# Figurative Language Found in the Song Lyric by Nightwish "Wishmaster" Album and its Contribution to Teaching Poetry

Tedi Heru Saputra<sup>1</sup>, Senowarsito<sup>2,\*</sup> and Sri Wahyuni<sup>3</sup>

<sup>123</sup>Universitas PGRI Semarang, Indonesia

Thsaputra97@gmail.com

# Abstract.

The aims of this research are to find out kinds of figurative language used in this album. The analysis was to describe the meaning of each figurative language in lyrics album, and it was also to know the contributions of this album for poetry teaching. This research contained analysis result on lyrics by Nightwish "Wishmaster" including the analyses on the kind and explicit meaning of figurative languages. This analysis used a qualitative research approach. There were totally 8 songs that were analyzed. The result of the songs analysis showed that there were contains of 7 figurative languages such as personification, Irony, metonymy, repetition, metaphor, hyperbole, and simile that reflect phrases. The figurative languages that the writer founds contain 6 personifications, 1 irony, 1 metonymy, 1 metaphor, 1 repetition, 11 hyperboles, and 4 simile..

Keywords: Figurative language, lyric, poetry

#### Introduction

Language is a human property which is used to communicate each other around the world. People use language in their daily life to convey the messages to others whom they are talking to. By using language, people may deliver their meaning in various ways and styles such as straight to point or using some symbol of figures. Therefore, the listener or audience should find out the meaning which is interpretation. Jakobson (1960: 353-359; cited in Harmastuty, 2016, p. 18) states that referential, emotive, conative, phatic, metalingual, and poetic are the six functions of language. Every function has its own characteristics. Such as, poetic function which is only concern in the messages. Thus, poetic function is not merely about poetry, but also about other fields. One of them is songs.

Song is one of literary works. It has two elements, namely music and lyric. Lyric is a kind of sung poems. It is one of the most natural of arts, being based on one of the most fundamental of human faculties of imitations which has functions as entertainment and also as more specific aim in telling a story (Williams, 1951 in Milton., 1961). Song is intellectual and spiritual entertainment giving a feeling of amusement and satisfaction for audiences. The musical notes and words in songs which called as lyrics, they have big power in the songs because they express messages and give the listeners imagination of those songs. When the listeners don't understand the lyrics, it is hard to gain the messages from the songs.

Lyric is one of types of poem. Ade & Okuyene (2008, p. 190) claim that "It is a short poem that can be sung or that is musical". Therefore, lyrics are involved in the poetic function of literature since it concerns on the messages which derived from the meaning of the lyrics.

There are some types of meaning of language that are discussed in the semantics. One of them is figurative meaning or figurative language. According to (Nurhaida & Marlina, 2017) Figurative language is a language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. In addition, figurative language is used in any form of communication, such as in rarely used in daily conversations, opinion in newspaper, advertisements, novels, poems, etc. Moreover, figurative language is the use of words that go beyond their ordinary meaning. It requires the readers to use his/ her imagination to figure out the the readers cannot find the meaning of the figurative language in the dictionary just like the other vocabulary words that the readers usually use in our daily conversation.

To know the meaning of figurative language the readers need to use his/her imagination to imagine what the words are said or what the words refer to. According to Yuri & Rosa (2013:2) studied about figurative language found there are many types of figurative language such as metaphor, personification, hyperbola, simile, symbol, irony, etc.

However, the popular types of them are simile, metaphor, and personification. These become the essential parts of analyzing the song of Wishmaster album by Nighwish in this research. However, the most important language aspect that becomes the primary of this study in analyzing the song is the use of figurative language that found in the lyric song of Wishmaster album by Nighwish.

The purpose of this study was to find out (1) what types of figurative language are used by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album, and (2)what are the dominant types of figurative language used by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album.

### **Literature Review**

#### **Figurative Languge**

Colston, Helbert. L (2015, 101-102) states that figurative language refers to words and groups of word that exaggerate or alter the usual meanings of the component words. To understand the figurative language of the songs, the listeners need to explore and think beyond the words which are written or spoken because the word convey meanings which are different from the meaning found in the dictionary.

- a. Metaphor is one of figurative speech, which compares one thing to another directly (Peter, 2012). Peter (2002) said that metaphors are figurative words, which compare one thing to another without using the word "like" or "as" or comparing it directly.
- b. (Syafitri & Marlinton, 2018:5) said that Simile is a kind of figurative meaning comparing two essentially unlike things. Simile expresses a direct comparison between things, which have one or more points in common and be recognized by the use of the word 'like' and 'as'.
- c. c. According to Abrams (1999:120) Hyperbole is bold overstatement, or the extravagant exaggeration of fact or of possibility. It may be used either for serious or ironic or comic effect.

