The Analysis of Figurative Language in Justin Bieber’s Selected Songs

A THESIS

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Department

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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people’s ideas except the quotations and references.

Makassar, July 22nd 2021

The writer

Kezia Woulnisev
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Makassar, 18th June 2021

The writer
Identifying Types of Figurative Language and Explaining Their Meanings in Justin Bieber's Selected Songs


This study aims to identify types of figurative language and explain the meaning of the figurative language used in Justin Bieber's song lyrics.

This research uses the descriptive qualitative analysis method. The research data is taken from several Justin Bieber songs which are included in Justin Bieber's album, Under The Mistletoe, Believe, Purpose, Justice, Never Say Never & Changes. By using Gorys Keraf's figurative language theory, the writer made observations by observing Justin Bieber's song lyrics and taking sentences that contained the figure of speech.

From the analysis, the writer found that the figures of speech used in Justin Bieber's songs were very diverse. 13 data have been found, 8 data are Personification, 9 data are Hyperbole, 3 data are Simile, and 1 data is a Metonymy.
ABSTRAK


Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi jenis bahasa kiasan dan menjelaskan makna bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu Justin Bieber.


Dari hasil analisis, penulis menemukan bahwa majas yang digunakan dalam lagu-lagu Justin Bieber sangat beragam. Ada 13 data yang ditemukan, 8 data Personifikasi, 9 data Hiperbola, 3 data Simile, dan 1 data Metonimia.
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents six topics related to this study. This includes the background of the study, identification of the problem, scope of problem, research questions, objectives of the study, and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Language is the most important thing for all of the country in the world because its language that keeps us connected one to another and became united. Language also became a source for everyone to communicate, get information, and share information. We desperately need a language to do everything. Like reading, making stories, making poetry, make a song, sharing science, etc. All the things we do are definitely use language.

According to Kreidler (1998:19), language is a system of symbols through which people communicate. The examples of symbols were spoken, written, or sign with the hands. Human being is a social and an individual person and always communicates with each other.

Language refers as a media for human beings to sharing thoughts by words, symbols or even movements as an act of communication. The scientific study of language is called linguistics. Linguistics has some branches in it. One of it is semantics. Semantics is the study of meaning.
Meaning have the important role for those people who want to learn English. By knowing the meaning people will understand the speaker’s means and get the point and the information about it.

We live in a world where there are so many countries, and certainly, each country must have its own language. And one of the languages that allowed us to connect to each others between one country and another namely is English. English is one of the international languages that all of the people around the world that is used throughout the world to communicate between countries.

English has become an important popular language. Many varieties of English are used as communication tools, including British, American, etc. Since English has been a communication tools for people all over the world, most of the people from other countries have made U.K or U.S country became their focus in knowledge, politics, economics, arts, and many more. A little bit of example is like Song, the song is part of art. The song was created to describe human feelings. And the average of English songs has a very deep meaning in its lyrics. Maybe that is the appeal of English songs. So that, most people love them and probably most people in this world no one does not know English songs. Most of them collect cassettes of English songs or CDs.

Because the English songs very famous, all the generations young and adult, they love songs and most people from all over the world, especially Indonesia, most of indonesian people learn English through songs. Many of
them are interested in English because there is one song they like that comes from English or even they are also fans of people who sing the song.

One example of a famous singer is Justin Bieber. Justin Bieber has many famous songs, such as Baby, One Time, Favorite Girl, One Less Lonely Girl, Down to Earth, That Should Be Me, U Smile, Peaches, Yummy, Intensions, Somebody to Love, and So on. Listening to music is a very pleasant thing and also has a relaxing effect on the body but listeners will not get pleasure and relax if they do not understand the figurative language used in a song.

A song usually has a figurative language. For some people who do not learn a figurative language, it might be difficult for them to interpret a song. So they might just like the music of the song without knowing the meaning of it. Based on that reason, the writer is interested to analyze figurative language in song because almost all the people like to listen to a song, and the writer believe that every song has a lot of messages and needs to analyze the meaning of the song for us to understand the whole song. Therefore, in this study the data will be taken from songs, in particular, Justin Bieber’s songs. The writer chooses Justin Bieber’s songs because he is a popular singer in the world, there are many people know his song lyrics and in his song lyrics many figurative language can be found in his album.
1.2 Identification of Problem

Based on the previous explanation, there are some problems that make writer does research about figurative language in Justin Bieber's Songs, they are as follow:

1. It is hard to identify the types of figurative language in song lyrics.
2. It is hard to understand the meaning of figurative language that is used in song lyrics.

1.3 Scope of Problem

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

1. The writer focuses her study on the types of figurative language and the meaning of figurative language found in Justin Bieber’s songs.
2. The writer chooses eight songs by Justin Bieber. They are: Love Yourself, Changes, Born to be Somebody, Believe, Anyone, Purpose, Be Alright, and Pray.

