



## UNCOVER THE HIDDEN MEANING OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FOUND IN JASON DERULO SONG LYRICS

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### Abstract

Figurative language is a language that is used by figures of speech to convey the message or meaning to someone by spoken or written language. Figurative language is generally used in a poetry, song, novel or film. The objectives of this study are to find out types and meaning of figurative language in Jason Derulo song lyrics. There are two theories that used in this study. First, theory by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974) is used to find out types of figurative languages in Jason Derulo song lyrics. Second, theory by Leech (1981) to find out the meaning of figurative languages in Jason Derulo song lyrics. The writer collected the data by listening the songs, reading the scripts, underling and classifying the lyrics, and taking note of figurative language. The writer analyzed the data descriptively by using qualitative method. There are six types of figurative language found in Jason Derulo song lyrics, they are hyperbole (15), simile (5), paradox (2), personification (2), irony (2), synecdoche (1). The writer found that Hyperbole is the most dominant type of figurative languages used in Jason Derulo song lyrics.

**Keywords:** *figurative language, meaning of figurative language.*

### Abstrak

Bahasa kiasan adalah bahasa yang digunakan oleh seseorang untuk menyampaikan pesan atau makna kepada seseorang dengan menggunakan bahasa lisan atau tulisan. Bahasa kiasan umumnya digunakan dalam puisi, lagu, novel atau film. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis dan makna majas yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Jason Derulo. Ada dua teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini yaitu; Teori pertama oleh Knickerbocker dan Reninger (1974) dan untuk mengetahui jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu Jason Derulo. Penulis mengumpul data dengan mendengarkan lagu, membaca naskah, menggarisbawahi dan mengklasifikasikan lirik lagu dan mencatat bahasa kiasan. Penulis menganalisis data secara deskriptif dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif. Ada enam jenis majas yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Jason Derulo, yaitu hiperbola (15), simile (5), paradoks (2), personifikasi (2), ironi (2), sinekdoke (1). Hiperbola merupakan majas yang paling

banyak ditemukan dalam lirik lagu Jason Derulo dengan total 15 jenis, dan ada dua jenis makna yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Jason Derulo yaitu makna konseptual dan makna konotatif.

**Kata kunci** : Bahasa kiasan, makna bahasa kiasan

## **INTRODUCTION**

Language is a media that is used for sharing information in every human life. Language has many variations, including spoken and written language. Language is a foundation in every social life, such as formal and non-formal situations where people need communication. Nowadays the most popular language that people in the world use is English Language. Misgiyati (2018) stated that English language is the communication tool in international situations. By knowing the English Language, we can interact with the people from other countries. In this era, we are demanded to learn English because the development of the language such as English is very fast.

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283) figurative is sometimes called metaphorical language. Figurative language usually we can see when the figure of speech conveys a language by using a sentence that supposes a certain sentence with the circumstances or object around it. Figurative Language is a language used by figures of speech to convey the meaning of literature itself, so we can take it literally. In everyday conversation, people may use figurative language, but they do not understand the figurative language they used. Figurative language is a language used through words or expressions with a different meaning from literal interpretation by the speaker. When the writer uses the literal language, he or she simply states the facts as they are. Figurative language is normally used in poetry, song, novel or film. In this study the writer used song lyrics as data source which is very interesting to analyse since they use various types of figurative language which have hidden meaning. Uncover the hidden meaning of figurative language is very challenging but very beneficial. It helps the readers not only to understand the implied meaning of figurative language, but also to understand the messages and life values delivered by those songs. So that people can learn about life lessons from the song lyrics.

This study aims to analyse types of figurative language used in Jason Derulo song lyrics and to discover the hidden meaning of figurative language in Jason Derulo song lyrics. The writer chooses the song lyrics from one of the famous artists in America and he is Jason Joel Desrouleaux. The name Jason Derulo is a stage name that is known worldwide until now. Jason Derulo released his debut single 'whatcha say' in May 2009. Jason Derulo became the number 1 most played male artists on all radio broadcasts in 2014. In 2019, Jason Derulo released his song there are: *Best friend*,

*Be the one, Champion, Diamond, F It Up, Lets Shut up & Dance, Mamacita, Talk About Us, Talk With Your Body, The Rum Tum Tugger and Too Hot.*

## METHOD

The data of this study were taken from Jason Derulo song lyrics. This study used eleven songs such as *Best Friend, Be the One, Champion, Diamond, F It Up, Lets Shut Up & Dance, Mamacita, Talk About Us, Talk With Your Body, The Rum Tum Tugger, Too Hot* which released in 2019. The data were collected by using observation method and note taking technique. The collected data were analysed by using descriptive qualitative method using theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974) to analyse types of figurative language and theory by Leech (1981) to analyse the meaning of figurative language. The findings are presented by formal and informal method. In formal method, the data were presented by using tables to make the data clearly seen by the readers, easy to understand and to present the numbers and percentage of the finding. In informal method, the data were presented by narrative form to explain the types of figurative language and the meaning of figurative language found in the song lyrics by using description in words, sentences and paragraphs.

