THE USE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN NAVICULA SELECTED SONG LYRICS

I Made Duta Cahya Chalpykayana[1], I Komang Sulatra[2]
[1,2,] Faculty of Foreign Languages
Mahasaraswati Denpasar University
Denpasar, Indonesia
e-mail address: dutacahya02@gmail.com

Abstract

This research is intended to identify the type and analyze the meaning of figurative language used in the "Navicula" song lyrics. The data were obtained from seven songs by Navicula entitled: "Tomcat", "Love Bomb", "Refuse for forget", "Days of war night of love", "sail on", "Harimau Harimau", "Do it yourself is dead, Now we Do It Together". The method of collecting data in this study was observation method by listening, reading, and note taking the lyrics that contain figurative language. This study applied a descriptive qualitative method in analysing the data. This study applied the theory of types of figurative language from Perrine (1963) and the theory from Leech (1981) to analyze the meaning of figurative language. Out of the 12 types of figurative language proposed by Perrine, only five types of figurative languages were found, namely; metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbolic, and irony. Those figurative languages carried some meanings which were connotative, referential, and figurative meaning.

Keywords – *figurative language, song, lyrics*

Introduction

Language is a symbolic system that humans use to communicate with others. As social beings, humans need communication to express their ideas, opinions, and meaning. To prevent this, there are studies of meaning commonly known as semantics. The area of linguistics known as semantics is concerned with the investigation of meaning in language. It is concerned with comprehending how language is interpreted and used by individuals to effectively communicate, as well as how words, phrases, sentences, and texts express meaning. (Leech, 1981) argued that semantics is the relationship between words and expressions based on their meanings. Besides using language to communicate with another individual in the real world, Language can also be used for literary works. In literary works, the language used can be spoken and written language (Setiawan & Maryani, 2018). Language in literary works serves a distinctive and creative purpose, often going beyond mere communication to evoke emotions, imagery, and deeper meaning. There are many kinds of literary works one of them is songs.

Song is one of the most popular literary works. A song is a musical composition typically consisting of lyrics (words or text) set to music. Songs are a fundamental form of musical expression and are often created for various purposes, including entertainment, storytelling, communication of emotions, and artistic expression. According to Griffee (2001), a song is a type of music that is composed of lyrics and is intended to be sung by a performer. The messages in song lyrics are communicated to the audience. It comprises a string of lyrics that a performer of their choice performs (Dewi et al., 2020). Songs have lyrics, which are the words or text that are sung or vocalized. Lyrics can convey a wide range of emotions, stories,

ideas, and themes. They are an essential part of what makes a song a song. However, some lyrics in the song often use language that is difficult for listeners to understand, because the lyrics of a song frequently employ imaginary and figurative language.

Figurative language is an indirect speech style whose meaning extends beyond the statement's literal meaning. It is used to describe things for which there is not a single phrase to express how they feel. In a study from Perrine (1963), figurative language has some types which are metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe (figure of speech by comparison), metonymy, synecdoche, symbol, allegory (figures of speech by association) and paradox, irony, hyperbole, litotes (figures of speech by contrast). In social circumstances, people who communicate more than they speak do so by using language that conveys meanings more than the words themselves, it is called figurative language (Anggreni, Sudipa, & Pratiwi, 2022). In the song lyrics often used figurative language. Figurative language allows songwriters to convey complex emotions and ideas in a more vivid and evocative way. Metaphors, similes, and other figurative devices can tap into the listener's feelings and imagination, making the song more relatable and memorable. One of the bands who often used figurative language in their song is Navicula band.

According to naviculamusic.com, the Navicula band is a four-piece group from Bali that comprises of Robi on vocals and guitar, Dadang on guitar, Krishna on bass, and Palel on drums. The band's lyrics are filled with pro-peace, pro-love, and pro-freedom messages. According to Navicula, by using art as a language that young people can understand, they may sow the seeds of change. Numerous social and environmental campaigns are supported by Navicula in Indonesia and other countries. Besides that, the Navicula band has gained wide-ranging international acclaim. They have performed on tours throughout Australia, the US, Canada, and all of Europe. As the explanation above this study chose the Navicula band as the subject of the study and used their song as the data for this study.

