

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ANALYSIS "IN THE LONELY HOUR"

ALBUM BY SAM SMITH

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Abstract

This research aimed to know the types of figurative language which are exist in the album "In The Lonely Hour" by Sam Smith and the meaning of the song lyric. This research was designed by using the qualitative method. The source of the data was the album and the data are song lyrics which contain figurative language. Based on the result of the research, it was found 1 Metaphor, 2 personifications, 2 similes, and 5 hyperboles. The total number of figurative language found from the album is ten (10). This implies that the album lacks certain types of figurative language, namely apostrophe, metonymy, synecdoche, understatement, and paradox. The song "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith utilizes figurative language to enhance its beauty and captivate listeners. The chosen figurative language carries profound meanings within the song's lyrics. Using this song as a teaching tool for semantics, particularly for understanding figurative language, is recommended.

Key Words: *Figurative Language; Semantics; Song Lyrics*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam album "In The Lonely Hour" karya Sam Smith dan makna lirik lagunya. Penelitian ini dirancang dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif. Sumber datanya adalah album dan datanya berupa lirik lagu yang mengandung bahasa kiasan. Berdasarkan hasil penelitian ditemukan 1 metafora, 2 personifikasi, 2 simile, dan 5 hiperbola. Jumlah bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan dari album ini adalah sepuluh (10). Artinya, jenis bahasa kiasan lain yang tidak ada dalam album ini adalah apostrof, metonimi, sinekdoke, pernyataan meremehkan, dan paradoks. Bahasa kiasan pada lirik lagu "In The Lonely Hour" karya Sam Smith dibuat dengan bahasa kiasan agar lagu menjadi indah dan menarik untuk didengar dan bahasa kiasan yang digunakan memiliki makna yang sangat mendalam pada setiap lirik lagu yang disampaikan. Disarankan untuk menggunakan lagu sebagai media pengajaran semantik, khususnya bahasa kiasan.

Kata Kunci: *Majas; Semantik; Lirik Lagu*

A. Introduction'

Language is a conventional spoken or written system used by humans that allows humans to interact and cooperate.

Without language humans cannot communicate with each other. Through language humans express their feelings and desires. Language is used by humans

to provide information, get jobs, politics and business. Nowadays, people can talk to each other through songs. Through songs someone can convey what they feel so that people can know what they feel. According to Sapir (1921:7) states "language is purely human and non instinctive method o communicating ideas, emotions, and desire by means of a system of voluntarily produce symbols. And also Language can be studied in the field of linguistics.

The scientific examination of language is known as linguistics. This field not only explores the structural aspects of language but also delves into the impact of social, cultural, historical, and political elements on language, often discerning context through linguistic analysis. Linguistics encompasses five key components: phonology, morphology, syntax, pragmatics, and semantics.

Semantics, the specialized term denoting the exploration of meaning, is an integral component of linguistics, as meaning is intrinsic to language. The realm of meaning within language encompasses diverse facets, yet there is

no unanimous consensus on the essence of meaning, which elements should be appropriately incorporated into semantics, or the manner in which it should be delineated.

Moreover, According to Kreidler (1998:3), —Semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic. Semantics explores the organization and expression of meanings within languages. Within the realm of semantics, meaning is categorized into two components: literal meaning, which is derived from the actual words used, and non-literal meaning, which takes a different approach. In instances of non-literal meaning, the speaker or writer conveys intentions that diverge from the literal meaning of the words, introducing alternative meanings that differ from the straightforward interpretation of the conveyed words.

Non-literal meaning refers to a situation where the speaker intends something other than the literal interpretation of the words, phrases, or sentences. Moreover, non-literal meaning is commonly expressed in artistic forms like poetry and songs. According to

Lanoue (2015:3) literal meaning of a word or phrase is not be departed from, unless the context or general usage imperiously demand it. It because in figurative expression or non-literal meaning listener or reading often confused and difficult to understand what the speaker means from the words or sentence which convey because the figurative expression hides behind in literal meaning. It means that, non-literal meaning usually use traditional language called figurative language.

Figurative language refers to a form of expression in which words or phrases deviate from their literal interpretations. According to Kennedy and Gioia (1995:680-690) the types of figurative speech are metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, synecdoche, hyperbole, understatements, paradox and apostrophe. Songs typically incorporate figurative language because the well-crafted lyrics employ descriptive words that carry meanings beyond their literal interpretations. In such cases, the words convey a specific meaning in a more nuanced or metaphorical sense.. Song is a kind of musical works which becomes a

form of communication between song writer, singers, and listener. Every single song carries its own important meanings and messages to its listeners.

