

AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SONG LYRICS ON THE “WIPED OUT!” ALBUM BY *THE NEIGHBOURHOOD BAND*

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Abstract

This study focuses on the analysis of figurative language in the album "Wiped Out!" by The Neighbourhood, to identify the various types of figurative language present in the lyrics and determine its potential for use as an educational resource for teaching English in senior high school. The data for the analysis is drawn from the song lyrics of "Wiped Out!" by The Neighbourhood, obtained through internet searches using popular search engines like Google, and Spotify. The research design employed is descriptive qualitative research. The objective of the study is to categorize and explain the types of figurative language used in the lyrics of the album. The analysis revealed the presence of four different types of figurative language that are metaphor, simile, personification and hyperbole. To support analysis, the study refers to examples of figurative language types as well as related theories about it. Throughout the "Wiped Out!" album, a total of twenty-five figures of speech were identified across its six tracks. The distribution of these figures of speech among the different types of figurative language is as follows: metaphor (15 occurrences, 60%), personification (5 occurrences, 20%), hyperbole (4 occurrences, 16%), and simile (1 occurrence, 4%). The study underscores the album's usage of these different types of figurative language and their impact on the meaning and interpretation of the lyrics. The findings suggest that the "Wiped Out!" album could be valuable resource for teaching English in senior high school, helping students understand and appreciate nuances of figurative language in context of real world.

Keywords: Song Lyric, The Neighbourhood Album, Figurative Language

Introduction

According to Goldstein (2008) language is a system where we communicate using sounds or symbols that allow us to express our feelings, thoughts, ideas and experiences. The fact is that currently people still experience difficulties in expressing and understanding feelings, thoughts, ideas and experiences expressed in language. In this case the writer found that one of the problems faced by most people in language skills is the use of figurative language. In everyday life, some people say a word without saying the meaning of the word. Figurative language is a implicit interpretation in sentences or paragraphs used in a literary work such as

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poetry. It will allow us to say what we want to say more clearly and more powerfully through figurative words than by saying it directly and it is often found in a song.

In song lyrics, the songwriter deliberately employs various elements of language, including words, phrases, clauses, and sentences, to create aesthetically pleasing effects for the listeners. Diction plays a crucial role in crafting song lyrics. According to Parera (1987:66), diction refers to the choice and usage of words. This allows the writer to analyze the figurative language present in each song. Commonly used figurative language techniques in songwriting include simile, metaphor, idiom, personification, hyperbole, alliteration, assonance, and repetition. For this, a music listener needs more understanding to be able to enjoy a song, but also has to understand the figurative language in the lyrics of the song.

The Neighbourhood released their second studio album "Wiped Out!" in 2015. Although the album title doesn't employ figurative language directly, it conveys a sense of weariness or depletion, implying a more profound emotional or physical state rather than a literal interpretation. In general, The Neighbourhood is renowned for its atmospheric and immersive musical landscapes, introspective lyrics, and a distinctive fusion of alternative rock and pop elements.

Based on the background of the study, there are two problems as follows:

1. What kinds of figurative language found in the song lyric of The Neighbourhood album "Wiped Out!"?
2. What are the general meaning of figurative language used in the song lyric of The Neighbourhood album "Wiped Out!"?

In line with the research questions stated above, the objectives of the research are formulated as follows:

1. To describe the figurative language used on song lyrics of The Neighbourhood album "Wiped Out!"
2. To identify the meaning on song lyrics of The Neighbourhood album "Wiped Out!"

Literature Review

Figurative Language

Language plays a vital role in our social lives. It serves as a fundamental tool for communication and interaction among individuals. As social beings, humans heavily rely on language for their everyday activities. Whether it's conveying messages, engaging in transactions, or expressing emotions, language is indispensable. Expressing our emotions through writing is one way to utilize language effectively. For instance, we can create poems, novels, and song lyrics that reflect the depths of our hearts.

Song lyrics, in particular, often employ figurative language to enhance their beauty and aesthetic appeal. By employing various literary devices, songwriters aim to convey their messages with both implicit and explicit meanings. This research focuses on the exploration of figurative language usage in song lyrics. The researcher presents an analysis of how songwriters employ different forms of figurative language to enrich their compositions, captivate listeners, and effectively convey their intended messages. Semantics, as a branch of linguistics, is concerned with the study of meaning. Linguistics, in turn, has contributed a

The 3rd Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature (ALLURE)

Vol. 3(1), September, 2023

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certain level of analytical rigor to the field of semantics, viewing the study of meaning as an integral part of understanding how language functions (Geoffrey, 1973).

