



## The Meaning of Figurative Language Found in John Legend's Album Entitled "Love in The Future"

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### Abstract

This article discusses about the meaning of figurative language found in John Legend' album entitled "*Love in the Future*". The objectives of this research were to find out types of figurative language and their meanings in John Legend's song lyrics. The article, entitled "*The Meaning of Figurative Language Found in John Legend's album entitled "Love in the Future"*". To analyze the data, the main theory used in this article is first theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) entitled *Interpreting Literature* and the second the theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981) entitled *Semantics*. This article analyzed the data descriptively by using qualitative method. The collected data by browsing and downloading song lyrics from the internet, reading and understanding song lyrics and taking note and classifying the phrase and sentences that contain of figurative language. The data is taken from John Legend's album entitled "Love in the Future" released in 2013. Type of meaning figurative language found in John Legend album entitled "Love in the Future" are connotative meaning and conceptual meaning. Connotative meaning is the dominant type of meaning found in John Legend's album.

**Keywords:** *figurative language, meaning, song lyric*

### Abstrak

Artikel ini membahas mengenai makna bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam album John Legend berjudul "Cinta di Masa Depan". Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan dan maknanya di dalam lirik lagu John Legend. Artikel ini, berjudul "Makna Bahasa Kiasan yang ditemukan dalam album John Legend berjudul *Love in the Future*". Untuk menganalisis data, teori utama yang digunakan dalam artikel ini adalah pertama teori yang dikemukakan oleh Knickerbocker dan Reninger (1963) dalam buku berjudul "*Interpreting Literature*" dan kedua, teori makna yang dikemukakan Leech (1981) dalam buku berjudul "*Semantics*". Artikel ini menganalisis data secara deskriptif dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif. Mengumpulkan data dengan browsing dan mendownload lirik lagu dari internet, membaca dan memahami lirik lagu serta mencatat dan mengklasifikasikan frase dan kalimat yang mengandung bahasa kiasan. Data tersebut diambil dari album John Legend yang berjudul "Cinta di Masa Depan" yang dirilis pada tahun 2013. Jenis makna Bahasa kiasan yang di temukan album John Legend berjudul "*Love in the Future*" adalah makna konotatif dan makna konseptual. Makna konotatif adalah jenis makna yang paling banyak ditemukan dalam album John Legend.

**Kata kunci:** *bahasa kiasan, makna, lirik lagu*

## **Introduction**

Language is a tool for human or community interaction in every day. Others are in the language used by humans or society to communicate with their respective environments. The purpose of language is to get some information from other people through interaction. The people can share their opinion, experience, ideas and emotions by language. Language could be either in the written, spoken form or even gesture, but inside of the language contains the meaning. According to Kreidler (1998:5), language is complex and subtle capable of expressing whatever its speakers need to express and capable of changing to meet changing needs of the speakers. Thus, the language which can build the imagination of the listener, usually it called figurative language.

Figurative language a language that used words or expression with a meaning is different from the literal interpretation. According to Peter (2002:12), figurative language is a language which has figurative meaning incorporates the speakers desire to touch the emotions to cause shock and persuade into action. From the definition above can conclude that figurative language serves to deliver thoughts, feelings, and perception that is cannot express in literal meaning. The figurative language not only found in the novel and poem, but it also can find in the song lyrics. As we know that figurative language part of speech which has important role in song that are written by song writer because it will make people wonder and interested with that song. It is important for us as music lovers to understand the literal meaning of figurative language found in the song lyrics, there for we can imagine the meaning about that song. Song is the art of singing performed by singer.

This study was conducted by reading and reviewing some related to figurative language analysis. The first review Sugiantara's thesis (2018) entitled "*An Analysis of Figurative Language in The Song Lyrics of Ed Sheeran's Album Entitled Devide*". The second review thesis by Quorrotul'ain (2013) entitled "*An analisis of figurative language in the song lyric by Maher Zein*". The third article written by Dimu (2018), entitled "*An analysis of figurative language in James Blunt's song lyrics*" in album entitled is *Chasing time the bedlam sessions*. The fourth review the article by Hariyanto (2017) entitled "*The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyric of fire work by Katty Perry*". And the last review article by Ladika (2018), entitled "*The analysis of figurative language used by Dr. Zakir Naik*". Based on the previous related literature, the similarities analyzed concerning about types of figurative language and the meaning of figurative language. While the difference is the distinction in terms of data source, this study takes the data sources from album entitled "*Love in the Future*" by John Legend.

