

**THE SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN
SELECTED AMERICAN SONG “HEAL THE WORLD”**



A THESIS

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University
In partial fulfilment of the requirements to obtain
A Bachelor degree in English Department

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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY**

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THESIS

**THE SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN
SELECTED AMERICAN SONG "HEAL THE WORLD"**

BY

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It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination
On Friday, 20th August 2021
and is declared to have fulfilled the requirements.

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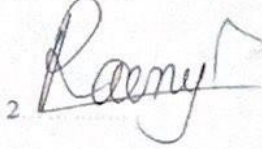



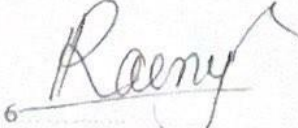
Today, 20th August 2021, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by SABLEN SUPARMAN (Student Number : F21114023) entitled:

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Submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S.) Degree at the English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University

Makassar, 20th August 2021

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With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 1421/UN4 9 1/KEP/2021 regarding supervisor, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Sablen Suparman (F21114023) to be examined at the English Department of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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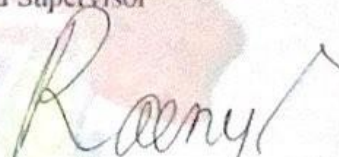
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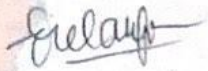
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DECLARATION

The thesis of **SABLEN SUPARMAN** (Student Number : **F21114023**) entitled,
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SELECTED AMERICAN SONG "HEAL THE WORLD"**
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Dengan ini menyatakan bahwa Skripsi ini benar-benar karya saya sendiri. Sepanjang pengetahuan saya tidak terdapat karya yang ditulis atau diterbitkan orang lain kecuali sebagai acuan atau kutipan, dengan mengikuti tata penulisan karya ilmiah yang lazim.

Makassar, 20 Agustus 2021

Yang Menyatakan,



Sablen Suparman

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I would like to convey my thanks to many people without whose help and assistance this thesis would never have been completed. The writer admits, in finishing this thesis, the writer got helped by her colleagues in the form of moral support that gives encouragement to the writer. The writer convey his thanks to both Dr.Abidin Pammu, M.A.TESOL and Sitti Sahraeny, SS, M.A. both his supervisor in helping to supervise in such critical time of my study. I want to pass my special thanks to all friends for their understanding and help during my study at the English Department Hasanuddin University.

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The Writer

ABSTRACT

Sablen Suparman. 2021. *The Semantic Analysis of Figurative Language in a Selected American Song “Heal The World”* (Supervised by **Abidin Pammu.** and **Sitti Sahraeny**).

This analyses the figurative language are used in Michael Jackson’s song lyrics. It is expected that the result of this study will be useful for the students of linguistics since this study is done based on the theory of figurative language.

The benefit of figurative language and category used in this thesis is that the readers comprehend that such theory can be used to give clearer and better understanding about the meanings of figurative language. Figurative language in the song could make the readers understand that lyrics of the song can describe messages that must be known by learning them deeply in terms of categories. This study attempts to provide a description about figurative language in human daily life.

The type of data that are used in this study is a qualitative data. The data analyzed in the study are some written texts. The texts discuss are song taken from Michael Jackson’s album titled *Heal the world*.

The analytical result of this song can be classified into four figurative languages they are metaphor, personification, synecdoche, and antithesis. There are two lyrics used metaphor in “Heal The World” song’s, the lyric I and lyric IV. There are three lyrics used Personification in “Heal The World” song’s. One lyric used synecdoche and one lyric antithesis.

Key words: Figurative language, metaphor, personification, antithesis, synecdoche.

ABSTRAK

SABLEN SUPARMAN. 2021. *The Semantic Analysis of Figurative Language in Selected American Song “Heal The World”*, (Dibimbing oleh **Abidin Pammu** dan **Sitti Sahraeny**).

Penelitian ini menganalisis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu Michael Jackson. Hasil penelitian ini diharapkan bermanfaat bagi para siswa linguistik karena penelitian ini dilakukan berdasarkan teori bahasa kiasan.