## DISCUSSION

In this research there were six types of figurative language found in Jason Derulo song lyrics which consist of hyperbole (15), simile (5), paradox (2), personification (2), irony (2) and synecdoche (1). From twenty-seven data which found in this study, only eleven representative data presented in the discussion below. In the following table we can see the amount of data found in this research finding regarding to total types of figurative language in song lyrics of Jason Derulo were released in 2019.

### 3. 1 Types of figurative language found in Jason Derulo song lyrics.

Types of figurative language	Occurrence	Percentages
Hyperbole	15	56%
Simile	5	19%
Paradox	2	8%
Personification	2	8%
Irony	2	8%
Synechdoche	1	4%

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Total	27	100%
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#### 4.1 Hyperbole

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 284) hyperbole is an exaggeration used for special effect.

##### Data 1

*“Your body give me motivation”*

The sentence above is categorized as hyperbole because there is an exaggeration it can be seen in the sentence “your body give me motivation”. As we know, *body* is a part of human or animal matter, which is equipped with a brain and different characteristic and *motivation* is a spoken language that used by someone to give encouragement to others.

According to Leech (1981: 12) connotative meaning is the communicative value of an expression by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual meaning. The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning. In everyday life, the *body* is a part of every human being who was certain parts to do things according to their needs because it is very impossible if the whole body can speak to motivate. Connotatively, the author wants to give a lesson for himself that learning is not only hearing from people talk but by seeing people doing something with a good purpose is also a part of the motivation for himself.

##### Data 2

*“And she know how to slide on anaconda”*

The sentence above is contained as hyperbole because there is exaggeration sentence that we can see in the sentence ‘slide on anaconda’. It is very clear that the sentence can be categorized as hyperbole which seems to exaggerate in other sentence. As humans, we might be able to move or be slide into another place, but to slide into an anaconda is the biggest creature that is very dangerous because it has a mission to kill it by twisting. *Slide* means something that will be there at its moment or something that will appear, and *anaconda* is a type of snake or animal that has the potential to cause danger to those who approach.

The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning. It can be seen in the sentence “slide on anaconda”. As we know *slide* is something that will be there at its moment or something that will appear. A daily life slide is a special application to display screen for presentation and nobody shows the slide to anaconda.



Connotatively, slide on anaconda it means the way used by the author for someone how to do when dealing with someone who is very cruel.

#### 4.2 Simile

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283), Simile is a stated comparison, introduced by like or as.

#### Data 3

*“Flawless like diamonds”*

The sentence above is categorized as simile because there is a comparison between two different things and draws with the word like. It can be seen clearly in the word “flawless” and “diamonds”. The connection word that used as comparing in this sentence is word “like”. *Flawless* is something that is considered good looking by people around his/her place. *Diamonds* are one of the most expensive forms of jewellery and it is considered very good if people wear them. Figuratively, the author wants to express his feeling to someone that is what he did was absolutely perfect.

The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning. It can be seen in the word “flawless like diamond”. As we know *flawless* is something that is done by humans without any mistakes or shortcomings and *diamond* is expensive jewellery that is usually used by someone to be said beautiful. Based on the lyrics above, the author wants to express his feeling that flawless represents the act or behaviour of someone who is considered good and diamonds is the act that someone is doing and is considered perfect. The meaning of the sentence above is that the author wants to give the message that someone's attitude or the result obtained was very beautiful and became the attraction of many people.

#### Data 4

*“Good gyal don't come around like a fitted cap”*

The sentence above is categorized as simile because it is comparison between two different things, it can be seen in the sentence such as “good gyal” and “fitted cap”. *Good gyal* means is the praise for a woman or girl who is considered good in front of a crowd. The word *fitted cap* means the type of clothing worn by people to make it look elegant. By seeing the sentence above, the writer wants to express his emotion because there is someone like a woman who only comes for a moment and disappears.

The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning. It can be seen in the sentence “good gyal don't come like a fitted cap”. *Good gyal* is the name or praise for girls who don't have any mistakes and *fitted cap* is an object or type of clothing

that is used to protect the head. By seen the sentence above the author intends to convey a message indirectly to the listener do not don't come back when everything is good.

### 4.3 Paradox

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 284) Paradox is a statement whose surface, the obvious meaning seems to be illogical, even absurd, but which makes good sense upon closer examination.

#### Data 5

*“Burn all the darkness from the world”*

The sentence above is categorized as a paradox. The sentence can be seen clearly as a paradox because there is a contrast in the sentence “burn the darkness”. *Burn* in oxford dictionary, produce flames and heat while consuming a material such as coal or wood. It is a very illogical thing that humans can do to burn the darkness because burn is dangerous. As we know *burn*, it is usually only used to burn food such as mozzarella and others and for dirt or garbage that is not needed by humans and the darkness is a situation or space that is not equipped with light.