John Legend is one of American soul singer, song writer and pianist. He has many of albums, but in this research the writer analyzes the "*Love in the Future*" album. This the four albums from John Legend that released on 30, august 2013. The objective of this research is to find out types of figurative language used in the song lyric of John Legend's album entitled "*Love in the Future*", besides to find out the meaning of figurative language used in the song lyric of John Legend's album entitled "*Love in the Future*". In this research, the writer just focuses to analyze the meaning type's figurative language in each type of figurative language.

## **Method**

In this study analyzed the meaning types of figurative language found in John Legend song lyrics. This research applied qualitative and quantitative methods. Qualitative methods are explained descriptively into paragraph, and quantitative is explained the results of the analysis into table. This research used theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) to find out types of figurative language, and theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981: 9-19). The techniques of analyze the data were (1) Listened the song lyrics carefully and repeatedly in order to understand the contents of the song lyrics (2) Downloaded the song lyrics from the internet then listen again and check the script of the song lyrics. (3) Underlined the sentence, word and phrase that contain of figurative language in each song lyrics. (4). Classified the data based on types of figurative language. The data of this research was taken from "Love in the Future" album by John Legend. The "Love in the Future" album was released on 2013 and this album has sixteen songs they are: "Love in the Future", "The Beginning", "Open Your Eyes", "Made to Love", "Who Do We Think We Are", "All of Me" "Hold on Longer", "Save the Night", "Tomorrow", "What If I Told You", "Dreams", "Wanna Be Loved", "Angel", "You & I (Nobody in the World)", "Asylum" and "Caught Up".

## **Result And Discussion**

In this part showed the result analysis of the meaning in each type figurative language found in the song lyric of John Legend's album. Those data were analyzed based

on theory of figurative language which proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) and theory of Meaning supported by Leech (1981) to find out the meaning types of figurative language.

**Table 1. Types of Meaning figurative Language**

Meaning Type	Occurrence	Percentage
Connotative meaning	5	83,3%
Conceptual meaning	1	16,7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100%</b>

From the table of categorize above this study finds two types of Meaning figurative language in John Legend album entitled “*Love in the Future*”, there are connotative meaning and conceptual meaning. The total calculations of meaning type are connotative meaning 5 (83,3%) and conceptual meaning 1 (16,7).

The analyses of types of figurative language and its meaning types of figurative language explained below:

### **Paradox**

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963; 367), Paradox is a statement of whose surface, on obvious meaning seems to be illogical, even absurd, but which make good sense up on closure examination.

### **Data 1**

*You're my end my beginning*  
***Even when I lose, I'm winning***  
*Cause I give you all of me*  
*And you give me all off you, oh*  
*(All of Me. Line 36)*

The data above categorize as type of paradox because this sentence is contradiction each other. In this data the singer said “even when I lose, I’m winning”, this sentence is seeming to not make any sense. The paradox appears when two things

should not be able to exist together. The word I "lose" and "winning" are showing paradox because the statement is showing the contradiction. "I lose" conceptually means something that cannot be achieved and is something that is unlucky or missed opportunities, but "winning" is a success, someone will feel proud when they achieve a winning.

Based on classification above, the data belongs to connotative meaning. Connotative meaning is the way of expression over than its purely conceptual content Leech (1974:14). The singer said "Even when I lose, I'm winning". Literally this data, losing means that when we are struggling, we don't have to win, but when we win, we definitely get happiness. Furthermore, connotatively this data means, when we learn something that is new to us, we should be proud of having had the opportunity to try it. Whether we lose or win everything we take as a lesson, when we win, we certainly proud ourselves and consider it a success and when we lose, we consider it as something less fortunate but at least we get something new, don't think losing as something that makes us stop fighting.

### **Metaphor**

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963; 367) stated Metaphor is an implied comparison, in which "like" or "as" are omitted.

Data 2

*Your star shines so bright*

***You're the queen of my night***

*In the daytime not quite*

*But I'm glad that I*

*(Dreams. Line 24)*

This data categorized as type of metaphor because the singer compares his girlfriend with the "queen of night". The song writer compares directly without used words "as" or "like" to compare them. "Queen" is the person who has authority in the kingdom and has responsibility with her society and king.

