

# **Figurative Language Used in Song Lyrics of “Nevermind” Album By Nirvana Band and Its Feasibility as A Source For Teaching English in Senior High School**

\* Tegar Pambudhi<sup>1</sup>, Wiyaka<sup>2</sup>, Ajeng Setyorini<sup>3</sup>,

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

[Ksaya3622@gmail.com](mailto:Ksaya3622@gmail.com)

## **Abstract.**

This study is based on the study which attempted to analyze the figurative language used in Nevermind album by Nirvana. The research design used in this study is descriptive qualitative research. The final project described type of figurative language and contextual meaning from the song lyrics of Nevermind. From the analysis, there were nine types of figurative languages: they were metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, synecdoche, irony, apostrophe, and the last one is repetition. To support the analysis, some type of figurative language and other related reference were used. There were also some related theories about figurative language used to support the analysis. Fifty-one figures of speech were used in the six of Nevermind album. There were eight expressions of metaphor, five expressions of simile, one expression of personification, four expressions of hyperbole, four expressions of metonymy, two expressions of synecdoche, ten expressions of irony, four expressions of apostrophe, and thirteen expressions of repetition.

**Keywords:** Figurative language, types, nirvana’s

## **Introduction**

Language can be defined as a means of communication of human life. In daily life people communicate and interact with other people, and people need language to do communicate and interact with each other. As long as we use language well we can socialize well too. Chaika (1982) states that language and society are so intertwined and it is impossible to understand without another. In the modern era, music has become life’s style for everyone, almost everyday people listening to music, and music popular in all circles both young and old people. In life song becomes its representative when we are sad, happy, depressed, confused afraid, angry, and happy. The song does not hesitate to give us chance for expression, there is no one of people

who do not like a song. We also used language to express our feeling, some of us using language to make poems or song lyrics.

Figure of speech is a word or phrase that possesses a separate meaning from its literal definition. It can be a metaphor or simile. Design to make a comparison. It can be a repetition or alliteration or the exaggeration of hyperbole to provide a dramatic effect. According to Kennedy and Gioia (2005:118) a figure of speech maybe said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotation of words. The term “figurative language” it-self is a figure: it is a reduction / condensation / crystallization (metonymy) for a fast field of language strategies. Figures of speech are not devices to state what is demonstrably true. Indeed they often state the truths that more literal language cannot communicate; they call attention to such truths; they land them emphasis.

Figurative language is using words to imply another meaning. In other words, figurative language is a language style used by people to communicate, figurative language is a persuasive language. Also known as ornaments of language, figurative language does not mean exactly what it says. Figurative language is parallel to plain language because of the underlying meaning that it carries. Meaning means the message taken from the lyrics which contain the figurative language.

## Literature Review

The writer presents review of related literature of this study and the theoretical foundation of the experts who support this research. Literature review that contains previous studies to find out whether previous studies have in common terms of formal objects and material objects with the author. They are the figurative language, the diction that use in song lyrics, types of figurative language, and identify the meaning of the figurative language that used. The aim of the writer is to help the readers to be easier to understand several parts of the study related to this final project. They are several previous studies that are relevant to this final project.

Ibrahim Ibrahim, Muhaiminah Akib, Ruslan Hasyim, on their journal “*The Analysis of Figurative Language in “Endless Love” Song Lyric*“ from Department of English Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Muhammadiyah Sorong, published on April 30, 2019. Their research is about the definition of song, genre of song, the definition of figurative language, kinds of figurative language i.e. Metaphor, Personification, Personification, Hyperbole, Repetition Pleonasm, Onomatopoeia. Based on the result of analysis the writer that concluded that the “ENDLESS LOVE” song lyric by Lionel Richie has figurative language at each stanza of the song lyric respectively: repetition 36%, hyperbole 32%, metaphor 12%, pleonasm 8%, personification 4%, dispersonification 4%, onomatopoeia 4%. The figurative language in the song is dominated by repetition this means that the author wanted to emphasize and to make strong the meaning and/or the feeling of the author in the song lyric and every words and/or lines that as figurative languages in it has comparative meaning between

denotative meaning and connotative meaning so it gives aesthetic values and colours to the meaning of the song.

