



An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Nine Track Mind Album by Charlie Puth

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Abstract

In writing songs, songwriters often use figurative language. This study analyzed the figurative language contained in the album Nine Track Mind by Charlie Puth. The purpose of this study was to determine the type of figurative language used and the meaning shown by figurative language in the songs on the album. This research is a descriptive research with qualitative and quantitative approaches. The data found on this research were analyzed by theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) and supported by the theory of Wellen and Warren (1984). The results of this study showed that there were ten figurative languages used by songwriters, namely 60% hyperbole, 10% allusion, 10% repetition, 20% metaphor. In addition, the songwriter also uses connotative and denotative meanings in the album.

Keywords: *figurative language, song, album*

Abstrak

Dalam menulis lagu, penulis lagu sering menggunakan bahasa kiasan. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menganalisis bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam album Nine Track Mind by Charlie Puth. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dan makna yang ditunjukkan oleh bahasa kiasan dalam lagu yang ada pada album. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif dengan cara pendekatan kualitatif dan kuantitatif. Data yang ditemukan dalam penelitian ini dianalisis dengan teori Knickerbocker dan Reninger (1963) serta didukung oleh teori Wellen dan Warren (1984). Hasil penelitian menemukan bahwa ada sepuluh bahasa kiasan yang digunakan oleh pencipta lagu, yaitu hiperbola sebanyak 60%, allusion 10%, repetition 10%, metafora 20%. Selain itu, pencipta lagu juga menggunakan makna konotatif dan denotatif dalam album tersebut.

Kata kunci: *bahasa kiasani, lagu, album*

Introduction

Language is a systematic instrument of communicating ideas or feelings by using sounds, gestures, or signs agreed (Brown 2007: 6). Language can be said as a means of communication in human life. People need language as a tool of

communication, interaction and getting information from the other people. It can be said that language can be used to express someone's feelings or emotion and expressing their ideas, their thoughts and their imaginations, that can be speaking or writing. Written language can be found in the novel, newspaper, poem, subtitle of movie and magazine. While, spoken language can be found in the song, speech, movie and conversation. As humans, we cannot escape from communication and social interaction, which of course makes us live by having language. In contrast to spoken language, written language should use the proper structure to make the reader can understand what the author wished to convey.

A written text can be said "good", if the reader can understand what the writers' intentions. However, sometimes the author uses words to embellish his writings in the form of a figurative language which needed more understanding to analyse the meaning inside. Confirms that figurative language is a marked deviation from what is understood by users of a language as the standard meaning of words or standard word order, to achieve a special meaning or effect" (Abrams, 1999:96).

Figurative language is language with other words that are understood by the user of the language, to imply a special meaning. Another important point of a written work is clarity. Harvey (2015) states in his journal that "clarity is the number one priority in all issues of writing style". On the other hand, it is still possible for a writer to make mistakes by choosing words wrongly. Moreover, the needs of every literary man to be able to portray their works more vivid and more interesting cannot be ruled out. So, the researcher believes that to help every literary man well transform their opinion to the readers and to help the readers visualize what is happening in the literary work they are reading is by using figurative language.

Figurative language is commonly used in poem or song lyrics. Hornby (1974, p.822) stated that song lyric is a short poem in a number of verses set to music to be sung which contain figurative language. The songwriters or composers usually beautify the language they use by any figurative language so that the listeners will be more attracted to listen to the song. Listening song is an enjoyable activity, but the listeners cannot get a pleasure if they do not understand the figurative language that commonly found in the song lyric. On lyric is categorized into the literary work which refers to imaginative literature Hornby (1974). It is imaginative since it is a creation of the songwriters at some time in history, and it is intended to speak to other human beings about some ideas or issues that have human relevance. To understand the society or what human being experiences in life, as Culler (1997, p.3) stated that the features of literature in song lyric is a body of thinking that is exceedingly hard to define literally. It follows from the willingness of readers to pay attention, to explore uncertainties in this sample of literary work.

The significance of this study is that it can help English learners understand the meaning of a figurative language in a song, and it is hoped that it will be useful for finding references or previous research. About the meaning contained in figurative language in a song. The method and data are based on the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) and supported by the theory of Wellen and Warren (1984). The technique used in this research is note-taking and observation. In this study, data collection was processed in several steps, such as searching for song lyrics, reading

and recording song lyrics containing figurative language, then grouping them into types of figurative language.

Several previous studies on figurative language have been reviewed. Millana's first article (2021) is entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in The Song Lyrics by Saif Adam". The problem of this research is to identify the types of figurative language used in the lyrics of the song Saif Adam and the dominant types of figurative language found in the lyrics of the song Saif Adam. Researchers use the theory of Perrine. Qualitative descriptive method was used in this study to interpret the learning theory carried out in the process of identifying the figurative language contained in the lyrics of the song. The difference between this study is the data source and theory: this study only focuses on the use of one song lyric.

