A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FOUND

IN POPULAR SONG

A THESIS

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural and Sciences of Hasanuddin University In

Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements to Obtain Sarjana Degree

In English Department

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THESIS

A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FOUND IN POPULAR SONG

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It has been examined before the Board of the Thesis Examination on Friday, 14

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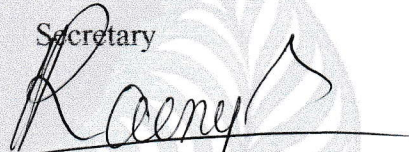
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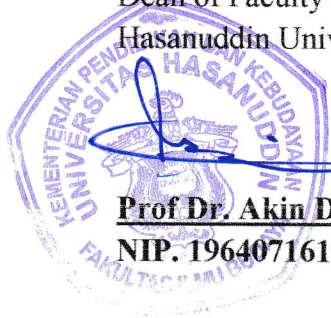Board of supervisors

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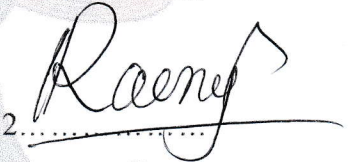
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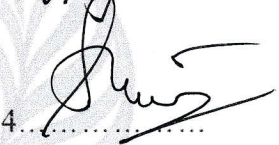| No.	Name	Role	Signature
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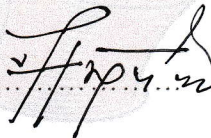# DECLARATION

The thesis by HARDIYANTI RIFAI (No. F21113045) entitled, A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FOUND IN POPULAR SONG. Has been revised as advised during examination on 14 August 2020 and approved by the board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Assalamu'alaikum Wr.Wb.

In the name of Allah, the most Merciful, the Lord of universe, because of Him, the writer could finish this thesis. Peace and salutation are always sent to the Prophet Muhammad SAW who was brought us from the Jahilliyah era to Islamic era. This thesis is presented to the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for Strata 1 (S1).

This thesis could not be completed without a great deal of help from many people, especially Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl.TESOL and Sitti Sahraeny, S.S., M.A..

The writer gratitude also express to those who helped the writer in finished this thesis, among others:

1. All staffs of Faculty of Cultural and Sciences, especially for Bu Esther and Pak Andarias who patiently wanted to give their time to help the students in managing files.

2. For all of my friends especially comrade-in-arms (Ira, Irmayana, Nanda, and Rahma) for all of their supports. Wiwin, thanks for her time, energy and support. The entire ETC, you are my family.

3. All the family and neighbors who are not bored ask me, "Kapan Wisuda?"

The writer realizes that this thesis is far from being perfect. Therefore, the writer expects some suggestions and criticisms for this paper. The last, the writer

hopes that this thesis will be useful for the readers.

Makassar, August

Hardiyanti Rifai

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ABSTRAK

Hardiyanti Rifai. *A Semantic Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Popular Song (*dibimbing oleh **Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl.TESOL** dan **Sitti Sahraeny, S.S., M.A.**).

Penelitian ini bertujuan mengidentifikasi dan menjelaskan makna majas yang terdapat dalam lagu-lagu populer, serta mengungkap jenis majas yang paling banyak digunakan dalam lagulagu tersebut.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode analisis kualitatif deskriptif. Data penelitian diambil dari beberapa lagu populer di dunia, Moves Like Jagger (Maroon 5 feat Christina Aguilera), Mean (Taylor Swift), Someone Like You (Adele), dan masih banyak lagi. Dengan menggunakan teori figurative language Perrine, penulis melakukan observasi dengan mengamati lirik dari lagu-lagu populer tersebut dan mengambil kalimat-kalimat yang mengandung majas.

Dari hasil analisis, penulis menemukan bahwa majas yang digunakan dalam lagu-lagu populer tersebut tidak banyak berbeda. Majas yang paling sering digunakan adalah Metafor, Simili dan Hiperbola.