L.P. Karina Febriyanti Aryawan, I.W. Suarnajaya, I.W. Swandana, on their journal that published on December 2, 2019, entitled “*A Semantic Analytical of Figurative Language Found in Eminem’s Songs*” from Ganesha University of Education. The data description (finding) presents the result of the research question and formulated by the researcher, namely the analysis of the types of figurative language, the meaning of the figurative language found, and the most dominant type used in the song lyrics. The research classifies the types of figurative language that found in the song by using Perrine and Tarigan’s theory of figurative language. The type of figurative language that analyze in their journal is the figurative language that include in group of comparison i.e. Simile, Metaphor, Allusion Hyperbole, Imagery, Idiom, Irony, Onomatopoeia, Personification, Metonymy, Symbolism, Oxymoron. From 14 types of figurative language introduced by Perrine and Tarigan, there are only 12 types of figurative language used in Eminem’s song lyrics. The data can describe follows : 34 or 25.00% data of simile, 30 or 22.05% data of metaphor, 11 or 8.08% data of hyperbole, 8 or 5.88% data of idiom, 5 or 3.67% data of onomatopoeia, 10 or 7.35% data of imagery, 22 or 15.44% data of allusion, 1 or 0.73% data of datum of oxymoron, 7 or 5.14% data of irony, 2 or 1.47% data of metonymy, 5 or 3.67% data of personification, and 2 or 1.47% data of symbolism. From the total occurrence presented, can be said that the dominant type of figurative song used in Eminem’s song lyrics is simile, and the least is oxymoron.

Patel on his international journal of research entitled “Imagery and Figurative Language in Wordsworth’s Poem’s “The World is too much with us” and “my Heart Leaps up” published on July 6, 2014. The method used in his international journal research is a systematic procedure in analyzing an object of research in accordance with the approach which is used. Methodology is very important part in developing scientific research. The method in his study is included as follows: Data Source, Method and Technique of Analyzing Data, Method and Technique of Analyzing Data. According to analysis the data in his study was taken from poem written by William Wordsworth’s, *The world is too much with us and My hearts leaps up*. The poem was taken from the book written by *Knickbocker and Reninger* entitled *Interpreting Literature* published by *Henry Holt and Company*, United States of America in March 1957. The data that was analyzed in his study is considered as primary data. In his study also present the function of imagery and figurative language as follows: Visual Imagery, Auditory Imagery, Kinesthetic Imagery, The function of Paradox, the function of the Personification, the function of Simile, The function of Hyperbole, The function of Metaphor.

Viona br Sembiring, Ester Efita sari Tamba, Gustia Hapsah, Putra Buulolo, Perius Gulo, on their journal entitled “*Analysis of Student Ability in Identifying Figurative Language in Mariah Carey’s Songs*” published on April 2020. This study aims to find the student’s ability in identifying kinds of figurative language and their meanings in lyrics of Mariah Carey selected song. Descriptive qualitative method is the method used in this study. The instrument for collecting data was test questions which consisted of 12 questions. The subject was 11<sup>th</sup> grade

class of SMA Swasta GKPI Padang Bulan which consist of 28 students. The result of the data analysis shows that the student means score is 76.7, the highest score is 92, and the lowest score is 50. Belonged to the good level and there were 3 students, (10,7%), belonged to sufficient level. Kind of figurative language was found in Mariah Carey songs lyric are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and personification.

