

ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN TROYE SIVAN'S SONGS



**Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University as Partial
Requirements to Obtain Bachelor's Degree in English Literature Study Program**

A THESIS

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It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination on 25 August 2023 and is
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On 25 , August 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Abu Thayyib F. Sukma (F041191068) entitled *Analysis of Figurative Language In Troye Sivan's Songs* submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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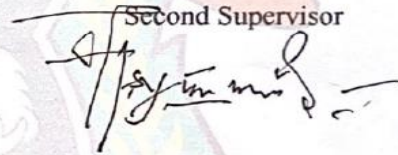
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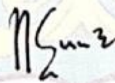
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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis entitled:

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Abu Thayyib F. Sukma

ABSTRAK

Abu Thayyib F. Sukma. 2023. *Analisis Bahasa Kiasan pada Lagu Troy Sivan* (Dibimbing oleh **Ayub Khan** and **Husain Hasyim**)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk (1) mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan dalam lagu Troy Sivan, (2) menjelaskan jenis bahasa kiasan yang paling dominan dalam lagu Troy Sivan.

Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif deskriptif untuk mengklasifikasikan dan menganalisis lirik lagu. Penulis menerapkan teori dari Perrine (1993) yang dikonstruksi oleh Greg Johnson dan Thomas R. Arp (Edisi ketiga belas). Setelah menganalisis keseluruhan lirik dalam lagu-lagu tersebut, penulis menemukan beberapa temuan bahasa kiasan di dalamnya.

Berdasarkan hasil analisis, terdapat 19 data bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan dalam lagu Troy Sivan. Jenis bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan meliputi Simile (4), Hiperbola (7), Metaphor (1), Metonimi (4), Personifikasi (2), Litotes (1). Bahasa kiasan dalam penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menambah keindahan, mempertegas makna dan memberikan makna yang mendalam. Itu juga membuat lagu lebih nyata dan indah sehingga dapat membantu penulis lagu menyampaikan perasaan dan pikirannya. Penelitian ini didominasi oleh gaya hiperbola karena pada tiap lagu sangpenyanyi berusaha mengungkapkan sebuah bentuk perasaan yang besar dalam bentuk kalimat atau lagu.. Sedangkan jenis yang paling sedikit adalah metaphor, personifikasi dan litotes.

ABSTRACT

Abu Thayyib F. Sukma. 2023. *Analysis of Figurative Language in Troy Sivan's Song*
(Supervised by **Ayub Khan** and **Husain Hasyim**)

This study aims to (1) identify the types of figurative language in Troy Sivan's songs, (2) explain the most dominant types of figurative language in Troy Sivan's songs.

The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method to classify and analyze song lyrics. The author applies the theory from Perrine (1993) which was constructed by Greg Johnson and Thomas R. Arp (Thirteenth Edition). After analyzing all the lyrics in these songs, the writer finds some figurative language findings in them.

Based on the results of the analysis, there are 19 figurative language data find in Troy Sivan's song. The types of figurative language find included Similes (4), Hyperboles (7), Metaphor (1), Metonymy (4), Personification (2), Litotes (1). The figurative language in this study aims to add beauty, emphasize meaning and give deep meaning. It also makes the song more real and beautiful so it can help the songwriter convey his feelings and thoughts. Hyperbolic style research dominated mbecause in each song the singer tries to express a big form of feeling in the form of a sentence or song. While the fewest types are metaphors, personifications and litotes.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides an introduction to the research study. It consists of research background, Problem Identification, Scope of Problems, Research Questions, Objectives, and Significance of the Study.

A. Background of the Study:

Language is a tool that can be used to express messages, whether those messages are spoken out or written down. Language is utilized in the communication process between a speaker and a listener (Yusniati Sabata & Ibrahim 2018). According to Keraf (2007), the speaker and the writer both have their own unique styles when it comes to communicating ideas. In oral languages, messages are transmitted and received through the process of speech, whereas in written languages, messages are transmitted and received through the utilization of various forms. Song is currently enjoying an incredible amount of popularity due to the fact that the majority of people enjoy listening to it. According to Apsari (2012), when songs are incorporated into the teaching and learning process, students have a tendency to participate more actively in both processes. People like a song for a variety of reasons, one of which is the meaningful knowledge that the song's lyrics provide regarding the message being conveyed by the song. This is in addition to the song's rhythm, which is another factor.

The imaginative literature on the one hand, and the informational literature on the other, both belong to the category of literature. People typically come across imaginative

writing in the form of literary works such as novels, poetry, and songs, all of which require the use of beautiful language in order to make fascinating points for readers to consider. The use of figurative language is one strategy for adding interest to written works such as books and songs. Figurative language is a form of language that makes use of various figurative and metaphorical expressions. The use of figurative language is analogous to drawing analogies between two concepts that one would not have previously associated with one another. In addition to that, a song that is typically listened to by adolescents can also be found to contain figurative language. Recently, a song by Troye Sivan has been extremely popular at the TikTok sound platform. On the other hand, it has been discovered that the composer writes the lyrics in an extraordinary manner by employing some figurative language.

