



Types of Figurative Language Found in Coldplay Song Lyrics

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Abstract

This study is intended to analyze figurative language found in the Coldplay song lyrics. The objectives of this research were to find out types of figurative language and their meanings in Coldplay song lyrics. There were two theories that used in this research such as the first theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974) entitled *Interpreting Literature* us to find out types of figurative language found in Coldplay song lyrics, and the second theory proposed by Leech (1981) entitled *Semantics: The study of meaning* used to find out the meaning of figurative language found in Coldplay song lyrics. The method used in collecting the data was observation method. The writer collected the data of song lyrics by browsing and downloading song lyrics from the internet, reading and understanding all the song lyrics and taking note and classifying the phrase and sentences that contain of figurative language. The data were analyzed descriptively by using qualitative method. After analyzing the sentences in the song lyrics, there were found several finding of figurative language in Coldplay song lyrics. There were five types of figurative language that found in Coldplay song lyrics, they are: 2 data of simile (16%) 2 data of metaphor (16%) 1 datum of personification (8%) 2 data of metonymy(16%), 4 data of hyperbole(33%), and 1 datum of allusion(8%). All the figurative language found has a connotation that implicitly conveys hidden message and values of life.

Keywords: *figurative language, song lyrics, meaning*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Coldplay. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis majas dan maknanya dalam lirik lagu Coldplay. Ada dua teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini. *Theory* pertama yang dikemukakan oleh Knickerbocker dan Reninger (1974) berjudul *Interpreting Literature* yang digunakan untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Coldplay dan teori kedua yang di kemukan oleh Leech (1981) berjudul *Semantics the study of meaning* digunakan untuk mengetahui makna bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Coldplay. Metode yang di gunakan dalam pengumpulan data adalah metode observasi. Penulis mengumpulkan data lirik lagu dengan menjelajah dan mendonlot lirik lagu dari internet, membaca dan memahami semua lirik lagu dan mengklasifikasikan frase dan kalimat yang mengandung bahasa kiasan. Penulis menganalisis data secara *descriptive* menggunakan metode *qualitative*. Setelah menganalisis kalimat dalam lirik lagu, penulis menemukan beberapa bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Coldplay. Ada lima jenis bahasa kiasan yang di temukan dalam lirik lagu Coldplay, yaitu 2 simile (16%) 2 metafora (16%) 1 personifikasi (8%) 2 metonimi (16%) 3 hiporbola (33%) dan 1 kiasan (8%). Semua

bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan memiliki makna konotatif yang secara implisit menyampaikan pesan-pesan tersembunyi dan nilai-nilai kehidupan.

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

Introduction

Language is the most important aspect for human life to communicate with other people. The aim of the language is to get some information from the other person by interaction. 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. Language may represent explicit and implicit feeling and thought of human. Every written and spoken form of language may consist of speech sounds, words, phrases, clauses, which may be configure into larger form. 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 the changing needs of the speakers. Therefore, the language which can build the imagination of the listener, usually it called figurative language.

Figurative language is a language that uses 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 served 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 be found in the song lyrics. Song lyrics not only to entertain the listener, but it also has some meanings that deliver to the listener in implicitly.

A song is composition of the human voice which includes with musical instrument. Song lyrics usually created into stanza, and every stanza usually have figurative language that have some messages that wants to deliver to the listener. The people can figure out their feelings and experience or something happened in their life by song. Song writer actually creates the song based on their experience or the other experience that have been seen and felt in everyday life. Song writer can deliver some messages of song lyrics implicitly and explicitly. There are many people who feel sad, boring, uneasy, and worried to do something fun, they like to listen to music or sing a song because music can illustrate feeling, emotion,

and imagination. Thus, when someone listen to the music, they can feel like enjoy, relax, and happy. Therefore, listeners will not only be able to enjoy the melody of the song but they will also gain more knowledge by interpreting the point of view on things in the world revealed through song lyrics

This research is not the first research on figurative language, but there are several previous researchers who have conducted an analysis of figurative language that has similarities with this research, such as:

The first thesis written by Dewi (2019), entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in the Song Lyrics Made in the A.M Album by One Direction”. In her study has two aims are to find out types of figurative language used in the made in the A.M Album by One Direction and to find out the meaning found in the made in the A.M Album by One Direction. The dominant types of figurative language in her study is hyperbole with total the data 22

The second review was taken from a journal written by Milana and Ardy (2020), entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language in the Song’s Lyrics by Saif Adam”. Their study used theory of Perrine (1983). In their study has two aims are to identify types of figurative language used in song lyrics by Saif Adam and the dominant types of figurative language found in the song’s lyrics of Saif Adam. In their study used the descriptive qualitative method to analysis the data. The most dominant type of figurative language in their study is metaphor with total the data 20

The third study was taken from a journal by Krisna Permana and Made Rajeg (2018) entitled *Figurative Language in the Song Lyrics of Passenger’s Album "All the Little Light."* This study aims to identify and analyze the meaning of figurative language found in the lyrics of passenger’s album "all the little light". The collected data was analyzed by using qualitative and descriptive methods. The result of this study shows that there are nine types of figurative language found in song lyrics. They were allusion, simile, irony, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, dead metaphor, metonymy, and paradox. Most of the figurative expressions found in those songs were similes. Four out of seven types of meaning used in those lyrics in order to understand the figurative meaning in the song lyrics were connotative meaning, conceptual meaning, affective meaning, and collocative meaning.

