



Figurative Language in Maroon 5 Album “Jordi”

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Abstract

This study concerned to know the types of figurative language that found Maroon 5 album Jordi that were released in 2021. There are two problems that formulated by the researcher in this study, they are: (1) what are the types of figurative language that found in song lyrics of maroon 5 album Jordi, (2) what are the meaning of each type of figurative language. There are three theories that used in this study, firstly; the theory that proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974) in their book entitled *Interpreting Literature*, secondly; the theory of Leech (1981), in addition used the theory of Halliday and Hasan (1989) to explain the context of situation. In this research the writer found eight types out of ten types of figurative language, they are 2 of simile, 2 of metaphor, 1 of personification, 1 of synecdoche, 1 of metonymy, 1 of hyperbole, 1 of irony.

Keywords: *figurative language, maroon 5 and song lyrics*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis Bahasa kiasan yang di temukan pada album Maroon 5 Jordi yang dirilis pada tahun 2021. Ada dua masalah yang dirumuskan pada penelitian ini, yaitu: (1) apa saja jenis-jenis majas yang di temukan dalam lirik lagu maroon 5 album Jordi, (2) apa saja arti dari masing-masing jenis majas tersebut. Ada tiga theory yang yang di gunakan dalam penelitian ini, pertama; teori tang dikemukakan oleh Knickerbocker dan Reninger (1974) dalam bukunya berjudul *Interpreting Literature*, Kedua; teori Leech (1981), selain itu menggunakan teori dari Halliday dan Hasan (1989) untuk menjelaskan konteks situasi. Dalam penelitian ini penulis menemukan delapan jenis dari sepuluh jenis Bahasa kiasan, yaitu; 2 simile, 2 metafora, 1 personifikasi, 1 synecdoche, 1 metonimi, 1 hiperbola, 1 ironi.

Kata kunci: *bahasa kiasan, maroon 5, lirik lagu*

Introduction

Language is one of the very important roles in human life. Language is needed to communicate with others and to build the relationship with other in society especially for the student in learning process. Language is used to carry human emotion, idea in their daily communication with others. In addition, language is a tool

that has a function to share messages that contain the meaning to others. One of languages that most used by the human is English. English as an international language that most of countries use it to communicate. In daily life, besides communicate directly with others, human also used literary works to express their feeling, ideas through poetry, song lyrics and poem which has hidden meaning on theme. One of the studies that learn about the meaning is semantic. semantics is part of linguistics that study about the meaning is semantics. Every utterance that uttered by the human in daily communication has a meaning, it can be literal meaning and also non literal meaning. literal meaning is the factual meaning. meanwhile non literal meaning is the meaning that has another meaning beyond or behind its literal meaning.

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283) proposed that figurative language is sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor because its Greek ancestor “Metephereien” means to carry the meaning beyond its literal meaning. figurative language most used to give a special affect to the listener and to convey a deepest feeling. The human should thing clearly when the speaker used figurative language because it can make us difficult to understand the meaning of figurative language. Literary works is one of media that most used figurative language. Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283) stated ten types of figurative language, they are: Simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, paradox, dead metaphor, allusion, metonymy, hyperbole and irony. One of literary works that most used figurative language is song lyrics.

Song lyrics are some expression that represent son writer’s feeling, ideas. in expressing the feeling of the song writers, the most used figurative language to convey the message to the listener. Figurative language has an important role in writing the song lyrics. Song writers used figurative language in their song lyrics to give a deepest message to the listener and to make the song feel interesting.in fact most people listen to the song not because they understand the meaning of the song lyrics but it is because the popularity of the band and singer. However, it is a must for the people who listen to song to know the meaning of the song lyrics so they can enjoy while listening the song. One of the bands that most used figurative language in their songs is Maroon 5.

This research interested in analyzing figurative language in Maroon 5 song lyrics. Maroon 5 is formed in 1994. The vocalist and song writer of the band are Adam Levine. He has high imagination in writing song lyrics. There are lost of figurative language in Maroon 5 song lyrics. Figurative language is really important in song lyrics because it can the listener interested with the songs. This research analyzed five elected song lyrics of Maroon 5 album “Jordi”

There are three previous journals that that related to analysis figurative language in song lyrics, those are from Bertaria Sohnata Hutaaruk (2019) entitled “the use of figurative language on the student’s poetry semester V at FKIP University HKBP Nommensen”. This study focused on analyzes the types of figurative language and mention the dominant types of figurative language that found in poetry of semester V. in her research she used qualitative research by explanation to analyze the data.