Some related studies of figurative language were conducted to help justify this study. The first related study was written by Nursolihat & Kareviati (2020). The purpose of that study was to identify the appeared the figurative language in the "Whole New World" lyric and find the meaning of each figurative language found. Descriptive qualitative research was conducted in this study to analyze data. The study found the song lyrics consisted of some types of figurative language which were alliteration 20%, simile 10%, metaphor 40%, personification 10%, and hyperbole 20%. The most used figurative language in the song was metaphor because the songwriter tried to build the best experiences by expressing some words by using figurative language. The second related study was done by (Hulu, Sembiring, & Tarigan, 2021). In order to assess the information in the song lyrics from "Thank U, Next" by Ariana Grande, this study used descriptive qualitative research. The objectives of this study were to identify the song's most prevalent figurative language categories and the figurative language's underlying meaning. The research's findings were discovered. 73 kinds of data possessed figurative language. Nine data were found to be similes and symbols, 16 data to be idioms, and 17 data to be metaphors. 10 data points were identified as hyperbole, and 4 as irony.

Figurative language always has interesting topics to discuss. Analyzing figurative language in songs can be a valuable educational tool. It can improve understanding of literary devices, enhance language skills, and encourage critical thinking. According to a study by (Simarmata, Herman, & Silalahi, 2021), figurative language is utilized to both embellish song lyrics and subtly transmit the heart's intention to others. Besides that, Figurative language allows songwriters to convey complex emotions, ideas, and imagery in a creative and artistic way. Analyzing these elements can help appreciate the depth and thought that goes into crafting lyrics. The Navicula band was chosen for this study's data source because the song lyrics

frequently employed figurative language. Seven tracks from the 2017 Navicula album "Love Bomb," were chosen as the data for analysis including "Tomcat," "Love Bomb," "Refuse for Forget," "Days of War Night of Love," "Sail on," "Harimau Harimau," and "Do it Yourself is Dead, Now We Do It Together,". These songs were picked because their lyrics make extensive use of figurative language. There were two questions of this study which were to find out the types of figurative language in Navicula song lyrics and to find out the meanings of figurative occurred in the song lyrics of Navicula as reported in https://genius.com.

Methods

The study focused on analyzing figurative language within the lyrics of the song 'Navicula.' To accomplish this, the study drew upon two theoretical frameworks: one from Perrine (1963) and another from Leech (1981). The primary aim was to find out the types of figurative language Perrine (1963) and the meaning of the use of figurative language in these lyrics (Leech, 1981). The study utilized a descriptive qualitative approach, which means that the researchers aimed to provide a rich and detailed description and interpretation of the data. The choice of this method aligns with the guidelines presented by Creswell (2017) indicating that it was a well-established and recognized approach for this type of research. Instead of using numerical data or statistical analysis, the study opted for a qualitative approach, expressing the results in textual form. (Ary et al., 2010) stated that rather than dissecting a phenomenon into its component parts, qualitative researchers try to grasp it as a whole. This choice suggests that the study focused on providing a narrative or textual interpretation of the figurative language found in the song lyrics, possibly through the use of examples and descriptions rather than statistical figures or numerical measurements.

The process of collecting the data was conducted in several steps. First, the observation method which the researcher searches and reads the song lyrics from a website https://genius.com. Second, listen to the lyrics carefully. Third, note-taking the lyrics conducted figurative language. Then, categorized each type of figurative language on the table. Finally, classified the meaning of the figurative language was found. The process of analyzing the data was conducted through several procedures. First, collecting the data from the https://genius.com website. Second, identify and categories the lyrics that have been found based on the types. Third, draw the table using the data that has been previously selected from the website. Fourth, explain and describe the result of the data that have been analyzed previously based on the table. The last procedure in data analysis is drawing conclusions from the result of the types and meanings that are used in the Navicula song lyrics.