Manfaat dari bahasa kiasan dan kategori yang digunakan dalam tesis ini yaitu pembaca akan memahami bahwa teori tersebut dapat digunakan untuk memberikan pemahaman yang lebih jelas dan lebih baik tentang makna bahasa kiasan. Bahasa kiasan dalam lagu bisa membuat pembaca mengerti bahwa lirik lagu dapat menggambarkan pesan yang harus diketahui dengan mempelajarinya secara mendalam dalam hal kategori. Penelitian ini berupaya memberikan deskripsi tentang bahasa kiasan dalam kehidupan sehari-hari.

Jenis data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah data kualitatif. Data yang dianalisis dalam penelitian ini adalah beberapa teks tertulis. Teks yang dibahas adalah lagu yang diambil dari album Michael Jackson berjudul *Heal the world*.

Hasil analitik dari lagu ini dapat diklasifikasikan ke dalam empat kategori bahasa kiasan yaitu metafora, personifikasi, sinekdoke, dan antitesis. Ada dua lirik yang menggunakan metafora dalam lagu “Heal The World”, lirik ke I dan lirik ke IV. Ada tiga lirik Personifikasi yang digunakan dalam lagu “Heal The World”. Satu lirik menggunakan sinekdoke dan satu lirik menggunakan antitesis.

Kata kunci: Bahasa kiasan, metafora, personafikasi, antitesis, sinekdoke.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Language is very important thing to our life because language has strong influence in the society relationship. Language is one important thing of communication and language can express speaker's ideas, feeling, emotion, and suggestion. Literature is a part of language and language is tool for communication. Therefore, literature cannot be separated from language. Literature is simple another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination (Jones, 1968).

In learning and understanding language, people do not only understand the form of language, but also the meaning in it. There are many ways people do in delivering their idea to other people so that people can understand and catch the meaning of idea up. One of the ways that can be used is by lyric. Many people figure out their ideas and feeling into a lyric. A song is a composition of voice performed by a singer or by musical instrument. There are many messages delivered in a lyric. Through song, people can convey his voice to many people, so that people can know his feelings and idea. Currently, many songs can express our feelings, such as song with theme of love, social, political and others. In this time, people can speak to others through song. It means that the song can be used as the way to delivering idea and feeling so that the people can understand what the songwriter means.

Literature not only provides pleasure for the reader but also gives something more important to understand life. Koesnoesoebroto mention two kinds of literature. They are the *literature of knowledge and the literature of imagination* (1988:2). The literature of

knowledge presents or interprets facts, ideas or happenings. Literature of imagination interprets experience by a fictitious presentation of person, ideas, and events. The creative writer is not only primarily concerned with the actual truth of particular events but also their imagination.

Literature is a part of language and language is a tool for communication. In our daily life, everyone needs a medium to communicate with others. The most frequent and easy to use media is language. It allows us to be able to describe something clearly, it is also used and known by individuals from birth. So, one does not have many difficulties in its use. Not only in communication and the process of daily social interaction, language turns out to have an important role in literary communication such as songs, poems, short stories, or even novels.

A song is one example of literature of imagination. According to Hornby, "Song is a short poem or number of verses set to music and intended to be sung by singer. Song is one of literary works that has the purpose for entertainment, enjoyment and information. Song is a media to express the imagination, ideas, feeling and message to the readers. In many songs commonly use figurative language and usually contain beautiful words. So, figurative language is part of composer style. It means that the author will be expressing the message using words that need interpretation.

The scientific study of language is called linguistics. Questions concerning the philosophy of language, such as whether words can represent experience, have been debated at least since Gorgias and Plato in ancient Greece. Thinkers such as Rousseau have argued that language originated from emotions while others like Kant have held that it originated from rational and logical thought.

Figurative language is a form of deviation from the language used in everyday or standard language, deviation of meaning, and deviation of the arrangement of words in order to obtain more specific meanings such as comparing or associating two things.

Figurative language uses figures of speech to be more effective, persuasive, and impactful. Figures of speech such as metaphors, similes, and allusions go beyond the literal meanings of the words to give readers new insights. On the other hand, alliterations, imageries, or onomatopoeias are figurative devices that appeal to the senses of the readers.

Figurative language is commonly applied in literary works. One of the literary works is song. Sometimes, people find difficulties to understand what composer means in a song, because what conventionally says is not always the same as what he intends to express. A composer usually put the meaning implicitly. In the attempt to understand the meaning of what composer means in the song, a further knowledge is needed.

There are lots of majors that are grouped in several types. But in this article the writer discuss four types of advanced forms that are included in the Comparative Majors, which are often used in writing, namely Synecdoche, Metaphor, and Personification.