To the best of our understanding, that musical composition is considered a component of literary works.. According to Meyer (1997:1), Literature encompasses written works characterized by meticulous language use, featuring creative metaphors, eloquent syntax, rhyme, and alliteration. These texts are crafted by authors with the intention of aesthetic appreciation and are intentionally open to interpretation. An example of literature is found in songs, which involve the act or art of singing. A song, serving as a piece of music with sung lyrics, functions to express thoughts and emotions. It consists of two integral elements: the lyrics and the music.

The analysis is prompted by a rationale, leading the researcher to examine figurative language. The focus of this study involves scrutinizing the figurative language employed in the lyrics of the "In The Lonely Hour" album by Sam Smith. Song lyrics, being concise poems accompanied by music for

singing, are often crafted by composers who embellish their language with various figurative elements. This embellishment aims to enhance the appeal of the song and captivate the audience's interest in listening.

Various forms of figurative language are present in song lyrics, novels, speeches, and more. One globally renowned album is "In the Lonely Hour" by Sam Smith, released on May 26, 2014, in the United Kingdom through Capitol UK and Method Records. In the United States, it was launched on June 17, 2014, under Capitol Records America. The album contains ten songs, and after a preliminary examination, the researcher identified several types of figurative language in five selected song lyrics: "Leave Your Lover," "Like I Can," "Lay Me Down," "Life Support," and "I'm Not the Only One." The identified types include metaphor, personification, simile, and hyperbole.

To make sure about the types of figurative language above, researcher conducted preliminary study in the album "In The Lonely Hour" by Sam Smith, as follow : a) "*Cause he'll never love*

you like I can, can, can" S2,V2,L4 the sentence is figurative language that is simile. A simile involves directly comparing two things using a connecting word, typically "like," "as," "than," or a verb like "resembles." It means the sentence compares two different things between "You" and "I" the sentence gives the true meaning where the two objects have their own way of treating their partners. it can be concluded that the meaning of the sentence is a person compared to other objects that have the same nature but different treatment. b) Personification involves attributing human qualities or abilities to an inanimate object or abstract concept, serving as a figurative language technique, for example "*These tears, they tell their own story*" S3, V2, L4 The sentence is a personification. This sentence is a personification because it compares two different things between nature and character where "tears" is a noun that seems to act like a human to tell someone's story or feelings, but basically only humans can tell or speak. So the sentence is included in the type of personification style.

Finally, to gain a better understanding of the various types of figurative language and their meanings within the album, the researcher will analyze the descriptions provided above., the researcher will entitled **“Figurative Language Analysis “In The Lonely Hour” Album by Sam Smith.**

B. Research Method

This study employed a qualitative methodology, utilizing a descriptive approach commonly applied across various disciplines. To address diverse subject needs, a variety of data collection methods were employed, including qualitative interviewing, focus groups, participant observation, discourse and conversation analysis, as well as the analysis of texts and documents (Waliman 2011:131). Additionally, qualitative research is defined as an investigative process that entails the analysis and interpretation of texts and interviews to unveil meaningful patterns describing a specific phenomenon (Auerbach & Silverstein, 2003:1).

Based on the theory of qualitative research mentioned above, it can be concluded that qualitative research is

concerned with the analyzing and interpreting texts and interviews, and phenomena. The objective of this study was to identify and analyze the figurative language present in Sam Smith's album "In The Lonely Hour" and elucidate the meanings conveyed through such language.

The information was extracted from the lyrics of the "In the Lonely Hour" album by Sam Smith. This study utilized data gathered from the album's song lyrics, which include figurative language. The data source is derived from the "In the Lonely Hour" album by Sam Smith.

Gathering the information for this study involves documentation technique. Examining documentation is a method for scrutinizing data, particularly in qualitative research. Researchers typically follow specific steps in this process.

1. First, researcher downloaded song lyrics Album “in the Lonely Hour” Album By Sam Smith.

2. Second, researcher printed out song lyrics Album “in the Lonely Hour” Album By Sam Smith.

3. Third, researcher read whole the content of downloaded song lyrics

Album "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith and highlight or underline the words, phrases or sentences which include in the type of figurative language.