The second journal from Dianti Dini Rahmani and Sukma Septian Nasution entitled “Figurative language in song lyrics “red” by Taylor Swift. This study focused on Finding out the types of figurative language and analyzing the appropriate intent of figurative language that found in song lyrics “Red” by Taylor Swift. In their study, they

used qualitative method to analyze the data. The result of their research, they found 9 data such are; 3 of simile, 3 of metaphor and 3 of hyperbole.

The third journal from Ibrahim Ibrahim, Muhaiminah, and Ruslan Hasyim entitled “the analysis of figurative language in “endless love” song lyrics. This study focused on to find out the types of figurative language and analyzing the meaning that found in “endless love” song lyrics. In their research, they used descriptive method in explaining the data. The result of their study, they found 25 data of figurative language.

Method

The data of this research were taken from selected songs of album “Jordi” by Maroon 5. There are six song that were chosen that contains figurative language, they are: beautiful mistake, button,

There are five step that used in collecting the data of this research such are; 1) Listening to the song lyrics to understand the content of the songs, 2) downloading the song lyrics from the internet, 3) reading the song lyrics repeatedly to find out the types of figurative language, 4) underlying the expression that contains figurative language, 5) classifying the data based on the types of figurative language.

This research used qualitative method to analyze the data which explain the data descriptively. The first in in analyzing the data is identifying the figurative language that found in song lyrics of Maroon 5 by using the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283), and used the theory of Leech (1981:9) to analyze the meaning of each figurative language, in addition used the theory of Halliday and Hasan (1989) to explain the context of situation.

This research used formal and informal presentation in presenting the data. Formal presentation used to show the table in order to make the data are easy to understand. Informal presentation is used to explain the data descriptively.

Result and Discussion

In this part the researcher showed 7 terms which contains figurative language in song lyrics of maroon 5 album Jordi. The writer analyzed those terms based on the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283) and supported by the theory of Leech (1981:9), in addition used the theory Halliday and Hasan (1989).

The table below showed the detail number of data finding regarding to the total of figurative language that found in song lyrics of maroon 5 album “Jordi” that were released in 2021.

Table 1. List of Figurative Language Found in Maroon 5 Album Jordi

No	Types of Figurative Language	Amount of Data
1	Simile	2
2	Metaphor	2
3	Personification	1
4	Synecdoche	1
5	Metonymy	1

6	Hyperbole	1
7	Irony	1
Total		9

Based on the table above, the researcher found 8 types out of ten types of figurative language based on the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283), they are, 2 of simile, 2 of metaphor, 1 of personification, 1 of synecdoche, 1 of metonymy, 1 of hyperbole and 1 of irony used in Maroon 5 album Jordi.

1. Simile

Knickerbocker and Renninger (1974:283) proposed that simile is a comparison by using like and as.

Data 1: I make these lies inside my head feel like they are my reality

(*“beautiful mistake” line 19*)

The writer found that the data above is categorized as simile because the data above compares to things between “make these lies inside my head” and “they are my reality”. Make these lies inside of my head represent the imagination of the songwriter about his girlfriend. Songwriter in this sentence compares his feeling like it is real. The connection that used by the song writer to compare the sentence above is the word “like”. Figuratively the sentence above the songwriter pretends that his girl is still with him.

The sentence above has connotative meaning because there is a beyond meaning behind its literal meaning. make lies inside my head is about imagination which really not true. The world lies above the song writer pretend that it like a true situation. Connotatively the songwriter wants to describe that he still needs his girlfriend who has left him and pretend that she still with him. The field of the data above is the song writer left by his girl friend and song writer pretended that his girlfriend was still with him. The tenor is the song writer. The mode is spoken language. The writer conveys the message through singing and used figurative language to make the song feel interested and to give a special affect to the listener.

Data 2: Now my heart feel like December when somebody say your name

(*“memories” line 11*)

The researcher found, the data above is classified as simile because there is comparison between two different things and it can be seen from the phrase “my heart” and the word “December”. My heart represents to the emotion of the songwriter and December represent to the sadness. In this sentence the songwriter compares he feeling with December because December is identic with rainy season. Rain in human life is

identical with sadness. The connection word used by the songwriter to compare the two things is the word “like”. Hence, the sentence above describes the feeling of the songwriter that he was sad at that time.