Function of music is greatly deep for human being. Music can be an entertainment, education, health, and also as a part of religious rituals. A song can be considered as process of communication that represents art because there are numbers of information and messages that are sent by speakers to hearer using verbal language. Every song has many messages and need to analyze the meaning of the song to understand the song.

Merriam states "music is a meaningful symbol related to ideas or behaviours in a society" (Merriam, 1964: 32-33). "Music is a part of art in which art is one of cultural devices" (Koentjaraningrat, 1986:203-204).

According to Jackson (1991), music is included as a category functioning as social norm. Music roles as teaching medium in norms and regulation believed in the society. The delivery is mostly through lyrics of songs containing rulers and insightful meaning. Besides, in its own standing song, music is categorized as an integration of society. As a meaning, if a music played together, it unconsciously will make togetherness feeling among music players or music lovers. In his own song namely "Heal the world", Michael Jackson tries to encourage people to be kind to others and every other creature in this earth even to the earth itself.

There are have same studies which have done by Previous Study. First, Khadijah Arifah (2016) in *Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song*. The writer describes the figurative language in the song could make the readers understand that lyrics of the song can describe messages that must be known by learning them deeply in terms of categories. This study attempts to provide a description about figurative language in human daily life. The type of data that is used in this study is a qualitative data.

Second, Nana Nurdiana (2015) in *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Katy Perry's Song*. The writer analyzes the contextual meaning and the type of figurative language used in the song. The writer used descriptive qualitative research with documents or content analysis as a type of research. This thesis describes the type of figurative language and the contextual meaning of Katy Perry's song.

Based on statement above, the writer chooses “Heal the World” song by Michael Jackson as the subject of the research because the song tells about human life in the world. Michael Jackson is an American pop singer and songwriter. In this case, the writer aims to find the figurative language of “Heal the World” by Michael Jackson and the message behind the song. Therefore, the writer chooses the title of thesis “an analysis of figurative language and message on the song of „Heal the World” song by Michael Jackson”.

B. Identification Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the writer found some interesting point to discuss, as follows:

1. It is hard to identify the type of figurative language song lyrics.
2. It is difficult to understand why the Jackson uses figurative language in his song.
3. It is hard to understand the meaning of figurative language.

C. Scope of The Study

Related to the background above, the writer limits this study to the following extent:

1. The types of figurative language in Michael Jackson song: “Heal the World”.
2. The meaning of figurative language by using Laurence Perrine’s theory, e.g. metaphor, personification and synecdoche.

D. Research Questions

Based on the scope above, the writer formulates the research questions to be answered as stated in the following research questions:

1. What are the kinds of figurative language used in “Heal the Word” song by Michael Jackson

2. What are the messages of “Heal the World” song by Michael Jackson?

E. Objective of The Study

The objectives of the study are:

- 1) To describe the figurative language in “Heal the Word” song by Michael Jackson
- 2) To explain the message from “Heal the Word” song by Michael Jackson?

F. Significance of The Study

Theoretically, the writer expects that this study gives information to the researchers about the types of figurative language used in a song lyric. In addition, the writer also hopes for the researches can understand about what the meanings of figurative language in a song lyric especially Michael Jackson’s song.

Practically, the writer hopes that this study gives information to the society about the types of figurative language found in Michael Jackson’s song. Moreover, the writer expects that this study can be a contribution to the students of English Department in analyzing the types of figurative language in song lyric by using semantic analysis

and a reference for those who are interested in the subject of linguistic as guidance or comparison in writing thesis with same subject.

CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Related Research

This section discusses three previous studies. They are the study entitled *Figurative Language* which is written by Khadijah Arifah in *Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song*. The next study is written by Qurrotul 'Ain entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language in The Song Lyrics by Maher Zain*. The last is the studies entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Katty Perry's Song*, which are written by Nana Nurdiana. They are discussed respectively as follows:

Khadijah Arifah (2016) in *Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song*. The writer describes the figurative language in the song could make the readers understand that lyrics of the song can describe messages that must be known by learning them deeply in terms of categories. This analyses the figurative language are used in John Legend's song lyric. It is expected that the result of the study will be useful for the student of linguistics since this study is done based on the theory of figurative language. Kind of figurative language was found in John Legend song selected songs lyric are smile, metaphor, hyperbola, personification, oxymoron, paradox, symbolic, repetition, allusion, and anumerasio. The type of data that is used in this study is a qualitative data. The data analysed in the study are some written texts. The texts discussed are song taken from John Legend song lyric. By these classification, we can recognize well which one includes each figurative speech. The result of this study concludes that there are many types of figurative language found in this research. In her study, there are eleven things of figurative language found. They are personification, hyperbole, metaphor, paradox, oxymoron,

litotes, simile, allusion, repetition, symbolic and enumeration. Hyperbole that was the most dominant type of figures in John Legend's selected songs.