Vera Nurcitrawati, Evie Kareviati, Nai Supartini Atmawijaya, on their journal entitled “Figurative Language Analysis in Disney Songs” published on 4, July 2019 volume 2. The background of this research is to understand the use of figurative language contained in Disney song lyrics from the film Frozen and Tangled. The objectives of this research are : (1) what type of figurative language are contained in the song, (2) figurative language function contained in the song lyrics, and (3) what implicit meanings are contained in the lyrics of the song. The method used in this research is qualitative descriptive in observation, collecting data and conclusion from the research. The result of this study indicate that here are types of figurative languages used in the lyrics of the two songs including idiom, hyperbole, personification, simile, and alliteration. In this study researcher used a qualitative descriptive method to analyze figurative language in song. Sugiyono (2006) states that research is a scientific way to obtain data with specific purpose and uses. According to Sugiyono (2013) qualitative research method used to examine the condition of natural objects, qualitative research, research is a key instrument, the technique of collecting data is combined witch introductive analysis and the result of qualitative research emphasize the meaning of generalization.

## **Method**

The study designed as a descriptive-qualitative. Analysing qualitative data requires understanding how to make sense of the text or song lyrics and images to answer the research question. In data analysing, the first identify the song lyrics found related to the study, after doing identifying, the writer begins to describe the identified each previous study and make a comparison, presenting the data, analysing, and finally, the writer summarizes the research findings, make the conclusion and suggestion.

According to Creswell (2004), there are suggest six steps are taken to analysing the qualitative data; 1) It is inductive in form, going from particular the detailed data to the general codes and themes. Although the initial analysis consist of sub-dividing the data, the final goal is to generate a large, consolidated picture; 2) It involves a simultaneous process of analysing while you are also collecting data; 3) The phases are also iterative, in which you cycle back and forth between data collection and analysis; 4) Qualitative researcher analyse their data by reading several times and conducting an analysis each time to develop deeper understanding of the data; 5) There is no single, accepted approach to analysing qualitative data. It is eclectic approach; 6) it is interpretative research in which you make a personal assessment as to a description that fits the situation or themes that capture the major categories.

## Findings and Discussion

The purpose of the study is to explain the kinds and contextual meanings of figurative language which are found in the Nirvana Band song lyrics. The writer just analysis six songs of the Nevermind albums, the songs are Smells Like, Teen Spirit, In Bloom, Come as You Are, Breed, Lithium, and Polly. The writer wanted to find out some figurative language used in the song lyric of Nevermind album, the types figurative of speech, and diction. To make the data clear and easy to identify, the writer also presented the findings of figurative languages in the song lyric of Nirvana album in the tables.

### Smells like Teen Spirit

This song is about Curt's story, he is the vocalist of Nirvana. "Smells Like Teen Spirit was Nirvana's biggest hit in most counties, charting high on music industry charts around the world in 1991. The song's title was found when his friend wrote "Kurt smells like teen spirit" on his wall. His friend meant that Cobain smelled like the deodorant named Teen Spirit. This song told the story about Curt and his girlfriend Tobi Vail, and until they married. This song contained many figurative languages are follows:

Table 1: Figurative Language in "Smells Like Teen Spirit

No	Lyrics of Song	Type of Figurative language	Meaning
1	<i>It's fun to lose and to pretend</i>	Irony	the songwriter feels sad when he lost someone he loved the most, and he always pretending about his own feeling
2	<i>Oh no, I know a dirty word</i>	Metaphor	<i>Dirty word</i> is a word that is connected with sex and considered offensive by people.
3	<i>Hello, hello, hello, how low</i>	Repetition	Confirmed three times how despicable they are who use dirty words daily or to say to others.
4	<i>With the lights out, it's less dangerous</i>	Personification	lights out means the lamp is off, not the lights run away. In this sentence, <i>lights</i> replace the lamp.
5	<i>I feel stupid and contagious</i>	Irony	Stupid means he did something that he comes to deeply regret later
6	<i>I'm worse at what I do best</i>	Irony	He always felt like he was worse than before, even though he always did his best but he always felt less.
7	<i>Our little group has always been</i>	Metonymy	substituted by a <i>small group</i> , a small group is one of another closely associated with the family.