The data above contained connotative meaning because the meaning beyond from the literal meaning. Leech (1981:9) indicated connotative meaning is the expression that has communicative value with what it refers to. The meaning of the expression is more than literal meaning. “My heart” in the data above describes the emotion and feeling of the songwriter and December represents the sadness. December in literal meaning means is twelfth month of the year. In the data above December represents the sadness because December is identical with rainy season. In human life rain commonly associated with a tear which means sadness. Thus, the data above describe the feeling of the songwriter that he was sad at that time. The field of the data above is the songwriter expresses his feeling that he is sad because he lost his best friend. The tenor of the data above is the songwriter. The mode is spoken language because the songwriter expresses his feeling through singing. In the data above the songwriter used figurative language to give a deepest message and to give a special affect to the listener.

2. Metaphor

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283) proposed that metaphor is a comparison which like or as omitted.

Data 3: You’re a one-way letter

(“button” line 10)

The researcher found that the sentence above is categorized as metaphor because the songwriter compares the word “you” with “a one-way letter” without using the “as” and “like” to compare them. You in the sentence above represents the woman of that really love by song writer. a one-way letter represents to the feeling of the song writer which does not get feedback from his girl. Hence, the sentence above describes the song writer’s feeling about his girlfriend.

The data above contained connotative meaning because the meaning is beyond its literal meaning. in the sentence above song writer compares his girlfriend with a one-way letter because the song writer does not get respond about his feeling from the woman that he loved. Connotatively the sentence above described about feeling that he needed a respond about his feeling from the woman that he loved. The field of the data above is the song writer really love the girl and he need a feedback from the girl. The tenor is the songwriter and the girl that he loved. The mode is spoken language.

The sentence used figurative language to make the song feel interested and to give a special affect to the listeners.

Data 4: It used to feel like **life was an endless midnight**
(*“one light” line 23*)

The researcher found, the sentence above is part of metaphor because the songwriter compares his former life with the phrase “endless midnight” without used words “like” or “as” to compare them. In this sentence above the song writer compares his experience in life with “endless midnight”. Midnight means the middle period of the night. In human life midnight is identical with loneliness, silence. Figuratively, the sentence above the writer wants to describe his former life with the endless midnight which mean he felt lonely all the time.

The data above contained connotative meaning because the meaning because the meaning beyond from its literal meaning. The sentence “it used to feel like life was an endless midnight” has beyond meaning from the literal meaning. The literal meaning of midnight is the middle time of the night. In human life, midnight is synonymous with the loneliness and silence because most people slept at that time. Thus, the sentence above the songwriter describe his experience in life which he felt lonely all the time. The field of the data above is the songwriter describe his former life which how lonely he was. The tenor the songwriter. The mode is spoken language because the songwriter conveyed the message through singing. In the sentence above the songwriter used figurative language to convey the meaning in different way and to give a special affect to the listener.

3. Personification

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283) proposed that personification is giving human characteristics to another things such an object, animal and abstract thing.

Data 3: Walking in the sun, **sun kissed face**.
(*“remedy” line 13*)

The sentence above is categorized as personification because there is human characteristic that used by the songwriter and it can be seen from the sentence “sun kissed face”. As we know that sun is an animate thing but in the data above it shows human characteristic and it can be seen from the word “kissed face”. The word “kiss” means touch something with lips. In general kiss is a symbol of affection that give to others.

The data above is categorized as connotative meaning because the meaning beyond its literal meaning. Sun in the sentence above is identical with something that we face in everyday life. Connotatively, the data above describes about the songwriter's life, he will face new things where he is. The field of the data above is the songwriter feels regret for all his mistakes to his girlfriend and he realized that love can make them happy and it can make stay apart. The tenor is the song writer who expresses his feeling through song. The mode the data above is spoken language because the songwriter conveying the message through singing and it used figurative language to make the song more interesting and to give a special affect to the listener.

4. Synecdoche

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283) proposed that Synecdoche is using part to explain the whole.

Data 4: Life was a joke till the moment I saw **your face.**

(“lost” line 15)

The data above is categorized as synecdoche because the songwriter using part to explain the whole and it can be seen from the phrase my face. As we know that face is part human body and the writer used the word “face” to explain the whole body. The writer uses the expression above to tell his girlfriend that she really important in his life.

