

**AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ON NATHAN
FEUERSTEIN'S SELECTED SONGS**



A THESIS

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences of Hasanuddin
University in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
to Obtain Sarjana Degree in English Department

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2023

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APPROVAL FORM

With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No.256/UN4.9.1/KEP/2021 regarding supervisor, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Jofia Aulia Rezqi (F041171023) to be examined at the English Department of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

Makassar, 13th January, 2023

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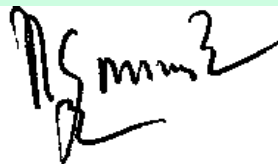
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THESIS
AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ON NATHAN
FEUERSTEIN'S SELECTED SONGS

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AGREEMENT

Today, February 2nd 2023 The Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by JOFIA AULIA REZQI (F041171023) entitled, **AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ON NATHAN FEUERSTEIN'S SELECTED SONGS**, submitted in fulfilment of 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, February 2nd 2023

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DECLARATION

The thesis by **JOFIA AULIA REZQI** (F041171023) entitled, **AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ON NATHAN FEUERSTEIN'S SELECTED SONGS**, has been revised as advised during the examination on Friday, February 10th 2023 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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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.

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Yang Menyatakan,

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Makassar, 9th January, 2023

The Researcher,

Jofia Aulia Rezqi

LIST OF CONTENTS

COVER PAGE.....	i
APPROVAL FORM.....	ii
THESIS.....	iii
AGREEMENT.....	iv
DECLARATION.....	v
SURAT PERNYATAAN.....	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vii
LIST OF CONTENTS	ix
ABSTRACT.....	xi
ABSTRAK.....	xii
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Study.....	1
1.2 Identification of Problem.....	3
1.3 Research Question.....	3
1.4 Objectives of the Study	4
1.5 Significance of the Study.....	4
CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW	6
2.1 Previous Study.....	6
2.2 Theoretical Background	8
2.2.1 Semantics	8
2.2.2 Figurative Language.....	9
2.2.3 Types of Figurative Language	10
2.2.4 The Definition of Song.....	17
CHAPTER 3 METHODOLOGY	20
3.1 Research Methodology.....	20
3.2 The Source of Data.....	21
3.3 Techniques of Collecting Data	21

3.4	Population and Sample.....	22
3.4.1	Population	22
3.4.2	Sample.....	22
3.5	Techniques of Analyzing Data	22
BAB IV DISCUSSION.....		24
4.1	Findings	24
4.2	Discussion	55
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION		58
5.1	Conclusion.....	58
5.2	Suggestions.....	59
BIBLIOGRAPHY		60
APPENDIX		62

ABSTRACT

JOFIA AULIA REZQI. 2023. *An Analysis of Figurative Language on Nathan Feuerstain's Selected Songs*. (Supervised by **Abidin Pammu** dan **Sitti Sahraeny**).

The objectives of this study are to identify the types of figurative language and to explain the meaning of each figurative language utilized in Nathan Feuerstein's selected songs.

This study was conducted using a descriptive qualitative methodology. *How Could You Leave Us*, *Therapy Session*, *Trust*, *The Search*, and *Leave Me Alone* are among the NF songs that the researcher identified as having at least four different types of figurative language in the lyrics. The researcher made observations by looking over the lyrics of the selected songs by NF and taking sentences that featured the figure of speech. The writer then used these observations to evaluate the data using the figurative language theory of Kennedy X.J. and Dana Gioia (2016).

After analysis, the researcher finds 46 figurative languages with seven different types of figurative language that used in NF's selected songs. They are 17 data of personifications, 11 of metonymies, 6 data of metaphors, 6 data of overstatements, 2 data of apostrophe, 2 data are synecdoche, and 2 data of paradox. Moreover, the implied meaning used on Nathan Feuerstain's selected songs mostly are connotative meanings.

ABSTRAK

JOFIA AULIA REZQI. 2023. *Analisis Bahasa Kiasan Pada Lagu-Lagu Pilihan Nathan Feuerstain.* (Dibimbing oleh: **Abidin Pammu** dan **Sitti Sahraeny**).

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan dan menjelaskan makna dari setiap kiasan yang digunakan dalam lagu-lagu Nathan Feuerstain yang terpilih.

Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan metodologi deskriptif kualitatif. *How Could You Leave Us, Therapy Session, Trust, The Search, dan Leave Me Alone* adalah di antara lagu-lagu Nathan Feuerstain yang diidentifikasi peneliti memiliki setidaknya empat jenis bahasa kiasan yang berbeda dalam liriknya. Peneliti melakukan observasi dengan melihat lirik dari lagu-lagu Nathan Feuerstain yang dipilih dan mengambil kalimat yang menampilkan majas tersebut. Peneliti kemudian menggunakan pengamatan ini untuk mengevaluasi data menggunakan teori bahasa kiasan Kennedy X.J. dan Dana Gioia (2016).

Setelah dianalisis, peneliti menemukan 46 majas dengan tujuh jenis bahasa kiasan berbeda yang digunakan dalam lagu-lagu Nathan Feuerstain yang dipilih. Majas-majas tersebut adalah personifikasi 17 data, metonimi 11 data, metafora 6 data, overstatement 6 data, apostrof 2 data, sinekdok 2 data, dan paradoks 2 data. Selain itu, makna tersirat yang digunakan pada lagu-lagu pilihan Nathan Feuerstain sebagian besar adalah makna konotatif.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a tool for human being to communicate to one another and to contribute to the society. In daily life, it used to interact in order to get information or/and to deliver messages. In other means, language can go further in delivering emotions, thoughts, ideas, and imaginations, as Edward Sapir (1884-1939) said, “Language is purely human and instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions, and desires by means of a system of voluntarily produced symbol”. These means that language plays are a great part in human life. Therefore, language should be studied and should not take for granted.

Language can be analyzed by its form, meaning, and context using linguistic. Linguistic is a scientific study of language. One of fields in linguistic is semantics. Semantics is the study of word meaning and sentence meaning in a fascinated way, as Nick Riemer (2010) expressed that one of the most interesting and richest aspects of linguistics is semantic. In Semantics, there are literal and non-literal meanings. Literal meaning is that the word means exactly what the sender wants to convey while, non-literal meaning or figurative language is using word to convey meaning in a more complicated way so that it can be interesting and have heightened effect to the words.

Furthermore, Figurative language is not an ordinary way on

delivering messages which can make the message more interesting and have special effects. Author of creative writing often time use figurative language as a mean to express their feelings, ideas, and imaginations that can produce imagery on the readers' mind. There are several types of figurative language, such as personification, hyperbole, metaphor, simile, and so on. Figurative language often time found in poems, drama, novel, advertisement, songs, and other creative writings.

Nowadays, songs are heard everywhere in radio, television, and social media. Song is a group of words that sung accompanied with music. Song consisted in two elements lyrics and music. Song is a magnificent piece of art that can be enjoyed by everyone.

A song has ear-catching instrumental and meaningful lyrics that can produce emotions such as sad, happy, angry, inspiring, and so on. A lot of times, lyrics in a song use figurative language and sometimes they are hard to assimilate. It is necessary to understand lyrics in the song which means to absorb the whole message and feel the emotion behind the song. One of the ways to assimilate a song is to study the figurative meaning of a song by using semantic analysis.

Based on the background above, the writer is interested in analyzing figurative language in a song because it is such a unique and powerful tool to deliver emotions that can make people who listen to it feel and think in a certain way. In this study, the data will be taken from NF's selected songs. The writer chose this particular singer because NF as a rapper wrote his songs without any cursed words like other modern

singer or rapper. In addition, in his songs, he talked about his experience in life, his dark thoughts, and the lyrics are poetic, philosophical, passionate, profound, powerful, and meaningful. Therefore, the writer decided to select five of his songs to be analyzed using semantic analysis in research entitled “An analysis of Figurative Language in NF’s selected songs”.

1.2 Identification of Problem

Based on the background of the research, the writer noticed some problems that can be studied in NF’s selected songs, they are as follow:

1. It is challenging to select the songs from NF’s songs collection to be taken as the data because all of his songs use figurative language.
2. It is challenging to set up criteria for the song choice.
3. It is challenging to identify the types of figurative language in the songs.
4. It is challenging to figure out the meaning of figurative language in the songs.

1.3 Research Question

Based on the identification of the problems, this study was conducted to answer these following questions:

1. What are the types of figurative languages used in NF’s selected

- songs?
2. What are the meanings of figurative language used in NF's selected songs?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research question, the objective of this study as follow:

1. To describe the types of figurative language used in NF's selected songs.
2. To explain the meaning of the figurative language used in NF's selected songs.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This research has two significant purposes:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research aims to explain figurative language in NF's selected songs. The findings of the study will contribute to the area of academic writing and to become a reference for the other researcher, especially, in the field of figurative language and semantic analysis.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. It can be utilized by teachers to teach students about the various types of figurative language and their meanings through songs. As additional information to the learning

process.

