

THE ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES IN ED SHEERAN SELECTED SONG LYRICS

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ABSTRACT

Figurative language is the language used to express one's thoughts, feelings, imagination or messages in a work, which is conveyed through a different language from the original literature with the aim of making the work more beautiful and more interesting. Usually style is used in poetry and song lyrics. The purpose of the study was to determine the types of language style and the most dominant style of language used in several selected songs by Ed Sheeran, namely the song Thinking Out Loud, Perfect, and Photograph. This study uses a qualitative descriptive research method where the researcher tries to find out the type of language style used and the most dominant in Ed Sheeran's songs. The data source is all the lyrics of Thinking Out Loud, Perfect, and Photograph. From the results of data analysis, the researcher concludes that in the song Thinking Out Loud there are 5 types of figurative language, namely: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole and synecdoche. In the song Perfect, there are 4 types of figurative language, namely: metaphor, hyperbole, paradox, and simile. While in the song Photograph, there are 3 types of figurative language, namely: personification, metaphor and synecdoche. These findings indicate that the most dominant language style used in the three songs is metaphorical style.

Keywords: figurative language; lyric; song

Introduction

Figurative language is the language used to express someone's feelings by using a language that is different from the original. According to Zainuddin (1992: 51) figurative language is a term that refers to a number of ways that people use language to convey their thoughts. It is a way of expressing something other than the literal sense of words. Parables, metaphors, personifications, hyperbole, symbols, idioms, disparaging, rhetoric, repetition, onomatopoeia, metonymy, simile, and irony are all examples of figurative language. Usually figurative language used in poem and lyrics of the song. One of the examples in the song lyrics that use figurative language is the lyrics from Ed Sheeran songs.

Modern globalization has both positive and negative consequences today. One of the impacts is to provide major developments in the fields of science,

technology, economics, education and also the arts. The development of art goes so fast and music or song is one of the branches arts that have a huge influence on society. Music is entertainment that might represent bad or good human feelings, able to express thoughts, experiences, emotions, and beliefs, and expresses imagination. Therefore many literary or artistic works use figurative language to make them more imaginative as well as more interesting. And every literary work has its own message and is different. Music has several classifications, including pop, jazz and blues, rock, religious and others. Nowadays, music that is favored by the public, especially among teenagers, is western music. Where in western music it is often found the use of figurative language to convey the message contained or to make it more interesting and imaginative.

Song lyrics are an expression about something that has been seen, heard or experienced. Songs are accompanied by more lyrics that have a structure and a relationship between them, which has the impression of meaning. Apart from that, songs are one kind of unique way to be enjoyed. Because music is better at combining sound with lyrics. In conclusion, the song is an association of several lyrics that have a link between them, which is always accompanied by music or melodic sound. Singers can influence the listener's subconscious.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the figurative language contained in a song. By looking at the figurative language contained in the song, someone can better animate or understand what message the song contains. Therefore, researcher will conduct research with the title of research "THE ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES IN ED SHEERAN SELECTED SONG LYRICS"

Based on the background of the research discussed above, the research problem are formulated as follows:

1. What types of figurative languages are used in Ed Sheeran selected song lyrics?
2. How the dominant figurative language in Ed Sheeran selected song lyrics?

Based on the statements of research problem above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To find out the types of figurative languages are used in Ed Sheeran selected song lyrics.
2. To find out the most dominant figurative language in Ed Sheeran selected song lyrics.

In order to make the study more focus, the study is focused on the figurative language used in Ed Sheeran selected songs, they are Thinking Out Loud, Perfect, and Photograph. And the figurative language focused on hyperbole, metaphor, personification, simile, synecdoche and also paradox. The title of this research is "The Analysis of Figurative Languages in Ed Sheeran Selected Song

Lyrics". Concerning with this title, to avoid misunderstanding the researcher would like to give some definitions:

1. According to Keraf (2009), Figurative language is a way of expressing the author's feelings using beautiful languages.
2. Song is the act of singing, short composition in which word and music combined together for unity (Longman Modern Dictionary). According to Jamalus (1988:5) reveals that songs can be described as art works in singing to musical instruments accompaniment.
3. According to Hornby (2000:802), Lyric is expressing a person's personal feelings and thoughts, connected with written for singing.