1.4 Research Question

Based on the background of study and focus on the study above, the writer formulated the problem by making the research question below:

1. What kind of figurative languages are found in Justin Bieber's selected Songs?
2. What are the meaning of the figurative language used in Justin Bieber’s selected Songs?

1.5 Objective of The Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the types of figurative language found in Justin Bieber’s selected Songs
2. To describe the meaning of those figurative languages

1.6 Significance of The Study

- Theoretically, the writer expects that this research can provide information to readers of this research regarding figurative language that where figurative language turns out to be very useful not only for those of us who study linguistics, but also useful for those in the art world.

- Practically, the writer hopes that from this research listeners and songwriters can find out how important and beautiful a song is when using figurative language in conveying their feelings through lyrics. And also the writer hopes to provide a little information to those who want to examine the lyrics of the songs of Justin Bieber in more depth and more detail and can help contribute to English department students in analyzing figurative language in lyrics. In addition, hopefully, it can be a reference for those who are interested in the same research. They can make this as a comparison.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Previous Study

In this chapter, the writer will showed you several studies that relevant to this study.

The first review related to this study, and the thesis is "Figurative Language Analysis In Five John Legend’s Song". Which has been researched by Khadijah Arifah (2016). In her study, the researcher has analyzed about the figurative language used in John Legend’s song selected songs lyrics are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, oxymoron, paradox, symbolic, repetition, allusion, and anumerasio. The writer just analyzed about the type of figurative language used in John Legend's song selected song lyrics.

The second review related to this study, and the thesis is "Figurative Language in the Dialogue of Marriage Proposal in Buginese Culture". Which has been researched by Rismayana (2018). In her study, the researcher has analyzed about the figurative language used in the dialogue of marriage proposal in Buginese culture there are 28 expressions namely 4 allusions, 8 metonymies, 9 similes, 4 litotes, and 3 metaphors. In the process of collecting the data, the researcher used library research and field research by interviewing a Buginese man who has a comprehensive understanding of the dialogue.
In this study, the writer can make a conclusion that the researches above have the similarities and differences. The difference is from the previous study, that is on the object of the study and the result of their research. The similarity is from the research questions and objective of the study, that is we are looking for the types and meaning of figurative language.

2.2 Theoretical Background

2.2.1 Semantics

Semantic is derived from Greek, from the word semanio (mean). Semantic is the study of meaning in language. Verhaar (1999: 142) mentions that semantic is the theory of meaning. Palmer (1981: 1) states that semantic are the technical terms used to refer to the study of meaning, and since meaning is a part of language, semantic is a part of linguistic. Semantics become an important study to know since in a good communication, understanding the meaning is the most important thing. It is because a good understanding of meaning will deliver what speaker really wants to say to the hearer well.

Semantics is simply the branch of linguistics that concerns studying the meanings of words as well as their meanings within a sentence. Thus, it is the study of linguistic meaning, or more precisely, the study of the relation between linguistic expressions and their meaning.
Therefore, it considers the meaning of a sentence without paying attention to its context.

2.2.2 Figurative Language

Figurative language is a language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Figurative language makes an expression of varied thoughts and feelings. It occurs when the speaker speaks something different from the real meaning of the words or sentences. Figurative language can make the language be more colorful, aesthetic, and has a high art value.

According to Groys Keraf, figurative language or style is a way of showing the mind through a special language that shows the soul and the characteristic of the language user (Keraf 2009:113). We can say that language style or figurative language is the way of giving expression through a special language that shows the soul and the language user. A good language style has to certain three elements, those are sincerity, respectful, and attractive (Keraf 2009:113).

According to Perrine (1977:61), figurative language is a figure of speech a way of adding extra dimensions to language. It is used by the poets because figurative language can say the words what they want to say with interesting expressions meaning implicit and attractive rather than say it directly and flat. The figurative language will create
interesting meaning but difficult to be interpreted in a literal meaning completely and perfectly. Figurative language cannot be separated from songs. The songwriter has their own figure of speech in making the song lyrics. This is the way to say something more than the literal meaning and the way to deliver the message behind the beautiful lyrics. In addition, the use of figurative language will make the hearer/reader think deeply about the meaning. The hearer/reader will use the power of imagination in interpreting this kind of language.

2.2.3 Types of Figurative Language

a. Simile

Simile is a figure of speech that compares two unlike things explicitly. It can be identified by using some connective words, such as like, as, than, and seems (Keraf, 1984:138). Simile is the simple kind of figurative language to certain something.

Example: Watching that movie was like watching grass grow.
Meaning: It means that the movie has a long duration and boring.

b. Personification

Personification is a kind of figurative language which describes a lifeless thing as if has a human being nature (Keraf 2009:140). One of the most familiar kinds of comparison is
personification that is, speaking of something that is not human as if it had human abilities and human reaction. It means that giving the attribute of human beings to an animal, an object, or a concept. According to (Kennedy 1979:495) It is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth or nature) is made human.