8	<i>A denial, a denial, a denial, a denial, a denial</i>	Repetition	It means he denies this part of himself through he knows it exists
---	---	------------	--

## In Bloom

Nirvana was Cobain's band. He was the primary voice and songwriter. This song is just the sort of Cobain song where the point is missed when meaning is distilled the song was, apparently, written to address, or poke fun at, the people outside the underground music scene who started coming to nirvana shows after their first studio album. The song lyrics are meant to express a certain kind of feeling more than any coherent meaning. He wrote this song about his anger towards mainstream followers.

Table 2: Figurative language in "In Bloom"

No	Lyrics of Song	Type of Figurative language	Meaning
1	<i>Sell the kids for food</i>	Hyperbole	The kids in nature would be fruits, which you would sell as food.
2	<i>Weather changes moods</i>	Metaphor	This is about the mood swings that girls experience going into puberty and pregnancy, the weather of her body.
3	<i>He's the one</i>	Apostrophe	This writer states that it is as if only he (mainstream fans) likes Nirvana's songs.
4	<i>Who likes all our pretty songs</i>	Metaphor	Word <i>pretty songs</i> mean very popular song and it is has a deep meaning and message.
5	<i>And he likes to shoot his gun</i>	Synecdoche	<i>His gun</i> refers to his mouth.
6	<i>And I say he's the one</i>	Apostrophe	This is the literal meaning, which states that songwriter does not like his fans are mainstream and do not know the true meaning of his song.
7	<i>Nature is a whore</i>	Metaphor	The songwriter compares nature with the human being. He uses nature as a metaphor for human fertility.
8	<i>Tender age in bloom</i>	Metaphor	<i>Tender age</i> means a young age, a time in your life when you are still young and lack experience.
9	<i>Knows not what it means</i>	Repetition	Was an affirmation that the song was made for satire.

## Come as You Are

Kurt Cobain described this song as “About the people, and what they are expected to act like”. The lyric has intentionally contradictory and confusing. In his song, Kurt sings over and over, *on the lyric I do not have a gun*. The gun could be a reference to a time when Kurt’s mother got mad at her husband (Kurt’s stepfather) and threw his gun in the river.

Table 3: Figurative language used in “Come as You Are”

No	Lyrics of Song	Type of Figurative language	Meaning
1	<i>Come as you are, as you were</i>	Simile	<i>Come as you are</i> present as his adversary, <i>as you were</i> in the past as his beloved father.
2	<i>As I want you to be</i>	Simile	It is a perspective that is subjective and neither right nor wrong.
3	<i>As a friend, as a friend</i>	Repetition	<i>As a friend</i> means religion.
4	<i>As an old enemy</i>	Simile	Refers to as an atheist or the people who do not have a believer.
5	<i>Choice is yours, don't be late</i>	Synecdoche	Words the time before death is replaced by the words <i>don't be late</i> .
6	<i>Take a rest as a friend</i>	Simile	<i>Take a rest</i> refers to the final destination/eternal rest (death), <i>as a friend</i> refers to as a follower of religion.
7	<i>Nature is a whore</i>	Metaphor	The songwriter compares nature with the human being. He uses nature as a metaphor for human fertility.
8	<i>As an old</i>	Irony	That shows the songwriter describes his father as someone who has old age.
9	<i>Memoria, memoria</i>	Repetition	Here confirms that he missed the figure of a father in his life.
10	<i>Come doused in mud, soaked in bleach</i>	Metaphor	It means black people being the <i>mud</i> , and white people being the <i>bleach</i> .

11	<i>As a trend, as a friend</i>	Irony	<i>As a trend</i> refers to suicide, history has shown this method of ceasing to exist has increased and in a sense become popular or trendy.
12	<i>No, I don't have a gun</i>	Repetition	<i>A gun</i> here could be a reference to a time when Kurt's mother got mad at her husband (Kurt's stepfather) and threw his gun in the river.