Fadaee (2011:19), figurative language serves as an imaginative tool employed in both literature and everyday communication to go beyond the ordinary usage of speech. Figurative language is closely connected to the desires and thoughts of the writer. the functions of figurative language in song lyrics are as follows:

- a) Captivate listeners interest and engage them in understanding the songwriter's message.
- b) Transport listeners into the songwriter's imagination, enabling them to comprehend the full meaning of the song.
- c) Enhance the impact of the lyrics by using appropriate words for each part of the song.

In literary works, the use of figurative language creates a more profound and evocative effect. Generally, figurative language serves the following purposes:

1. Generates pleasure through imagination.
2. Creates additional imagery that transforms abstract concepts into tangible experiences for readers or listeners.
3. Intensifies the emotions expressed by the author, conveying meaning and attitude more powerfully.
4. Condenses the intended meaning and the ways of conveying it within the concise language.

Kind of Figurative Language

The focus is specifically on four types of figurative language, as outlined by Geoffrey in his 1973 publication that are :

A.Simile

According to Padillah(2016), a simile is a specific type of figure of speech that involves the comparison of two things using explicit words such as "like," "as," or "such." In this type of comparison, the writer or speaker clearly states the similarity between the two elements being compared. The purpose of using similes is to create a vivid and relatable image by drawing a parallel between two seemingly unrelated thing. Example: *"Her smile was as bright as the sun."*

B.Metaphor

According to Setiawati & Maryani (2018), metaphor is a form of analogy that directly compares two things. On the other hand, Hasanah (2013) suggests that metaphors are typically implicit comparisons that do not use the words "like" or "as." Instead, they employ more specific words like "is," "are," "was," or "were." Examples of metaphors include statements like "My home is Heaven," "Her lips are roses," "You are what you eat," and "She is the most beautiful lady in my village."

According to Syafitri and Marlinton (2018:5), the term "metaphor" originates from Greek and has the meaning of "to carry over." In the context of language, a metaphor involves using a word or expression that typically represents one type of thing in its literal sense, but applying it to another completely different type of thing. Importantly, a metaphor does not explicitly assert a comparison between the two elements involved. Instead, it relies on the

power of suggestion and implication to convey a deeper meaning or create a vivid image in the reader's mind. Example: *"Her voice is music to my ears."*

C.Hyperbole

According to Geoffrey (1973), hyperbole often revolves around personal values and emotions. It involves making subjective statements that, although exaggerated, cannot be objectively verified unless we have direct access to the thoughts and feelings of the individual being referred to. In other words, hyperbole allows individuals to express their opinions and experiences in an exaggerated manner, emphasizing their personal perspective and creating a strong impact.

Abrams (1999:120), as referenced by Syafitri & Marlinton (2018:5), explains that hyperbole is a form of bold overstatement or extravagant exaggeration, either in terms of facts or possibilities. It can be used for various purposes, including serious, ironic, or comedic effects. Hyperbole, similar to other figurative language devices, often revolves around personal values and emotions. It involves making subjective claims that, despite their exaggeration, express personal sentiments. This implies that hyperbole allows individuals to emphasize their perspectives and feelings in a heightened and exaggerated manner. Example: *"His voice thundered through the halls of eternity."*

The speaker uses hyperbole to describe the immense power and resonance of someone's voice. By stating that the person's voice "thundered through the halls of eternity," the speaker emphasizes the overwhelming impact and lasting influence of their vocal presence. The hyperbole suggests that the person's voice carries tremendous authority and echoes throughout time itself. This exaggeration adds dramatic intensity to the description and heightens the sense of grandeur and significance associated with the voice.

Song Lyrics

According to the explanation provided, a song is a short piece of music with words that are meant to be sung. In general, a song is a form of music that can be enjoyed at a low cost and is often associated with unnecessary fuss or extravagance. When it comes to teaching, using songs can be a highly enjoyable method because the musical elements of a song can create a relaxed atmosphere and relieve students from academic pressure. The researcher Intani (2011:5) defines lyrics as the direct expression of personal feelings, specifically in relation to singing. In the context of the research mentioned, song lyrics are used as a medium to engage students and encourage them to study English. In this particular study, the term "song lyrics" refers to popular songs that students are familiar with and can sing along to.

Various experts have provided different definitions and perspectives on song lyrics. According to Zahro (2010), lyrics can be understood as the simple words of a song. They are not just a complement to the music but also an essential part of the song's overall composition, influencing its theme, character, and purpose. Lyrics can also contribute to creating a stable and coherent meaning. To understand the sense of a song, one can perceive the rhythm, melody, harmony, and the singer's voice through the act of singing.