There are many previous studies related to figurative language. In this part, the researcher will discuss several previous studies as a guideline for working on the thesis. The first is research by Laila Alviana Dewi, entitled "Figurative Language in Maher Zain's Song Lyric" from English Education Department, Faculty of Education and Teacher Training State Institute of Islamic Studies Ponorogo. The purpose of this research were to find the types of figurative language in Maher Zain's songs and disclose the most dominant types of figurative language in Maher Zain's songs. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative approach and the research design was content analysis. Based on the result of the study, it can be concluded that the most dominant types of figurative language in Maher Zain's song is hyperbole.

The second is research by Khoirul Nisa, entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Maher Zain's Song Lyric". From English Education Department, Faculty of Education and Teacher Training State Institute of Islamic Studies Metro. The purpose of this research is to know what types of figurative language can be found in song lyric by Maher Zain. This research used qualitative content analysis. From the results of the data analysis, the researcher concluded that there are n the song "Insha Allah", there are 9 types of figurative languages, namely: Personification, Metaphor, Simile, Hyperbole, Irony, Alliteration, Parallelism, Synecdoche, and Euphemism. And in the song "For the Rest of My Life", there are 3 types of figurative language, namely: Hyperbole, Litotes, and Alliteration. In the song "Hold My Hands", the author found 7 types of figurative languages, namely: Personification, Metaphor, Antithesis, Simile, Irony, Parallelism and Synecdoche.

The third research by Nita Kurniawati, entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Song Lyrics of Speak Now Album by Taylor Swift". English and Education Department, Teacher Training and Education Faculty, Muria Kudus University. The purposes of this research are: (1) to find out the types of figurative language used in song lyrics of "Speak Now" album by Taylor Swift. And (2) to describe the interpretation of figurative language used in song lyrics of "Speak Now" album by Taylor Swift. The result of this research shows that the total number of types of figurative language used in song lyrics of "Speak Now" album by Taylor Swift are 48 types of figurative language. And the dominant one is Hyperbole, there are totally 17 types. And that there are 10 similes, 8

personification, 8 symbol, 2 metaphor, 2 oxymoron and 1 synecdoche that is used in the song lyrics of "speak now" album by Taylor Swift. The writer concluded that there are seven types of figurative language used in song lyrics, they are Hyperbole, Personification, Simile, Metaphor, Symbol, Synecdoche, and oxymoron.

The fourth research by Rizqi Aldilini Akbar, entitled "Figurative Expressions Found in Ed Sheeran's Album *X*: A Semantic Analysis". Department of English, Faculty of Cultural Studies, University of Sumatera Utara. The purpose of this research to find out the type and the most dominant figurative expressions which specifically discusses about figurative expressions found in Ed Sheeran's album *X*. the result of this research shows that researcher found 118 data: 10 of Personification, 76 of Metaphor, 6 of Simile, 14 of Synecdoche and 12 of Metonymies. The writer concluded that metaphor becomes the most dominant type of figurative expression occurred in the album. The similarities between the four previous studies that have been mentioned with this study are both examining figurative language in a song. Whereas the difference between the four previous studies and this research is that, in research conducted by Laila Alviana Dewi, she analyzes the figurative language that is the most prominent in Maher Zain's song, while the researcher analyze the type and the most figurative language that occurred in three songs by Ed Sheeran.

Khoirul Nisa's research analyzed the types of figurative language contained in each of Maher Zain's songs, while the researcher only analyzed the type and most dominant figurative language only in three songs by Ed Sheeran. The third previous study was a research conducted by Nita Kurniawati, she analyzed the type of figurative language contained in the song Speak Now and described the interpretation of the figurative language, while the researcher analyzed type and the most dominant figurative language. The fourth previous study was research conducted by Rizqi Aldilini Akbar , he analyzed the type and most dominant figurative language in one album of Ed Sheeran that namely *X*, while the researcher only analyzed the type and the most dominant figurative language in three songs by Ed Sheeran.