## Breed

The original title for this song was Imodium, due to a friend of Kurt that used this medicine during the recordings for this album entitled Nevermind. This song is about Tobi Vail, she is Kurt's girlfriend, like many of his memorable songs from Nevermind. This song was developed while they touring with the band TAD in Europe in 1989, was the first song where the sound is more hypnotic and helps the audience that sees Nirvana play live to enter a mood of trance.

Table 4: Figurative language used in "Breed"

No	Lyrics of Song	Type of Figurative language	Meaning
1	<i>I don't care, I don't care, I don't care</i>	Repetition	He does not care about the other people, other feelings that he can feel, like the cruel love.
2	<i>I don't care, I don't care, care if it's old</i>	Irony / Apostrophe	And <i>old</i> here means that love knows no age, whether it is young or old, everyone can get love.
3	<i>I don't mind, I don't mind, I don't mind</i>	Repetition	The writer here describes that the young people only do what they want, without thinking about the impact on themselves.
4	<i>I don't mind, mind, don't have a mind</i>	Irony	We all know that young people cannot think deeply about what they are doing, they just want to have fun.
5	<i>Get away, get away, get away</i>	Repetition	That means he wants to be around her but gets so nervous that he refers to her as a ghost.
6	<i>I'm afraid, I'm afraid, I'm afraid</i>	Repetition	This explains that many young people are afraid to try something new, there are many ways to reach your dreams.
7	<i>I'm afraid, afraid, ghost</i>	Apostrophe	The songwriter says repetition afraid to a ghost. In fact, the devil is an invisible thing, and human can't see a ghost.
8	<i>We could plant a house, we could build a tree</i>	Hyperbole	The true meaning of the lyric is opposed to the stereotypical American dream of getting married someday.



9	<i>She said, she said</i>	Repetition	<i>She said</i> implying that song was meant to capture spoken dialogue.
10	<i>We can plant a house, we can build a tree</i>	Hyperbole	It means black people being the <i>mud</i> , and white people being the <i>bleach</i> . In reality, we are just human beings, we cannot make trees and we also cannot plant houses.

## Lithium

Kurt said this song is about a man who after the death of his girlfriend, turns to religion (as a last resort to keep himself alive, and to keep him from suicide). Lithium is a drug used by doctors to treat patients with manic-depressive disorder, also known as bipolar depression. This is a very volatile mental condition and lithium often helps regulate the mood of the patient.

Table 5: Figurative language used in "Lithium"

No	Lyrics of Song	Type of Figurative language	Meaning
1	<i>I've found my friends</i>	Metonymy	Words <i>my friends</i> here means my religion, the name of religion is substituted for another closely associated with.
2	<i>They're in my head</i>	Metonymy	The deep relationship makes him always remember his friends who always support him
3	<i>I'm so ugly, but that's okay, 'cause so are you</i>	Irony	He doesn't care how the other people see them, so he called himself <i>so ugly</i> .
4	<i>Light my candles in a daze</i>	Metaphor	Candlelight means the light of guidance from his religion.
5	<i>'Cause I've found God</i>	Hyperbole	That is meant he found the guidance of religion.
6	<i>Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah</i>	Repetition	Here he said yes seven times, it is a confirmation of the previous lyrics which stated that he already had religion.
7	<i>And just maybe I'm to blame for all I've heard</i>	Irony	He can blame himself for the way the other people see him.

	<i>I like it, I'm not gonna crack</i>	Repetition	In this word, we can discover that everything can be wrong, and the mental illness comes out.
--	---------------------------------------	------------	---

## Polly

This song originally titled *Hitchhiker*, Kurt Cobain wrote this song about an incident, which occurred after the song's original release on the Nevermind album. This is about the actual kidnapping of 14 years old girl in 1987. She was abducted after returning from a concert in Tacoma by a man named Gerald Friend. He took her back to his home and raped her. The girl, whose name was not released, was tortured with a whip, a razor, and a blowtorch. She managed to escape when Gerald took her for the ride and stopped for gas. He was arrested and sent to jail.

