

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN "PROM QUEEN" ALBUM BY BEACH BUNNY

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed at the analysis of figurative language used in the Prom Queen album by Beach Bunny. This study uses theory by Kennedy, X., J., (1979), Figurative Language is language that uses figurative speech. A figurative speech is a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the world. In the theory of Perrine, L., (1977) the use of figurative language has four main purposes which are to give imaginative pleasure, to give additional imagery, to add emotional intensity, and to concrete the meaning in the brief compass. This research using descriptive qualitative methods involves collecting and analysing non-numerical data, for example text, video or audio to understand concepts, opinion or experiences of the world, which is used listening and note-taking to collect and analyse the data. Source of data that the researcher collects is from Spotify. According to John Locke, linguistic expressions immediately signify nothing but the ideas in the mind of the speaker. The variety of figurative languages most used in this study is metaphor, metaphors are direct comparisons that state one thing is another, metaphors can add creativity and clarity to writing and everyday speech, it is also to describe things that cannot be said in ordinary language. The main topic of this study is about insecurities, mental health and a toxic relationship that poured in the album. Lili Trifilio as vocalist wanted to express about women's biggest fears, beauty standards that exist in America, eating disorders and proposed to influence self-acceptance to the listener in this album.

Keywords : *figurative language, metaphor, song lyrics, purpose.*

INTRODUCTION

Figurative language is the words of expression that use different meanings from the literal interpretation (Wibisono, 2019). Figurative language is also a way to express feelings by using particular style and dictions (Hakim, 2021).

Many studies have been conducted on the figurative language. For example, a study by Nehe (2022), the study aims to describe the types of figurative language. The dominant types of figurative language in Maleficent movies are simile. Next, a study by Rahmawati (2021) found 98 sentences that contained the types of figurative language from the Harry Potter and Deathly Hallows Part 2 Movie script. The dominant types of figurative language most used in this study is simile. Next, another study by Ersyadi (2018) analyses the figurative language used in the novel by John Green "The Fault in Our Stars". This study found 7 kinds of figurative

language from 82 types of figurative language in this novel. And the most dominant figurative language used is simile, and all of the figurative language used in this novel is to describe something funny, serious and unpredictable. Another study by Laimena (2022), identified several figurative language in the phoenix and the turtle. They are personification, simile, metaphor, and symbols, but did not show the whole meaning implied in this poem, because many words have a meaning that is obscure or vague and mysterious in the poem. Finally, the study found by Nurdiana (2018), concerned about figurative language comparison and revealed in 43 data. In this study, to magnetise the viewer's attention through language style *Wright's Case No. 39* applies many kinds of figurative language.

However, it is very rare to find a study that analyses figurative language in song lyrics. Therefore, this study aims to analyse the types of figurative language and four main purposes which are used in the *Prom Queen* album by Beach Bunny

METHOD

Descriptive qualitative method is a general procedure for researching in multiple academic fields, such as education, psychology and social sciences (Furidha, 2023). Qualitative descriptive research is a research that defines and examines natural social action emphasising the way people interpret and understand their experiences to social reality, so that individuals are able to solve their own problems based on data research (Mohajan, 2018).

The data of this study using an album by Beach Bunny titled *Prom Queen* that was released in 2018 and categorised as alternative rock genres. The album includes five songs : *Prom Queen*, *Painkiller*, *Goodbye Summer* :(, *6 Weeks*, and *Adulting*. (<https://music.apple.com/id/album/prom-queen-ep/1719850296>, 2018).

These are several steps of data collection. First of all, listen to all the songs in the *Prom Queen* album by Beach Bunny. Second, reading lyrics of each song and identifying the types of figurative language that was found. Lastly, repeated listening, taking note and analysing the song lyrics which contain four main purposes in the *Prom Queen* album by Beach Bunny.

The first step is separating the types of figurative language that was found in *Prom Queen* album by Beach Bunny based on theory of Kennedy (1979). The second step involved analysing the purposes of the song lyrics that contained figurative language. In explaining figurative language, the use of figurative language has four main purposes which are to give imaginative pleasure, to give additional imagery, to add emotional intensity, and to concrete the meaning in the brief compass. The researcher adopts the theory from Perrine (1977), in his book entitled *Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry*.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The table below describes the percentage of each type of figurative language found. The table separates it into each type of figurative language, and calculates the type's percentage found from the *Prom Queen* album by Beach Bunny. There are two similes, five hyperboles, nine metaphors, and four allusions identified.

No	Type of Figurative Language	Amount of Data	Percentage
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1	Simile	2	10%
2	Hyperbole	5	25%
3	Metaphor	9	45%
4	Allusion	4	20%
5	Total	20	100%

Table 1.1 Types of Figurative Language found in *Prom Queen* album by Beach Bunny

Simile :

There are two similes found in the album. They are found in the songs *Prom Queen* and *6 Weeks*. The explanations are discussed below.

