

**AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN
WESTLIFE'S SONGS LYRIC OF SPECTRUM ALBUM**

THESIS ARTICLE



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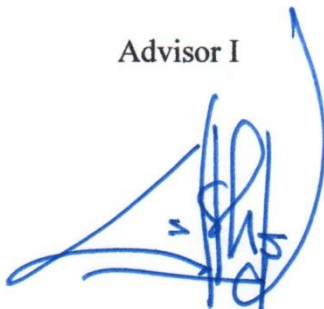
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Abstract

This research aimed to analyze figurative language in the Westlife song of Spectrum album. This study employed a descriptive qualitative method. The data were taken from the eleven song lyric of the Spectrum album by Westlife. This research used documentation and taking notes as the technique of collecting data. In analyzing the data, the framework proposed by Potter (1967) and Pateda (2001) was applied. The method of analyzing data was classifying, analyzing and identifying, and making conclusions. The frequency of each type of figurative language was Westlife was 4% contained simile type, 50% contained metaphor type, 22% contained hyperbole type, 7% contained personification type, 7% contained pleonasm type, 5% contained repetition type, 2% contained rhetoric and 2 % contained paradox. From the result of the analysis, it is found that the most frequently used is Metaphor and Hyperbole. Based on the contextual meaning of overall song lyrics of Westlife tell about conflict, pain heart, and raises from the sorrow. Therefore, it is suggested for the teachers or students to use the song to carry out the teaching and learning to get fun activity and improved English mastery.

Keyword: song, lyric, figurative language, contextual meaning

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the tools for human communication around the world. Without language, people will never able to communicate with others. Besides that, people need language to interact and share some ideas. In literary works, people use the language in various ways, spoken and written language. According to Meyer (1997:1), literature is a term that describes written texts characterized by careful use of language, including features such as creative metaphors, beautiful phrases, elegant syntax, rhymes, and aesthetic alliterations.

Literature covers many things. One of the creative writing of literature is figurative language. For some people, literature difficult to learned and make people bored. Figurative language can make the word or sentence more memorable. It helps people easy to analyze the meaning of a word. Based on Risdianto (2011: 33) states that figurative language is wording that makes explicit comparisons between unlike things using figures

of speech. It means figurative language is the language that deviates from the conventional work order meaning to convey a complicated meaning, colorful writing, clarity, or evocative comparison. Commonly, fiction writers use figurative language to engage their

audience using a more creative tone that provokes thinking and create imaginary. According to Potter (1967: 54), figurative language consists of comparative, contradictive, relation, and repetition. There are many types of figurative language such as metaphor, simile, symbols, hyperbola, irony, personification, etc. But in general, the figurative language is differentiated into four groups, they are confirmation, comparison, opposition, and allusion. Figurative language is usually applied in literary work.

Literary work is a branch of literature dealing with words as raw material to create a picture, an idea, or a story in a meaningful pattern. The literary work is two types, either creative writing or the study of what is written. However, it is wrong to limit literature to only written materials. Literature is writing a value as works of art such as a novel, poems or songs, and others. One of literary work is a song

Griffiee (2001) stated the song is part of music that is formed through words that aim to be sung. Usually, literature used it to express their ideas, emotions, and feelings. A song has appeal and attracts interest to the listener and usually created by composers and professional lyricists. There are many messages delivered by song. Through song, people can share their ideas and feelings to others by a voice that can be listened to. People can communicate with others through songs and music. In other words, a song can be used as the method to deliver ideas and feelings, so that the people can understand what the composer means.

In education, the song is a method to process learning. The teacher mostly uses the song as media to increase student understanding about the meaning. Usually, the lyrics of the song contain a positive message. On the other hand, only some people or students can understand the real meaning of the word. This due fact that language has a look abstract can look real and it will make misunderstanding. It caused, those lyrics to contain many figurative languages. Sometimes, the listener confused about the differences between figurative language and pure language. These figurative languages are famous in society, and also in the field of education starting from elementary school up to the university level. Therefore, the researcher used the song to make students are clear about

figurative language. Beautiful words will have valuable meanings and require the ability to deliver ideas through figurative language in song lyrics.

The researcher was interested in analyzing the lyric of Westlife songs because it is a very famous band and an inspiring song to many people around the world. In lyrics also contains many expressions from the singer that consisting figurative language and explicit meaning, especially in their Spectrum album is the eleventh album. This album released in November 2019, so the researcher has a chance to make the first study about it. By this song, the researcher would share with the reader about the function of the music that could inspire and motivate someone to be better.