Table 6: Figurative language used in "Polly"

No	Lyrics of Song	Type of Figurative language	Meaning
1	<i>Let me clip, your dirty wings</i>	Metaphor	<i>Dirty wings</i> here replace the words hands and feet.
2	<i>Let me take a ride, cut yourself</i>	Metonymy	<i>Let me take a ride</i> . It replace the words let me having sex with you.
3	<i>Want some help, please myself</i>	Irony	He describes when she needs some help but no one there.
4	<i>Got some rope, have been told</i>	Irony	The songwriter describes this lyric that she was not only kidnapped by Gerald but she was raped.

## Discussion

The writer gives some explanations about the research findings that the writer has mentioned before. The writer has some kinds of figurative language in the six songs of the Nevermind album which are chosen by the writer. It reinforces that Nirvana's songs can be used as material to teach English in senior high school because those songs contain many figures of speech. On the other hands, this song contains many lyrics refer to swear word and a lot of words refer to words containing sex. This album still suitable to be used as teaching material in senior high school, because the student have been taught on Biology subject about the reproduction of human. The research findings of his study also prove that figurative language is not only found in the poems. It can be found in the song lyrics. Figurative language is a way that the songwriter uses to express his / her ideas, their feelings, and thoughts. Through figures of speech, the

songwriter of the Nevermind album presents the hidden message and literal meaning of the song. Thus, it needs a deep understanding in interpreting the meanings of the songs of the Nevermind album. The writer finds out nine kinds of figurative language; they are metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, synecdoche, irony, apostrophe, and the last one is repetition. Furthermore, they are fifty-one expressions that use figurative language. There are eight expressions of metaphor, five expressions of simile, one expression of personification, four expressions of hyperbole, four expressions of metonymy, two expressions of synecdoche, ten expressions of irony, four expressions of apostrophe, and thirteen expressions of repetition. Figurative language used dominant is repetition, most songwriter use repetition to create beautiful effect on their song.

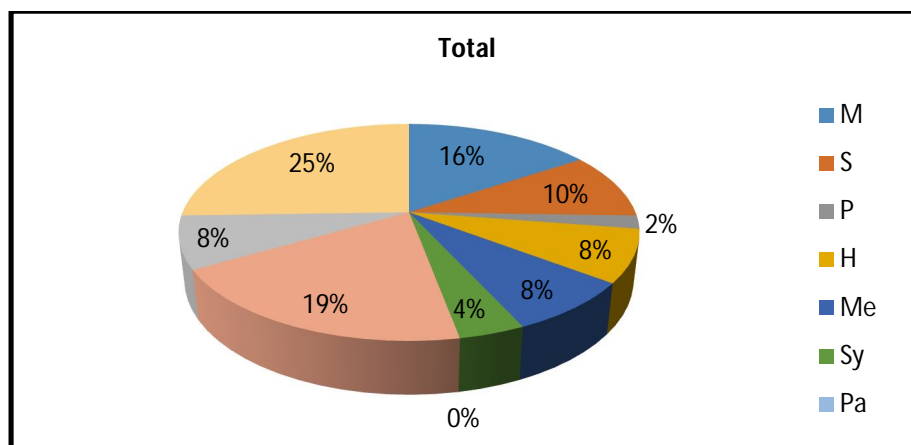
Furthermore, the total of figurative language in Nirvana' song lyrics can be seen as following analysis:

*Table 7: The list of figurative language used*

No	Kind of Figurative Language	Number of Figurative Language Used
1	Metaphor	8
2	Simile	5
3	Personification	1
4	Hyperbole	4
5	Metonymy	4
6	Synecdoche	2
7	Paradox	-
8	Irony	10
9	Apostrophe	4
10	Repetition	13
Total		51

Based on the data in the table above, it can be concluded that there are fifty-one figures of speech that are used in the six of Nevermind album. There are eight expressions of metaphor, five expressions of simile, one expression of personification, four expressions of hyperbole, four expressions of metonymy, two expressions of synecdoche, ten expressions of irony, four expressions of apostrophe, and thirteen expressions of repetition.

