The Analysis of Figurative Language in Traitor Song Lyrics

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Abstract
The purpose of this research to find out and analyze the types and meaning of figurative language used in Traitor's song lyric. Descriptive qualitative method was used to conduct a clear description of the problem which is identified. The data were taken from Traitor's song lyric by Olivia Rodrigo. The theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367) were used to classify the types of figurative language and the theory proposed by Leech (1981) to analyze the meaning of figurative language. The result of this research showed there are four types of figurative language used in Traitor's song lyric, there are simile, personification, hyperbole, and paradox. The researcher found simile are 1 data, personification is 1 data, metaphor is 1 data, and paradox is 1 data.

Keywords*: figurative language, traitor, song lyrics*

Abstrak
Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui dan menganalisis jenis dan makna bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu Traitor. Metode deskriptif kualitatif digunakan untuk melakukan deskripsi yang jelas tentang masalah yang diidentifikasi. Data diambil dari lirik lagu Pengkhianat karya Olivia Rodrigo. Teori yang dikemukakan oleh Knickerbocker dan Reninger (1963:367) digunakan untuk mengklasifikasikan jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan dan teori yang dikemukakan oleh Leech (1981) untuk menganalisis makna bahasa kiasan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan ada empat jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu Traitor, yaitu simile, personifikasi, hiperbola, dan paradoks. Peneliti menemukan simile sebanyak 1 data, personifikasi sebanyak 1 data, metafora sebanyak 1 data, dan paradoks sebanyak 1 data.

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

Introduction

Language is a tool of communication used by the people, orally or writing. Without language, people will never able to communicate with others. People need the language to share, help, find and provide ideas and useful information for others. Maru (2016: 58) stated that people use language to express inner thoughts and emotions, to understand complex and abstract thoughts, to learn to communicate with others to meet

our wants or needs, and to set rules and maintain our culture. The existence of language helps people to express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings or even build a good relationship with one and another. Nurcitrawati (2019: 494) stated that literally it's not enough to understand only the form of language and the pronunciation, because it requires to understand the meaning. For that reason, in this era people communicate in various way includes talks through literature such as poetry, novel, short story, advertisement and song lyric which commonly the messages or the real meaning of the words are implicit by using figurative language. Corbin (2006: 195) stated that figurative language is language that creates imaginative connections between ideas and feelings or that expresses striking similarities between things that we have never associated before. Meanwhile, Miller (2018: 345) argues that figurative language is one of the literature studies. When taking and researching literature, one needs to understand not only the form of language or speech, but also the meaning behind each sentence. It seems to indicate that the writer or speaker also wants the reader or listener to feel the meaning behind each sentence. People communicate to convey ideas, feelings, and messages they want to convey in many ways, one of which is through songs. Through the song, people can express their feelings that may be full of figurative language which has the meaning that we never know.

Song is one type of literary works. Most of the literary writers use it to express their thoughts, feelings and emotions. A song catches the attention of the audience and is usually composed by a talented composer and lyricist. Songs communicate a lot of messages. People can express their thoughts and feelings through songs to others and also interact through songs with other individuals. Therefore, in the lyrics of the song there is a secret message. Song lyrics use words that are less common in everyday conversation than those used. To build its meaning, the lyrics use figurative language; if we can understand it, its meaning can sound deeper. He will have his own views, even though his listeners know the meaning of the lyrics. Therefore, humans can perceive it without knowing its reality or adapting to the intention of the maker with its interpretation. Beautiful words have valuable meaning and involve the ability to express ideas in song lyrics through figurative language. However, the use of figurative language in songs sometimes makes some listeners feel confused when listening to the song. Some people find it difficult to understand the figurative language used in songs whose songs can be implied or explicit meanings the listener must have extensive knowledge and imaginative thinking to understand the figurative meanings and also every figurative language used has a function or reason so that the meaning to be conveyed is more meaningful. Many singers convey their feelings through the songs they create. Nowadays, singers are becoming popular thanks to the songs they create that have a deep meaning, one of which is Olivia Rodrigo.

Olivia Rodrigo is an American singer-songwriter and actress. She is was born February 20, 2003 in Murrieta, California, USA. Olivia Rodrigo is a soulful artist with a rare gift for emotive and empathic song writing. Olivia exudes an intriguing paradox of being both exuberantly youthful and, sagely, an old soul. She seeks authenticity and bold expression in her music. Olivia Rodrigo is one of the singers that has received

many awards, she won the awards for Best New Artist, Best Pop Vocal Album for Sour, and Best Pop Solo Performance for "Driver License".

Some researchers have conducted some studies related to analysis song lyrics. In this section the researcher would like to review previous studies about figurative language. The first research conducted by Arditami (2017) with the title "An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Katy Perry's Song Entitled Firework". This research applied descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the data and the data was collected by study documentation. The research focused on analyzed the types of figurative language and the meaning in Firework's song. The researcher used theory purposed by Perrine (1982). The result of the research is there are six types of figurative language that are used in the song Firework, there are Symbol, Hyperbole, Simile, Personification, Metaphor, and Paradox.