ABSTRACT

Hardiyanti Rifai. *A Semantic Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Popular Song (*supervised by **Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl.TESOL** dan **Sitti Sahraeny, S.S., M.A.**).

This study aimed to identify and describe the meaning of figurative language in popular songs and disclose the dominant types of figurative language that used in those songs.

This study used descriptive qualitative method. The data were obtained from several popular songs in the world, Moves Like Jagger (Maroon 5 feat Christina Aguilera), Mean (Taylor Swift), Someone Like You (Adele), and many more. By using figurative language theory of Perrine, the writer observed the song lyric and took the sentences that contained figurative language.

From the analysis, the writer finds that figurative language that used in popular songs is not varied enough. It can be conclude that figurative language that most used in the popular songs are metaphor, Similis, and hyperbole.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. BACKGROUND

Language is a tool to convey something that comes to your heart. However, language is furthermore a tool for interaction or a means of communicating. An most important communication which is very complete and effective to convey ideas, messages, intentions, feelings (expressions of human emotions) and opinions to others. In conveying a language, it is not uncommon for someone to show whether the person is happy, angry or sad. Language is useful for discussing an event or an object that is around the person speaking. Language is used as a tool to convey ideas, thoughts, concepts and feelings, as well as to understand oneself and others.

It can be spoken or written. Spoken language is a form of language that is contained in a person's mind by using an intermediary of speech or something that can reflect someone's idea in the air stream with the medium of the mouth. An ability possessed by humans to communicate with each other by using signs or symbols, such as words

and body movements. Spoken language can be found in the speech and conversation, while the written language is a form of language that uses the written text as a basic element. Written language can be found in the novel, newspaper, song, poem, magazine, etc.

The scientific study of language is linguistics. It involves an analysis of language form, language meaning, and language in context. According to Griffith (2006) semantics is the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from contexts of use. Further, Griffiths state that semantics is the study of "toolkit" for meaning : knowledge encoded in the vocabulary of the language and in its patterns for building more elaborate meaning, up to the level of sentence meaning. Semantics means giving a sign. Semantics is the study of the meaning contained in a language, representations, codes and others. Language as a means of communication is a language that is produced from symbols of sounds, signals, etc. It conveyed by someone and conveyed to a person or group of people which is a medium for conveying human thoughts, capturing arguments, events, and opinions of humans.

One of the fields of semantics analysis is figurative language. Figurative language is saying indirectly to express meaning. Moreover, mix things up or equate things with other things so that the picture becomes clearer, more attractive, and more alive. Figurative language is

the author's way of using language to obtain an aesthetic effect by articulating ideas. Figurative language itself is usually used to analyze the deeper meaning of words. In songs for example, it is also used to make the lyrics sound more beautiful. The meaning in figurative language is not fully interpreted directly from the words that compose it. Some authors used figurative language to produce images in readers minds and to express ideas in fresh, vivid, and imaginative ways. There are many types of figurative language such as: metaphor, simile, personification, symbols, hyperbola, irony, understatement, etc.

Besides in novels and poems, figurative language may found in songs. Song is one example of literature. Song as piece of music with words that are sung incorporates a function to precise the thoughts and feelings. Song has two elements, like lyric and music. When listening a song, sometimes people not specialize in the lyric that utilized in a song. Usually people a bit like the song because the singer or even the music is sweet. And sometimes when people try and specialize in the lyric, they'll found some difficulties in understanding the meaning of the song lyrics. Especially, when the lyric used figurative language. Whereas, knowing the meaning of a lyric is important so the message to be conveyed by the songwriter may be understood by the listener. Therefore, one in every of the thanks to know actuality meaning that contained in figurative language is using semantic analysis.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested to analyze figurative language in song because almost all people like to listen to a song. However, sometimes people listen to a song without understanding the meaning of the song. Whereas, every song has messages to convey to the listeners. Therefore, in this study the data will be taken from songs, in particular, popular songs. The writer chooses popular songs because the songs are loved by many people in this world. The lyrics of the songs are also typically unique that the writer can find many figurative languages that contained in the song lyrics. Therefore, the writer interested to elaborate the figurative language in popular song lyrics by using semantic analysis approach.

B. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM

In accordance with the explanation above, the writer would like to identify some problems as follows:

1. It is hard to identify the types of figurative language in song lyrics.

2. It is difficult to understand the song lyrics especially when the lyrics use figurative language.

3. It is hard to understand the meaning of figurative language that is

used in song lyrics.

4. It is a confusion for some readers and listeners to know how to understand figurative language.

C. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

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

1. The writer focuses study on the types of figurative language, the meanings of figurative language found in popular songs and the type of figurative language that is mostly used in popular songs.

2. The writer analyzes the types of figurative language by using Laurence Perrine's theory, e.g. simile, metaphor, and hyperbole.

3. The writer chooses eleven popular songs. They are : Maroon 5 feat Christina Aguilera (Moves Like Jagger), Eminem feat. Rihanna (Love the Way You Lie), Christina Perri (A Thousand Years), Taylor Swift (mean), One Direction (One Thing), Shawn Mendes (Stitches), Katy Perry (Firework), SNSD (Genie), Bruno Mars (Grenade), Celine Dion (My Heart Will Go On), 2NE1 (I Am the Best), EXO (Growl).

D. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

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

1. What are the types of figurative language found in popular songs?

2. What are the meanings of those figurative language?

3. Which types of figurative language are most dominant?

E. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the types of figurative language used in popular songs.

2. To describe the meanings of those figurative language.

3. To find out the dominant types of figurative language in those songs.

F. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Theoretically, the writer expects that this study will give information to the readers and the society about the types of figurative language used in the lyric of popular songs. In addition, the writer also hopes the readers can understand about what the meanings of figurative language in a song lyrics.

Practically, the writer expects that this study can give a contribution to the students of English department in analyzing the types of figurative language in song lyric by using semantic analysis and as a reference.

CHAPTER II

THEORITICAL BACKGROUND

A. PREVIOUS STUDIES

There are several studies that have been done previously by some writers that are relevant to this study.

Andi Nurtika Karim on her thesis "Figurative Language in English Translation of Some Surahs of Al Quran Dealings Judgment Day". She had greaduated in 2010 at English department, Hasanuddin University. Her research explained about the figurative language contained in the Qur'an related to the Day of Resurrection. The method used in the writing of her thesis is the research literature with reference to library materials relevant to the topic discussed. In addition, in analyzing data the writer used descriptive method. Based on the research, the writer found 12 hyperbole, 4 personification, 2 metaphor and synecdoce, and 1 simile.

Tri Rohani, Safnil Arsyad and Irma Diani on their research "Semantic Analysis of Figurative Language Expressions in "Feature" of the Jakarta Post". Their research investigated the types of figurative

lexicons found in "feature" of the Jakarta Post's December editions. The methodology of the research used descriptive qualitative content analysis. Based on the research, the writer found 25 simile, 11 allusion, 7 metaphor, 6 personification, 6 paradox, 6 symbol, 4 hyperbole, 2 parallelism, 1 repetition, 1 allegory, 1 oxymoron, 1 image, 1 synecdoche.

In their thesis above, the first writer tried to analyze figurative language in Al Quran, the second writer attempted to analyze the types the types of figurative lexicons found in "feature" of the Jakarta Post's December editions. But in this study, the writer tries to analyze the types of figurative language in lyric of popular song. The writer also describes the meanings of figurative language that found in popular songs by using semantics analysis.

B. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

1. Figurative Language

Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. The authors used figurative language to produce images in readers minds and o express ideas in fresh, vivid, and imaginative ways. Figurative language or language style is an

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attractive language which is use to increase the effect by introducing and comparing an object or certain matter or more general soothing else. So, the usage of a certain language style earns to alter and make certain connotative.