The four previous studies are very helpful and provide a reference for researchers in analyzing figurative language contained in a song.

1. Figurative Language

a. Definition of Figurative Language

The author applies Perrine's (1987: 576-645) theory in his book *Literature, Structure, Sound, and Sense* to this research. Figurative language, according to Perrine, is a way of expressing something in a non-traditional way. Metaphor, simile, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, sign, and hyperbole are among the forms of figurative language described in his book.

A literary work contains elements of beauty in its language, contains meaning that is not in accordance with the original. One that is used to make a literary work more attractive and more beautiful is the use of figurative language.

Figurative language are words or phrases used by the author to beautify his work and to convey messages or meanings indirectly. Figurative Language is a style of language that can be figurative, like, parable which aims to beautify the meaning and message of a sentence.

Figure of speech is the style of language used by the writer to convey a message in an imaginative and figurative way (Ratna:2019). Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation (Adkins:2001). Bardshaw stated that figurative language of figure of speech is combinations of words whose meaning cannot be determined by examination of the meanings of the words that make it up or to put it another way, a figurative language uses a number of words to represent a single object, person or concept (Bardshaw:2002).

From some of the above meanings, it can be concluded that figurative language is a person's way of expressing imagination conveying messages from the work they make, either through written or oral.

b. Kinds of Figurative Language

1) Simile

Simile is almost the same as Metaphor, it's just that Simile uses direct comparisons, usually using the words: Like, As, etc. Simile is the comparison of two things, by the use of some words or phrase such as like as, than, similar to, or resemble (Laurence:1969). Example : Busy as a bee

2) Metaphor

Metaphor is a language used to compare an entity to another. Usually, different things are being compared, between what is abstract and what is not. According to Keraf "metaphor is a figure of speech which compares two things directly, but in a simple form. Metaphor cannot use word like, such as, similar to, and ,resemble". Example : Time is money

3) Personification

Personification is to think that objects other than humans have feelings, behaviors (verbs), and are physical like humans. Describing inanimate objects as if alive. Keraf, said "Personification is the figurative language that describe a nonlife things or non-human object abstraction or ideas able to act like human being." Example : The sun *played* hide and seek with the clouds.

4) Apostrophe

Adding a non-existent or inanimate object seems alive and could mistake what someone said. Example : *"Actually cannot want to say, but your child very naughty"*

5) Synecdoche

A figure of speech in which a part represents the whole. Example : *lend you a hand* (you don't really just want his hand)

6) Metonymy

Metonymy is a style of language used by mentioning brands or other terms of objects that are still common. Example : Budi went to Surabaya to ride a *deer* (what is meant here is a car branded as a deer)

7) Symbol

Symbol is a language style that compares something with something else using symbols, symbols or objects. Example : Now ana is already good at *fighting the tongue* with his parents.

8) Allegory

Allegory is a language style that uses figuratively in the form of object, symbol or other characteristics with or without an explanation of the real meaning. Example : "*Story about mouse deer and crocodile*"

9) Paradox

Paradox is a style of language that expresses its meaning by comparing two things that are contradictory but it is true. Example : "*She feel alone in center of town*".

10) Hyperbole

Hyperbola is a language or figure of speech used to express or exaggerate something. Example : You have *big eyes like an apple*.

11) Understatement

Perrine in his journal states that understatement is saying less than one means that may exist in what are said or merely in how one says it. Understatement is the opposite of overstatement. Example : Swimming with those starving sharks might be a bit displeased.

12) Irony

Irony is a language style that expresses meaning using subtle innuendos that contradict the real meaning. Example : "your rapport is very good, until red's color all".

2. The Nature of Music and Song

a. Definition of Music

Music is one medium of art expression; music reflects the culture of the community. In the music contained values and norms that are part of the cultural enculturation process, both from the point of structural and type in culture. Music is a an art of arranging sounds to produce an unified and evocative composition as through rhythm, melody and harmony.