The third study was taken from an article by Dewi and Herman (2021) entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language in Michel Jackson's Song Lyrics”. Their study aim to find out the types of figurative language in Michel Jackson's song lyrics. They used Perrine theories to analyze the kinds of figurative language in Michel Jackson's song lyrics. Their study used qualitative design because data was collected by using documents in the form of words and a procedure of systematic analysis of context text. The researchers' findings showed that there are six types of figurative language that are found in Michel Jackson's song lyrics, namely: personification, apostrophe, Metaphor, hyperbole, symbols, and similes After

analyzing all the data, they found the type of figurative language most commonly used in Michel Jackson's song lyrics is hyperbole, with total the data 11

Based on the description above, the writer is interested in analyzing the types of figurative language found in Coldplay song lyrics because the lyrics contain a lot of figurative language. They are: metaphor, hyperbole, metonymy, and allusion.

Method

The research method that was using in collecting the data, is observation method. There were four steps of collecting the data in this study, such are; Reading all the Coldplay selected song lyrics repeatedly to find out the types of figurative language. Understanding all the words, phrases, and sentences which contains of figurative language found in Coldplay selected song lyrics. Taking note data which is contains the types and meaning of figurative language found in Coldplay song lyrics. Classifying the data into kinds of figurative language. The theory of this study is divided into two parts: the first is to find out the types of figurative language by the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974), and the second is to analyze the meaning of figurative language proposed by Leech (1981).

Result and Discussion

Table 1 types of figurative language found in Coldplay song lyrics

No	Figurative Language	Occurrence	Percentages
1.	Simile	9	32,14 %
2.	Metaphor	2	7,14 %
3.	Personification	1	3,5 %
4.	Hyperbole	13	46,42 %
5.	Metonymy	2	7,14 %
6.	Allusion	1	3,5 %
Total		28	100

This part discussed the types and meaning of figurative language found in Coldplay song lyrics. The analysis of figurative language consists of, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, hyperbole, Metonymy, and Allusion. The discussion can be seen as follows.

Simile

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283), simile is figure of speech involving comparison, it draws resemblance with the help of the words “like” or “as”. Example: “My love is like a red rose” (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283).

Data 1 *Do not speak as loud as my heart*

Song lyric above contains figurative language which is simile. The connection word that used as comparing in this sentence is word “as”. Because the word *does not speak as loud as my heart* is like person a realizes they didn't show as much love as they should have and were just speaking of science and not love. Connotatively from the lyrics above is to fix their relationship.

Data 2 *I said how do you live as a fugitive*

Song lyrics above called as simile because the word *I said how do you live as a fugitive* as we know fugitive it means people who are being hunted “by the police” or people who running away. The connection word that used as comparing in this sentence is word “as”

The connotative meaning from the lyrics above is life is only like a shadow that will always haunt us and we should not live as an escape.

Metaphor

Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283) stated that metaphor is a figure of speech which concisely compares two things. It is considered implied comparison without using words “like” or “ as”. Example: “Life's but a walking shadow”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:283)

Data 3 *Cause you`re a sky full of stars*

Song lyrics above called as metaphor because compare two things implicitly such as word *you* and *sky*. The song writer compares directly without used word “like” or “as” to compares them. The word *you* is about someone wonderful and that nothing is every truly black and white. That even during the dark times or the night there can still be light or stars. And sometimes regaerdles of the situation you have to appreciate that light, or that person. And the sky is the upper part of the earth’s surface and can be classified as the atmosphere. The connotative meaning expressed by the word *you* and *sky* based on the lyrics above the *stars* is identical the beauty of the girl he loves and *sky* is identically with her love seems so bright and nice like a sky. So, the figurative language above means that the songwriter wants to describe praise the lover he loves.

Data 4 *Every tear a waterfall*

Song lyrics above called as metaphor because compare two things implicitly such as word *tear* and *waterfall*. The song writer compares directly without used word “like” or “as” to compares them. *Tear* are water that comes out of human eyes and *waterfalls* can be said to be stream that fall from the highest point. This lyric includes connotative, the connotative meaning expressed by the word *every tear* and *waterfall*, based on the lyrics above waterfall is identically the beauty of view. So, the figurative language above means that the song writer describe about the young girl who in her early years believed the world would do her bidding, lead her through her life and make it beautiful, but as she grows she realizes that the world is not always on her side, and she will have hard time in her life.