Before the researcher carries out this study about the figurative language of Westlife album “Spectrum”, the researcher analyzes the research gap about figurative language to be compared with her study. The first, related to Wilyasetiyawati & Maryani (2018) “An analysis of Figurative Language in Taylor Swift’s song lyrics”. In this research, the writer uses descriptive qualitative research methods in observation and library research in collecting data. Figurative language consists of simile, metaphor, hyperbole, paradox, irony, personification, etc. Based on the contextual notion of the entire Taylor Swift’s song tells of betrayal and contradictions in romance. The literary context approach in this case the poem in the form of songs helps to deepen and expand our literary knowledge. Another research conducted by Apriono (2017) his research entitled An Analysis of Figurative Languages Used in the Lyrics of Scorpion Songs. He analyzed from two Scorpion song albums there are Crazy world and Love. He found several kinds of figurative languages that are personification, simile, metonymy, and metaphor. The function of figurative language found in Scorpion song lyrics is a language or expression used verbally to describe an intention, idea, or message of a speaker.

From the two research gaps above, this study has novelty and has not been carried out by the preceding research. She will do the study differs from the studies which are done by two researchers above. Therefore, the researcher analyzes the figurative language in song lyrics of Westlife’s song in the album “Spectrum”. Besides, the writer believes that she found some kinds of figurative language used; she also studies about the meaning of the figurative language used in selected lyrics of Westlife songs. The researcher carried out the research entitled” AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN WESTLIFE’S SONG LYRICS OF “SPECTRUM” ALBUM“.

METHOD

To analyze more deeply and solve problems in this research, the writer will apply the qualitative method. Data is the element to be analyzed and will be done with a descriptive qualitative method. In this research, uses the song lyric “*Spectrum album by Westlife*” as the main data. While, the supporting data are taken from other resources such as some collection of literary books, magazines, journals, biography, article, essay, and some supporting books which are related to the topic and some data available in the electronic text, namely the internet. All these sources are taken as the supporting data to understand the song completely. The method of data collection is the way that can be used by the researcher to collect the data. In collecting the data, the writer utilized the documentation method and taking notes technique. In collecting data, the writer used the steps: browsing Westlife song from the internet, researcher collecting eleven of Westlife’s song, researcher listen to a song by Westlife “SPECTRUM” album, then reading and understanding song by Westlife “SPECTRUM” album, identifying all out the words, phrase, and sentence containing the figurative language as the data, finally classified the data based on her analysis of figurative language, The last the researcher studies the contextual meaning of figurative language by identifying the contextual meaning. In analyzing data, the researcher uses some of the steps: The researcher was classified based on their types of figurative language, then the data of types figurative language found in the data were analyzed, the meaning of the figurative language from the song lyric was identified and analyzed, finally make a concluding.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Finding

The writer analyzed the figurative language of the songs which consist of simile, metaphor, hyperbole, pleonasm, rhetoric, paradox, personification, and repetition. The types of figurative languages of Westlife’s song of Spectrum album follow:

Table 1. *Total invention of finding a figurative language*

Total Invention	No	Kinds of Figurative Language	Σ	Percentages (%)
	1.	Hyperbole	22	22%

Total Invention	2.	Metaphor	50	50%
	3.	Simile	4	4%
	4.	Personification	7	7%
	5.	Pleonasm	7	7%
	6.	Repetition	5	5%
	7.	Rhetoric	2	2%
	8.	Paradox	2	2%
			$\sum f$	100

Discussion

In this part, the researcher wants to analyze kinds of figurative language and the contextual meaning of *Westlife's song of album Spectrum. (Hello My Love)*

Types of the figurative language used in Westlife's songs lyric of spectrum album Personification

Personification is a figure of speech in imaginative something, which does not have a soul, as though they have human characteristics Potter (1967: 54). It means that speaking of something that is not human as if it had human abilities and human reactions

You know my lips are all I can hold against you (Hello My Love)

This sentence categorizes into personification because this song assigning human characteristics to non-human objects. Here the composer wants to ask the listener that someone only obey the words of his love and make him to still stay with her.

Metaphor

Metaphor is a variety of analogy which compares two things directly but in short pattern Keraf (1994: 139). It means that between subject and object has some attributes, and the writer uses it to compares to another.

Classic you running away from the problems (One Last Time)

The sentence categorizes into metaphor. We know that only the human that can run but in the lyric gives imagination that we are running away or avoid the problems.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole or overstatement is figurative language that contains exaggeration elements about something Potter (1967:135). It means to emphasize some point of something

And I would die without you (Without You)

This sentence is categorized into hyperbole because the composer used the words as an over-statement expression. The expression reflects how important the “you” in the composer’s life.