- b. It will be beneficial for language learners, particularly English learners, to acquire a broader perspective on the message conveyed by song art.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Studies

The researcher of this study incorporates findings from a number of previous studies. It is presumed to be comprehension and comparison to this current study.

To begin with, the first review that is related to this study is “The Analysis of Figurative Language in Justin Bieber’s Selected Songs” which was written by Kezia Woulmisev (2021), the student of Hasanuddin University. The study analyzed the types and meanings of figurative language used in Justin Bieber’s selected song lyrics by using Gorys Keraf’s Theory. There are 13 data have been found, 8 data are personification, 9 data are hyperbole, 3 data are simile, and 1 data is metonymy.

The second study review is “Figurative Language, Symbolic Meaning, And Choice of Diction in Mantra Matteppang Bibi’ Ripangempang Used by Buginese Community” by Amar Ma’ruf (2021), the student of Hasanuddin University. The study analyzed the types of figurative language and the choice of diction used in *Mantra Matteppang Bibi*. The writer used translated data to be able to analyze the data. There are various types of figurative language found in the data, including allusion, alliteration, and personification and 4 types of

diction including abstract, concrete, denotation, and connotation dictions.

The third study review was written by Hasanuddin University student Andi Nabila Nur Aziza (2022) and entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in The Album of Made in The A.M by One Direction." The study examined the types and frequency of figurative language used in One Direction's album Made in the A.M by utilizing Gorys Keraf's theory. The study identified 23 different categories of figurative language. There are 6 alliteration, 2 allusion, 1 anastrophe, 2 apophasis, 3 assonance, 2 asyndeton, 1 euphemism, 1 hypallage, 13 hyperbole, 1 hysteron, 2 litotes, 2 metaphors, 1 metonymy, 3 oxymoron, 4 paradoxes, 1 periphrasis, 3 personifications, 6 polysyndeton, 2 puns, 10 rhetoric, 3 similes, 4 synecdoches, and 1 tautology.

This study, which similarly focuses on the types and meaning of figurative language, shares the same themes as those previous studies. However, the first and the third research used Gorys Keraf's theory, whereas this study research employed Kennedy's theory. Furthermore, the second researched used Buginese mantra which is translated into English, whereas this study used English song lyrics as the object of the study.

2.2 Theoretical Background

2.2.1 Semantics

Semantics is a discipline of linguistics that explains language meaning, or, to put it another way, meaning is the most crucial factor to consider when studying semantics. According to Patrick Griffiths (2006) semantics is the study of word meaning and sentence meaning, abstracted away from contexts of use. Further, Griffiths stated that semantics is the study of ‘toolkit for meaning, the knowledge stored in a language’s lexicon and patterns for constructing more complex meaning, up to the sentence meaning. Furthermore, Leech (1981) stated that semantics, the study of meaning is vital to the study of communication, and as communication becomes a more important aspect in social structure, the necessity to comprehend it growing. Apart from its relevance, semantics is such a fascinating subject to research.

There are denotative and connotative meanings in Semantics. Denotative meaning is literal meaning, which means that the word or phrase means exactly what the sender wants to convey word by word, whereas connotative meaning or also known as non-literal meaning is using words to convey meaning in a more complicated way so that it can be fascinating and have an enhanced implications on the words. Denotative is used when a speaker says something that has no other meaning than its natural meaning. When a speaker uses

words that have a connotative meaning there will be a hidden meaning that is distinct from the natural meaning.

To sum up, semantics is one of the linguistic branches that concern about the study of meaning. In other words, semantics is the study of meaning within the language, which is the language and its meaning. The purpose of studying semantics is to comprehend why meaning is so much more complex than just the words that make up a phrase.

2.2.2 Figurative Language

According to experts, figurative language is a literary device that has a non-literal meaning. In spoken or written material, it is artistically applied to get the attention of the audience. To make language more engaging and have deeper implications, figurative language uses words or expressions that are distinct from their literal interpretation.

According to Perrine (1992) figurative language is used in daily conversation in any forms, such as newspaper, articles, ads, novels, poems, and so on. There are four major reasons for the efficiency of figurative language. First, figurative language allows viewers to enjoy literary works in a far more imaginative way. Second, it's a technique of adding more imagery to the verse, making the concrete abstract and literary works more sensational. Third, figurative language is a technique for infusing emotional

intensity into otherwise purely factual words while also communicating attitudes. Finally, it's a mean of stating a lot in a small amount of time. Perrine also divided figurative language into seven categories, which is metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, paradox, overstatement, understatement, irony, and illusion.