Data 1:

I never looked good in mom jeans
Wish *i was like you*
Blue-eyed blondie, perfect body

(Prom Queen:00.08-00.10)

The data above is considered simile. It is simile because the figurative language compares two different things through the use of a clear connecting word such as *like* and *as*. Those two things found in this line are “I” and “You”. “I” describes the songwriter who wrote the lyrics, and “You” is the one mentioned above in the lyrics who has blue eyes, blonde hair and perfect body.

The purpose of figurative language is to concrete the meaning in the brief compass. The imaginative pleasure purpose of the figurative language above is the songwriter wants to be like the other girls as mentioned in the lyrics, because in this song relating to a guy she is dating and the song tells about how he rejected her looks. The additional imagery is based on the beauty standards and it made her want to change something in her body to be liked by him. The word “wish” in emotional intensity purpose shows the song writer had big hopes about being accepted by her soulmate or environment. And the word “like you” has a concrete meaning. The author expressed that she wanted to be another human being and be loved, this might be her lowest situation so she could not have confidence in herself. It is an easier way to express a wish or desire about the past without using the past perfect tense.

Data 2:

Let’s begin at the end, when you tore me apart
But i *bawled like a baby* when you said goodbye
When you say goodbye

(6 Weeks:00.55-01.03)

The data above is considered simile. It is simile because the figurative language compares two different things through the use of a clear connecting word such as *like* and *as*. Those two things found in this line are “like”. The line of “bawled like a baby” fully means that the song writer wants to express it as cry hard and loudly when someone or “you” that was mentioned in the lyric left.

The purpose of figurative language is to add emotional intensity. The imaginative pleasure purpose of the figurative language above is losing something that is left. In this case, the crying is being compared to two different things using the words “like”. But the word “bawled like a baby” additional imagery means that she cried noisily, loudly, uncontrollably. This line is also about her fight to make him still stay on her side. At the moment the concrete meaning of this is he wanted to leave her even though she cries loudly. In this case, the crying is being compared to the crying of a baby as a way to convey its intensity or immaturity.

Hyperbole:

There are two hyperboles found in the album. They are found in the songs *Prom Queen* and *Painkiller*. The explanations are discussed below.

Data 3:

I've been starving myself

Carving skin until my bones are showing

Teach me how to be okay

(Prom Queen:01.21-01.27)

The data above is considered hyperbole. It is hyperbole because the figurative language emphasises and creates strong impressions. It is using words that are not meant to be taken literally. The line “carving my skin until my bones are showing” if according to the lyrics above that the song writer wants to express was she let herself starve or in a hunger so she gets skinny to be liked by someone she loved, but actually that doesn't work at all. As the lyrics above she needs to pretend to be okay with the situation she's been through.

The purpose of figurative language is to add additional imagery. The imaginative pleasure of the figurative language above is wanting to be accepted by others and struggling to accept herself. Particularly in regards to romantic attractions. The song writer is also trying to express an additional imagery to change herself into the beauty standards. The song's concrete message is to remind everyone not to change themselves for other people. And everyone should be happy and love themselves for who they are.

Data 4:

You said this wouldn't hurt

Give me cavities

And all of your apologies

Are only empty calories

(Painkiller:00.16-00.17)

The data above is considered hyperbole. It is hyperbole because the figurative language emphasises and creates strong impressions. It is using words that are not meant to be taken literally. The line “give me cavities” meaning that the song writer wants to express is that someone who leaves her says it's nothing to worry about breaking up, but actually that really makes her feel so empty in her heart according to another line of lyrics above.

The purpose of figurative language is to add imaginative pleasure. Imaginative pleasure of this is the songwriter describes her pain using teeth. The additional imagery is an empty space in particular the human body, and the emotional intensity she wanted to fill her heart

with his love. But the concrete or literal meaning of these lyrics was about how she was hurt and left by someone and made her whole life very empty.

Metaphor:

There are two metaphors found in the album. They are found in the songs *Prom Queen* and *Painkiller*. The explanations are discussed below.

Data 5:

I'm a defect, surgical project
It's getting **hard to breathe**
There's plastic wrap in my cheeks

(Prom Queen:00.42-00.44)

The data above is considered a metaphor. It is a metaphor because the figurative language identifies hidden similarities between two different ideas, it is using words that are not meant to be taken literally. The line of "hard to breathe" means struggling to take a breath because the song writer also wrote another line that describes that she is a "defect barbie". Also that also means she's not perfect enough even though she already has a surgery that hurt herself according to another lyrics line above.

The purpose of figurative language is to add additional imagery. The imaginative pleasure purpose of the figurative language above is the songwriter saying that she feels suffering, getting hurt by loving someone, crying and frustration. The additional imagery is describing that she had no energy or power to live without someone that means a lot in her life. The emotional intensity is also describing the feeling that you can not get enough air into your lungs, needing to breathe more quickly or deeply, not feeling able to take a full deep breath. But the concrete meaning of this line is that it is really hard to breathe because the songwriter doesn't have the energy to live without him.

Data 6:

You're careful with your words
But I'm **pulling my teeth**
You said this wouldn't hurt

(Painkiller:00.10-00.11)

The data above is considered a metaphor. It is a metaphor because the figurative language identifies hidden similarities between two different ideas. The line "pulling my teeth" here that the song writer wants to describe is someone hurting her by a rude or harsh word until she is in a difficult situation according to another lyrics line above.