Finding and Discussion

Based on the theories from Perinne (1963) for the categories and Leech (1981) for the meaning of figurative language identified, Table 1 below explains the lyrics that contained figurative language to the Navicula song.

Table 1. Types and Meaning of Figurative Language Found.

No	Lyrics	Types of Figurative Language	Meaning of Figurative Language
1	"You tried to hide this in the sky"	Metaphor	Referential Meaning
2	"The ones you step on your way up the ladder"	Metaphor	Connotative Meaning
3	"We'll take the fast lane"	Metaphor	Referential Meaning

4	"Tired tones leading the way"	Personification	Referential Meaning
5	"Bend the truth to the wind"	Personification	Referential Meaning and Connotative Meaning
6	"By this bullet, I have learned to fly"	Hyperbole	Figurative Meaning
7	"Feed my soul, again"	Hyperbole	Connotative Meaning
8	"Now we burn you back"	Symbolic	Referential Meaning
9	"To blow the end away"	Symbolic	Referential Meaning
10	"Seeds of change… laced with pain…"	Symbolic	Referential Meaning and Connotative Meaning
11	"Evicted by force for your luxury"	Irony	Referential Meaning

This part, explains the types and meaning of chosen figurative language found in the Navicula song lyrics. The analysis as follow as:

Metaphor Figurative Language
Data 1   : You tried to hide this in the sky
        (Lyric from Refuse to Forget song)

The metaphor *"You tried to hide this in the sky"* is a poetic and figurative expression that conveys a sense of concealment, mystery, and obscurity. In this metaphor, the sky represents a vast, open expanse that typically symbolizes limitless possibilities and expansiveness. When someone says, *"You tried to hide this in the sky,"* they are suggesting that something important or significant was intentionally obscured or kept secret in an expansive and seemingly unreachable place, like the sky. This metaphor can be interpreted in various ways depending on the context. It might imply that the truth or a hidden meaning has been concealed in plain sight, high above where most people would think to look. It can also suggest that uncovering this hidden knowledge requires a great deal of effort, imagination, or insight as if searching for a needle in a haystack. Overall, the metaphor invokes a sense of intrigue and challenge, encouraging the listener or reader to dig deeper and explore beyond the surface to uncover hidden truths or meanings.

The phrase *"You tried to hide this in the sky"* primarily involves referential meaning from (Leech, 1981) seven types of meaning. Referential meaning deals with the relationship between words and their reference to objects, actions, or concepts in the real world. In this phrase, *"hide this in the sky"* suggests a literal action where someone attempted to conceal something in the sky. This meaning is primarily focused on the denotative aspect of the words used in the sentence.

Personification Figurative Language
Data 4   : Tired tones leading the way
        (Lyric from Harimau-Harimau song)

"Tired tones leading the way" is a captivating example of personification in figurative language, where human qualities and attributes are assigned to inanimate objects or abstract concepts. In this phrase, the term *"tones"* is personified, endowing it with the human characteristic of exhaustion or weariness, as if these tones are sentient entities guiding us through a certain experience. This personification serves to create a vivid and emotional image in the reader's mind. It suggests that the tones being described have endured something taxing

or demanding, implying that they have a story to tell. The word *"leading"* imbues these tones with a sense of purpose and direction, as if they are on a journey themselves, and we are invited to follow their path. Furthermore, the personification enhances the emotional resonance of the phrase, making it more relatable and engaging for the reader. It encourages us to empathize with these weary tones and contemplate the significance of their guidance in the context of the broader narrative or message. Overall, *"tired tones leading the way"* exemplifies how personification can infuse language with depth and meaning, inviting readers to explore the rich layers of a text.