Nana Nurdiana (2015) in *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Katy Perry's Song*. The writer analyzes the contextual meaning and the type of figurative language used in the song. The writer used descriptive qualitative research with documents or content analysis as a type of research. This thesis describes the type of figurative language and the contextual meaning of Katy Perry's song. The research design used in this study is descriptive qualitative research with a document or content analysis as the research type. The thesis described type of figurative language and contextual meaning from Katy Perry's song. From the analysis, there were nine types of figurative languages: they were personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, allusion, repetition, alliteration, onomatopoeia, and idiom. Thirty-six have been selected to be analyzed. There were 1 type of figurative language (Personification), 5 type of figurative language (Metaphor), 10 type of figurative language (Simile), 4 type of figurative language (Hyperbole), 3 type of figurative language (Allusion), 1 type of figurative language (Repetition), 1 type of figurative language (Alliteration), 2 type of figurative language (Onomatopoeia), and 7 type of figurative language (Idiom).

Is that the researcher analyzes Michael Jackson's song (Heal the World) in a semantic analysis to look for different meanings implied in the Michael Jackson song. Kind of figurative language has been found in Michael Jackson's selected songs lyrics are simile, metaphor, synecdoche, personification and antithesis. Figurative language in the song could make the readers understand that lyrics of the song can describe messages that must be known by learning them deeply in terms of categories. This study attempts

to provide a description about figurative language in human daily life. The type of data that is used in this study is a qualitative data. The texts discuss is song taken from Michael Jackson's album titled "Dangerous". This is *Heal the world*. The analytical result of this song can be classified into four figurative languages in order to create the easier analysis. By these classifications, we can recognize well which one includes each figurative speech.

B. The Theoretical Discussions

1. Figurative Language

Figurative language or speech contains images. The writer or speaker describes something through the use of unusual comparison, for effect, interest, and to make things clearer. The result of using this technique is the creation of interesting images. Appealing to the imagination, figurative language provides new way of looking at the world. It always makes use of a comparison between different things. Figurative language compares two things that are different in enough ways so that their similarities, when pointed out, are interesting, unique and surprising.

According to Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia, Figurative or styleisthe use of property by a person to speak the language or writing; discharging certain range to obtain ascertain effect; over all characteristics of a group of authors of literary language; typical way to express through sand feeling sin written or oral form (Department of Education ,1995:297).

Figurative language or figures of speech by Kridalaksana called "*a figure or rhetoric or rhetorical figure is a tool to expand the meaning of a word or group of words to get certain effects by comparing or divide and associate the two things*".(Department of Education ,1995:297).

According to Abrams (1981:63):

“ *figurative language (figurative language) is a distortion of language use by speakers of understanding the language used everyday (ordinary), deviations from the standard language, or distortion sense of the word, deviation of a series of words in order to obtain some special meaning*”.Abrams (1981:63).

According to all the experts above, I can make a conclusion that figurative language is the use of words, phrases, symbols, and ideas in such a way as to evoke mental images and sense impressions.

2. Kinds of Figurative Language:

According to Tarigan (1985) that there are four groups of figure of speech, they are :Figure of comparison Figure of Opposition Figure of Connection Figure of Repetition

1) Figure of Comparison

Figure of Comparison is a kind of figurative language, which is used to find the similarities in different things. Figure of comparison is classified into five types as follows:

- a) Simile is the comparison of between things essentially unlike. In simile the comparison is expressed by the use of some words such as: like, as, than, similar to, or resembles.

For example: *The Eagles falls like thunderbolt* (Perrine, 1969:65).

- b) Metaphor is an implied comparison between two objects without the use of words ‘like or as’.

For example: *Time is money*. (Perrine, 1996:65).

- c) Personification is consisting in giving the attributes of human being to an animal, an object, or an idea.

For example: *England expects every man to do his duty*. (Perrine, 1996:65).