According to Hornby (2000: 873) said that music is sounds that are arranged in a way that is pleasant or exciting to listen to. So the art of music is the expression of feelings or thoughts spark which issued regularly in the form of

sound. The most basic elements of music is the sound. The sound of good music is the result of the interaction of three elements: rhythm, melody, and harmony. Rhythm is sound settings in a time, long, short, and tempo, and this gives each its own character in music. Combination of pitch and rhythm will produce a certain melody. Furthermore, a good combination of rhythm and melody and harmony produce a beautiful sound when heard.

b. Definition of Song

Song is a composition of tone or voice in sequence, combination and temporal relation to produce a musical composition that has unity and continuity. According to Hornby (2000: 1281) said that "Song is a short piece of music with words that you sing". Longman Modern Dictionary states that song is "the act of singing, short composition in which word and music combined together to unity". It means that song cannot be separate from the music. Song and music are related to each other in order to make good symphony.

Songs are highly expressive. Some convey love and emotions, some tell a memorable and moving story, some create one's dreams and ideals, and some reminisce about the golden past. Songs has a beautiful melody to make our sense change to be better. Music instrument make a good song which nice to listen. Song can change our mood become better. Songs can be sung solo, both (duet), three (trio) or the rollicking. Words in the song are usually shaped rhythmic poetry, but there is also a religious nature or free prose. Songs can be categorized in many types, depending on the measure used.

Song is the art of sound or tone that has a combination or sequence that is usually accompanied by a musical instrument to produces a continuous music. So, song and music are two parts that cannot be separated each other.

c. Genres of The Songs

Songs can be broadly divided into many different forms and types, depending on the criteria used.

1) Art song

2) Folk Song

d. Lyrics

Lyrics are the compositions in verse which is sung to a melody to constitute a song. Lyric is expressing deep personal emotion or observations. Lyrics are a set of words that make up a song, usually consisting of verses and choruses. Some lyrics are abstract, almost unintelligible, and, in such cases, their explication emphasizes form, articulation, meter, and symmetry of expression. A lyric is a paper written by someone who has imagination in composing beautiful words that have deep meaning. Lyrics and music combined would be a wonderful song and pleasing to the ear. According to Hornby (2000: 802), he stated that the lyrics is expressing a person's personal feeling and thoughts, connected with singing and written for a lyric poem is the words of a song.

3. Ed Sheeran

Ed Sheeran whose full name is Edward Christopher Sheeran was born in Halifax, West Yorkshire, England on February 17, 1991. He grew up in Framlingham, Suffolk. He is an English singer, songwriter, guitarist, record producer and actor. He entered the Academy of Contemporary Music in Guildford as a scholar at the age of 18 in 2009. In early 2011, Sheeran independently released an extended play entitled No. 6 Collaboration Projects. After singing with Asylum Records, his debut album, + (pronounced "plus"), was released in September 2011. It topped the UK and Australia album charts, peaked at number five in the US, and has been certified seven-times platinum in the UK. Raya. His second studio album, x (pronounced as "multiply"), was released in June 2014. It peaked at number one in the UK and US. In 2015, x won the Brit Award for Album of the Year, and he received the Ivor Novello Award for Songwriter of the Year from the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors. Sheeran's third album, (pronounced as "divide"), was released in March 2017. It debuted at number one in the UK, US and other countries. The first two singles from the album, "Shape of You" and "Castle on the Hill", were released in January 2017 and broke records in various countries, including the United Kingdom, Australia, and Germany, debuting in the top two positions on the charts.

Method

In this study, the researcher chose to use descriptive qualitative research methods, where the data were described systematically to get accurate results. The purpose of descriptive research is to systematically describe the facts and characteristics. And in this study using this method because it aims to describe and analyze the type of figurative language used in Ed Sheeran's chosen songs. This research is done by formulating problems, collecting data, classifying data, and analyzing data.

The subject of this research are 3 selected songs by Ed Sheeran that could potentially have an interesting figurative language to be studied, the songs are: Thinking Out Loud, Perfect, and Photograph. Thinking Out Loud and Photograph are Ed Sheeran's singles from his second album entitled X (Multiply), which was released in 2014. While the song Perfect is one of the singles from Sheeran's third album entitled (Divide) which was released in 2017.

In this research, the researcher uses two source, they are primary and secondary source.

1. Primary Data Source

According to Ary, Jacobs, Razavieh and Sorensen (2006: 446-447) primary data sources are original documents (correspondence, diaries, report, etc), relics, remains, or artefact. These are the direct outcomes of events or the record of participant. In this research, primary data source are 3 selected songs by Ed Sheeran entitled "Thinking Out Loud", "Perfect", and "Photograph".

2. Secondary Data

Secondary data source the mine of a non-observer also comes between the event and the user of the record. It means that the secondary data source, existing data and found the results to be reviewed. In this research conduct secondary data source to strengthen the results of the analysis of the primary data source.

The data collection technique is the most important part of the success or failure of a study. The aim of technique is to measure the extent to which the object that the researcher's research understand and appreciate the song lyrics that would research use. The technique for collecting data is the observation and study documentation, and another data are collected through:

1. Library Research
2. Browsing Internet

Findings

Based on research above, the researcher found many figurative languages in each song.

1. Thinking Out Loud

No.	Figurative Language	Data	Bait
1.	Simile	When your legs don't work like they used to before	1
		Baby my heart could still fall as hard at twenty three	6
2.	Metaphor	Will your mouth still remember the taste of my love	3
		Darling I will be loving you till we're seventy	5
		Kiss me under the lights of a thousand stars	14
		Maybe we found love right where we are	17
		When my hairs all but gone and my memory fades	18
		When my hands don't play the strings the same way	20
		Cause honey, you soul can never grow old, it's evergreen	22
		Baby your smile's forever in my mind in memory	23
3.	Hyperbole	Kiss me under the lights of a thousand stars	14, 31, 37
4.	Personification	Will your mouth still remember the taste of my love	3

		Will your eyes still smile from your cheeks	4
5.	Synecdoche	Place your head on my beating heart	15, 32, 38
		And the crowds don't remember my name	19

2. Perfect

No.	Figurative Language	Data	Bait
1.	Simile	I found a love, to carry more than just my secrets	
2.	Metaphor	Darling, just dive right in and follow my lead	
		But darling, just kiss me slow, your heart is all I own	
		I see my future in your eyes	
		Baby, I'm dancing in the dark, with you between my arms	
		When you said you looked a mess, I whispered underneath my breath	
		Well I found a woman, stronger than anyone I know	
3.	Hyperbole	But darling, just kiss me slow, your heart is all I own	
		I see my future in your eyes	
4.	Paradox	When you said you looked a mess, I whispered underneath my breath	

3. Photograph

No.	Figurative Language	Data	Bait
1.	Metaphor	We keep this love in a photograph	
		When our eyes are never closing	
		Hearts are never broken	
		Times forever frozen still	
		So you can keep me inside the pocket of your ripped jeans	

		Loving can mend your soul	
		And it's the only thing we take with us when we die	
		Inside these pages you just hold me	
		Oh you can fit me inside the necklace you got when you were	
		Next to your heartbeat where I should be	
		Keep it deep within your soul	
2.	Personification	Loving can hurt	
		Holding me closer still our eyes meet	
		Loving can heal	
		And if you hurt me that's OK, baby, only words bleed	
3.	Synecdoche	Remember that with every piece of you	

Conclusion

From the data above, the researcher can concluded there are many figurative language uses in the song lyrics that the writer analyzed in 3 song lyrics. In the first song "Thinking Out Loud", the researcher found kinds of figurative language., there are: simile, metaphor, personification, simile, and synecdoche. In the second song "Perfect, the researcher found the kinds of figurative language, there are: metaphor, hyperbole, personification, and synecdoche. In the third song "Photograph", the researcher found the kinds of figurative language, there are: personification, metaphor, and synecdoche. From these findings, it can be concluded that of the three selected songs by Ed Sheeran entitled Thinking Out Loud, Perfect, and Photograph, the most dominant type of figure of speech is metaphorical figure of speech.

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