The phrase *"Tired tones leading the way"* primarily falls under the Referential Meaning category from (Leech, 1981) seven types of meaning. In this context, *"Tired"* refers to the state of exhaustion or weariness, denoting a condition of something or someone. *"Tones"* typically refers to sound qualities or musical notes, but it could metaphorically represent the way someone speaks or communicates. *"Leading the way"* suggests taking a lead or guiding in some manner. The referential meaning here relates to the literal interpretation of the words and their connection to real-world concepts. It describes a situation where something that is characterized as *"tired"* (physically or metaphorically) is taking the lead or guiding others.

Hyperbole Figurative Language
Data 6   **: By this bullet, I have learned to fly**
                    (Lyric from Harimau-Harimau song)

The phrase *"By this bullet, I have learned to fly"* is a striking example of hyperbole in figurative language. Hyperbole is a literary device in which exaggeration is used for emphasis or effect. In this case, the speaker is using hyperbole to convey a profound and exaggerated sense of transformation and empowerment. The imagery of a bullet typically symbolizes destruction and violence. However, in this hyperbolic expression, it takes on a completely different meaning. The speaker suggests that something as destructive as a bullet has not harmed them but, instead, has taught them to fly. This transformation from a potentially devastating experience to one that grants the ability to soar above difficulties is an extreme exaggeration. The hyperbole serves to emphasize the speaker's resilience and strength in the face of adversity. It underscores their ability to find unexpected positives in even the most challenging circumstances, making the statement a powerful testament to the human capacity for growth and transformation in the face of adversity. Through this hyperbolic expression, the speaker conveys the idea that they have not only survived but have emerged from their experiences stronger and more empowered than ever before.

The phrase *"By this bullet, I have learned to fly"* primarily illustrates metaphorical or figurative meaning which is closely related to connotative meaning in the (Leech, 1981) theory. In this context, *"learned to fly"* is not meant to be taken literally. Instead, it is a metaphorical expression. The speaker is not suggesting that they have gained the ability to physically fly like a bird but is using the metaphor to convey a sense of liberation, empowerment, or transformation. The phrase suggests that the experience (represented by *"this bullet"*) has had a profound impact on the speaker, enabling them to metaphorically *"fly"* or transcend limitations. So, while it has a referential component (referring to a bullet and the act of learning), the primary meaning being conveyed is figurative or connotative, emphasizing the emotional or symbolic implications of the words.

Symbolic Figurative Language
Data 8 **: Now we burn you back**
(Lyric from Tomcat song)

"Now we burn you back" is a striking example of hyperbole in symbolic language, conveying a vivid and exaggerated sense of retaliation or retribution. This phrase utilizes the metaphorical concept of fire to symbolize a potent response to a perceived wrongdoing or threat. The word *"burn"* intensifies the imagery, suggesting a fierce and all-consuming reaction, far beyond what might be considered proportional. This hyperbolic expression underscores the deep emotions or convictions behind the speaker's words, emphasizing their determination to counter an action or injustice with equal or greater force. It implies a sense of justice or vindication as if the speaker is reclaiming power or asserting their authority. In essence, *"Now we burn you back"* is a powerful and dramatic way to symbolize a fervent and resolute response, invoking the elemental force of fire to underscore the intensity of the message.

The phrase *"Now we burn you back"* primarily falls under the category of Referential Meaning in (Leech, 1981) seven types of meaning. Referential meaning deals with the relationship between words or phrases and their real-world referents. In this case, the phrase is describing a literal action or event where someone is being burned in retaliation or response to something. It refers to the action of burning someone back. However, it's worth noting that language is often multifaceted, and elements of other types of meaning, such as connotative or affective meaning, could also be present depending on the context and how the phrase is used. These additional types of meaning may involve emotional or evaluative associations with the words used or the situation described.