Based on classification above, the data belongs to connotative meaning. Connotative meaning is the way of expression over than its purely conceptual content (Leech (1974:14)). Literally this data do not describe the singer girlfriend as the queen in real life, but only describe something identical to the queen. Connotatively, “queen” is identical as person who has beautiful face and be number the number one in the kingdom because she leads the society in the kingdom. The meaning in this data is the singer explain that he really love his girlfriend because his girlfriend is the queen in his dream.

### **Data 3**

*If I could, I'd give you the world*

*Wrap it all around you*

*Won't be satisfied with just a piece of this heart*

*My angel, oh my angel*

***You're my angel, oh angel***

*(Angel. Line 5)*

This data categorized as type of metaphor because the singer compares his girlfriend with the “Angel”. The song writer compares directly without used words “as” or “like” to compare them. “Angel” is emissary of God who have own miracle and almighty. The angel comes anytime to helps the human who needs their help because they have own miracle nothing than human.

Based on classification above, the data belongs to conceptual meaning because the meaning is literal meaning. This data describes the singer girlfriend as Angel. As we know, Angel is messengers of God as savior. From this data the singer wants to convey his gratitude to his girl frien for giving he love. The meaning is the singer very grateful for the presence of the girlfriend in his life.

### **Hyperbole**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367), hyperbole is figure of an exaggeration used for special effect.

**Data 4**

*And I, I'm not afraid to fly*

*Here we are, in the air, barely breathing*

*And we're not afraid to die*

*(We do we think we are. Line 36)*

This data categorized as type of hyperbole because the singer exaggerated is "I'm not afraid to fly", as we know, humans cannot fly, because humans are not given wings like birds. Humans can fly or float in the air by using tools.

Based on classification above, the data belongs to connotative meaning Connotative meaning is the way of expression over than its purely conceptual content Leech (1974:14). The singer said "I'm not afraid to fly". Literally this data means, the data do not describe "fly" itself, but connotatively describes identical with "fly". Connotatively, the word "fly" represents the singer who wants to express hid true heart to his girl, the singer is not afraid to do anything for the sake of their relationship.

**Data 5**

*A little trouble in the city*

*Trouble in my home*

*She told me love don't live here anymore*

*I wanna run to the light*

*It's too dark in this part of night*

*(Save the Night. Line 4)*

This data categorized as type of hyperbole because the singer exaggerated is “I wanna run to the light”. Conceptually nothing can stay in the light, light just a light in the dark. The light that illuminates people in the dark.

Based on classification above, the data belongs to connotative meaning. Connotative meaning is the way of expression over than its purely conceptual content. Leech (1974:14). Literally this data is illogical because describes “I wanna run to the light”, as we know, light is not a place to live but it is a light for a place. Connotatively, this data shows light is synonymous with truth, the singer still in trouble. He is looking for the truth of the matter.

#### **Data 6**

*Your star shines so bright*

*You're the queen of my night*

*In the daytime not quite*

*But I'm glad that I*

*(Dreams. Line 23)*

This data categorized as type of hyperbole because the singer exaggerated is “your star shines so bright”. In reality is that star only exist in the sky and the stars shine at night. Stars are a special creation of God that adorn the sky at night. One has no stars.

Based on classification above, the data belongs to connotative meaning. Connotative meaning is the way of expression over than its purely conceptual content. Leech (1974:14). Literally this data describes that the girl of the singer with a star. As we know the star is something that appears when it is dark and shines in the sky. There is no star that belongs to man that can shine to others except. Connotatively, the star shining represents something that only comes for a while but makes people happy because of its beauty. The meaning is that the singer conveys that his girlfriend presence shines like a star which makes him happy to have her.



## Conclusion

After the analysis has been done, the writer concludes that the album "Love in the Future" by John Legend consist of song lyrics and has done analyzed six song lyrics that contain of figurative language. The analysis has two objectives are to find out types of figurative language also to find out the meaning types of figurative language used in "Love in the Future" album by John Legend. This research used theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) to find out the types of figurative language also the theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981: 9-19). Thus, the result of this research found four types of figurative language that proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) and those are the result of this research are 1 of paradox, and 2 of metaphor, 3 of hyperbole. And the meaning types of figurative language that proposed by Leech (1981:9-19) the result in this article are: 5 of connotative meaning and 1 of conceptual meaning

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