and conflict. Therefore, to know and understand the hidden meaning in a song can use figurative language so that there will be no misunderstanding in interpreting the meaning. The writer hopes that this study can be useful not only for the music lovers, but also for the other people who want to understand a song lyric that containing figurative language.

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