



The Analysis of Figurative Language on Passenger Song Lyric in Runaway Album

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Abstract

This study is aimed to find out the types of figurative language in Passenger's song lyric in Runaway album, and to analyze the meaning of figurative language in Passenger's song lyric in Runaway album. The writer used the theory from Arp & Perrine (1991) to identify the types of figurative language and the theory from Leech (1981) to analyze the meaning of figurative language. The result of this study showed that are 6 types of figurative language found in Passenger's song lyric in Runaway album. There is personification, metaphor, imagery, simile, symbol, and overstatement. The writer found simile is 9 data or 30%, the second types of figurative language is metaphor with total of number 6 data or 20%, imagery category with 3 data or 10%, there is also personification with 4 data or 13.3%, symbol category with 4 data or 13.3%, and the last on is overstatement with 4 data or 13.3%.

Keywords: *figurative language, passenger, song lyric*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan jenis-jenis Bahasa kiasan yang terdapat pada lirik lagu di dalam album Runaway dari Passenger, dan menganalisa arti dari Bahasa kiasan tersebut. Penulis menggunakan teori dari Arp & Perrine (1991) untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis Bahasa kiasan, dan teori dari Leech (1981) digunakan untuk menganalisa arti dari Bahasa kiasan tersebut. Hasil dari penelitian ini mendapatkan 6 jenis Bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Passseger dalam album Runaway. Jenis-jenis tersebut meliputi personifikasi, metaphor, imageri, simile, simbol, dan pernyataan yang berlebihan. Penulis menemukan di dalam jenis simile yaitu 9 data atau 30%, yang kedua di dalam jenis metaphor ada 6 data atau 20%, dalam imageri ada 3 data atau 10%, dan juga dalam jenis personifikasi ada 4 data atau 13.3%, dalam jenis simbol ada 4 data atau 13.3%, dan yang terakhir dalam jenis pernyataan yang berlebihan 4 data atau 13.3%.

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

Introduction

Figurative language is language that has meaning inside, it could be some expression. Figurative language –language using figures of speech –is language that cannot be taken literally (or should not be taken literally only) (Perrin, Arp 1991). Figurative language could be telling about feeling, idea, or thought, to describe a language need to consideration, we cannot take the language directly, because in figurative language can be anything.

Lyrics are words that expressing direct personal feelings of songwriter with strong emotion in imaginative way. The lyrics can either be explicit or implicit in the meaning. Lyrics usually using regular words, many people feel comfort when listen the song with regular words, but in opposite thought, some people attracted to listen and understand the music that has figurative language inside, understanding the figurative language in lyrics song it is not easy as sing, require a wide knowledge about literature or imaginative thought.

Rosenberg was born on 17 May 1984 in Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, England to Quaker parents, English mother Jane and American Jewish father, Gerard Rosenberg, originally from Vineland, New Jersey. Rosenberg learned classical guitar at a young age and at around 14–15 started to write songs. He worked as a chef and spent his spare time writing music and practicing guitar. He did not apply himself at school in Brighton, spending his time making music. Rosenberg left school at the age of 16 to pursue a career in the music industry and spent the next few years as a busker in England and Australia.

From the definition above the author uses two theories that would used to solve all the problems in this research, first is theory types of figurative language from Perrine & Arp. (1991) on his book entitled: *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry*. Second, the theory is taken from Leech, (1981) *Semantic: The Study of Meaning* Second Edition. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, to identify the meaning of figurative language in Passenger song lyrics on *Runaway* album.

There a lot of researcher do research related to figurative language, and the study found some previous researches. Firstly, it was carried out by Suryatini, (2016) with entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language found on the Song Lyric by Harris Jung's "Salam" Album*. This research focused on the types of figurative language that used by Harris Jung songs and the figurative meaning in Harris Jung's songs. The writer used figurative language theory by Kennedy (1979) to analyze types of figurative language and to analyzed the figurative meaning.

Second research came from Yunitasari, (2017) with entitled *Figurative Language found on Secondhand Serenade's Song Lyrics Composed by John Vesely*. The research design used in this study was descriptive qualitative with biography approach. The study also belonged to library research. The objects of this study were

Secondhand Serenade's lyrics of songs. The data of this study were the lyrics of Secondhand Serenade's song containing figurative language taken from the album entitled *A Twist In My Story*.

The third researches is an article, it was carried out by Hariyanto, (2017) with entitled *The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyric of Firework by Katy Perry*. The aims of he's research are to find out the figurative languages used in the lyric of firework and to analyze the contextual meaning of figurative language used in that song. It is expected the result of this study will be useful for the reader especially in knowing what figurative language is and what kinds of figurative language are. The design of he's research is descriptive qualitative research.

From three kinds of researches mentioned above, showed the different data sources with the study used, it can be seen that all of the study haven the same object that is analyzing on figurative language, but the difference is the subject is in the subject of the analysis and also the theory. This study focused on explain the types of figurative language and the meaning in Passenger's song lyrics in *Runaway* album.