For the second research conducted by Muziatun, Malabar, and Mitali (2022) entitled "Figurative Language in Bruno Mars Lyrics". This research focused on analyzed the types of figurative language in Bruno Mars Lyrics. The researcher used theory purposed by Leech cited in H.D Trisna (2016). There are seven types of figurative language are Irony, Hyperbole, Metaphor, Metonymy, Litotes, Simile, and Personification. The method used in this study is qualitative, because this study focused in analyzing the written material in context, included song's lyrics.

For the third research conducted by Ibarahim, Akib, Hasyim (2019) entitled "The Analysis of Figurative Language in "Endless Love" Song Lyric". This research focused on analyzed the kinds and the meanings of figurative language in Endless Love song lyric. The theory used to analyze this data uses purposed by Heasley and Michael B. Smith (2007). In this research used the descriptive method. In their research, they found seven kinds of figurative language are Repetition, Hyperbole, Metaphor, Pleonasm, Personification, Dispersonification, and Onomatopeia.

For the fourth research conducted by Aswardi (2016) entitled "Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Some Coldplay Song Lyrics". This research focused on analyzed the kinds and the meaning of figurative language. This research used qualitative method to analyze the data. This research used the qualitative method to analyze the data. This research found four types of figurative language are Personfication, Simile, Hyperbole, and Metaphor. The data source of this research used theory by Tarigan (2013).

For the last research conducted by Palguna, Juniartha, and Candra (2021) entitled "The Analysis of Figurative Language on Passenger Song Lyric in Runaway Album". This research used descriptive qualitative method to analyzed the data. This research focused on analyzed the types and the meaning of figurative language with

the theory proposed by Arp & Perrine (1991) and Leech (1981). This research found six types of figurative language are Simile, Metaphor, Imagery, Personification, Symbol, Overstatement.

From the five kinds of researches mentioned above, there are the different data source, some of the theories are different and some of the research used different method. But the similarities, topic of the analysis are same about the types and the meaning of figurative language.

Method

In this research, the data were taken from Traitor's song lyric by Olivia Rodrigo. Olivia is an American singer and actress. Olivia Rodrigo is one of the singers that has received many awards, like Best New Artist, Best Pop Vocal Album for Sour, and many more. She has a fascinating duality of being both youthfully energetic. Like this song about Traitor, she made this song based on her past with the lover who betrayed her, every time she performed this song, he was able to convey her pain to the listeners so that the listeners also felt what she felt. This song is approximately 4 minutes long. In this research used observation method in collecting the data. The steps in collecting the data are search or downloading the song lyrics on the website, then reading and listening the song carefully and repeatedly to understand the content of the song, next take a note and classifying the data based on the types of figurative language, then identifying the types with each meaning of figurative language based on the theory used. The data were analyzed by using descriptive qualitative method. To explain the types and the meaning of figurative language found in Traitor's song lyrics, the step of analyzing the data in this research are, first identified and classified the types of figurative language by using the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367). The second step, analysed the meaning of the figurative language found in the song lyrics by using the theory of meaning by Leech (1981). The results of this analysis were presented descriptively based on the main theories which relates to the problem.

Result and Discussion

This section presents the analysis of the data source with a small description in determining the figurative language found in the data source. Based on theory by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367), there are ten types of figurative languages, namely: simile, metaphor, personification, irony, paradox, metonymy, synecdoche, dead metaphor and allusion. According to Leech (1981), there are seven meanings of figurative language, such as: connotative meaning, social or stylistic meaning,

affective meaning, reflective meaning, collocative meaning, conceptual meaning, and thematic meaning. In this section the researcher found four types of figurative language in Traitor's song lyric by Olivia Rodrigo, there are simile, personification, metaphor, and paradox.

1. Simile

Simile is a figure of speech that describes similarity with the help of words that have the meaning of "like" or "as" Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367). In this research, it was found one data that are included in the simile type. The explanation can be seen below.

Data 1:

"Show her off like she's a new trophy" (Line: 26)

This section is classified as a simile because it compares two things, it compares a human to an object. The topic of this parable is written by the author where a man betrays his lover who prefers another woman and the man proudly shows everyone that the woman is his lover. The word that connects these two different things is "like". The two things must be different. In this lyric, the word "trophy" is a valuable and proud object, which is fought for in a match. In this expression it means that the songwriter shows a pain where the man is prouder to show the woman to everyone than when he is with her. This song tells, about the sadness of a songwriter who faces conflict with his lover who doesn't sincerely love him and only takes advantage of him.