The second article is entitled Analysis of The Use of Figurative Language In Adele's Song Lyrics by Mulyarti (2014). The purpose of this research is to find the type of figure of speech used in Adele's song lyrics. knowing the contextual meaning, and the type of figure of speech that is more dominant in Adele's song lyrics. The method used to obtain information is descriptive and qualitative. The data was obtained from the album entitled 21 which contains 14 songs. Three songs were sampled: Rolling in the Deep, Set Fire to the Rain, and Turning Tables. There are three types of figurative language found in this study: hyperbole, personification, and synecdoche. The difference is only in the topic. Researchers try to describe and identify various types of figure of speech used in Adele's song lyrics. Therefore, this research is a unique research that distinguishes it from previous studies.

This study has several similarities and differences with the research of Mulyarti (2014). This research is almost the same because it also discusses the types of figurative language. There are several types of figurative language used which are the same in every study such as hyperbole, metaphor, etc. Other figurative languages analyzed by Mulyarti (2014) are symbols and synecdoche. And hyperbole is also the dominant type found in Adele's song lyrics.

Then, Millana (2021) analyzed about "An Analysis of Figurative Language in The Song Lyrics by Saif Adam". In this research, she identified the types of figurative language based on Perrine theory. She also found the dominant types of figurative language used in the song lyric by Saif Adam album is metaphor and the least figurative language used are irony.

This research also explains the same way to identify the types of figure of speech in song lyrics, but the object and theory are not the same as the previous research mentioned above. The researcher identified the types of figurative language in Charlie Puth's nine track mind album which consists of 3 songs

The third article is entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language on The Song Lyrics "You Are My Sunshine" by Anne Murray" by Yusnitasari (2022). This study focuses on analysing the types of figurative language contained in the lyrics of the song "You are My Sunshine" and how the types of figurative language used in the Lyrics. In this study, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method by analysing the data in the song lyrics. In collecting data, this study identifies and classifies the types of figurative language in song lyrics. The difference is only in the topic. The researcher tries to describe and identify various types of figurative language used in the lyrics of the song.

The last article is entitled Analysis of Figurative Language in “Easy On Me” Song Lyrics by Suwarniti (2022). The purpose of this study was to classify and analyze the lyrics of the Adele “Easy on Me Song” based on the figurative language used. This research contains the meaning of qualitative research. The data source in this research is Adele's song lyrics, entitled Easy on Me. The data collection technique in this research is observation. The theory used is from Miller and Greenberg (1981) about figurative language. Each data was analyzed based on the theory of figurative language descriptively. Based on the result of this research, in Comparative Figurative Language, just found data in personification (4 data). In Contradictive Figurative Language, it was found hyperbole (3 data), litotes (2 data), and paradox (1 datum). In Correlative Figurative Language, it was found in this data source, namely: allusion (1 datum), ellipsis (2 data), metonymy (2 data), and symbol (8 data). The most common data found in data sources are symbols. The lyrics of this song have a lot of figurative language. That is, the lyrics of this song try to use figurative language to express feelings or ideas imaginatively. In other words, the lyrics of this song try to create a special image and bring out one's emotions.

The different between previous research from the research I made is that in terms of data, previous research only used 1 song data for analysis. Meanwhile, the research I made used 13 song data or 1 album, which can help me in analyzing figurative language. Besides that, in previous research there were only qualitative methods, whereas the research I did not only use qualitative methods but also quantitative.

Method

The data were taken from fifteenth (15) songs on the Nine Track album. Data were collected by using observation method and note taking. The steps of data collection were firstly listened to the songs in the Nine Track Mind album, then read the lyrics of the song, recorded the data contained in the song, and selected and grouped the data into types of figurative language. This study used qualitative and quantitative methods in analyzing the data. The data, then, presented descriptively by using two theories. First, theory by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) who proposed types of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, paradox, dead metaphor, and allusion. Second, as an additional theory to the theory of figurative language from Wellen and Warren (1984).

Result and Discussion

The types of figurative language from the album nine track mind were analysed with the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963). then supported by the meaning of figurative language which was analysed with the theory of Wellen Warren (1984). The types of figurative language are shown in the table below:

Table 1. The Occurrence of Types Figurative Language

Types of Figurative Language	Frequency	Percentage
Allusion	1	10%
Hyperbole	6	60%
Repetition	1	10%
Metaphor	2	20%
Total	10	100%

The table above shows that the type of figurative language used in the Nine Track Mind by Charlie Puth album, the researchers found 10 data. Consists of 4 types of figurative language shown in the table above. The types of figurative language found are allusion, hyperbole, repetition, metaphor. The number of figurative language found in the fourteen Charlie Puth songs in the Nine Track Mind album is allusion with 1 data or 10%, hyperbole with 6 data or 60%, repetition with 1 data or 10%, and metaphor 2 data or 20%.