The study of figurative language can be found within the field of linguistics, and more specifically within the subfield of semantics. Figurative language, also referred to as a figure of speech, is a term that refers to a separate word or phrase that conceals an additional meaning. Figurative language is utilized in the majority of written works, including but not limited to dramas, poems, and general writing seen in song lyrics. Because the lyrics of the song itself might sometimes represent the sentiments of the singer, some singers or songwriters seek to conceal the meaning behind the lyrics of the song so that other people will think about it more. This is because sometimes the lyrics of the song itself represent the thoughts of the singer. Figurative language can be broken down into its component parts. In Knickerbocker and Renninger's (1963) classification system, figurative language is broken down into the following categories: simile, metaphor, personification, allegory, paradox, dead metaphor, irony, hyperbole, and synecdoche.

Figurative language is typically used in literary works such as poems and novels. However, it is possible to locate it in the lyrics of a song. It is simple to become distracted from the lyrics of a song while listening to it, particularly if the song has figurative elements. The majority of the time, they enjoy it either due to the fact that the music is wonderful or because the vocalist is attractive. It is crucial to comprehend the meaning of a lyric since this will help us understand the meaning and purpose of the song as a whole. The majority of song lyrics are packed with meaning and have some kind of bearing on the world. The words that are written in the lyrics might have additional meanings and even deeper meanings if they are properly interpreted and internalized, and the meanings of the songs are not just interpreted by the words that are written literally. Additionally, vital are the messages conveyed by the music. As a result, it is essential to have a solid comprehension of the lyrics, particularly those lyrics that feature figurative language.

As a result, the author suggested conducting this research in order to dissect the allegory included within Troye Sivan's musical compositions. The purpose of this research is to determine the verity type of Troye Sivan's song lyrics. The purpose of this research is to analyze and classify the figurative language that can be found in the songs of Troye Sivan, as well as to determine which sort of figurative language is more prevalent in the singer's body of work. The author makes use of a qualitative methodology in order to make this research more manageable. All of the examples of metaphorical language that will be used will, for the most part, come from the lyrics of Troye Sivan's songs.

B. Identification of Problem:

Based on the background above, the writer focused on the problem as follows:

1. It is difficult to identify the type of figurative language in Troye Sivan's songs.
2. Difficult to understand songs' lyric that uses figurative language.
3. It is difficult to understand the meaning of the figurative language used in Troye Sivan's songs.

C. Scope of Problem:

The study is focused on the many types of figurative language. Aside from that, the researcher concentrates on the meaning of figurative language in Troye Sivan's song lyrics.

The researcher's scope of investigation is limited only to;

1. The difficulty in identifying the type of figurative language.
2. Variety of figurative language type found in the songs.

D. Research Questions:

Based on the scope of the research above, the authors formulate three research questions that will be answered as stated in the following research questions:

1. What are the types of figurative language are found in Troye Sivan's songs ?
2. What is the most dominant type of figurative language used in the songs ?

E. Objectives of the study:

The study objectives are:

1. To identify the type of figurative language found in the song Troye Sivan.
3. To discover the most dominant type of figurative language found in the songs.

F. Significances of The Study:

Theoretically, the writer hopes that this research can provide information to readers about the types of figurative language used in a song lyric. In addition, the writer also hopes that readers can understand the meaning of figurative language in a lyric of Troye Sivan's song.

Practically, the writer hopes that this research can be a contribution for students of the same department as the author in analyzing the types of figurative language in a song lyric using semantic analysis and as a reference for those who are interested in linguistic subjects as a guide or comparison in writing a thesis on the same topic.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter contains a review of previous related studies that underlies the research conducted by three researchers. In addition, it has an explanation of the theoretical background. The theories discussed in this study are Simile, Metaphore, Hyperbole, Personification, Litotes, Irony, Metonymy and Oxymoron.

A. Previous Studies

There have been many studies that have been done related to conversational implicatures. In supporting and developing this research, the following are some related previous studies. The first study was conducted by Nur Annisa Safira (2020) entitled *Figurative Language in Selected Shawn Mendes Album Song Lyrics*. This study discusses the analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics of Shawn Mendes' album and analyzes the meaning of figurative language in the lyrics of Shawn Mendes' album songs. This study used descriptive qualitative method. The researcher took data from Shawn Mendes' song lyrics with the results that there were 5 types of figure of speech, namely metaphor, hyperbole, personification, simile and repetition.