- d. d. Leech (1969: 152) says, metonymy is a figure of speech that consists in using the name of one thing for that of something else with which it is associated.
- e. e. Abrams (1999:135), In most of the modern critical uses of the term irony' there remains the root sense of dissembling or hiding what is actually the case; not, however, in order to deceive, but to achieve special rhetorical or artistic effects
- f. f. Abrams (1999:99) Personification, in which either an inanimate object or an abstract concept is spoken of as though it were endowed with life or with human attributes or feelings

#### Song Lyric

Song is one of literary works. It has two elements, namely music and lyric. Lyric is a kind of sung poems. It is one of the most natural of arts, being based on one of the most fundamental of human faculties of imitations which has functions as entertainment and also as more specific aim in telling a story (Williams, 1951 in Milton., 1961).

#### Nighwish by Wishmaster

According to By Tom Dare (Metal Hammer) December 11, 2015. Wishmaster is the third studio album by Finnish symphonic metal band Nightwish. It was released on 8 May 2000 through Spinefarm Records in Finland. The album was released in the rest of Europe by Drakkar Entertainment on 29 May, and in Japan by Toy's Factory on 19 July. In the US, it was released by Century Media on 6 February 2001

#### **Previous Study**

The first research was written by Nani Nabila (2017) entitled "The Analysis of the Figurative Language Used in the Lyric of Firework by Katy Perry (A Study of Semantic)." this research was published in English Education: Jurnal Tadris Bahasa Inggris. The aims of this research are to find out the figurative languages used in the lyric of firework and to analyze the contextual meaning of figurative language used in that song. The result found that there are some kinds of figurative language used in Katy perry's song entitle firework, such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, affiliation, symbolic, paradox, and personification. The contextual meaning of each figurative language use by Katy Perry in her song entitle firework.

Second, the research has done by Nurhaida & Marlina (2017) entitled "Investigating Figurative Language Used in Katy Perry's Song Lyrics." This study was published in Research in English and Education (READ). This study aimed at investigating the types of figurative language found in Katy Perry's song lyrics. It also tried to find out the functions of figurative language in these songs. The results of the study showed that there are some types of figurative language used in Katy Perry's song lyrics such as simile, metaphor, hyperbole, alliteration, etc. Simile and repetition are the two most frequent types of figurative language found in these songs. In conclusion, the figurative language is a commonly matter used in the literature area.

The third, the reasearch has done by Fitria (2018) entitled "Figurative Language Used In One Direction's Album Entitled Up All Night." the study was published in ELITE Journal Volume 05 Number 01, June. The aims of this study were to know the types of figurative

language and to know the most dominant figurative language used in lyrics One Direction's album song entitled Up All Night. The research was qualitative descriptive to describe the analysis factually, accurately and systematically. Based on the result of this research, it was found six types of figurative language in One Direction's album entitled Up All Night, that were repetition, parallelism, personification, metaphor, simile, and hyperbole. The most dominant type of figurative language used was repetition in 50 lyrics both anaphora and epiphora.

In conclusion those three previous research showed that the first research talked about the finding of figurative languages used in the lyric of firework and to analyze the contextual meaning of figurative language used in that song. The research expectation of the result of that reserach will be useful for the reader especially in knowing what figurative language is and what kinds of figurative language are. The second research talked about the investigating the types of figurative language found in Katy Perry's song lyrics. It also tried to find out the functions of figurative language in these songs. The last previous research talked about the types of figurative language and to know the most dominant figurative language used in lyrics One Direction's album song entitled Up All Night.

All those previous study were to find out the figurative language used in the song lyrics. Meanwhile, the differences between those three previous research with this research is the subject of the research. In this research, the researcher used the song lyrics by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album.

# Method

This research focused on the figurative language existing in the lyric by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album. The researcher used qualitative research in this study. Since the data of the research served in form of words and not in form of number, it belongs to qualitative research. Regarding the statement from Bogdan and Taylor (1975) in Moleong (2002:3), they stated "qualitative methodology" as the procedure research that produces descriptive data in the form of words written or spoken of the people and behaviors that can be observed.

In this research, the researcher took the data to get the information before analyzing. The researcher found out the song lyric This research focused on the figurative language existing in the lyric by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album on the internet. The researcher then analyzed the data. Lastly, the researcher interpreted the result of the data.