*Chart 1: The percentage of figurative language in six songs*



From the pie chart above we can see the percentage of figurative language in six songs. The most dominant figurative language which is used in the song lyrics of the Nevermind album is Repetition with a percentage of 25%. The second is Irony with a percentage of 19%. The third is Metaphor with a percentage of 16%. The fourth is Simile with a percentage of 10%. The fifth are Hyperbole, Metonymy, and Apostrophe with a percentage of 8%. The sixth is Synecdoche with a percentage of 4%. The seventh is Personification with a percentage of 2%. And the last is Paradox with a percentage of 0%.

This discussion explains about the data that the researcher has found and analysed in previous chapter. Besides, the discussion also answer the researcher question in chapter one. First the discussion mentions about type of figurative language. And the second it described the figurative languages used in Nevermind album. After doing analysis, the writer found several types and description of figurative language used in Nevermind album. The writer also explains the characteristics of the song lyrics. There are some kinds of figurative language used in Nevermind album. Such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, synecdoche, irony, apostrophe, and the last is repetition. The most dominant figurative language that has found is Repetition.

The writer found nine types of figurative language, this research is qualitative research with the data was taken from six songs of Nevermind album. This study uses identifying to collect the data. The research used the theory by Kennedy and Gioia (2005) to find the types of figurative language and the writer also take Keraft Gorys (2009) theory to find types of meaning.

Metaphor is figure of speech that refers, for rhetorical effect, to one thing by mentioning another thing (Kennedy and Gioia 2005:121). The writer finds metaphor at the most in Nevermind album which has analysed. There are many data for metaphor such in *Smells Like Teen Spirit* and *Polly*. The songwriter uses metaphor to relate two different things to each other to provide a deeper meaning or understanding of each. This can be done in fairly obvious way, which often creates a metaphor on the surface level, or it can be deeper and utilize an extended

metaphor. A metaphor is created to establish a connection between two things to reinforce some concept or idea.

Hyperbole is emphasize a point with a statement containing exaggeration (Kennedy and Gioia 2005:129). The songwriter uses the hyperbole to emphasize the statement containing exaggeration. The use of it to exaggerate an event more than fact, and the songwriter uses hyperbole to show the forceful feeling in order to make sure the listeners. Then, the listeners could be confidence through the description of the word itself. Look at the 5<sup>th</sup> song, line 9 '*Cause I've found God* contain hyperbole. In fact, we as a human being cannot see God, God is invisible thing. That is meant he found the guidance of religion.

Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, and animal, or abstract term (truth, nature) are made human (Kennedy and Gioia 2005:128). The writer finds the data for personification in Nevermind album by kinds of figurative language. The songwriter expresses his feeling in the song lyric. The songwriter expresses his feeling by giving human nature attribute to the goods to emphasize. Look at 1<sup>st</sup> song line 9 *With the lights out, it's less dangerous* shows a personification. It means that the *light* as nature, lights out means the lamp is off, not the lights run away. In this sentence, *lights* replace the lamp. It means with no light when lamp is off, it feels more dangerous, and it gave beauty effect on song lyrics.

Repetition is figure of speech, which used by the writer to repeat several words in the sentence (Keraf 2009:127) repetition is repeating sound, words or a whole of word in sentence for intensifying in suitable context. On the other hand repetition in literature is to emphasize on the important ideas. Repetition also device that involves intentionally using a word or phrase for beauty effect, two or more times in the song lyric. The words or phrases should be repeated within close proximity of each other. The writer concludes repeating the same words or phrases in song lyric can bring clarity to an idea or make it memorable for the listener. For example in 4<sup>th</sup> song line 3 *I don't mind, I don't mind, I don't mind* shows repetition, there is repeated three times. The songwriter here describes that the young people only do what they want, without thinking about the impact on themselves. This song tells about the many young people who want to get married and having sex, but they didn't know that would be bad for them.