4. Classified the Figurative Language based on the type in the table form.

C. Research Finding and Discussion

This study examines the analysis of figurative language found in the album "In the Lonely Hour" by Sam Smith. The researcher specifically investigates four types of figurative language—metaphor, personification, simile, and hyperbole—present in ten selected songs from the album: "Money on My Mind," "Good Thing," "Stay with Me," "Leave Your Lover," "I'm Not the Only One," "I've Told You Now," "Like I Can," "Life Support," "Not in That Way," and "Lay Me Down."

In this investigation, qualitative approaches were employed to gather data. These methods were chosen to address and resolve issues arising in the present scenario. The data acquisition process involved downloading the digital version from Google, producing a physical copy, thoroughly reviewing the

lyrics of songs, identifying sentences containing metaphor, personification, simile, and hyperbole, and ultimately presenting the findings in a tabular format that categorizes the four types of figurative language.

Additionally, the source of the data in this research is the songs lyrics album "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith. in the selected songs. The technique of the data by using Creswell (2009: 172:176) which consist of data preparation, data reading process, data coding, data description, and interpretation as the conclusion of the analysis. The aimed of this study is to describe the meaning of figurative language especially metaphor, personification, simile and hyperbole contained in the lyrics of the album song "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith in the selected songs.

The result of this research is the data and findings by using qualitative description and focus of this research is the figurative language and the meaning of metaphor, personification, simile and hyperbole that exist in the song lyrics

album "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith in selected songs.

No	The Types of Figurative Language	Song Title	Total
1.	Metaphor	Money On My Mind	1
2.	Hyperbole	Leave Your Lover	3
		Like I Can	1
		Lay Down Me	1
3.	Simile	Like I Can	1
		I've Told You Now	1
4.	Personification	Lay Down Me	1
		Safe With Me	1
Total			10

1. Metaphor found in the song lyrics album "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith

Metaphor is figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that is not literary true, but helps explain an idea or make comparison. Metaphor also the figure of speech that compares two different things but have the same characteristics. Additionally, Abrams (1999:155) asserts that metaphor represents a divergence from the conventional and literal use of language. It functions as a compressed or elliptical form of simile by incorporating an implied comparison between two dissimilar entities.. The example of metaphor found in the album lyrics of the song "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith in selected songs as below:

'Cause I'm not a puppet, I will work against your strings (*Aku bukan seorang*

boneka, Aku akan melawan senar mu) S6, V5, L4

The above sentence incorporates metaphor by using words such as "I" as the subject and "a puppet" as the object in the lyrics, illustrating the individual's emotions regarding the relationship dynamics with his girlfriend. The lyrics convey a sense of being constantly manipulated, akin to a puppet. A puppet, representing human life, is typically manipulated by rods or strings. This metaphor reflects the person's dissatisfaction with his life, shaped by an unhappy relationship where his girlfriend exerts control. Consequently, the term 'puppet' symbolizes his perpetual subjugation to his girlfriend's influence.

2. The Hyperbole Found in Song Lyrics Album "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith

Hyperbole is a rhetorical device characterized by the exaggeration of a statement, intending to heighten the impact and persuasive effect of the subject under discussion. Additionally, Johnson (2011:5) state that hyperbole is international exaggeration that speaker or writers use to make a point or to emphasize an idea. The examples of hyperboles found in the album lyrics of the "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith in selected songs as below:

Set My Midnight Sorrow Free (*Bebaskan kesedihan tengah malam ku*) S1, V3, L4

The phrase "Set my midnight sorrow free" from the lyrics you provided can be interpreted as a form of hyperbole. In this context, hyperbole is used to intensify and exaggerate the emotions and feelings expressed in the line. The phrase "midnight sorrow" itself is a figurative way of describing deep sadness or emotional pain. "Midnight" here is used to evoke a sense of darkness and emotional heaviness. By using the word "sorrow," the lyricist conveys a profound sense of sadness. The hyperbolic element comes in with the verb "set." In reality, emotions like sorrow cannot be physically set free, like releasing something from a physical constraint. However, by using "set my midnight sorrow free," the lyricist is employing hyperbole to emphasize the desire for relief from intense emotional pain. The phrase suggests a longing to be free from the weight of sadness, even if the actual process of doing so is not straightforward or literal. Essentially, the line employs hyperbole to generate a powerful emotional resonance and vividly express the intensity of the speaker's emotions.