Keraf (2009) said figurative language is a way to express thoughts through language. It is typically showing the spirit and personality of the author. The use of figurative language in a sentence often has the effect of certain influences. But the most important one is that figurative language has an influence for the meaning to be conveyed.

According to Perrine (1969), there are four main reasons of using figurative language. Firstly, figurative language affords readers imaginative pleasure of literary works. Secondly, it is a way of bringing additional imagery into verse, making the abstract concrete, making literary works more sensuous. Thirdly, figurative is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and conveying attitudes along with information. And the last, it is a way of saying much in brief compass.

Types of Figurative Language

1. Simile

    A simile is a direct comparison between things, which are not particularly similar in their sense (Reaske, 1966). Unlike metaphor which compares two things directly, a simile compares two different things by employing the words "like" or "as" (Sharndama and Suleiman). For example : "*Her lips parted like a ripe red pomegranate*" (Keraf, 2009: 138). It can be seen that the word *like* compare *lip* to *pomegranate*. The sentence describes about the beauty of the lip itself.

2. Metaphor

    Metaphor is a figure of speech in which an implicit comparison that made two things usually unlike. Perrine (1969) states that in metaphor the comparison is implied – that is, the figurative term and it is substituted for or identified with the literal term. Both of metaphor and simile are comparison between two things that are essentially unlike. The only distinction between them is the use of connotative words. In simile, the poet uses the connotative word such as *: like*, *as*, *then*, *similar to*, or *resemble*. While, in metaphor the

comparison is implied, the figurative term and it is subtituted or identified with literal term. For example : *The light of my life*. The person described by this metaphor is not really providing physical light. He or she is just someone who brings happiness or joy.

3. Personification

    Personification is the process assigning human characteristic into non- human things. According to Perrine (1969), personification consists in giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or an idea. For examples: *The moon smiled at me*. It is a personification because the word *smile* only addressed to a human not a thing.

4. Apostrophe

    According to Perrine (1969), apostrophe is defined as addresing someone absent or something nonhuman as if it was a live and present and could reply to what is being said. Apostrophe used as an arrangement of words addressing a non-existent person or an abstract idea in such a way as if it were present and capable of understanding feelings. For example :

Jane Taylor uses apostrophe in the well-known nursery rhyme "The Star". "Twinkle, twinkle, little star, How I wonder what you are. Up above the world so high. Like a dimond in the sky." In the nursery rhyme, a child addresses a star (an imaginary idea).

5. Metonymy

    Metonymy is a figurative meaning in which the name of one object or idea is substituted for that of another closely associated with it. According to Keraf (2009), metonymy is a figure of speech that uses a word to represent another thing closely related to the word itself. The relationship between the word and represented thing can be as an inventor and his invention, owner and the owned thing, and so on. For example : *Nothing like it has happened since Napoleon*. *Napoleon* is used to represent the time of Napoleon, the time when Napoleon lived.

6. Synecdoche

    Synecdoche is a word or phrase in which a part of something is used to represent a whole, or a whole is used to

represent a part of something. According to Keraf (2009), synecdoche is a term derived from Greek word Synekdechesthai that means "receiving together". Synechdoche is a kind of figurative language that mentions part of a thing to signify the whole thing or uses the whole to signify the part. For example : *Australia lost by two goals*. *Australia* is used to represent the Australian team (Oxford Learner's Dictionary)

7. Symbolism

Symbolism is the practice or art of using an object or a word to represent an abstract idea. An action, person, place, word, or object can all have a symbolic meaning. Symbolism is often used by writer to enhace their writing. Symbolism can give a literary work more richness and color and can make the meaning of the work deeper. For example : *" Ah Sunflowers, weary of time,*

> *Who countest the steps of the sun; Seeking after that sweet golden clime Where the treveler's journey is done."*

William Blake goes symbolic in his poem "Ah Sunflower". Blake uses a sunflower as a symbol for human

beings and "the sun" symbolizes life. Therefore, these lines symbolically refer to their lifecycle and their yearning for a never-ending life.