The sentence above is categorized as connotative meaning because there is beyond meaning from its literal meaning. Leech (1981:9) indicated that connotative meaning is the expression that has communicative value with what it is refers to. Oxford defines face as front part of the head. Connotatively, the word “face” in the sentence above means the whole of the songwriter girlfriend. In the sentence above, the song writer wants to describe that his girlfriend is really important in his life. In song lyrics, the word face is the common word that used to explain the whole body. The field of the data above is the songwriter wants to describe that the existence of his girlfriend in his life is really important. The tenor of the data above is the songwriter and his girlfriend. The mode of the data above is spoken language because the songwriter conveys the message through singing. In the data above songwriter used figurative language to give a special affect to the target of the listener.

5. Metonymy

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:283) proposed that Metonymy is a term that used to explain another term.

Data 5: Baby, forgive me for **the rivers** that I can’t stop.
(*“seasons” line 22*)

The data above is categorized as metonymy because the song the writer use a term to explain another term it can be seen from the word “forgive” and “rivers”. As we know that the word forgive is a common word that used by the human to apologize with others and river is one of animate thing that always flowed. Oxford dictionary define river is a natural flow of water that continues in a long line across land to the sea. Thus, the writer used the words river above which refers to his mistakes that is difficult to stop by the songwriter.

The data above is contained connotative meaning because there is hidden meaning from the literal meaning. Leech (1981:9) indicated that connotative meaning is the expression that has communicative value with what it is refers to. The literal meaning of the word “rivers” in the data the water that flowed continues to the sea, but in this case the is not actually the rivers that we can see around us which always flowed to the sea. The songwriter used the word “rivers” to represent to the mistakes that are difficult to stop by him. The field of the data above is the songwriter feels regret and tries to apologize for his mistakes to his girlfriend. The tenor of the data above is the songwriter and his girlfriend. The mode of the data above is spoken language because the songwriter tries to apologized with his girlfriend through singing. In the data above songwriter used figurative language to deliver the message and it aims to give a special affect to the target of the listener.

6. Hyperbole

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:284) proposed that hyperbole is an exaggeration that used to give a special affect.

Data 6: Searching and searching someone to save my soul
(*“lost” line 2*)

The sentence above is categorized as hyperbole. The sentence above is clearly hyperbole because there is an exaggeration that use by the writer in his song lyrics and it can be seen from the expression “to save my soul”. As we know that soul is spiritual

part of person that we can't see by our eyes and it is impossible thing to save someone soul because human do not have a power to see the soul of another person even to save their soul. In this case, the sentence above describe the author's feeling that he needs someone to live by his side which can bring the happiness to his life.

Leech (1981:9) indicated that connotative meaning is the expression that has communicative value with what it is refers to. Soul is spiritual of human and it represent to song writer's life. connotatively, the meaning of the sentence above is the author needs someone to live by his side to make him happy. In the other hand, the data above contained affective meaning because through the sentence above the author express his feeling that he really need some to live with him. The field of the data above is the author express who his feeling that need someone to live with him that can bring the affection to his life. The tenor of the data above is the songwriter. The mode of the data is spoken language because the author expresses his feeling through singing. In the sentence above the songwriter used figurative language to make the song feel interested and to give a deepest message to the listener.

7. Irony

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974:284) proposed that irony is the statement whose surface or real meaning opposed to its professed.

Data 7: Beautiful mistake I make inside my head, she naked in my bed

("beautiful mistake" line 9)

The researcher found that the data above is categorized as Irony because the real meaning opposed to its literal meaning it can be seen from the sentence "beautiful mistake I make inside my head" and "she naked in my bed". Beautiful mistake I make inside my head means just an imagination that it does not really happen, and it is refers to the sentence "she naked in my bed". The sentence she naked in my bed not actually the girl at song writer's bed, but it just an imagination of the song writer. Thus, the sentence describes that the song writer pretends that his girl is still by his side.

The sentence above contained connotative meaning because there is a meaning beyond its literal meaning. The sentence above connotatively the song writer pretends that he still has a relationship with his girlfriend. The field of the data above is the song writer still love with his girl friend that has leave him and he pretends that she still with him at the time. The tenor is the song writer. The mode is spoken language. In conveying the message, the song writer used figurative language to make the song feel interested to give a special affect to the listener

Conclusion

From the result of the study above, the researcher has analyzed elected song by maroon 5 album Jordi that contains figurative language, they are; beautiful mistake, remedy, season, button and lost that were released in 2021. In this research the researcher found nine data, they are; 2 of simile, 2 of metaphor, 1 of synecdoche, 1 of hyperbole, 1 of personification, 1 of metonymy, 1 of irony and in addition the researcher found two types of meaning and they are connotative meaning and affective meaning. In this research the researcher found that the writer has high imagination to express his feeling to the listener through the song lyrics.

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