Personification

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 283), personification is giving human characteristic to an object, animal, or an abstract idea. Personification implied comparison between a non-human thing and a human being. Example: “These honors comes, a pilgrim gray”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger 1974: 283)

Data 5 *Lights will guide you home*

The lyrics above called as personification because the meaning of word *light* is identically the characteristic like human being light comes from sources such as the sun, moon, lamps, and fire. The connotative meaning from the lyrics above is all the worth things that can happen to us there must be a light or it can be interpreted there is a lesson that we can learn, so that in the future our lives will be better.

Metonymy

Metonymy is describing one thing by using the term for another thing closely associated with it, (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974: 284). Example: “The crown” is used “for the king” (Knickerbocker & Reninger, 1974:283).

Data 6 *Home, place we`ve grown*

Song lyrics above called as metonymy because the word *home* is associated or related to the people stay at the home. And in general sense home is a building that is used as a palace to live for a certain period of time. The connotative meaning expressed by the word *home* Connotatively, *home* is the best place to overcome some obstacles and the heart of the person you love to whom you put your faith, also the soul that loves you unconditionally grants you peace of mind, gives you joy that cannot be replaced by any material gains. The meaning on the lyrics above is that to express a contrasting idea of hope and appreciation of the earth in its beauty.

Data 7 *Now the old king is dead long live the king*

Song lyric above called as metonymy because the lyric above describes one thing by using the term for another thing closely associated with it. Song writer says old king it means like an old king who reigns longer in a royal system. As we know, a king is the people who have authority to lead the society in the kingdom also has the responsibility with the society. The word “king” symbolizes the people who possesses strength, royalty, invincibility, and watchfulness we. The connotative meaning from the lyrics above is about King Luis’ point of view, as he apologizes to his people accepting his fate.

Hyperbole

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1974: 284), hyperbole is figure of an exaggeration used for special effect. Example: “Go and catch falling star”. (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974:284)

Data 8 *And I lost my head*

Song lyrics above called as hyperbole because the word *and I lost my head* is to exaggeration and illogical. As we know that the human head cannot be lost as long as he is alive. On the line above the song writer puts the word lost as lost and the word my head is said to have lost it head. And the word my head indicates that the song writer has been

embarrassed and admits his guilt. The connotative meaning from the lyrics above it means intends to express the regret that has been done to someone he loves.

Data 9 *Seas would rise when I gave the word*

Song lyrics above called as hyperbole because the word *Seas would rise when I gave the word* is too exaggeration and illogical it is impossible human can't do that and of course nothing will happen except the power of God. *Seas would rise when I gave the word* it is impossible to do by human. Connotatively the lyrics above indicate that the song writer want to describe the thoughts and feelings of someone who has lost everything when he had power in his past and now, he compares and distinguishes between his past and present self that everything has passed

Data 10 *Go on and tear me apart*

Song lyrics above called as hyperbole because the word *go on and tear me apart* is too exaggeration or overstatement. As we know that no one allows himself to be destroyed by others, and when someone is destroyed by others of course he will fight it because of what he did to him. The connotative meaning from the lyrics above is to describe her love gives him a new sense of happiness she makes his life better, and she is worth the risk, she's a treasure for him and he wants to enjoy and savor this love.

Data 11 *Or my head starts to ring*

Song lyrics above called as hyperbole because the word *my head starts to ring*. Is too exaggeration or overstatement because as we know that the starts of the head or the head cannot ring or sound because the head is the uppermost part of human body and does not function to ring or sound. The connotative meaning from the lyrics above is about someone who is in love, but they are not really sure how they feel about it. Despite the uncomfortable feelings, the relationship continues because of trust.

Allusion

Allusion is a reference to some well-known place, even or person. Not comparison in the exact sense, but a figure in the sense that implies more than its narrow meaning, (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1974: 284).

For example: "No I am prince Hamlet, not was meant to be". (Knickerbocker and Reninger 1974: 284).

Data 12 *I know Saint Peter won't call my name*

Song lyric above called as allusion because this sentence is reference to the people known. *Sain Peter* is reference to the people known. Its mean Saint Peter is a as a missionary in Catholic Church. The connotative meaning from the lyrics above is conveys about of church the church needs to be able to interact with the culture in which it lives and ministers. These will help us engage culture with the gospel because we will be able to move from something they know (i.e. lyrics from a song) to something they do not know (the gospel).

Conclusion

After analyzing the data in the detail, using the theory as describe above. The writer found twelve data that contains of figurative language found in Coldplay song lyrics. There were six types of figurative language that found by writer such as: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, and allusion. The dominant types of figurative language are used in the Coldplay song lyrics is hyperbole (33%) which showing exaggerate sentence. And one meaning that found by writer is connotative meaning from seven types of meaning based on the theory from Leech (1981). Based on the data above the writer concluded that Coldplay song lyrics mostly about romantically love story.

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