The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning. It can see in the statement “burn the darkness”. In daily life, *burn* is something that is very dangerous and it can be done if there is a need and does not cause danger. Connotatively, the author wants to encourage everyone in the world to keep fighting, because if you do not fight then there is no light or success will come in your way.

#### Data 6

*“Take a drive, we could fly out to the beach in cabo”*

The sentence above is categorized as paradox it can be seen in the sentence “we could fly out to the beach”. It is very illogical thing because as a human, only two parts of the body can move from one place to another, namely the hand and feet. As we know, the only creatures that can fly are birds.

The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning. It can be seen in the sentence “we could fly to the beach”. In the real life as a very perfect human being, when you want to go somewhere far away, you definitely need a means like transportation that suits your needs and it is very unlikely that humans can fly. Connotatively, the writer wants to convey a message to his friend, hurry up to the beach and we will enjoy the fun there.

#### **4.4 Irony**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 284) Irony is a statement whose real meaning is completely opposed to its professed, or surface meaning.

#### **Data 7**

*“I love the way you lie”*

The sentence above is categorized as irony. It can be seen clearly in the word “love” opposed with the word “lie”. In the oxford dictionary, *love* is an intense feeling of deep affection and *lies* a false statement or information used by a figure to convince listeners. In real life, it is better if we use the sentence to convey messages directly or indirectly must be correct and can be trusted.

The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning. It can be seen in the sentence “love the way you lie”. In the real life *love* is a feeling or form of affection to admire the goodness or beauty of an object. Connotatively, the writer was very disappointed because the way someone did it was too late because he had provided incorrect information. The writer wants to give a hint to someone that actually he doesn't like the way he does the author and it makes the writer feel hurt.

#### **Data 8**

*“Attitude on rich, you can't afford it”*

The sentence above is categorized as irony because this statement opposite with the surface meaning, it can be clearly seen in the sentence “attitude on rich” opposites with the sentence “can't afford it”. The dictionary is the word *rich* is someone that have a great deal of money or assets and *afford* is someone with enough money to pay for. From this sentence we can see the author wants to insinuate someone don't be arrogant, in a fact even the smallest item can't be bought.

The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning. It can be seen in the sentence “attitude on rich”. It is clearly as connotative meaning because the author wants to convey that don't be arrogant if your life is just mediocre.

#### **4.5 Personification**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283) Personification giving human characteristics to an object animal or an abstract idea.



**Data 9**

*“Park on a bench in a park catch u really sad”*

The sentence above is categorized as personification. The sentence clearly as personification because the word ‘catch’ is a movement that are reflex to receive something from people or there are indirect movements from the outsides. In oxford dictionary *catch* is an activity carried out by humans to prevent and hold something that is thrown, pushed or dropped.

The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning. It can be seen in the sentence “park catch you really sad”. In everyday life the word *catch* is like receiving an object or message from someone. The meaning of the sentence above is someone who is sitting on a bench i the park trying to hide his sadness but it can all be seen because the nature around the garden makes her unable to lie.

**Data 10**

*“Rum tum tigger is a curious cat”*

The sentence above is categorized as personification. The sentence clearly personification it can be seen in word “curious”. The word *curious* is the human characteristic that often do by humans to find out deeper information related to developing issues and *rum tum tigger* is a term for a cat that is very rebellious.

The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning. It can be seen in the sentence “curious cat”. In everyday life there are no animals that act like humans where they listen and are curious about something that is appropriate for humans to do. *Rum tum tigger* in the lyrics above represents someone who is curious about other things implied that he doesn’t know. The meaning of this sentence is someone who is very enthusiastic and wants to know about the things around him.

**4.6 Synecdoche**

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283) Synecdoche is a figure of speech using a part for the whole.

**Data 11**

*“Baby, talk with your body”*

The data above is categorized as synecdoche because the word ‘talk’ is a form of language that is issued from the speaker’s mouth by using a particular language. The word *body* is the whole part of the body that has certain parts. In oxford dictionary talk is the way to give information or express ideas or feelings and the word body is the physical structure of a person or an animal, including the bones, flesh and organs.

The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning. It can be seen in the sentence “talk with your body”. In everyday life people might be talk to them self but not in such a loud voice and if someone is found talking to himself, it’s possible that this person said to be crazy. The meaning of this sentence is the author wants to express his disappointment with someone that he does not to hear what he wants to talk about and must be self-harm before he speaks.

## CONCLUSSION

The writer found six types of figurative language such as hyperbole, simile, paradox, personification, irony and synecdoche. Hyperbole is the most dominant type of figurative languages used in Jason Derulo song lyrics which mostly using exaggerations in the lyrics for particular effects. The writer concludes that the song writer has an extraordinary level of imagination so that he can express his feelings and messages to the listeners through song lyrics. The use of figure of speech in this song lyrics is very important so that it makes the listeners feel songwriter’s feeling. In this study the song lyrics have connotative meaning or implied meaning. There are messages and life values delivered through figurative language. So that people can learn about life lessons from the song lyrics.

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