The objects in this research was the song lyric This research focused on the figurative language existing in the lyric by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album

# **Finding and Discussion**

#### **Research Findings**

The purpose of this research were to find out the figurative language used on te song lyrics by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album. There were eight song lyrics in this research design by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album. The researcher conducted this research by analyzing eight those song lyrics by Nightwish on the Wishmaster. The 1<sup>st</sup> Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature

Universitas PGRI Semarang, Faculty of Language and Arts Education,

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The finding of this research was divided into two parts. The first part dealed with the figurative language used in the song lyrics by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album. The second one was the the dominant types of figurative language used by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album.

# 1. The types of figurative language used by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album

To collect the data regarding the types of figurative language used by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album, the researcher analyze the 12 song's which contained in the album. The result of the finding will reveal the exact data on what types of figurative language used in this album. According to the finding here on table 1 the used of the figurative language.

| Lyric  | Classification  |
|--|-----------------|
| Take heed, dear heart  | Personification |
| To paradise with pleasure  | Irony           |
| Facing this unbearable fear                                      | Simile          |
| Like meeting an old friend                                       |                 |
| The rain from my beaten face                                     | Personification |
| Time deverous passion's beauty                                   | Personification |
| Dance in the field of coral                                      | Hyperbole       |
| Be blinded by the white  |                 |
| A bird delivered into my heart, so                               | Hyperbole       |
| I want to love by the Blue Lagoon                                | Hyperbole       |
| Riding the dolphins  | Hyperbole       |
| Asking the mountains   | Hyperbole       |
| No healing hand  | Metonymy        |
| Drinking scron like water  | Simile          |
| A mother's love is sacrifice                                     | Metaphor        |
| Whispers a wish speaks with the stars the word are silent in him | Hyperbole       |
| Sweet boy, come in   | Simile          |
| I am the dark side of you  |                 |
| Die for my sins  |                 |
| Like the one one did   |                 |
| This dance will hurt you like hell                               | Simile          |
| Crowning the moment  | Hyperbole       |
| Crownless again shall be the queen                               | Repeatition     |
| The age will say "this poet lies"                                | Personification |
| Heaven never toucher earthly face                                | Personification |
| The age will say "this night was ours"                           | Personification |

Table 1: Finding of the figurative language

| Born from silence, silence full of it | Hyperbole |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Wish upon star                        | Hyperbole |
| Walk to the air                       | Hyperbole |
| Feel the ocean where passion lies     | Hyperbole |
|                                       |           |

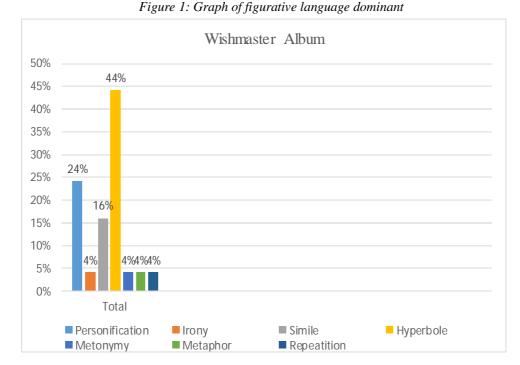
# 2. The dominant types of figurative language used by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album

Regarding the finding on the table 1 we concluded that the dominant type of figurative language by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album showed on the table 2 below.

| Classification  | F  | F% |
|-----------------|----|----|
| Personification | 6  | 24 |
| Irony           | 1  | 4  |
| Simile          | 4  | 16 |
| Hyperbole       | 11 | 44 |
| Metonymy        | 1  | 4  |
| Metaphor        | 1  | 4  |
| Repeatition     | 1  | 4  |
| Total           | 25 |    |

Table 2: Finding Figurative Language Dominant

From the table 4.2 showed that the dominant type of figurative language by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album was Hyperbole. It showed 11 from the 25 classification. Here, the researcher showed the percentage of the use of the figurative langue in the Wishmaster song's album.



55

# Discussion

Discussion is the main part in this research. Here, the researcher provided the result of analysis in the finding the types of figurative languages found in the Nightwish on the Wishmaster album based on the theory. The researcher only provided the data that contains the types of figurative languages and the application of figurative languages found in found in the Nightwish on the Wismaster album in teaching poetry. The detail explanation is as follows:

# 1. The types of figurative language used by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album a. Personification

Personification is the type of figurative language which depicts the dead things, animal, and others as if it was alive like human being. It is a comparison between inanimate things and person. According to the Nurhaida and Marlina (2017:7) Personification is the commutation of human characteristics to an object. Meanwhile, Keraf (2009:140), stated personification is a kind of figurative language style depicting inanimate objects or goods lifeless as if it has human nature.