Example: *The sky was full of dancing stars.*
Meaning: It means that the sky of that night is very beautiful because full of stars.

c. **Hyperbole**

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that contains an exaggeration, by exaggerating something or discussed style containing an overstatement (Keraf, 2001:135). It expresses something beyond what it is meant or an overstatement of something.

Example: *I have told you a million times to clean your room.*
Meaning: The person in this sentence is not really told him a million times, but she told him more than once. Word a million times is exaggerated.

d. **Metaphor**

Metaphor is a kind of analogy that compares two things in a way directly (Keraf, 2006). Metaphor is like the simile that compares
things, but the metaphor does not use connective words such as like and as. The writer or speaker relates the two unrelated things that are not actually the same, and the audience understands that it is a comparison, not a literal meaning.

Example: *She was a rock star at our last business presentation.*

Meaning: It means the person delivered a great performance at the meeting and stood out like a rock star on the stage.

e. **Metonymy**

Metonymy is a style of language that uses a word to express something else because it has a very close relationship. The relationship can be in the form of effect for cause, cause for effect, content to reveal the skin, and so on (Keraf, 1981: 126). According to Tarigan (1985: 139), metonymy is a figure of speech that uses the characteristic name or the name of the thing that is linked to people, goods, or things as a substitute.

Example: *The kitchen is coming along nicely.*

Meaning: This example means that the renovation work on the kitchen is moving quickly and efficiently.
f. Synecdoche

Synecdoche uses a part of something to refer to the whole. McArthur (1996:1014) defined a synecdoche as a figure of speech concerned with parts and wholes.

Example: *His word can be trusted*

Meaning: This example means that he is a person that can be trusted.

g. Parable

According to Keraf (2006), parable is a short story with its character is humans, who always contain a moral theme and are usually associated with religion.

Example: *The most famous parable is that of the Boy Who Cried Wolf*. In it, a young boy enjoys yelling "wolf" and laughing as the adults in his village run around in a panic. But one day, he sees an actual wolf and cries out "wolf" to try and get someone to save him. But no one believes him anymore, and no one comes to help. This story is extremely memorable for children, and seems to stick in our minds better than the simple statement "do not lie!".

h. Irony

Irony is a satire by hiding the actual facts and telling the opposite of that fact. Irony will work when the listener is also aware of the hidden meaning behind the series of words (Keraf, 2010: 143).
It means that when someone satirizes others, he/she does not directly insinuate the people but she/he uses subtle words by hiding the actual facts and telling the opposite of that fact to not hurt the others. Example: *Eka, your room is very clean because there are so many things on the floor.* Meaning: Eka’s room is very dirty because there are many rubbish on the floor.

i. **Allusion**

Allusion is a part of figurative language which likes a hint to try suggesting the similarity between people, place, and events. Basically, it is a reference which explicit and implicit to the events, figures, places in real life, mythology, or famous literary works (Keraf, 2010:141).

Example: *You are acting like such a Scrooge.*
Meaning: Scrooge in the example means the person is being selfish and miserly, just like a character scrooge from the story.

j. **Eponymy**

Eponymy is a part of figurative language which likes a name of people always connected with specific nature, so the names are used for declaring its nature (Keraf, 2010:141)

Example: *The child is still small, but his strength as Hercules.*
Meaning: Hercules is used to expressing strength

k. Epithet

Epithet is a reference that states a particular trait of a person or a thing. According to (Keraf, 2009:141) Epithet is a part of figurative language which likes a hint to declare a specific nature or characteristic of the people or things.

Example: *Raja Rimba is used for Lion.*

2.2.4 Song Lyrics

Song Lyrics are words that are arranged into beautiful sentences. The words in a lyric are written by people or lyricists who represent their feelings at the time. In Rap music, lyrics are the center of the song, not the music. Because usually in music/songs Rap has a poetic meaning and even has a rhyme. Because for some people all over the earth, there are those who like the song not just seeing from the lyrics but from the music that is good for listening. It is a bunch of notes, rhythms, and lyrics that come together to make a good piece of music. Which is one song, can a lot of people take part in the process of making it if not even one person can be the participant. But that can only be done for those who have long endured in music.
According to the writer a song is a part the writer life. Where there is a song there must be music, because without music everything is just empty. Because it's an escape for us when we sad or even stressed because a problem that is a song and music. Because the song lyrics can represent our feelings. A song lyrics can be a message, hope, critism or private life of the songwriter or related of the readers and listeners life. The song has so many genres, such as Pop, Hip-Hop, Jazz, R&B, Reggae, Rock, Ballad, Dangdut, etc. The song is in every atmosphere, there are happy songs, sad songs, disappointed songs, even we have an anthem.