Pleonasm

Pleonasm is figurative language that uses words improperly to emphasize the meaning of the word Keraf (1994: 145).

Caught up in the static somewhere (Without You)

The sentence is included in the pleonasm because the phrase has emphasized effect. “Caught up”, “static”, “somewhere” refer to the same idea that someone caught up in some place or situation. When someone is trapped, she/he cannot do anything and it refers to “static”. In short, the sentence means someone’s life is stuck.

Rhetoric

Rhetoric is figurative language in question that the answer has known by questioner Keraf (1994: 146).

Will you hold my hand? (Take Me There)

This sentence categorizes into rhetoric because in question that the answer has known by the questioner. The lyric means ask a question for someone to strengthen one another.

Repetition

Repetition is a figurative language that uses repetition words to emphasize meaning Keraf (1994:146).

My blood, my blood, my blood (My Blood)

The sentence categorizes into repetition, because the lyric is Repeated, which means my blood is a child or kids

Paradox

The paradox is a variety of figurative language which has a real contrast with a fact. It means all of the things that interest because of their truth Potter (1967:136).

Lie because the truth is hard to swallow (Dance)

This sentence categorizes into paradox because the word is contrasted with the fact, such as why the lie is better than the truth or honesty.

Simile

Simile is a comparison which has an explicit characteristic, it means that they state something similar to each other directly that use words like as and like,

Potter (1967: 54).

Have you ever felt wonder like thunder (L.O.V.E)

The sentence is categorized into simile because the Composer compares two things between wonder and thunder. Both have similarities that describe amazing things. The obvious mark is because of the keyword: “like” in it.

The Most Frequently Used Figurative Language in Westlife’s Songs Lyric of Spectrum Album

The frequency of each type of figurative language was Westlife was 4% contained simile type, 50% contained metaphor type, 22% contained hyperbole type, 7% contained personification type, 7% contained pleonasm type, 6% contained repetition type, 2% contained rhetoric and 2 % contained paradox. From the figure of types of figurative language found in the selected song lyrics of Westlife, the researcher concluded that the most appearance type of figurative language was Metaphor. Meanwhile, the rarest appearance of type figurative language was Rhetoric and Paradox.

The Contextual Meaning of Westlife’s Songs Lyric of Spectrum Album

The contextual meaning in this research is contained about love, sadness, and motivation. The details are below:

I know lately, I’ve been missing you like crazy (a love story)

The lyric has contained the idiom “missing like crazy” which had the meaning that someone who missed his love very much. The word of the crazy part of an adjective word but the composer added into this sentence to illustrate how someone was missed his love very much.

I feel my heart breaking again (pain heart

This lyric means when someone felt hurt because of love so it was like his heart was broken. Break not only for verb but also to describe the feeling and sense of someone. Word of Break here to emphasize the sadness of someone when she/he feels disappointed with something or someone

That you're my burning sun (motivation)

The composer illustrated “my burning sun” is like the power, spirit, and motivation. The composer chooses this word because commonly the sun is central to the solar system. It's reflected the power of people ambition's that can motivate each person to do positive things.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion and analytical data in the song, researchers found several kinds of figurative language. There are eight kinds of figurative language that is simile, repetition, pleonasm, metaphor, hyperbole, rhetoric, paradox, and personification. The frequency of each type of figurative language was Westlife was 4% contained simile type, 50% contained metaphor type, 22% contained hyperbole type, 7% contained personification type, 7% contained pleonasm type, 5% contained repetition type, 2% contained rhetoric and 2 % contained paradox. The general of all the songs that have been investigated is based on the love story and motivation.

The type of Figurative language in this Westlife's song, metaphor becomes the most dominant because most of the lyrical context of the song is about things that compared between two objects, so that the words used in the songs is exaggerated from the original meaning comparison with an explicit word and because lyricists want to describe and emphasize conflict, pain heart and treachery are very deep. Here, not a few composers also use it to compare two things that are the feeling with things that have implicit meaning and the lyrics are made with meaning that is not following the facts for the listener or reader to know and can feel what he/she has experienced. Therefore, to know and understand the hidden meaning in a song can use figurative language so that there will be no misunderstanding in interpreting the meaning.

SUGGESTION

Through this research, researchers hope to be helpful and useful for people interested in the analysis of literature especially in the lyrics of the song. Besides, the data can be used as a reference for further researchers who want to deepen in analyzing the text and can make the reader think critically of text analysis.

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