3. The Simile Found in Song Lyrics Album "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith

A simile is a rhetorical device in which a comparison between two distinct entities is made by employing the terms "like" or "as" to underscore a resemblance between them. It's a way of drawing a connection between two seemingly unrelated concepts to create a vivid and

imaginative image in the reader's or listener's mind. Similes are often used to enhance descriptions, make comparisons more vivid, and add depth to language. Additionally McGuigan (2007:41) simile is a device in which the writer compares two things that are already somewhat related. The examples of Simile found in the album lyrics of the song "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith in selected songs as below:

'Cause he'll never love you like I can
(*Karena dia tidak akan pernah mencintaimu seperti saya mencintaimu*) S2, V2, L4

The sentence is figurative language that is simile. A simile involves a straightforward comparison between two things, signaled by a connecting word or phrase, typically "like," "as," "than," or a verb indicating similarity, such as "resembles.". It means the sentence compares two different things between "You" and "I" the sentence gives the true meaning where the two objects have their own way of treating their partners. it can be concluded that the meaning of the sentence is a person compared to other objects that have the same nature but different treatment.

4. The Personification Found in Song Lyrics Album "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith

Personification involves attributing human-like qualities or characteristics to non-human objects or abstract ideas, serving as a literary device. This makes the objects or concepts more relatable and vivid for the readers. Personification can

include actions, emotions, or behaviors typically associated with humans. Personification creates a more imaginative and engaging experience for the reader or listener by making inanimate objects or ideas come alive in a human way. Additionally Paxson (1994:13-14), "Personification consists in representing an absent person as present, or in making a mute thing or one lacking form articulate, and attributing to it a definite form and a language of certain behavior appropriate to its character personification may be applied to a variety of things, mute and inanimate." The examples of Simile found in the album lyrics of the song "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith in selected songs as below:

These tears, they tell their own story
(*Air mata ini, menceritakan ceritanya sendiri*)
S3, V2, L4

The sentence is a personification. This sentence is a personification because it compares two different things between nature and character where "tears" is a noun that seems to act like a human to tell someone's story or feelings, but basically only humans can tell or speak. So the sentence is included in the type of personification style.

Considering about the result, this section presented the discussion of the research findings. In this research aimed to analyze the figurative language and the meaning found in song lyrics album "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith was only focused on

metaphor, personification, simile and hyperbole. In Abrams' (1999:146) perspective, a lyric is defined as a relatively brief poem wherein a solitary speaker articulates a state of mind or engages in the processes of perception, thought, and emotion. Lyrics constitute the textual content of a song, and their meaning may be either explicit or implicit.

Moreover, in creating a song, the song writer uses some kinds figurative language with reason to make every song are beautiful. In this research, researcher found the fact every song lyrics consisted figurative language, like in ten song lyrics album "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith.

In this instance, the researcher strongly endorsed the recent study conducted by Harya (2016). In Harya's research, titled "An Analysis of Figurative Languages Used in Coelho's Novel 'Alchemist,'" four types of figurative language were identified: simile, personification, metaphor, and hyperbole. The predominant figurative language found was simile. Despite variations in the numbers and types of figurative language, the current research aligns with the findings of the recent study.

Given this information, the researcher deduced that figurative language is present in every song's lyrics, as exemplified in the seven-song album "In The Lonely Hour" by Sam Smith. Additionally, it was observed that

various forms of figurative language, such as metaphor, personification, simile, and hyperbole, are consistently utilized in song lyrics.

D. Conclusion and Suggestion

Upon examining the figurative language present in the song lyrics of "in the Lonely Hour" Album By Sam Smith, including tracks such as "Leave Your Lover," "Like I Can," "Lay Me Down," "Life Support," "I'm Not the Only One," "Money on My Mind," "Not in the Way," "I've Told You Now," "Safe with Me," and "Good Thing," the author draws conclusions based on the identified problem, problem formulation, research objectives, and research significances. The analysis reveals that these song lyrics incorporate two types of figurative language, namely metaphor and hyperbole. Through the researcher's findings, it is established that each lyric strategically employs figurative language to enhance the aesthetic appeal and captivation of the songs, with the identified metaphors and hyperboles carrying profound meanings within the lyrical content.

Following the completion of the study, the researcher put forward several recommendations addressed to listeners, educators, and future researchers. Firstly, it is recommended that listeners, especially students, try hard to understand the meaning of the lyrics. secondly, to English teachers, the researcher suggests that teachers can use Sam Smith's song lyrics as a reference in

teaching semantics, especially figures of speech and thirdly. For future researchers, this research can be used as a basis for further research, especially those related to semantics.

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