- d) Allegory is a narrative or description that has a second meaning beneath the surface one.

For example: *If we call commonwealth a ship, the Prince a pilot, the counsellor's mariners, the storm wars.* (Perrine, 1996:65).

2) Figure of Opposition

Figure of Opposition is a kind of figurative language, which is use to show the contradiction or the opposite of an idea of a subject in sentences or phrases. Figure of Opposition is divided into seven types as follows:

- a) Hyperbole is an expression inn extreme language so as to achieve intensity.

For example: *He had tones of money.* (Wyne, 1989:520).

- b) Litotes is the figure of speech in which an affirmative is expressed by the negative of its contrary.

For example: *He's no genius for he's stupid.* (Murray, 1978:77)

- c) Irony is a contrast between what is being said, implied, or suggested and what is actually the case.

For example: *His house is clean and orderly. Nothing dust settled on the pictures and there was no furniture to clutter the living.* (Murray, 1978:69)

3) Figure of Connection

Figure of connection is a kind of figurative language, which is use to show or express an idea, or a subject matter that is clearly associated or has a strong relationship. Figure of connection is divided into seven types as follows:

- a) Metonymy is the naming of a person, institution, or human characteristic by some objects or attribute with which it is clearly associated.

For example: *The white house, for the President of the United States.*
(Wynne, 1989:522)

- b) Synecdoche is a figure of speech by which a part is used to express a whole to express a part.

For example: *Twenty summers for twenty years.* (Wynne, 1989:522)

- c) Allusion is an explicit or implicit reference of events, figures, places mythologies, or famous masterpiece.

For example: *The tragedy of September eleventh.* (Keraf, 1994:141)

4) Figure of Repetition

Figure of repetition is a kind of figurative language in which the same words or phrases are used repeatedly in successive clauses. Figure of Repetition is classified into four types as follows:

- a) Alliteration is the commencement of two or more words in close connection with the same sound.

For example: *Find me fifteen friendly friars.* (Drabble, 1985:18).

- b) Chiasmus is a figure of speech by which the order of words in the first of two parallel clauses is reversed in the second.

For example: *He saved other, himself he cannot save.* (Drabble, 1985:189).

3. Metaphor

Figure of speech or figurative language is one of ways to express something in analogical meaning. It means that the language, which is used, cannot be taken literally and it needs comprehension of the readers to get the indirect devices on it. It is a fact that many authors use figures of speech to express their ideas in writing.

Basically, the use of figure of speech is based on the sense, habit and creativity of the authors. The author's purposes in the usage of figure of speech are to beautify the language in their writing and also to involve the readers to the story they read. It is because the figure of speech can guide the thought of the readers by what were written down in the literary works and the readers can catch the true message that were intended by author. So, figure of speech is an important matter in the literature because it can support an aesthetic target in writing as an art creation.

The word metaphor comes from Greek, metaphor derived from Meta means 'over' and phor means 'to carry'. It refers to a particular set of linguistic processes where by aspects of one object spoken has as if it was the first. A metaphor is a direct comparison of two things. In his book *The Complete Stylist* Sheriden Baker looks at the word "metaphor" at the embedded image in the original Greek, to drive home it's meaning. The word metaphor breaks down in two parts, Baker (1972:15) says:

Meta = across phor = ferry or carry

According to Aristotle in Hawkes (1972:33) metaphor is the application to one thing of a name belonging to another thing. The analysis is carried out in terms of content and the transference involved may be as follows from one species to another and matter of analogy, Meanwhile, Quintilian in Hawks (1972) distinguishes four kinds of metaphorical transference such as from the inanimate to inanimate object, and from the animate to animate object.

According to Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary in Murray (1978). A metaphor is a word or phrase literally denoting one kind of object or idea used in place of another by way of suggesting a likeness or analogy between them.

4. Meaning

Become an interesting action, and see pictures of making meaning. Be behavioral and see images of meaning makers. We make meaning by looking, with visual interrogation. We make meaning by seeing, with visual interrogation.

If you want to discuss the meaning of a word, it helps to know the difference between denotation and connotation. These two terms are easy to confuse because they describe related concepts. Additionally, both denotation and connotation stem from the Latin word *notary*, meaning, "to note."

The denotation of a word or phrase is its explicit or direct meaning. Another way to think of it is as the associations that a word usually elicits for most speakers of a language, as distinguished from those elicited for any individual speaker because of personal experience.