Method

The data was taken from Passenger's songs in the full album *Runaway* was released on August 31, 2018. The Passenger album consists of 10 songs, such as: *Hell or High Water, Why Can't Change, Heart to Love, Let's Go, He Leaves You Cold, Ghost Town, Runaway, Eagle Bear Buffalo, To Be Free, and Survivors*. Some information was taken from *genius.com* and book for completing the research and for making the writer easy to do the study. In this study, the data was analyzed by using qualitative method and presented descriptively. The first step in this analysis is identifying the types of figurative language found in the data source by using the theory Arp & Perrine (1991). Second step is analyzing the meaning of figurative language found by theory Leech (1981) to support the understanding of meaning from that song lyric.

Result and Discussion

This section presents about how the researcher analyzed the data source with a small description to how the figurative language is determined. According to Perrine & Arp. (1991), there are twelve types of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, metonymy, imagery, symbol, allegory, paradox, overstatement, understatement, and irony, and according to Leech (1981), there are types of meaning, such as conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning. In this sub chapter researcher found seven types of figurative language of

Passenger's songs in "Runaway" album, there are personification, imagery, metaphor, paradox, symbol, simile, and overstatement.

1. Personification

Perrine and Arp (1991) proposed that personification is a figure of speech assigning human characteristics to any non-human object.

Data 1: Was it *hell or high water that broke our hearts?*

(Hell or high water, line/stanza: 2/1)

The lyric above classified as a personification since human characteristic is attributed to an object. The personification concept that can be identified in this lyric is shown by a piece of lyric "*hell or high water that broke our hearths*". In this case "*hell or high water*" human activity "*broke hearts*", that makes the sentence categorized into personification.

Based on the theory of Leech (1981), the lyric above categorized as connotative meaning. According to Leech (1981), connotative meaning is the value an expression has a virtue what it refers to, over and above purely conceptual content. The words "*hell or high water*" it has the relationship with what the songwriter meant with his relationship. The connotative meaning of the lyric above is, that the songwriter wants to tell the person who broke his heart and makes him failure in relationship in many ways, it could be bad way as a *hell* or good way as *high water*, that songwriter are willing to do whatever it takes to overcome difficulty or obstacles.

2. Imagery

Perrine and Arp (1991) proposed that imagery may be defined as the representation though language of sense experience.

Data 2: *A hand to hold to warm cold, spark a light*

To guide me through alright

(Hell or high water, line/stanza: 2/4).

The lyric above is categorized as imagery because in the sentence “*a hand to hold to warm the cold*” there is a sense of touch *warm* and *cold*. Here the writer imagined that he could find someone who could care, understand his feelings, have a warmth personality but actually he still searching for someone like that.

According to Leech (1981), the lyric above categorized as connotative meaning. According to Leech (1981) connotative meaning is the communicative value and expression has by virtue of what it refers to. In this case, the connotative meaning is expressed with “*A hand to hold to warm cold, spark a light*”. Spark a light is a hope, giving someone hope usually kind of spirit or support that people could give to someone else. The meaning of the lyric above that songwriter wants to convey for someone who giving him a hope to guide him through alright in better place in every step in his life.

3. Metaphor

Metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which in a literal sense, it is not. Metaphor itself is quite similar with simile, because comparing two things, but in this case metaphor understanding the one of the other concept without using connection words.

Data 3: *Cause if life is an ocean, then love is an island*

(Let's Go, line/stanza:1/2)

The lyric above consists of metaphor. In this lyric clearly that two comparison thing between “*life*” and “*ocean*”, and then “*love*” and “*island*”. The analogized *life* is massive as *ocean*, and *love* is kind of piece of life as *island*. Here the songwriter wants to describe about philosophy of life that he uses.

The lyric above classified as connotative meaning. According to Leech (1981) connotative meaning is the communicative value and expression has by virtue of what it refers to. In this case, the connotative meaning is expressed with “*Cause if life is an ocean, then love is an island*”. The songwriter convey that life is fully of discovery thing, love is not the only one that exist in our life, we can find love in another place and another person spirit or support that people could give to someone else.

4. Simile

Simile the comparison is expressed by the use of some word or phrase, such as like, as, then, similar to, resembles, or seems (Perrine, Arp, 1991). Simile is a statement introduced by like or as.

Data 4: *Go and shine like an oil spill or rainbow and cartwheels*

(Let's Go, line/stanza: 1/1)

The expression above consists of simile because, in the sentence above there is the word "like" to compare "*go and shine*" and "*oil spill*". The author uses word "*oil spill*" for expressed something that he could not tell with a word because the act or moment that purposed more than that, from the context *oil spill* is an incident that make depraved.

The lyric above classified as connotative meaning. According to Leech (1981) connotative meaning is the communicative value and expression has by virtue of what it refers to. In this case, the connotative meaning is expressed with "*Go and shine like an oil spill or rainbow and cartwheels*". The author tries to tell that she or he have bad character, they will do good act in the front and bad act behind him, like oil spill, shining on the road but when we come through the road, we will get slip on the wheels and get incident.

5. Symbol

A symbol may be roughly defined as something that means more than what it is (Perrine, Arp: 1991).