The purpose of figurative language is to add imaginative pleasure. The imaginative pleasure of the figurative language above is a very difficult situation and they did not want to do it. Especially to extract information from someone. The additional imagery meaning of these lyrics is the songwriter does not want to do something and is forcing something that does not fit on herself or body to look like others. The emotional intensity of this line is that she always gets hurt by him and it feels like "pulling her teeth". But the concrete meaning also describes her having a hard time in her life.

Allusion:

There are two allusions found in the album. They are found in the songs *Prom Queen* and *6 Weeks*. The explanations are discussed below.

Data 7:

You should lower your expectations
I'm no *quick curl-barbie*
I was never cut out from Prom Queen

(Prom Queen:00.21-00.23)

The data above is considered an allusion. It is an allusion because the figurative language circumstance from an unrelated context is referred to covertly or indirectly. The line "quick curl-barbie" that the song writer wants means according to the lyrics above is a person who wants to be a centre of attention and get someone who expects too much of her.

The purpose of figurative language is to add additional imagery. The imaginative pleasure purpose of the figurative language above is that the songwriter showed that she wanted to be popular and had family and a lot of friends. The additional imagery is that a quick curl Barbie had blonde hair and dressed well, always had different hairstyles and had a perfect appearance. It shows that she never looks in that way like a "quick-curl barbie". The emotional intensity of the whole song is a commentary on beauty standards, how they lead to surgical intervention and/or eating disorder behaviours make her feeling insecure to herself. Also the concrete meaning of this song's lyrics' convince the meaning about a protest of Euro-centric beauty standards.

Data 8:

They say, "beauty makes boys happy"
I've been *starving myself*
Carving skin until my bones are showing

(Prom Queen:01.16-01.18)

The data above is considered an allusion. It is an allusion because the figurative language circumstance from an unrelated context is referred to covertly or indirectly. The line "starving myself" that the song writer wanted to express here according to another lyric above is that she lets herself be skinny until she starves herself. Because based on the beauty standards that exist it should be skinny to become pretty.

The purpose of figurative language is to add emotional intensity. It describes that the songwriter showed she doesn't love herself. The additional imagery that the song writer becomes very weak and the form of body deprivation that is used to exercise control over the need for food and let herself crave food for being so skinny to be liked by others. The emotional intensity is also a part of self harm commonly encountered in patients with eating disorders. But the concrete meaning of this line is she lets herself starving to become very skinny and let herself be part of the Euro-centric beauty standards.

CONCLUSION

Based on the table above, the researcher found 4 types out of 8 types of figurative language based on the theory of Kennedy (1979). Based on the data collected in the *Prom*

Queen album by Beach Bunny there are several songs containing figurative language which are *Prom Queen*, *Painkiller*, *Goodbye Summer*, *6 Weeks*, and *Adulthood*. But there is no figurative language contained in the *Goodbye Summer* :(songs from *Prom Queen* album by Beach Bunny. These songs have different types of figurative language, the researcher found 10% of simile, 25% of hyperbole, 45% of metaphor, and 20% of allusion in this album and the total amount is 100%.

Analysing the types based on theory Kennedy (1979) Figurative Language is language that uses figurative speech. A figurative of speech is a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the word. According to Perrine (1977) The use of figurative language has four main purposes which are to give imaginative pleasure, to give additional imagery, to add emotional intensity, and to concrete the meaning in the brief compass.

Imaginative pleasure refers to a feeling of being satisfied or having pleased imagination. It makes the viewers pleased after obtaining a source of pleasure in the exercise of the imagination through the text (Perrine, 1969:33). According to Perrine (1992) imagery defined because the representation via language of feel experience. Imagery is one of the maximums not unusual in criticism, and one of the most variable in that means (Wijaya 2022). Emotional intensity meaning is a figurative language that can be employed to add emotion or attitude to a sentence, especially if the sentence is both emotional and informative (Perrine, 1969). Figure of speech is an effective means of concentration, a way of saying much in a brief compass (Perrine, 1969:72). To express his thoughts without a complex explanation, the writer uses figures of speech.

The *Prom Queen* album by Beach Bunny shows about low self-worth and how to deal with eating disorders. The stigma that you must starve to be beautiful in our society, especially the “Eurocentric beauty standards”. All of the songs from this album are so wrapped, so beautiful and overall meaning also about dealing with mental illness in a really relatable way. The *teen experience* is different for everyone but when you compare yourself to someone else’s there are tons of similarities you never thought you would find. From the title *Prom Queen* of this album also shows and influences all the viewer or listeners about *self-acceptance* and breaking the beauty standard. The variety of figurative languages most used in this study is metaphor, metaphors are direct comparisons that state one thing is another, metaphors can add creativity and clarity to writing and everyday speech, it is also to describe things that cannot be said in ordinary language. The main topic of this study is about insecurities, mental health and a toxic relationship that poured in the album. Lili Trifilio as vocalist wanted to express about women's biggest fears, beauty standards that exist in America, eating disorders and proposed to influence self-acceptance to the listener in this album.

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