According to Leech (1981: 12), the lyric "Show her off like she's a new trophy" has a connotative meaning because it has another meaning behind the literal meaning which can be interpreted that the songwriter wants to express his heart when his lover betrays him which makes him silence because his lover is so proud to admit that woman as his lover in front of all person.

2. Personification

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367), personification is equating human nature with objects, animals, or abstract ideas. Personification shows the comparison of two different objects. In this study, it was found one data that are included in personification type. The explanation can be seen below.

Data 2:

"Brown guilty eyes and little white lies" (Line: 1)

Based on this theory, personification is used to compare two different things, as well as equate human nature with abstract objects or ideas. The sentence "Brown guilty eyes and little white lies" above is classified as personification because it compares human nature with abstract ideas. The lyric "Brown guilty eyes and little white lies" refers to the author's condition when he looks at his lover who has betrayed him, in which he pretends not to know all his lover's actions in order to maintain a relationship. Here implies a lie. This song talks about the relationship between humans and the ideas of one side. In this song, the songwriter indirectly conveys his heartache because he has to remain silent even though he knows all the betrayals committed by his lover.

According to Leech (1981: 16), the lyrics "Brown guilty eyes and little white lies" are included in the affective meaning because they refer to the expression or communication of the speaker's emotions or feelings about something that happens according to the situation. In this lyric, affectively means the guilty look is all just a lie.

3. Metaphor

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367), that metaphor is a figure of speech comparing two things, namely those considered to be implicit comparisons (without using 'like' or 'as'). Metaphors are often called implied similes. In simile comparisons are clear. This is contrary to metaphors that compare things implicitly. There is one of sentence that found are identified as metaphor, and here is the analysis.

Data 3:

"And you told me I was paranoid" (Line: 33)

The sentence "And you told me I was paranoid" is classified as a metaphor because there are two comparative words to express something. It differs from simile

in that there are no conjunctions "like" and "as" applied in this sentence. In this lyric, the songwriter compares the word "me" with "paranoid". The word "me" refers to the author and the word "paranoid" means psychological problems with excessive suspicion. In the lyrics above, the writer would like to say that his girlfriend called him a psychological disorder who feared and suspected too much of him with other women. The song Traitor talks about a woman's disappointment with her lover who has betrayed and prefers another woman. Her boyfriend always evades and blames her for being too suspicious.

Here, the author is said to be a paranoid person. The lyrics "And you told me I was paranoid" have an affective meaning, namely the expression or communication of the speaker's emotions or feelings about something that happened according to the situation. This can be seen from the lyrics which express the woman's annoyance towards her lover.

4. Paradox

Paradox are statements which, on the surface, appear illogical, even absurd, on the surface, but make sense upon closer examination (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963; 367). Paradox is often used to make readers think of an idea in an innovative way. There are two sentences that are classified as paradoxes and the following is their analysis.

Data 4:

Yeah, I played dumb but I always knew

That you talked to her, maybe did even worse (Line: 2 – 3)

Based on the theory put forward by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367), paradoxes are figurative language used to make statements or groups of sentences that contradict what we know while conveying the inherent truth. Here, the sentence "I played dumb but I always knew" is categorized as a paradox because it has contradictory words. It is dumb and knew. Dumb is when we feel unable to say anything can only be silent and mute, while knew is when we can guess something. Even though the two words are contradictory, the reflection still makes sense that the

person pretends not to know anything and is silent even though he knows everything. The intent is to engage the reader to discover the underlying logic in statements or phrases that seem self-contradictory, and to understand the concept in a different way and from a different point of view.

Based on the theory of meaning, connotative meaning is used to show the intended meaning of a sentence or utterance. The literal meaning is that I pretended not to know what you were doing, even though I knew everything, while the connotative meaning can be seen in the lyrics "I played dumb but I always knew" which has a meaning that shows how someone is silent as if he didn't. knowing all the things her lover did, all her lies and betrayals. Behind the connotative meaning, this lyric also has an affective meaning because here the songwriter shows emotional feelings.

Conclusion

The total of figurative language that found in Olivia Rodrigo's Traitor is four sentences. Based on the percentage table, on figure of speech found one data on simile, one personification, one metaphor and one paradox. From the analysis it can be concluded that the figurative language used in the song has the main part of the song itself. Figurative language is a way of expressing the songwriter's ideas and feelings so that the song is more lively and more poetic so that the meaning or message to be conveyed is deeper when heard by the listener. Song and figurative language become an inseparable unit where most of the songs use figurative language in their lyrics to make it more interesting and meaningful, especially figurative language in Olivia Rodrigo's Traitor song. The meanings contained in each figurative language used in the song certainly have their respective meanings where the songwriter uses figurative language not only as an aesthetic but also to provide a deepening of the meaning of the song's lyrics. This article can be useful for people who would like to know the types and meanings of figurative language in songs. Therefore, he listeners or readers no longer have difficulty in finding the meaning of sentences using figurative language in songs.

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