Data 5: *And rolling stones never find a home*

(Runaway, line/stanza: 5/5)

The lyric above categorized to the symbol, it can be identified in this lyric is shown by the lyric "*and rolling stones never find a home*". Here the song writer used

the symbol of “*rolling stone*” to defined something that means more than what it is author want to tell.

The lyric above classified as connotative meaning. According to Leech (1981) connotative meaning is the communicative value and expression has by virtue of what it refers to. In this case, the connotative meaning is expressed with “*And rolling stones never find a home*”. The author wants to express that someone who traveling with somebody feeling or heart never find the right one as her *home*, the author used *rolling stones* to representative the person that never satisfied with one person and always find someone better than previously, and at the end the stone or she will get the impact as the *rolling stone* that fall down and cracking become a piece of stone.

6. Overstatement

Overstatement, or hyperbole, is simply exaggeration, but exaggeration in the service of truth, you do not expect to be taken literally; you are merely adding emphasis to what you really mean. It may be humorous or grave, fanciful or restrained, convincing or unconvincing (Perrine, Arp: 1991).

Data 6: *He leaves an ice cube in your heart*

(Leaves You Cold, line/stanza:3/3)

The lyric categorized as overstatement, the songwriter wants to describe about bad feeling that she got from other guy. *Leaves* word here mean the emotional pain that he does for her, and the songwriter want to express it with *leave* word. *He leaves an ice cube in your heart* has connective meaning inside the sentence. The songwriter wants to describe how bad she got pain from those guy.

According to Leech (1981), the lyric above categorized as connotative meaning. According to Leech (1981) connotative meaning is the communicative value and expression has by virtue of what it refers to. In this case, the connotative meaning is expressed with “*He leaves an ice cube in your heart*”. The songwriter wants to describe the pain from her using “*ice cube*” words, normally ice cube is ice that uses in soft drink that has square or cube shapes. Here ice cube representative the pain that she feels, ice cube is cool and has their shape as her pain inside, the song writer wants to convey the pain inside her.

The types figurative language was analyzed by Perrine & Arp. (1991). Meanwhile, the meaning was analyzed by theory from Leech (1981). The occurrence of types of figurative language could be seen in table below:

Table 1. The Occurrence of Referential Function

Types of Figurative Language	Occurrence	Percentage
Personification	4	13.3%
Imagery	3	10%
Metaphor	6	20%
Simile	9	30%
Symbol	4	13.3%
Overstatement	4	13.3%
Total	30	100%

From the table of finding above the researcher found 30 data. There are seven types of figurative languages showed on the table. The seven types of figurative language in table above are personification, imagery, metaphor, paradox, symbol, simile, and overstatement. The total of figurative language that researcher found in seven songs of “*runaway*” album by Passenger is 30 sentences. According to the percentage table, the following sequence of figurative language shows that simile is 9 data or 30%, the second types of figurative language is metaphor with total of number 6 data or 20%, imagery category with 3 data or 10%, there is also personification with 4 data or 13.3%, symbol category with 4 data or 13.3%, and the last on is overstatement with 4 data or 13.3%. The dominant figurative language that are used in the song lyrics by Passenger in “*Runaway*” album is simile with total of number 9 or 30% items, here the song writer mostly uses the types of simile in his song for representative of the feeling with someone that he cannot tell with word. Comparing one object with another object make the author easy to tell the message to the readers or listener, every single lyric from Passenger has their own moment, that consist of experience of life or relationship. Meanwhile, the least figurative language that are used in the song lyric by Passenger in “*Runaway*” album, there is one types of figurative language, there is imagery with the total of number 3 or 10%.

Conclusion

The total of figurative language that researcher found in ten songs of album “Runaway” by Passenger is 30 sentences. According to the percentage table, the following sequence of figurative language shows that simile is 9 data or 30%, the second types of figurative language is metaphor with total of number 6 data or 20%, imagery category with 3 data or 10%, there is also personification with 4 data or 13.3%, symbol category with 4 data or 13.3%, and the last on is overstatement with 4 data or 13.3%. The dominant figurative language that are used in the song lyrics by Passenger in “Runaway” album is simile with total of number 9 data or 30%, while the least figurative language that are used in the song lyric by Passenger in “Runaway” album, there are one type of figurative language, that is imagery with total of number 3 data or 10%.

From the analysis, it can be also concluding that figurative language has important roles in created the song lyric. The reason why author used the sentences that have figurative language in the song because it can make the song more interesting to sing or to hear by the listeners.

Figurative language in those ten songs of “Runaway” album by Passenger has been analyzed by the researcher, it is knowing that in the song lyrics of “Runaway” album by Passenger, there are many sentences that used figurative language. Usually on creating the art work like the one of them is lyric song, the author used figurative language to make it interesting. But sometimes the readers/listeners are very difficult to understand what the meaning of the song because it contains of figurative language. So from the analysis that has been done regarding to the same thing or problem, the researcher suggests for future to read the analysis carefully until know the definition of figurative language, the types of figurative language and know about the meaning of figurative language itself. So the readers/the listeners will no longer have difficulty to interpret the meaning of the sentences that used figurative language.

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