The dominant figurative language used in the songs on the Nine Track Mind album, especially the song "One Call Away" and "See You Again" are hyperbole with a total of 6 or 60%. The songwriter uses a lot of imagery in his song "One Call Away" to show feelings in a song, therefore songwriters are more likely to use hyperbole to emphasize the song beside that it is more meaningful to convey to listeners when listening to the songs on the Nine Track Mind by album by Charlie Puth.

There are several types of figurative language and their meaning found on song lyrics of Nine Track Mind album. The types of figurative language were categorized according to the theory of figurative language. The analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics are explained as follows:

1. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a style of language that exaggerates the actual reality, or its nature with the intention of emphasizing a statement or situation to intensify. As according to

Keraf (1981) hyperbole is a kind of language style that contains exaggerated statements, by exaggerating something.

Data 1

“I’ll be there to save the day” (One Call Away, line 12)

This line is a hyperbole because in reality, you can not save the day as if you are a superhero in a movie. This line means that you will always be there to support someone. You will always be there if someone needs you.

Data 2

“You know you’re not alone” (One Call Away, line 22)

This is a hyperbole because it was exaggerated because she could be alone.

Data 3

“It’s been a long day without you, my friend” (See You Again, line 1)

The text above is categorized as hyperbole because the word contains meaning, which means that someone who seems to have not seen his friend for a long time is like an entire day.

Data 4

“And I’ll tell you all about it when I see you again” (See You Again, line 2)

The text above is a type of hyperbole, because it describes someone who longs to meet, to the point of wanting to tell everything.

Data 5

“That I’ll be standing right here talking to you” (See You Again, line 9)

The text above is categorized as hyperbole, which means someone who will always be loyal to wait for him in the same place when he meets.

Data 6

“See the bigger picture” (See You Again, line 14)

The word above is a form of hyperbole, which means "that one day we will meet in a more beautiful place.

2. Metaphor

Metaphor is a figure of speech that is used to explain or describe something by referring to other things that are considered to have characteristics similar to the thing or person who wants to be described. According to Keraf (1981: 124) metaphor is defined as a figure of speech that contains an implied comparison that equates one thing with another.

Data 7

“All the planes we flew” (See You Again, line 7)

Data 8

“Good things we’ve been through” (See You Again, line 8)

The text above is called a type of metaphor, where the meaning of the text is someone who has been friends for a long time and has spent time together

3. Allusion

Allusions are often used within a metaphor or simile. The comparison alludes to an event or person of significance that everyone should understand. Allusions often make reference to previous works of literature, especially references to the Bible and Greek or Roman mythology.

Data 9

“Superman got nothing on me” (One Call Away, line 3)

This line is an allusion because it is using a well known figurative to explain the point of the line. This line means that Superman has no advantage over you, and that you are equally power full.

4. Repetition

Repetition is a word, in the context of a repetition song that is used to repeat a word so that the meaning is conveyed.

Data 10

“I’m only one, I’m only one call away”

Repeting the same word “I’m only one”

From the analysis, this study can be compared to the previous study. It compared to the similar research but different object. There are some previous study that concern in this topic:

This study analyzes the types of figure of speech and the dominant types that appear in Charlie Puth's Nine Track Mind Album. The purpose of using figurative language in lyrics is to help lyric readers and even song listeners understand the meaning of each lyric. Song is one of the media to learn figurative language because many songs use figurative language to make the song more interesting and lively. And also can help the reader or listener to determine the true meaning of the lyrics of the song. There are still many aspects that can be learned about the types of figurative language. It is suggested that other researchers can continue this topic. Other researchers can undertake similar topics or expand literary analysis with other linguistic features and aspects.

Conclusion

Based on the result of this study, the number of figurative language that found in Charlie Puth's Nine Track Mind album is 10 sentences. The result showed that there are one on allusion or 10% of the total data, six data on hyperbole or 60% of the data,

one data on repetition or 10% of the data, and two data on metaphor or 20% of the data. The dominant figurative language used in the song One Call Away on the Nine Track Mind album is hyperbole with 2 or 20% data.

From the data analyzed, it can be also said that the figurative language used in the song is the main part of the song itself. Figurative language is a way of expressing the songwriter's ideas and feelings, therefore the song is more lively and more poetic, moreover the meaning or message to be conveyed is deeper when heard by the listener. The song and figurative language become an inseparable whole where most of the figurative language songs are in the lyrics to make it more interesting and especially the figurative language in the songs on the Nine Track Mind album. The inclusion of the song as one of the research materials, in order to find out the functions contained in each figurative language used in the song of course has its own function where the songwriter uses language not only as an aesthetic but also to give the meaning of a song lyric. This article can be useful for knowing the types and functions of figurative language in songs, and can be used as a reference for readers. Therefore, listeners or readers no longer have difficulty in finding the meaning of sentences using figurative language in the song.

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