Suzanne Langer (1959), as cited in Russo (2004), argues that when words and music come together in a song, the music takes precedence over the words. In other words, the song should not be seen as a compromise between poetry and music; rather, it is primarily a musical experience. Song lyrics should be interpreted as an integral part of the music itself, adding texture and depth to the overall composition.

The 3rd Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature (ALLURE)

Vol. 3(1), September, 2023

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Jajuli (2011:32) defines a song as a concise musical piece intended for solo voice and piano accompaniment. He emphasizes that a song consists of arrangements, including lyrics and various musical elements such as rhythm, melody, harmony, and expressions. Furthermore, a song can be understood as a musical composition designed for multiple voices. It can be a short poem, a lyric, or a ballad, regardless of whether it is meant to be sung or not.

Based on these expert statements, it can be concluded that song lyrics encompass more than just a component of the song. They play a significant role in enhancing the value and meaning of a song. In the context of this research, song lyrics refer to meaningful sentences that contain grammatical content, contributing to the overall quality of the song.

Wiped Out

"Wiped Out!" is the second album by American band The Neighbourhood, which was released on October 30, 2015. The album combines elements of alternative rock, indie pop, and R&B. The title "Wiped Out!" suggests a feeling of exhaustion or being overwhelmed, which is reflected in the album's themes of longing, introspection, and emotional vulnerability.

Critics generally praised the album, and it achieved commercial success by reaching number 13 on the Billboard 200 chart. Notable tracks from the album include "R.I.P. 2 My Youth," "Prey," "Cry Baby," and the lead single "R.I.P." Throughout the album, The Neighbourhood's distinctive sound, characterized by moody and atmospheric production, remains consistent, providing a unified and captivating listening experience. Overall, "Wiped Out!" demonstrates The Neighbourhood's artistic growth as a band and its ability to create introspective and emotionally-driven music. The album has resonated with fans and solidified the band's position in the alternative music scene.

Method

A. Research Design

In this study, the writer conducts a thorough investigation using the official The Neighbourhood website to ensure the reliability of the data utilized. To obtain the song lyrics from The Neighbourhood Band's "Wiped Out!" album, the writer explores the internet, specifically using the official video clip on the widely known video search engine site, YouTube.com, as well as the most popular search engine, Google, and music platform Spotify.

B. Object of the Study

The focus of this study was the song lyrics of the album "Wiped Out!" by The Neighbourhood Band. While the album consists of eleven songs, the researcher chose to analyze only six songs due to the majority of various forms of figurative language found in the remaining songs. The specific songs analyzed in this research include "Prey" "Cry Baby" "The Beach" "Daddy Issues" "Ferrari" and "R.I.P 2 My Mouth" .The primary objective of the study was to analyze the usage of figurative language within these song lyrics.

C. Methods of Data Collection

The writer acquired data from the internet, focusing on 6 song lyrics that is Prey,Cry Baby,The Beaches,Daddy Issues,Ferrari,R.I.P 2 My Youth from The Neighbourhood Band's

"Wiped Out!" Once the song lyrics were collected, the writer organized them according to their order on the "Wiped Out!" album.

D. Data Analysis Technique

The primary objective of the analysis was to identify the usage of figurative language in the "Wiped Out!" album. The following steps were employed:

- a. Reading: The writer repeatedly read the song lyrics to gain a profound understanding of their content.
- b. Listening: A list of songs containing figurative language was compiled, and the specific types of figurative language used in each song were noted.
- c. Analyzing: After reading and listening to the songs, the writer analyzed each line to identify strong words and analyzed the types of figurative language employed in those lines. In this context, the writer presented the data in a tabular format. The table included information on different figurative language techniques along with their frequencies and corresponding percentages
- d. Making Conclusion: A conclusion was drawn based on the results of the data analysis.

E. Method of Data Analysis

To comprehend qualitative data effectively, it is essential to grasp the process of interpreting text and images to generate responses to your research inquiries (Creswell, 2013). Once you have located figurative language within the data, the initial stage involves categorizing the various types of figurative language present, such as metaphors, similes, hyperbole, personification, and so on. Subsequently (leech) , the next step entails examining the intended meaning behind the identified figurative language. Finally, the last phase involves drawing conclusions based on the analyzed figurative language and its implications for the research.

Finding and Discussion

A. Findings

1. The type of figurative language used in the lyrics of The Neighbourhood's songs

Table 4.1 Result of The Data

Figurative Language	Data	Percentage
Metaphor	15	60%
Personification	5	20%
Hyperbole	4	16%
Simile	1	4%
Total	25	100%

The 3rd Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics,
Linguistics, and Literature (ALLURE)

Vol. 3(1), September, 2023

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2. The meaning of the figurative language used in the lyrics of the Neighbourhood's selected songs

Table 4.2 Prey

	Type	Meaning
<p><i>It all hurts, it all hurts just the same</i></p> <p>(Line 6)</p>	Hyperbole	The song's lyrics employ hyperbole as he exaggerates the state of being hurt, even though not everything is painful.
<p><i>We need to fly ourselves before someone else tells us how</i></p> <p>(Line 8)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">T a b l e</p>	Methapor	A strong resolution to take control of their future and argue their independence in making decisions refusing to let others dictate their choices. Encountered with a momentous decision that holds the power to shapes their lives profoundly.
<p><i>Everything changed when the birds came</i></p> <p>Line 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4 . 3 C r y B a b y</p>	Personification	The birds serve as a representation of the complex and overwhelming emotions that arise when one falls in love. The lyric expresses a bittersweet aspect of love, where the sweetness of the emotions is intertwined with a tinge of pain or sorrow.
Cry Baby	Type	Meaning
<p><i>I spend too much time explainin' myself</i></p> <p>Line 7</p>	Hyperbole	He can't possibly spend time just explaining who we are. The pressures that come with being an entertainer often lead to overthinking, a common symptom of anxiety, causing stress and self-doubt.
<p><i>I can't wait 'til the</i></p>	Methapor	It longs to leave the

The 3rd Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics,
Linguistics, and Literature (ALLURE)

Vol. 3(1), September, 2023

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drought is over

Line 31

situation behind and
eventually release all
the worries that have been
burdening him.

Table 4.5 Daddy Issues

Daddy Issues	Type	Meaning
<i>Take you like a drug</i> Line 1	Simile	Similar to a drug, she might bring adverse effects and emotional burdens.
<i>So I made with the sun</i> Line 19	Personification	It shows that the sun means, he wants to make everything better, but the shade or the timing never came with a good day.
<i>Half of me has sappeared</i> Line 40	Methapor	His mind is still preoccupied with the past, particularly what happened when his father left

Table 4.6 Ferrari

Ferrari	Type	Meaning
<i>But she could be satan</i> Line 11	Methapor	Even something good can be dangerous.
<i>But you're the flame</i>	Personification	It shows the personification in the dark time, such as dealing with the loss of

Table 4.7 R.I.P 2 My Youth

The Beaches	Type	Meaning
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The 3rd Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature (ALLURE)

Vol. 3(1), September, 2023

Online ISSN: 2807-8926

R.I.P. to my youth Line 1	Metaphor	The central message of the song revolves around the band symbolically bidding farewell to their youth, employing funeral symbolism to depict the loss of innocence and the embrace of adulthood
<i>I'm using white lighters to see what's in front of me (front of me)</i> Line 17	Personification	"white lighter curse" white lighter means that a white Bic lighter is often discovered at the death scenes of certain musicians.
<i>Put me in the dirt, let me dream with the stars</i> Line 24	Hyperbole	He creates imagery and describes his ideal burial arrangements, with dreaming about stars, while he is a star.

B. Discussion

In this discussion, the writer analyzed The Neighbourhood's songs to find examples of various types of figurative language in six selected songs from The Neighbourhood's Wiped Out album.

1. Figurative language in The Neighbourhood's Album

a. Simile

Data 1 Take you like a drug (Line 1)

b. Metaphor

Data 2 We need to fly ourselves before someone else tells us how (Line 8)

Data 3 I got this anxious feeling,

But it goes away for a minute

When I'm with you breathing Line 21

Data 4 The sun's coming out but I'm feeling colder Line 30

Data 5 I can't wait 'til the drought is over Line 31

Data 6 I feel it burning me

Data 7-8 I hope I don't murder me I hope I don't burden you Line 13-14

Data 9 I think I could see the beach Line 29

Data 10 I know that you got daddy issues Line 12

Data 11 Half of me has disappeared Line 40

Data 12 But she could be satan Line 11

Data 13 You and I are two oceans apart Line 12

Data 14 R.I.P. to my youth Line 1

Data 15 Wrap me up in Chanel inside my coffin Line 4

Data 16 Might be a sinner and I might be a saint Line 6

The 3rd Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature (ALLURE)

Vol. 3(1), September, 2023

Online ISSN: 2807-8926

c. Personification

Data 17 Everything changed when the birds came Line 10

Data 18 I tried to write your name in the rain Line 17

Data 19 So I made with the sun Line 19

Data 20 But you're the flame I use when it gets dark Line 25

Data 21 I'm using white lighters to see what's in front of me (front of me) Line 17

d. Hyperbole

Data 22 It all hurts, it all hurts just the same Line 6

Data 23 I spend too much time explainin' my self Line 7

Data 24 And you can throw me shade, all it does is just cool me off Line 18

Data 25 Put me in the dirt, let me dream with the stars Line 24

2. The dominant type of figurative language in The Neighbourhood selected songs

The writer concluded there were 4 figurative languages used in the song lyrics from the total of 6 songs:

a. In the first song “Prey” the writer found 3 of figurative language, there were:

Hyperbole in 1 song lyric

If you don't ask, I won't tell Just know that, just know that

It all hurts, it all hurts just the same Line 6

Metaphor in 1 song lyric

We need to fly ourselves before someone else tells us how Line 10

Personification in 1 song lyric

Everything changed when the birds came Line 8

b. In the second song “Cry Baby”, the writer found 2 kinds of figurative language, there were:

Hyperbole in 1 song lyric

I spend too much time explainin' my self Line 7

Metaphor in 3 song lyric

When I'm with you breathing Line 7

The sun's coming out but I'm feeling colder Line 30

I can't wait 'til the drought is over Line 31

c. In the third song “The Beach”, the writer found 2 the kinds of figurative language, there were:

Hyperbole in 1 song lyric

And you can throw me shade, all it does is just cool me off Line 18

Metaphor in 4 song lyric

I feel it burning me Line 10

I hope I don't murder me Line 13

I hope I don't burden you Line 14

I think I could see the beach Line 29

d. In the fourth song “Daddy Issues”, the writer found 3 the kinds of figurative language, there were:

Simile in 1 song lyric

Take you like a drug Line 1

Metaphor in 2 song lyric

I know that you got daddy issues Line 12

Half of me has disappeared Line 40

Personification in 2 song lyric

I tried to write your name in the rain Line 17

The 3rd Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature (ALLURE)

Vol. 3(1), September, 2023

Online ISSN: 2807-8926

- So I made with the sun* Line 19
- e. In the fifth song “*Ferrari*”, the writer found 2 the kinds of figurative language, there were:
Metaphor in 2 song lyric
But she could be satan Line 11
You and I are two oceans apart Line 11
Personification in 1 song lyric
But you're the flame I use when it gets dark Line 25
- f. In the fifth song “*R.I.P 2 My Youth*”, the writer found 3 the kinds of figurative language, there were:
Metaphor in 3 song lyric
R.I.P. to my youth Line 1
Wrap me up in Chanel inside my coffin Line 4
Might be a sinner and I might be a saint Line 6
Personification in 1 song lyric
I'm using white lighters to see what's in front of me (front of me) Line 17
Hyperbole in 1 song lyric
Put me in the dirt, let me dream with the stars Line 24

Conclusion

Each song contains figurative language carefully crafted by the songwriter, carrying profound meanings within the lyrics. These meanings can be both implicit and explicit. The six songs examined in the study are “Prey,” “Cry Baby,” “The Beach,” “Daddy Issues,” “Ferrari,” and “R.I.P 2 My Youth.” After a thorough examination and analysis of the data presented in the previous chapter, the writer draws the following conclusions.

1. The Wiped Out album got four types of figurative language: metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole. Among these, there are fifteen expression of metaphor, one expression of simile, five expression of personification, and four expression of hyperbole. Furthermore, the most frequently used figurative device metaphor appearing five teen times throughout the album. Regarding individual songs, The Beach, Daddy Issues, and R.I.P 2 My Youth stand out as the songs that include the highest number of figurative language expressions. On the other hand, Ferrari uses the least amount of figurative language, with only three expressions present in its lyrics.
2. The song lyrics of The Neighbourhood's songs, particularly from The Wiped Out album, have a rich variety of figurative language. This makes them suitable material for teaching English in senior high school and serves as an alternative means to explore and understand figurative language. Moreover, the lyrics are crafted with simplicity, making them easy to understand. The accessibility of these songs on the internet and music platform makes them readily available for students, facilitating the learning and teaching process. Teachers can creatively combine these songs during class time when students are analyzing them, effectively animating the class atmosphere. Playing the songs in class adds an element of enjoyment, relaxation, and interest for the students

The 3rd Undergraduate Conference on Applied Linguistics, Linguistics, and Literature (ALLURE)

Vol. 3(1), September, 2023

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