8. Allegory

Allegory is a narrative or description that has a second meaning beneath the surface one. Althought the surface story or description may have its own interest, the author's major interest is in the ulterior meaning. Allegory has been defined sometimes as an extended metaphor and sometimes as a series of related symbols (Perrine, 1969). For example: "*The beauty has her own to love her lover, the beast*" (Reaske, 1996: 26). In this sentence, *the beauty* is a girl who has beautiful face and *the beast* is a man who has ugly face like an animal. The beautiful girl love her boyfrined who has an ugly face.

9. Paradox

A paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true. It may be either a situation or a statement. As a figure of speech, paradox is a statement. Paradox is the statement seemingly self-contradiction or

opposed to what is commonly held to be true but which nevertheless contains a truth. For example: When Alexander Pope wrote that a literaly critic of his time would "damn with faint praise," he was using a verbal paradox, for how can a man damn by praising? (Perrine, 1969: 109).

10. Hyperbole

"Hyperbole or overstatement is simply exaggeration but exaggeration in the service of truth" (Perrine, 1969: 110). Meanwhile, Tarigan (2005) gives definition of hyperbole that is a figure of speech used for exaggeration purposes. It is forms from the basic several of jokes is used as way for insult, or simply is used to dramatize a situation, where in reality of the situation may not be that bad. For example: *If I can't get a new car, I will die.* This sentence show something exaggeration because it is a impossible that someone will die if they can't get a new car.

11. Understatement

Understatement is a figurative language that makes less meaning. According to Perrine (1969: 111),

"understatement is saying less than one means that may exist in what are said or merely in how one say it". While, Tarigan (2009) said that understatement is figure of speech that is implicated something happened which is totally contadicted with what is said. For example: When you give a gift to someone "*Here, take it, just a little gift*". In this situation, you said that you only give a little gift, but the truth is you give someone a precious and luxury gift.

12. Irony

"Irony is the contrast between the actual meaning of word statement and the suggestion of another meaning. The intended implications are often actually a mockery of what being stated" (Reaske, 1966: 35). For example : *I love your voice when you stop singing.* In fact, this sentence describes that *I* who have been *love your voice* do not really love, but the speech wants to someone (you) to stop singing and the hearer goes away with exactly the opposite idea from what speech meant to convey (Perrine, 1974: 626).

13. Allusion

An allusion is a figure of speech that makes a reference to a place, person, or event. This can be real or imaginary and may refer to anything, including fiction, folklore, historical events, or religious manuscripts. The reference can be direct or may be inferred, and can broaden the readers understanding. For example: *This ceremony reminds me of the proclamation of independence in 1945*.

2. Semantics

Semantic is the study of meaning in language. It is concerned with what sentences and other linguistics objects express. Semantic is the scientific study of the meaning of words. The word semantic has ultimately prevailed as a name for the doctrine of meaning in particular of linguistics meaning. According to Griffiths (2006), semantics is the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from contexts of use, is a descriptive subject. Further, Griffiths (2006) state hat semantics is the study of
t "toolkit" for meaning : knowledge encoded in the vocabulary of the

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language and in its patterns for building more elaborate meaning, up to the level of sentence meaning.

Nowadays, there are two ways of approaching semantics. The formal semantics approach connects with classical philosophical semantics, that is, logic. Formal semantics tries to describe the meaning of language using the descriptive apparatus of formal logic. The goal is to describe natural language in a formal, precise, unambiguous way. Formal semantics is concerned with how words are related to objects in the world and how combinations of words preserve or not the truth- conditions of their componens. The other approach to semantics is psychologically-oriented semantics or cognitive semantics. This approach does not consider the logical structure of language as important for the description of the meaning of language, and tends to disregard notions such as truth-values or strict compositionality. Cognitive semantics tries to explain semantic phenomena by appealing to biological, psychological and even cultural issues.