Based on the data findings and discussion from previous researchers the result of the first study by Khadijah Arifah (2016) analyzed the figurative language analysis in five John legend's song. The second previous study by Viona BR Sembiring (2020) analyzed of student's ability in identifying figurative language in Mariah Carey's song. The next previous study written by Retnayanthi (2012) the researcher Analyzed of Figurative Languages in Adele's Song. What makes this study different from the previous study above is the writer describes in detail line by line. Begin from analyzed the types of figurative language contained, the next is the writer clearly describes the meaning contained in the song lyrics, the writer also describes the textual and contextual meaning in Nevermind album, and the last one the writer describes the behind story about every songs the writer has analyzed.

It can be concluded that the song lyrics of Nirvana's album can be used as material to teach English in senior high school because those songs show many kinds of figurative language.

Nirvana's song lyrics are easy to understand for senior high school students. The language used is a simple language that the students understand very well. The students also can enjoy the songs during class time to put the boredom away. In short, the writer states that Nirvana's song lyrics can be an alternative way to teach English Literature. Especially to teach about the meaning and figurative language used in literature.

## Conclusion

Every song definitely has figurative language that has a deep meaning by songwriter when written the song lyrics. The meaning contained in the song lyrics there is implicit and explicit meaning. From the song lyrics in six songs researched by the writer, there are: *Smells Like Teen Spirit, In Bloom, Come as You Are, Breed, Lithium, and Polly*. Based on the result of the study and its analysis in the previous chapter, the writer concluded that:

1. There are nine kinds of figurative language which are found in the Nevermind album. They are metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, synecdoche, irony, apostrophe, repetition. There are eight expressions of metaphor, five expressions of simile, one expression of personification, four expressions of hyperbole, four expressions of metonymy, two expressions of synecdoche, ten expressions of irony, four expressions of apostrophe, and thirteen expressions of repetition. In addition, the kind of figurative language most used is repetition (thirteen expressions). The song which uses the most figurative language is *Come as You Are* with eleven expressions, and the song which uses the less figurative language is *Polly* with four expressions.
2. Song lyrics of Nirvana's songs especially the Nevermind album contain many kinds of figurative language. Therefore, those songs can be used as material to teaching English in senior high school, and also can be an alternative to learn about figurative language. In addition, the lyrics of those songs are easy to understand and used simple diction. The students can also get those songs very easily from the internet that makes the learning and teaching process easy to be conducted. To put the boredom away, the teacher can play that song during class time when the students analyse the songs. It makes the class atmosphere more pleasant, relaxing, and interesting for the students.

## References

- Chaika, E. (1982). *Language: The Social Mirror*. Newbury House Publishers.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative and Mixed Methods Approaches (4th ed.)*.
- Gioia, X. K. (2005). *Literature an introduction to fiction, poetry, and drama*. New York: Pearson Longman.

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

- Ibrahim Ibrahim, M. A. (2019). The Analysis of Figurative Language in “Endless Love” Song Lyric. *Lisan: Jurnal Bahasa dan Linguistik* Vol 8, No 2.
- Keraf, G. (2008). *Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa*. Jakarta: PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- L.P. Karina Febriyanti Aryawan, I. S. (2019). *A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FOUND IN EMINEM’S SONG*.
- Patel, D. C. (2014, July). *Imagery and Figurative Language in Wordsworth's Poem's "The World is too much with us" and "My Heart Leaps up"*. Vol-1(Issue -6).
- Sembiring, V. B. (2020). *ANALYSIS OF STUDENT’S ABILITY IN IDENTIFYING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN MARIAH CAREY’S SONGS*. Vol 7 No 1.
- Vera Nurcitrawati, E. K. (2019). *FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ANALYSIS IN DISNEY SONGS*. Vol 2 No 4 .