Irony Figurative Language
Data 11 **: *Evicted by force for your luxury***
(Lyric from Tomcat song)

The phrase *"evicted by force for your luxury"* encapsulates a powerful and ironic message using symbolic language. At its core, it speaks to the bitter irony of how wealth and opulence often come at the expense of those who have little or nothing. In this symbolic expression, *"evicted"* signifies the harsh and unjust removal of marginalized individuals from their homes and communities. This act of eviction is often driven by powerful interests seeking to enhance their luxury and prosperity. The irony lies in the fact that those who are evicted, often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of society, are forced to sacrifice their basic needs and security to accommodate the extravagant desires of the wealthy elite. This phrase underscores the deep socioeconomic disparities and injustices that persist in society, where the pursuit of luxury and excess by some results in the suffering and displacement of others. It serves as a poignant reminder of the inherent inequality and moral paradoxes within our world.

The phrase *"Evicted by force for your luxury"* primarily conveys Referential Meaning according to (Leech, 1981) seven types of meaning. In this context, the phrase describes a situation where someone is forcibly removed from a place or property because of their luxury or opulence. The referential meaning focuses on the literal or denotative aspect of the words, describing the action of eviction and the reason behind it. However, there are elements of Connotative Meaning as well. The word *"luxury"* carries connotations of wealth, excess, and perhaps even insensitivity to the plight of others who may not have access to such luxury. So,

while the primary meaning is referential, the connotative aspect adds an evaluative and emotional layer to the phrase.

Conclusion

The conclusion is based on the study questions, these questions revolve around identifying the types of figurative language present in the Navicula song and understanding the underlying meaning behind their use. The researchers examined 12 different types of figurative language in the Navicula song lyrics. However, the study discovered that only 5 specific types of figurative language were present in the song. The types of figurative language found in the Navicula song lyrics were Metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbolic, paradox, and irony. From the data above, it can be concluded that the most figurative language that occurred was metaphor and symbolic with 3 data found. Metaphor and Symbolic types of figurative language are most used in the Navicula song lyrics it depends on the songwriter's intentions, the themes of the song, and the emotions they aim to convey. The songwriter may have chosen these devices to create a deeper emotional connection with the audience, to convey a particular message, or to craft a unique artistic expression.

References

Ary, D., Jacobs. L.C., Sorensen, C. (2010). Introduction to Research in Education (8thEd.). California: Wadsworth.

Creswell, J. W. (2017). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches*. California: Sage Publications.

Dewi, E. N. F., Hidayat, D. N., & Alek, A. (2020). Investigating figurative language in "Lose You to Love Me" song lyric. *Loquen: English Studies Journal*, *13*(1), 6-16.

Griffee, D. (2001). Songs in Action. Hertfordshire: Prentice Hall International.

Hulu, D., Sembiring, E., & Tarigan, N. (2021). An Analysis of Figurative Language in Ariana Grande's Album "Thank U, Next". *Linguistic, English Education and Art (LEEA) Journal*, *4*(2), 317-327. https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.31539/leea.v4i2.1954

Leech G. N. (1981). Semantics : the study of meaning (Second). Penguin Books.

Nursolihat, S., & Kareviati, E. (2020). An analysis of figurative language used in the lyric of "A Whole New World" by Zayn Malik and Zhavia Ward. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, *3*(4), 477-482.

Perrine, Laurence. (1963) "Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry." *New York: Harcourt, Brace & World.* Sound and sense, an introduction to poetry. --: Perrine, Laurence : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive

Setiawati, W., & Maryani, M. (2018). An analysis of figurative language in Taylor Swift's song lyrics. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, *1*(3), 261-268.

Simarmata, C. C., Herman, H., & Silalahi, D. E. (2021). Figurative Language Used In Selena Gomez's Song Lyrics: A Semantic Analysis. JEELL (Journal of English Education, Linguistics and Literature) English Departement of STKIP PGRI Jombang, 8(1), 183-194.

Syahrina, A. (2019). *A stylistic study of figurative language in Katy Perry's Song lyrics from Witness Album* (Bachelor's thesis, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta).