AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE SONG LYRICS BY JAMIE MILLER

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Abstract

Figurative language refers to the utilization of words or expressions that shift from their literal interpretation. Figurative language produces images in readers' minds and expresses ideas in new, clear, and creative ways. Moreover, figurative language is a part of literature. A significant impression or experience is conveyed through the use of an interesting or creative contrast in literature. The objective of this study is to identify the various types of figurative language employed in the song lyrics of Jamie Miller. The data were collected by reading the scripts, listening to the songs, analyzing and categorizing the lyrics, and noticing the use of figurative language. The data were descriptively evaluated by the authors using a qualitative approach. Fifteen data of figurative language are found in Jamie Miller's song lyrics. The results show that there are four types of figurative language used in Jamie Miller's song lyrics: personification (three), metaphor (two), simile (one), and hyperbole (nine). Hyperbole is the most dominant type of figurative language used in Jamie Miller's song lyrics.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Literature, Song Lyrics*

INTRODUCTION

Language serves as a medium through which individuals convey their thoughts and ideas either through spoken or written means. (Ibrahim et al., 2019). In modern society, the principal objective of acquiring language is to facilitate effective communication, wherein vocabulary plays an important role in enabling dialogue. Furthermore, language serves as a crucial tool employed by individuals to engage in communication with each other. The ability to communicate through language is an essential component of interpersonal interaction. (Damayanti & Agung, 2022).

The utilization of language is a crucial element for individuals to effectively participate in social interactions, exchange ideas, and acquire knowledge from one another (Siregar et al., 2021). Language is frequently utilized as a medium of communication between individuals. This statement suggests that language could

potentially be considered an essential need for the existence of humanity. It exerts an important impact on an individual's capacity to establish positive interpersonal connections. (Grensideng & Agung, 2023).

Literature is a form of writing that is regarded as an artistic creation (Desmawati, 2018). Songs are among the artistic creations intended for the consumption and appreciation of society (Ardhyanti & Supriyatiningsih, 2020). Songwriters do not carelessly create song lyrics; rather, they write them from the heart, using technical language to convey sensation and idea. They are typically motivated by all the elements around them, such as emotion, circumstance, or condition (Aryawan et al., 2019). As a result, every word in the song's lyrics has a hidden meaning, and if we as listeners want to understand what it is, we must pay close attention to the music (Sopiansyah & Inayah, 2021). The vocalist and the songwriter work together on this. A songwriter searches for a suitable vocalist to perform their song since only a professional singer is able to transmit meaning through gestures, intonation, and expressions that allow listeners to infer the meaning. It is occasionally written to convey the author's sentiments and emotions, and figurative language is often used (Setiawati & Maryani, 2018).

A figurative language is a linguistic form that employs figures of speech. Some authors use figurative language to create images in readers' minds and to express ideas in new, clear, and creative ways (Nursolihat & Kareviati, 2020). Moreover, figurative language is a part of literature. A significant impression or experience is conveyed through the use of an interesting or creative contrast in literature (Fitria, 2018).

Figurative language is a type of speech used to communicate ideas beyond the literal meaning of words. In addition, figurative language can also be defined as a set of words that exaggerate or change the common meanings of individual terms. Readers can apply their imaginations to understand the author's meaning (Swarniti, 2022). Figurative language is challenging to understand because, unlike other vocabulary terms that we frequently use in daily speech, its meaning cannot be found in a dictionary. To understand figurative language, we must use our

imagination to imagine what is being stated or what the words are related to (Gunawan et al., 2021). Figurative language is often found in songs.

The song is an example of literary work. Each song conveys a message. The song's effectiveness and attraction to the listener depend on its lyrics. Depending on how the song's lyrics were written, the message contained therein may be conveyed (May et al., 2020). Sometimes when listening to music, individuals may not pay attention to the words because they are enjoying the performer or the song's music instead. The lyrics of songs that use figurative language can be difficult for listeners to understand when they try to concentrate on them. Understanding a lyric's meaning helps one to comprehend the songwriter's intended meaning (Muhammad et al., 2021).

Several previous studies focus on the use of figurative language in songs. For this study, three articles are reviewed. The first study is an article written byKrisnawati et al. (2021). The study employed a qualitative method to analyze the data. The objective of the study is to identify the types of figurative language utilized in ten songs written by Miley Cyrus and analyze the importance of figurative language in the song lyrics. Hyperbole, simile, metaphor, and allusion were among the figurative language categories that were identified in this study. Additionally, the most prevalent form of figurative language in the songs by Miley Cyrus is hyperbole. The research conducted by Krisnawati et al. could serve as a reference in order to carry out this study more effectively. Despite using the same topic, there are several differences between her study and this study. First, the theory for analyzing the types of figurative languages is different since the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger was used in her study, while this study used the theory proposed by Kennedy et al. (2013). Second, she analyzes the types and meanings of figurative language from ten Miley Cyrus songs. In contrast, the researchers studied the types and meanings of figurative language in the lyrics from eight songs by Jamie Miller.

The second previous study is an article written by Nosi et al. (2022). This article analyzed the figurative language used in the song lyrics by Jason Derulo. The descriptive qualitative method was used for the data analysis. There are

eleven songs by Jason Derulo used as the data source. The purpose of the study is to identify the types of figurative language employed in the songs by Jason Derulo and to analyze their significance. In the research, the types of figurative language found were hyperbole, simile, paradox, personification, irony, and synecdoche. Additionally, the most prevalent form of figurative language in the songs by Jason Derulo is hyperbole. Even though the study by Nosi et al. and this current study both analyze the use of figurative language in song lyrics, there are several differences between the two studies. First, the study by Nosi et al. applied the theories by Leech and Knickerbocker & Reninger, while this study used the theory proposed by Kennedy et al. (2013). Second, the previous study centered on the various types of figurative language employed in the songs of Jason Derulo. This study, in contrast, centered on the various types of figurative language present in the song lyrics of Jamie Miller and their corresponding interpretations.

The third study is an article by Miun et al. (2021)that analyzes the figurative language in song lyrics from John Legend. The study described the types of figurative language and the meaning of John Legend's songs. The research used qualitative and quantitative methods for the data analysis. The data source is six songs from the album "Love in the Future" by John Legend. Despite analyzing the same topic of figurative language, there are several differences between the previous study and this one. The data source from the study by Miun et al. differs from the data source used in this current study. In this current study, the researchers analyzed the types and meanings of figurative language from eight songs by Jamie Miller. Furthermore, the theory for analyzing the types of figurative language is different since the theory of Reninger and the theory of meaning proposed by Leech are used in the previous study, while this study used the theory proposed by Kennedy et al. (2013).

While practically everyone enjoys listening to music, the researchers are drawn to this phenomenon and are curious to examine the figurative language in songs. The data are collected from songs, in particular, the song lyrics by Jamie Miller. The songs by Jamie Miller are meaningful and enjoyable to hear. In addition, many figurative languages could be analyzed. The researchers are

attracted to analyzing the lyrics of the songs because the lyrics have the values of love, friendship, human life inspiration, seduction, and inspired youth. Based on the background, analyzing the figurative language utilized in Jamie Miller's song lyrics would be fascinating.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research applied the descriptive qualitative method. A systematic subjective can provide the qualitative approach to describe and provide meaning to thoughts and feelings. The analysis is focused on describing the information and conclusions.

The data source is taken from the songs by Jamie Miller. Jamie Miller gained worldwide fame by joining The Voice UK's 2017 show. One of his songs, "Here's your perfect," has been played more than 200 million times. The data were collected using note-taking and observation methods. After attentively listening to the music and reading the song lyrics to comprehend the meaning of the songs, note-taking techniques are employed to collect the data. While listening to the music and reading the lyrics, the researchers marked the words that include various types of figurative language before identifying and analyzing their use in Jamie Miller's song lyrics.

The data analysis process involved two steps. The first step is identifying the different types of figurative language in the data source using the theory proposed by Kennedy et al. (2013), and the second step is examining the significance of the figurative language in the data source using Leech's theory (1981).

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

This section displayed the effects of eight Jamie Miller song lyrics that used figurative language. The theory proposed by Kennedy et al. (2013) was used to categorize the figurative language in Table 1. Based on the theory, this study identified four types of figurative language in Jamie Miller's song lyrics: personification, metaphor, simile, and hyperbole.

Table 1. Types of Figurative Language Found in Jamie Miller's Song Lyrics

Types of Figurative Language	Data Found
Personification	3
Metaphor	2
Simile	1
Hyperbole	9
Total	**15**

Discussion

1. *Personification*

According to Kennedy et al. (2013), personification is a form of figurative language that attributes human qualities to an inanimate object, animal, or abstract idea such as truth or nature. Personification refers to the act of attributing human characteristics to non-living entities, creatures, or concepts.

Datum 1

When the silence sings

The song lyrics in Datum 1 show personification because this sentence gives the characteristics of human beings to non-human beings. The word "sing" is the human characteristic and "silence" is the complete absence of noise or sound. Therefore, it is impossible to sing because silence means a quiet situation without noise or sound.

Connotative meaning refers to a meaning that goes beyond a sentence's literal or dictionary meaning. No inanimate item has the ability to sing. In the song's lyrics, the word "silence" alludes to people. If a person is singing instead of "silence," that would indicate something.

Datum 2

I lie awake in the city of broken dreams

The song lyrics in Datum 2 use personification because this sentence gives the characteristics of human beings to non-human beings. The word "city" refers to a large populous urban area that also includes several independent administrative areas. It is impossible that the "city" is a broken dream because it is an inanimate object that cannot dream like a human.

The significance of the song's lyrics is effective since they express the songwriter's emotions. The "city of shattered dreams" is described in the song, although in reality, a city cannot have a broken dream because that only happens to humans. The songwriter describes the city in this song's lyrics as a place he wants to rest. The meaning is the songwriter conveys his sadness to the listeners.

Datum 3

Choir's knockin' on my door

The song lyrics in datum 3 is another example of personification since it involves expressions that shows human attributes in non-human being. A choir is a group of people who sing together, for example, in a church or school. It could also refer to the area of a church where the choir singers sit. Based on the second definition of the word "choir," it is impossible that the "choir" knocks on the door because it is an inanimate object that cannot knock like a human.

Connotative meaning refers to a meaning that goes beyond a sentence's literal or dictionary connotation. That is because the lyrics mention a choir knocking on the door; that does not make sense. Only beings with arms who have the ability to knock can do this. The word "choir" has a connotative meaning of the hand. The song's lyrics explain how much the writer misses his lover.

2. *Metaphor*

According to Kennedy et al. (2013), a metaphor is a figurative device that conveys the notion that one entity is equivalent to another entity, even though such a comparison is not accurate. It may demonstrate the comparable characteristics shared by the two entities.

Datum 4

Time is always meant to heal the fall

The song lyrics in datum 4 show an example of the use of metaphor since the lyrics involve two things with different concepts between "time" and "heal". Without the word "like" or "as," the writer compares them directly. We measure time using quantities of moments, minutes, days, and years. Recovery, meanwhile, refers to returning to sound or health. The song lyrics in Datum 4 have conceptual meaning. The song lyrics describe healing the fall needs time.

Conceptually, "healing" really needs "time". The songwriter wants to convey the meaning that when a broken bone or other injury heals, or if someone or something heals, it becomes healthy and normal again, but the process always needs time.

Datum 5

Dressed in red and green but feeling blue

The song lyrics in Datum 5 are another example of a metaphor. The sentence compares two things that are different between "red and green" and "feeling blue," Feeling blue is a reference to a depressing emotion, whereas "red and green" relate to Christmas. Since the songwriter expresses his feelings through song, the lyrics have an affective meaning. Christmas, as we all know, can occasionally feel joyful since there is an opportunity to enjoy it with friends, family, and even a boyfriend or girlfriend. However, it would be sad if someone could not celebrate the occasion with their loved ones. The lyricist tries to express his sadness over not having his lover for Christmas in a sincere manner.

3. *Simile*

According to Johnson & Arp (2018), a simile is a figure of speech that compares one thing to the others. The simile is likely similar to the metaphor. The different thing from the metaphor is similes use the word *like* or *as*.

Datum 6

And the fire's not as bright

The song lyrics in Datum 6 use similes since there is a comparison between two things, such as "fire" and "bright". The word "as" acts as a connecting element and a means of contrast in this sentence. Because the meaning in the song lyrics is literal, they have the meaning that fire cannot reflect light, as described in the song's lyrics. As we know, fire cannot produce light as the sun shines upon Earth. Conceptually, fire only produces small light. The meaning is the songwriter tries to convey that fire cannot cure the yearning for a girlfriend.

4. *Hyperbole*

According to Johnson & Arp (2018), hyperbole is a figure of exaggeration used for special effects.

Datum 7

Drink my troubles away

The song lyrics in Datum 7 apply hyperbole because the lyrics exaggerate that drink the songwriter's troubles are away. Trouble is not a drink. Trouble is a noun that means a problem or an affliction. The lyrics have a connotative meaning, so it goes beyond what is literal or what is defined by a dictionary. In reality, what humans drink is water, juice, and so on, but not something abstract. Connotatively, the word "drink" represents the songwriter's intentions. The meaning is the songwriter hopes that what is in his mind and the problems he faces can be felt by his girlfriend.

Datum 8

I'm tryna find the heart I lost

The song lyrics in Datum 8 show hyperbole because this sentence exaggerates the songwriter trying to find his lost heart. The heart is the internal organ of the chest that pumps blood in the body and never goes away. Connotative meaning refers to a meaning that goes beyond a sentence's grammatical or dictionary meaning. If there is an issue, it means pain because the heart never loses. Connotatively speaking, the word "heart" refers to emotion. The song intends to evoke that emotion once more.

Datum 9

Missing parts of me

The song lyrics in Datum 9 also apply hyperbole because this sentence exaggerates the missing part of the songwriter. Humans are vulnerable to weakness, but no part of them is lost. Connotative meaning refers to a meaning that goes beyond a sentence's literal or dictionary meaning. Man is alive; if he loses a part of himself, he dies. The word "part" has the connotation of the soul. The lyricist intends to indicate that he feels empty right now and desires to return to his past.

Datum 10

I lost myself in loving you.

The song lyrics in Datum 10 use hyperbole because this sentence exaggerates that the songwriter lost himself in loving his girlfriend. While in reality, it makes no sense to die because of loving someone. If he had been defeated or died, he could not have lost himself in loving somebody, but he would have. The term "lost" connotes the sentiment of the song's author. The lyricist who can't help but fall in love with a girl is the focus of the song.

Datum 11

So take me to your deepest heart

The song lyrics in Datum 11 are hyperbole because this sentence exaggerates that takes the songwriter into his deepest heart. The heart is the inner part of the body that is the center of blood circulation. A person cannot go into someone's heart. Since it goes beyond its literal or dictionary meaning, the sentence has connotative meaning. A person cannot enter the deepest heart because the heart is inside the body. It is not a room that can be entered. Connotatively, the word "heart" represents life. The life of the woman loved by the songwriter. The meaning is the songwriter wants to live with the woman he loves.

Datum 12

A city full of angels

The song lyrics in Datum 12 show hyperbole because this sentence exaggerates a city is full of angels. A city is a large populated urban area, while an angel is a divine being considered a representative or herald of God. Angels are not the same as humans. Indeed, a city is inhabited only by all living things. Therefore, angels cannot live with humans in a city, even in the world. Connotatively, the word "angels" represent beautiful women. The meaning is songwriter conveys that a city is full of beautiful women.

Datum 13

Then I hope the bar kicks everybody out

The song lyrics in Datum 13 use hyperbole because this sentence exaggerates that the bar kicks everybody out. As we know, kicking means hitting somebody or something on foot, whereas a bar is a place where people can buy

and drink alcohol. So the bar cannot kick everybody out because it has no legs. The word "kick" connotes expelling from a congested area. The lyricist is trying to say that he did not like the bar crowd since it was important to his partner.

Datum 14

I'll hold you 'til we're older

The song lyrics in Datum 14 apply hyperbole since this sentence exaggerates that the songwriter would hold his girlfriend until she was older. Holding is a particular way of keeping someone in a position using one's hands, arms, or legs. A pair of lovers cannot hold each other until they are old.

Context refers to a meaning that goes beyond a sentence's grammatical or dictionary meaning. As we all know, the word "hold" denotes someone who puts their hands moving on something in order to stop it from moving or falling. The term "hold" has the connotation of "keep company with or watch over until they are older." The song's author tries to say that he desires to live alongside his sweetheart until their children are grown.

Datum 15

Be there 'til the air stops

The song lyrics in Datum 15 use hyperbole because this sentence exaggerates that the songwriter will be there until the air stops. Air is a mixture of colorless and odorless gas, such as oxygen and nitrogen, that fills the earth with space as we breathe. So on Earth, the air never stops. Since we cannot breathe if the air stops, it is impossible whenever it decides to stop and is unlikely to occur. The word "air" connotes the sound of the clock. The lyrics intend that the song's author wishes to spend his entire life with his girlfriend.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the analysis, the researchers conclude that figurative language is a style of writing applied to increase the effect of a word that has been mentioned or utilized in a sentence. There are four types of figurative language found in Jamie Miller's song lyrics: personification, metaphor, simile, and hyperbole. Hyperbole is the most dominant type of figurative language used in Jamie Miller's song lyrics. Based on the results, the researchers conclude that Jamie Miller employed

figurative language to convey his messages in his song lyrics. As a result, the listeners of Jamie Miller's song lyrics need to have deeper knowledge in order to decipher his messages. The data analysis in this study can be used to teach or learn the use of figurative language. Furthermore, this study could serve as a reference for further studies regarding figurative language. Since this study used song lyrics as the data source, future research about the use of figurative language in movies, television series, or other media is strongly encouraged.

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