3. Meaning (Linguistics)

In linguistics, meaning is what the source or sender expresses, communicates, or conveys in their message to observer or reciver, and what the receiver infers from the current context. In general, meaning is distinguished into two, they are definitive meaning and connotative meaning. Definitive meaning refers to the lexical meaning that is generally used. While connotative meaning is subjective that is being shifted from definitive meaning because it has been added by additional feeling, moral and value. In the other hand, Griffiths (2006:9) said that there are two part in meaning, they are :

1) Sender meaning or intentional meaning is the meaning that the speakers or writer intends to convey by means of an utterance. Sender's meaning something that addresses are continually has to make informed guesses about.

2) Utterance meaning or literal meaning is a necessary fiction that linguists doing semantics and pragmatics have to work it. It is the meaning explicature and implicatures that an utterance would likely be understood as conveying when interpreted by people who know the language, are aware of the context, and have whatever

background knowledge the sender could reasonably presume to be available to the addresses.

Other classification of meaning is made by Geoffrey Leech (1983:9-20); He states that there are seven types of meaning:

	1. Conceptual Meaning or Sense		Logical, cognitive, or dennotative content.
		2. Connotative Meaning	What is communicated by virtue of what language refers to.
		3. Social Meaning	What is communicated of the social circumstances of language use.
	Assosiative	4. Affective	What is communicated of the feelings and attitudes of the

	Meaning	Meaning	speaker / writer.
		5. Replected Meaning	What is communicated through association with another sense of the same expression.
		6. Collocative Meaning	What is communicated through assosiation with words which tend to occur in the environment of another word.
	7. Thematic Meaning		What is communicated by the way in which the message is organized in terms

		of order and emphasis.

1. Conceptual meaning (sometimes called 'denotative' or 'cognitive' meaning) is widely assumed to be the central factor in linguistic communication.

2. Connotative meaning is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to, over and above its purely conceptual content.

3. Social meaning is that which a piece of language conveys about the social circumstance of its use

4. Affective meaning is largely a parasitic category in the sense that to express our emotions we rely upon the mediation of categories of meaning – conceptual, connotative, or stylistic.

5. Reflected meaning is the meanings which arise in cases of multiple conceptual meaning, when one of a word forms part of our response to another sense.

6. Collocative meaning consist of the associations a word acquires on account of the meaning of words which tend to occur in its environment.

7. Thematic meaning is a matter of choice between alternative

grammatical constructions.

4. Song

Song is the same as telling a story. However, song can be more complex because they are more expressive. Song can contain many things, express feelings, express thoughts or opinion, or provide entertainment that is sometimes absurd (as in the song of Billie Eilish). Song is the language of music.

Song is work of music intended to be sung by the human voice with distinct and fixed pitches and patterns using sound and silence and a variety of forms that often include the repitition of sections. A song may be for a solo singer, a lead singer supported by background singers, a duet, trio, or langer ensemble involving more voices singing in harmony, although the term is generally not used for large classical music vocal forms including opera and oratorio, which use terms such as aria and recitative instead. A song can be a message, hope, critism or private life of the writer or related of the readers and listeners life. Written words created specifically for music or for which music is specifically created, are called lyrics.

Lyrics are words that make up a song usually consisting of verses and choruses and the writer of lyrics is a lyricist.

There are three types of songs, namely folk song, popular song and art song. Folk songs are sung with simple accompaniment (guitar) or a cappella and usually are learned by ear. Folk songs written down only infrequenly, so through generations of oral transmission they are susceptible to changes in words and melodies. Composers of most folk songs are unknown. Folk songs include ballads, lullabyes, plaints, love ongs, mourning songs, dance songs, work songs, ritual songs and many more. While, art songs are intended for performance by prefossional or at east   carefully taught   singers,   generally   accompanied   by   piano   or instrumental ensemble. The words and notes are written down and therefore resist incidental or casual changes. Popular songs stand midway between folk and art sons with regard to technical difficulty, sophistication and resistance to change. There are many genres of popular songs, including torch songs, ballads, novelty songs, anthems, rock, blues and soul songs, and other commercial genres, such as rapping.