The second study was conducted by Dewi Laila Alviana (2020) entitled *Figurative Language in Maher Zain's Song Lyrics in Academic Year*. This study aims to find the types of figurative language in Maher Zain's songs. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach using Perrine's theory of figurative language and is supported by the theory of Abrams, Keraf and Reaske. The results showed that from 5 songs there were 42 lyrics that

contained figurative language. The 42 lyrics consist of 8 types of figurative language, namely simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, paradox, hyperbole, belittling and irony.

The third study was conducted by Ema Rizqal Maftuhah (2018) *Figurative Language in Selected Brian McKnight's Songs*. This study aims to identify and explain the meaning of the figure of speech used in Brian McKnight's song. This study uses descriptive qualitative analysis methods. The author uses Perrine's figurative language theory, the author makes observations by observing song lyrics from Brian McKnight and taking sentences containing figure of speech, the result is 11 data is hyperbole figure of speech, 9 data is personification figure of speech, 7 data is simile figure of speech, 6 data is metaphorical figure of speech and 4 data are metonymy figure of speech. It can be concluded that the figure of speech that is most often used in Brian McKnight's song is hyperbole.

This research is different from the previous research above, because the object of this research uses songs from Troye Sivan's popular songs. Furthermore, this study aims to find out the types of figurative language found in Troye Sivan's popular songs. Also to describe the most dominant type of figurative language in Troye Sivan's popular songs. The differences between this research and the previous studies above are the result of figurative language that have been found. This research was found 6 types of figurative language, Nur Annisa (2020) research was found 5 types of figurative language, Dewi Laila Alviana (2020) research was found 8 types of figurative language, and Ema Rizqal Maftuhah (2018) research was found 5 types of figurative language.

The similarities also found between this research and the previous study that author use. Both this research and previous study was analyzed based on the theory of figurative language proposed by Perrine (1993) which was constructed by Greg Johnson and Thomas R. Arp (Thirteenth Edition). Lastly, both this research and the previous study was using qualitative descriptive method.

B. Theoretical Background

1. Semantics

The study of language meaning is referred to as semantics. It's about what sentences and other linguistic objects are trying to say. The study of word meaning is known as semantics. The term semantic has eventually come to dominate as a moniker for the doctrine of meaning, especially in linguistics. According to Lyons (1977) quoted by Nur Annisa Safira (2020) state that semantics is the study of meaning in language. Lyons state that, utterance meaning is the part of meaning of a sentence that is directly related to grammatical and lexical features, but is obtained either from associated prosodic and paralinguistics features from the content, linguistics and non-linguistics. Kreidler's (1998) said that semantics is the study of how language organizes and express meaning.

In linguistics, semantics is the subfield that studies meaning (a concept also frequently used in everyday usage outside of linguistics). Semantics can address meaning at the levels of words, phrases, sentences, or larger units of discourse. Two of the fundamental issues in the field of semantics are that of compositional semantics (which applies to how smaller parts, like words, combine and interact to form the

meaning of larger expressions, such as sentences) and lexical semantics (the nature of the meaning of words). Other prominent issues are those of context and its role on interpretation, opaque contexts, ambiguity, vagueness, entailment, and presuppositions.

Several disciplines and approaches have contributed to the often-disagreeing field of semantics. One of the crucial questions which unites different approaches to linguistic semantics is that of the relationship between form and meaning. Some major contributions to the study of semantics have derived from studies in the 1980–1990s in related subjects of the syntax–semantics interface and pragmatics.

The semantic level of language interacts with other modules or levels (like syntax) in which language is traditionally divided. In linguistics, it is typical to talk in terms of "interfaces" regarding such interactions between modules or levels. For semantics, the most crucial interactions are considered those with figurative language, syntax (the syntax–semantics interface), pragmatics, and phonology (regarding prosody and intonation). Figurative language is a part of semantics that used words to convey and acquire meaning. It is used when someone says or writes something to create a broad meaning. Figurative language is when people describe something by comparing it to something else.

1.1 Types of Semantics

- Formal Semantics

“It is the study of the relationship between words and meaning from a philosophical angle or a mathematical standpoint. It deals with the truth

of utterances and how that truth is determined. It does not interpret real-world examples but instead, deals with creating models of potential linguistic utterances and examining them to determine their semantic relationships.”

- Lexical Semantics

“Lexical semantics is the most common type of semantics. It is the study of the meaning of individual words, particularly in the context of things like metaphor and other literary devices that can change the meanings of words and phrases. Lexical semantics takes different things into accounts such as context, or the text surrounding a word that gives it a particular meaning, and nuance, or shades of meaning in a word.”

- Conceptual Semantics

“Conceptual semantics deals with the dictionary definition of a word before applying any context to the word. It studies the concepts with which the words are connected to. It studies how meaning gets assigned to those words. It studies how meanings change over time. These are all the things studied in conceptual semantics. A word that represents a concept is usually referred to as a sign in linguistics. Hence, the study of signs is related to conceptual semantics.”