After analyzing the data, the researcher found four lines of song lyrics. It contained personification the details as follows:

#### Song 1

Lyric 1

Take heed, dear heart

This is *personification* because who able to take heed is only human not heart.

# Song 3

Lyric 1

The rain from my beaten face

This is *personification* because rain only comes from the sky not from beaten face. "*dry the rain from my beaten face*". Means wiped the tears.

# Lyric 2

Time deveours passion's beauty

This is *personification* because who is able to deveour is only human not the time. This phrase means when people get older and older their passion's beauty will fade gradually.

# Song 9

Lyric 1 The age will say "This poet lies" This is *personification* because age cannot talk.

#### Lyric 2

Heaven never touched earthly face

This is *personification* because heaven cannot touch anything. this lyrics means that between heaven and earth they never relevant to.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature

Universitas PGRI Semarang, Faculty of Language and Arts Education, English Education Study Program August 7, 2021

6

Lyric 3 The age will say "this night was ours" This is *personification* because age cannot talk

### **b.** Irony

Irony is a way of speaking or writing by saying something while the meaning is another. It refers to a situation in which reality differs from appearance. It occurs in sentence or words when they imply contrast or opposite meaning based on (Safitri and Marlinton, 2018:5). Irony gives depth and richness to the experience of the readers. Sometimes the song writer needs pretending to the listener to find a significant point of view. The term irony is commonly used to describe both a linguistic phenomenon (verbal irony) and other phenomena including situational irony, irony of facts and things dissociated from their linguistic expression.

After analyzing the data, the researcher found this figurative language, the details as follows:

Song 1

Lyric 2

To paradise with pleasure haunted by fear

This is *irony*. The use of words where the meaning is the opposite of their usual meaning or what is expected to happen. The meaning of the song lyric is paradise is ful of happiness and beauty but haunted by fear.

#### c. Simile

Simile is a figure of speech where something is compared to something else. Simile the comparison is expressed by the use of some words, such like, as, than similar to, resemble or seems. According to the Nurhaida and Marlina (2017:7) Simile is generally the comparison of two things essentially unlike, on the basis of a resemblance in one aspect. Simile uses the words "like" or "as" to compare two explicitly unlike things as being similar. In line with the definition above keraf (2009:138), stated that equations or simile is a comparison that is explicit.

After analyzing the data, the researcher found four lines of song lyrics contain simile the details as follows:

# Song 2

Lyric 1

Facing this unbearable fear

Like meeting an old friend

This is *simile* because the composer comparing unbearable fear and meeting old friend. The connective used in this simile is like. This figure of speech had the meaning that the composer has met the fear before, so it felt like meeting old friend.

# Song 5

Lyric 2

#### Drinking scorn like water

This is *simile* because the composer comparing scorn and water. The connective used in this simile is like. This figure of speech had the meaning that had scron is like drinking water as it has been full.

# Song 7

Lyric 1 Sweet boy, come in I am the dark side of you Die for my sins Like the one one did

This is *simile* because the composer comparing die for the sins like the one one did. The connective used in this simile is like. This figure of speech has the meaning that die for his sins is like Jesus who has did it before for his people.

#### Lyric 2

This dance will hurt you like hell

This is *simile* because the composer compared dance with the hell. The connecrive used in this simile was like. This figure of speech act the meaning that if the person dance, it hurted as being in hell.

#### d. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an exaggeration. It is an exaggeration form of statement and simply consist in representing things to be either greater or less, better or worse than they really are. Hyperbole may used with various effects. It may be humorous or grave, fanciful or restrained, convincing or unconvincing. According to Fitria (2018:4) Hyperbole is a figure of speech that is an intentional exaggeration or overstatement for emphasis or comic effect. Hyperbole is simply exaggeration but exaggeration in the service of the truth. It means that saying thing in a bigger way than its ordinary one.

After analyzing the data, the researcher found eleven lines of song lyrics contain hyperbole, the details as follows:

#### Song 4

Lyric

Dance in the field of coral

Be blinded by the white

This is *hyperbole* because the composer likes that he can blind by the white of coral when he dance on it.

#### Lyric 2

A bird delivered into my heart, so

This is *hyperbole* because the sentence has different meaning, it means that he is looking for God's guidance, and hope God guides him through his heart.