In addition, Figurative language used by the speaker or the writer to convey a more complex meaning than its regular denotation or literal meaning for the sake of freshness and emphasis, as Kennedy X.J and Dana Gioia (2016) stated that figure of speech aren't meant to be used to say something that's demonstrably false. Indeed, they frequently express truths that literal meaning cannot convey, they draw attention to such truths, and they emphasize it.

In conclusion, figurative languages are expressions that have more profound meaning than its literal meaning or apart from its usual denotation. Most of the time, it is used by writer or speaker to enrich or to highlight the message they trying to deliver. It means figures of speech are tools to add extra dimension to the language.

2.2.3 Types of Figurative Language

Figurative Language, according to X. J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia (2016), is language that employs figurative language. A figurative expression is a way of expressing something other than its literal meaning. Kennedy claimed that Metaphor, Simile,

Personification, overstatement, understatement, Apostrophe, Metonymy, synecdoche, and paradox are the nine types of figurative language.

2.2.3.1 Metaphor

Kennedy X.J. and Dana Gioia (2016) assert that a metaphor is a claim that one thing is like another or that one thing is something else that it is not in a literal sense. It doesn't utilize conjunctions like 'like' or 'as' to connect sentences, whereas it also doesn't use the conjunctions and to be. This shows that a metaphor only makes sense when there are clear analogies between the two objects or when the significance of the relationship is recognized. In a metaphor, two things are directly contrasted during a limited period of time. It means that the writer is using the identical qualities of the topic and object to compare them. Think about the following example:

1. My life is a roller-coaster.
2. Maria's voice is music to my ear.

My life is a roller coaster means that life is full of ups and downs, happiness and misery, much like when people are on a roller coaster sometimes the ride is slow and then it gets faster, then it climbs up higher and higher until you very rapidly go down. The second example means Maria has a very pleasant voice to

hear, it's not necessarily music that comes out of her mouth, rather it's just that it's lovely and wonderful to hear.

2.2.3.2 Simile

Similes are comparisons of two things, according to Kennedy X.J. and Dana Gioia (2016). To convey a simile, certain connective words are typically required, such as like, as, than, or a verb like resembles. A simile is a type of metaphor that is used to describe the similarity between two things (in shape, color, characteristic etc.). Consider the following instance:

1. He is as tall as a giraffe.
2. She swam like a fish.

The first example means that he is so tall, above average, or exceptionally tall. The second example means that she is an expert swimmer, that she can hold her breath for a long time, that she can use different swimming styles, or that she is bold enough to swim in different places and different circumstances unlike any other people.

2.2.3.3 Personification

Personification, as defined by Kennedy X.J. and Dana Gioia (2016), is a figure of speech in which a non-human being, such as an object, an animal, or abstractions, is transformed to have human characteristics. To elaborate, personification is the process of assigning human emotions, attributes, or behaviors to an object, an

abstract, or an animal In order to precisely portray a situation or something. By employing personification, writers can communicate their ideas in words that audiences could clearly grasp as personification aims to present the message from a human perspective. The following are a few examples:

1. My neighbor's music insulted my ear.
2. This city never sleeps.

The meaning of the first example is that the neighbor's music is too loud causing the hearer peace ruined, uncomfortable, or even mad by listening to it, while the second example mean that the city operates almost twenty-four hours a day, even at midnight, it is still full of people on the street, the stores are open nearly all day all night.

2.2.3.4 Overstatement

Overstatement or hyperbole, as defined by Kennedy X.J. and Dana Gioia (2016), is the use of exaggerated statements to accentuate a point. It might be ridiculous, humorous, or even amusing. In fiction, hyperboles can be employed to give a character greater nuance and personality. A figure of speech known as hyperbole involves the speaker purposefully overstating or exaggerating a point, usually to emphasize a point or provide a vivid description. Think about the following example:

1. There are million reasons why I should break up with him.

2. I am so hungry that I can literally eat a whole elephant.

The first example means that she doesn't actually have a million reasons to break up with him; rather, she just has a lot of reasons, whereas the second example means that she is simply starving and wants something to eat.

2.2.3.5 Understatement

A description that implies something is worse, less, or smaller than it actually was known as understatement. According to Kennedy X.J. and Dana Gioia (2016), understatement is a sarcastic figure of speech that implies something is less than it actually was. Sometimes authors or speakers purposely try to downplay what they're attempting to say to make it ironic. Here is an illustration:

1. 'Ok. Bye'. Said by someone that just getting dumped by his boyfriend.
2. 'It just hurt a little'. Said a person who just getting stab in the stomach by stranger on the street.