2. Figurative Language

Figurative language is made up of words or statements that have a different meaning from the literal meaning. The authors employed figurative language to create images in the minds of their readers and explain concepts in new, vivid, and innovative ways. According to Keraf (2009), figurative language is a technique of expressing ideas through language. It usually reflects the author's personality and soul. In a statement, the use of figurative language frequently has the effect of certain influences. The most crucial point to remember is that figurative language has an impact on the meaning conveyed. Leech (1981:11) has classified figurative meaning into 8 types, they are personification, simile, hyperbole, metaphor, litotes, irony, metonymy, oxymoron.

a. Personification

Personification is used to express the actions of non-human objects that are given human characteristics. Perrine (1969) defines personification as "lend human qualities to animals, objects, or ideas."

Example: "The moon smile above us" (Bulan tersenyum di atas kita).

b. Simile

This simile, is also known as figurative language, is used to communicate the same character in two different items. The general inheritance of parables in ordinary dialogue, according to Shaw (1972:344), usually reflects a straight forward comparison based on the natural world or familiar domestic objects. This trait is intended to explicitly express something comparable to the other.

Example: “You’re so innocent like an angel.” (Kamu begitu polos seperti malaikat).

c. Hyperbole

Exaggerated expressions are expressed using hyperbole or hyperbole. (Perrine, 1969: 110) "Hyperbole or overstatement is nothing more than exaggeration for the sake of truth"). Meanwhile, Tarigan (2005) defines hyperbole as a figure of speech that is employed to exaggerate something. This is a type of humor that is used to criticize someone or just to emphasize a situation that isn't all that horrible. For instance, if I cannot obtain a new vehicle, I will perish. This sentence is a little exaggerated because no one can die if they don't acquire a new car.

Example: “I see a smile that can light up the whole town.” (Aku melihat sebuah senyuman yang bisa menerangi seisi kota).

d. Metaphor

Metaphors are used to explain sure matters or emotions as compared to something else. Perrine (1969) states that during assessment metaphors are implied – that is, figurative phrases and are changed or diagnosed with literal phrases. Both metaphor and simile are comparisons among basically distinctive matters. The most effective distinction among them is the usage of connotative phrases. In simile, the poet makes use of connotative phrases such as: like, as, then, comparable to, or resembles. Whereas in implied assessment metaphors,

figurative phrases and which might be changed or diagnosed with literal phrases. Example: The mild of my life. The individual depicted via way of means of this metaphor does now no longer surely deliver off a bodily glow. He is simply a person who brings happiness or joy.

Example: “You’re my bright star” (Kamu adalah bintang terang saya).

e. Litotes

In rhetoric, litotes are figures of speech wherein subtraction is used to emphasise a factor through pointing out its contrary to emphasise a high-quality trait, regularly combining a bad double for effect. The word litotes comes from the Greek word 'lito' because of this that simple. Litotes are described as belittling something through revealing the other of the real word, in figuratively, using litotes is commonly intentional, ironic and places emphasis on words. This is particularly executed via double negatives.

Example: “*They aren’t the happiest couple around*” (Mereka bukan pasangan paling bahagia di sekitar sini).

f. Irony

Irony says irony is the opposite of meaning. (Reaske, 1966: 35). "Irony is the contrast between the true meaning of a phrase and the meaning of another. The 14 meanings referred to are often a mockery of what was actually said. Example: You sing I like your voice when you stop. In fact, this phrase makes

it clear that I like your voice. and I didn't really like it, but the speech sings to someone (you) whom I want to stop, and the listener abandons conflicting ideas about what the speech should convey (Perrine, 1974: 626).

Example: “your rapport is very good, until red’s color all” (Hubungan Anda sangat baik, sampai warna merah semua).

g. Metonymy

Metonymy is renaming, use from one word to another, and the use of ideas in related terms. According to Kerraf, (2009) "metonymy is an idiom that uses a word that is closely related to another word." Methonymy is a close relationship that uses the name, person, or property of an object as a substitute or as something itself.

Example: “The White House – where the President or someone else works”

h. Oxymoron

Oxymoron is a metaphor for juxtaposing seemingly contradictory elements. Oxymora appears in a variety of situations, including unintended errors (such as "ground pilots") and literary oxymorons created to reveal the paradox.

Example: “I can resist anything, except temptation.” (Saya bisa menahan apa pun, kecuali sesuatu yang sangat menggoda).

3. Song

A song is an artistic composition that creates a musical work with unity and continuity by combining tones and sounds in order and making them temporally related. Songs are also a collection of beautifully arranged words sung along with musical accompaniment. This song is based on composition and has a rhythm and tempo that the listener can feel involved in the meaning of the song. The song is also known as a very special literature because the tempo of the song shows the depth of every meaning. The lyrics are cute, so it makes you feel like flying, slipping, light and rustic.