#### Lyric 3

#### I want to love by the Blue Lagoon

This is *hyperbole* because the Blue Lagoon cannot love like living thins. Blue Lagoon can have meaning an American movie, Geotherbal spa in Iceland.

Lyric 4 Riding the dolphins

This is *hyperbole* because how can we ride the doplphins it's impossible. In this song, this phrase means riding something for getting the rider to the place that they want.

#### Lyric 5

#### Asking the mountains

This is *hyperbole* because we cannot ask dead things which is here is mountains. This phrase means the composer intent to communicate with the nature.

#### Song 6

#### Lyric 1

Whispers a wish speaks with the stars the word are silent in him

This is *Hyperbol*e because it is impossible to speak to the stars. Star cannot answer us even we communicate

### Song 7

#### Lyric 3

Crowning the moment

This is *hyperbole* because only head which can be crowned not any moments. *"crowning the moment"* here means celebrating the moment.

#### Song 10

Lyric 1

Born from silence, silence full of it

This is *hyperbole* because it is intended the meaning that the composer feel so lonely as if he was born from the silence.

#### Song 11

Lyric 1

Wish upon star

This is *hyperbole* because to wish upon a star often refers to making a wish after seeing the first star in the sky at night. many people believe that it will come true. The star is not thought to have the power to grant a wish. It's more like a sign of good luck.

# Lyric 2

Walk through the air

This is *hyperbole* because walk through air it means life without any guidance. it tosses around.

Song 12 Lyric 1 Feel the ocean where passion lies This is *hyperbole* because it showed that the feeling is like the ocean, it seem it is to much for comparison

#### e. Metonymy

Understanding the function of figure of speech is more important than giving them names. Metonymy define it is in terms of a person or object being referred to using as the vehicle a word whose literal denotation is somehow pertinently related. Metonymy is the use of something closely related for the thing actually meant. According to (Safitri and Marlinton, 2018:5) Metonymy is a change of name, the use of the one word for another, the use of an idea by means of terms involving association.

After analyzing the data, the researcher found this figurative language, the details as follows:

#### Song 5

Lyric 1 No healing hand This is *metonymy* because hand here means a help or treatment that can heal.

#### f. Metaphor

A metaphor is an imaginative way of describing a person, object or idea by referring something else that you think has similar qualities to the person, object, or idea that you are trying to describe. According to the Nurhaida and Marlina (2017:7) Metaphor is an analogy identifying one object with another and ascribing to the first objects more quality than the second. It means that metaphor is a kind of figure of speech that revealed the expression directly in the form of the analogical comparison

After analyzing the data, the researcher found one lines of song lyrics. It contained metaphor, the details as follows:

Song 5

Lyric 3

A mother's love is a sacrifice

It is categorized *metaphor* because the composer a mother's love and sacrifice directly. It means that a mother's love is spreme. No one can sacrifice is like her. Mother is a person with unconditional love. Her love endures through all. Nothing can be comparable to her love.

#### g. Repetition

Repetition is a lyric that have more than one in the one paragraph. After analyzing the data, the researcher found one lines of song lyrics. It contained metaphor, the details as follows:

### Song 8

Lyric 1

Crownless again shall be the queen

This is *repeatition* because the song's repeat the lyric twice in the following paragraph.

# 2. The dominant types of figurative language used by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album

Regarding to the finding that showed in the table 4.2 the dominant type of figurative language was hyperbole. From the 25 findings the hyperbole were 11 types. The second dominant was personification, which had 6 findings of the figurative langue. The third was

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Universitas PGRI Semarang, Faculty of Language and Arts Education,

English Education Study Program

August 7, 2021

simile, here there were 4 findings of simile. The, there were four finding who had the same amount irony, metonymy, metaphor, and repeatition. They was just 1 finding.

It also showed from the presentage that the hyperbole is 44% from the type of figurative language on this album. Second, it is personification with 24% findings. Third, it is simile with 16% findings. Then as explained before there are foru types of figurative language who have the same percentage which is 4%.

# Conclusion

This discussions from prior chapters are to be summarized to achieved the purpose of the study. The summarizes may be concluded as follows:

- 1. The types of figurative language in song lyrics used by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album were personification, irony, simile, hyperbole, metonymy, metaphor, and repeatition.
- 2. The dominant types of figurative language song lyrics used by Nightwish on the Wishmaster album hyperbole, second place was personification, third was simile, and the four figurative language were the same findings. They were irony, metonymy, metaphor, and repeatition.

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