2.2.3.6 Apostrophe

An apostrophe is a figure of speech used to address to an object that is absent or nonexistence, it can be something or someone that is not present or unable to respond in reality. Kennedy X.J. and Dana Gioia (2016) claim that an apostrophe is a figure of speech used by a character to address something or

someone who is invisible or who is not often talked to. The apostrophe can be used to refer to an inanimate object, a deceased or absent person, an abstract thing, or a spirit. Here is a song with an apostrophe in it.

Here's a song entitled *airplane thoughts* by Dhruv, who seem like singing to his lover that he just left and now he is in the airplane missing and worrying of losing him.

Oh boy, have you started changing?

Wonder who'll you be

*The next time I see your face and I got so damn
scared*

Boy is a reference to the lover she just left, who obviously wasn't listening or able to speak to her at that precise moment.

2.2.3.7 Metonymy

Metonymy is a figure of speech that involves the use of a different term or phrase that is closely related to the meaning of the original word, according to Kennedy X.J. and Dana Gioia (2016). In addition, metonymy occurs when the writer refers to something or someone by the name of another item that is closely related to them rather than by their actual name. For instances:

1. *Do you need a hand?*
2. *Do you see me in the crown?*

In the first example, the word 'hand' actually means help, so the actual meaning of the sentence is *Do you need any help?*, while in the second example 'crown' refer to power or I am the best, I am the Top, so the actual sentence meant "Do you see me in power, having control, and I am the best".

2.2.3.8 Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure of speech which is the use of a part of something to signify to its whole or the opposite, the use of something whole that signify its parts. Synecdoche, according to Kennedy X.J. and Dana Gioia (2016), is the utilization of a substantial portion of anything to symbolize the entirety of it or its inverse. Here's an illustration:

1. *You got wheels?*
2. *I am all ears.*

Since wheels are tiny components of vehicles like cars, bikes, and motorcycles, the word 'wheels' in this statement refers to a vehicle. As ears are a component of a person, the word "ears" can refer to their attentiveness or presence.

2.2.3.6 Paradox

According to Kennedy X.J and Dana Gioia (2016) paradox is a statement that appears to be self-contradictory at first but, upon further reflection reveals some deeper meaning and sense of truth.

The word paradox itself comes from the Greek ‘paradoxos’ which means contrary to expectation or weird. A play of words sometimes used to achieve paradox. This figure of speech is commonly used to entice a reader to uncover underlying logics in an apparently conflicting sentence or phrase. As a result, paradox enables readers to grasp topics in a unique and unconventional manner. Here’s the example:

1. *Less is always more.*
2. *The only constant thing in this world is change.*

Less and more seem to be in opposition to one another, but when we consider the complete statement, it makes sense that sometimes keeping things simple and limited might be more beneficial than becoming overburdened with options. Furthermore, the phrases constant and change are contradictory, but the entire statement contains deeper meanings that are not immediately apparent. This suggests that the only constant is change, just as the seasons, people, and weather change on a daily basis without our awareness.

2.2.4 The Definition of Song

According to Turbin and Stebbins (2010), a song is a series of syllables ('text') that are sung, with singing being recognized as the most appropriate method of delivering the text within the relevant community. A song is a brief musical composition that is

set to a lyrical text, giving both the music and the lyrics equal significance. In addition, songs are made up of several diverse elements, including lyrics, verses, a chorus, and rhythm. A song's lyrics are a collection of words that are typically divided into verses. A section of a song known as a verse can also be found in poetry. A song's chorus is its repeated section, which is typically dispersed throughout the song. The measurement of consistently occurring beats or bars is known as the rhythm. Songs may contain a single verse, many verses, or choruses.

The study of song incorporates not only musicology but also numerous domains of linguistic investigation such as phonology, poetics, morphology, semantics, and pragmatics. Songs are form-meaning units to be included in any comprehensive language description, just like words and morphemes. Moreover, songs are highly structured artistic mediums with the capacity to communicate intricate associations of meaning that go beyond those found in spoken language.

Songs are of particularly relevance in the study of meanings because, like phrasal idioms, they frequently have different readings from those that would be attributed to them based on simple compositional semantic principles. In this way, songs resemble poetry since they frequently transmit more resonances, significances, and meanings than a simple speaking utterance. Songs meanings are encoded through a complex interaction of the

music, dance, and visual elements as well as through these elements associations with specialized information, such as performance context knowledge.