

# FIGURE OF SPEECH IN ED SHEERAN DIVIDE ALBUM AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO POETRY TEACHING

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## **Abstract**

*The goal of this research is to know the kinds of figure of speech and its contribution to poetry teaching in certain song lyrics from Ed Sheeran's Divide album. This research used qualitative descriptive analysis techniques. The researcher will analyze kinds of figure of speech contained in the Ed Sheeran's Divide album by listen the songs and read the lyrics. The song that contained figure of speech entitled Eraser, Castle on the Hill, Shape of you, Dive, Perfect and Happier. The result of research, the researcher found 33 verses which contained of figure of speech seven verses use metaphor, three verses use metonymy, eight verses use personification, six verses use simile, five verse use synecdoche, one use apostrophe, three verses use paradox and five verses use hyperbole. This songs album also has a contribution to poetry teaching that can be a variation teaching media.*

**Keywords:** Figure of speech, Ed Sheeran, song

## 1. Introduction

Literature is one part of English lessons. Klarer (2004:1) says that in most cases, “literature is referred to as the whole of written expression, with the limitation that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the right sense of the word”. So literature is written and spoken expression in the fiction, which interpret the meaning of nature and life, desire to understand, express, and finally share experiences. Literature is literary work which usually takes the form of drama, novels, or poetry.

Poetry is kind of language literature that says more and more greatly than the generally language does. A poetry is arranged with the desire to communicate an experiences especially to express deep feeling or precious thought with the beautiful language. According to Perrine, “Poetry might be defined as a kind of language that says more intensely than does ordinary language” (2008:2). The importance of poetry just not gives us pleasure when we read or listen the poetry but poetry has a value in life implied in it. Poets usually uses figure of speech to make a deep and great meaning in their poem.

Figure of speech is a tool that primarily express an expression of language and makes it more beautiful. The author in poetry, using these devices; metaphors, symbols, hyperbole, images, personification, etc. can deliver the message indirectly to the readers. Supporting this view, Laurence Perrine (2011:55) defines a figure of speech is any way of saying something other the ordinary way. Figure of speech is something that beautifies a language. The language becomes more varied and full of meanings.

Besides novels and poems, figure of speech can also found in a songs.

Song is one example of literature because song has lyric like a poem. Song as a part of music with words that are usually sung by a singer that has a function to express the thoughts and feelings. When listening a song, sometimes people not focus on the lyrics that used in a song. Usually people just like the song because the singer or maybe the music is good. And sometimes when people try to focus on the lyric, they will found some difficulties in understanding the meaning of the song lyrics. Especially, when the lyric used figure of speech. Figure of speech is important when make song lyrics because the songs that have been made are more interesting to sing and to listen to.

Based on explanation above, the researcher analyzed the song lyrics from the album *Divide* by Ed Sheeran. In the songs album there are many types of figure of speech that the author’s song uses in every statement. The songwriters aim to get listeners interested with the song, especially how beautifully meaning in song lyrics

that use figure of speech, and interest to learn about how romantically a song that use figure of speech in order to make the meaning of the song more deeply, because as far as we know Ed Sheeran is a very romantic singer and songwriter. The researcher chooses this album because it is very popular and each song has beautiful meaning. Indeed, the writer decides to choose *Divide* album to be subjects of analysis figure of speech used in song and to find the contributions of this song album to poetry teaching.

## 2. Review of Related Literature

### 2.1 Previous Study

There are some previous research that related with this study. The first previews study is “Illocutionary Act in Song Lyrics of Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* Album.” By Noni Novyanti (2019). In this journal the subject is *Divide* album by Ed Sheeran to but in this research she analyzed the Illocutionary act. The differences are in previous study the writer only discussed about Illocutionary Act in song lyrics of Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* album but in this study the writer discussed about figure of speech in song lyrics of Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* album. The writer thinks figure of speech is important thing to be discussed because it will be influence students’ ability to express their feeling as outlined in a poem writing. Analyzing song and album of the actress has been elaborated by Susanto (2017) about The interpersonal meaning realized in the lyrics of Christina Perri’s album “love strong” and the contribution for teaching a modern English grammar.

The second previous study is “Deixis in The Song Lyrics of Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* Album” by Desi Yusmita (2018). In this journal show about the Deixis from the *Divide* album. This analysis is using some object but difference discussion this research is about the Deixis and in my research is about figure of speech.

The third previous study is “A Description of Moral Value in Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* Album” by Dilla Munthaza M. (Thesis: Diploma III English Study Program Faculty of Culture Study University of Sumatera Utara), (2018). This study talks about moral value in Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* album. The purpose of this study is to find out the loyalty, sincerity and honesty morals in the lyric of Ed Sheeran’s *Divide* album.

Another previous study is the article with the title “Teaching Figure of Speech Learning Strategies” By Lori Hanna (2012). The study is discussed about how to teach figure of speech to students with good strategies. This article makes the writer easier to analyze the figure of speech especially in songs lyric.

The researcher also found another previous study that is a journal of NELTA Surkhet Vol.4 December,2014 with the title “Analysis and Use of Figure of Speech.” In this journal show about the definition of figure of speech and its types. This analysis is helpful in understanding the types of figure of speech.

Meanwhile in this study the researcher is focused on figure of speech in the Ed Sheeran’s song lyrics in the album entitled *Divide*. The researcher wants to know the types of figure of speech that use in Ed Sheeran song lyrics in the album entitled *Divide* and its contributions to poetry teaching.

## 2.2 Related Theory

### Figure of Speech

Figures of speech Figures of speech basically deal with the vehicles which primarily make the expression of language more beautiful and effective. In a traditional way, these devices have been described as poetic ornaments in a traditional way of analyzing the poem. The author in poetry, using these devices; metaphors, images, symbols, personification, etc. can deliver the message indirectly to the readers. As a result language becomes connotative and or referential. As we look at these figures of speech from linguistics point of view, we find them full of language features. Supporting this view Perrine (2011: 55) defines a figure of speech is any way of saying something other the ordinary way. Figure of speech is a sort of the style. Figures of speech are form of expression that depart from normal word or sentence order or from the common literal meaning of words, for the purpose of achieving a special effect.

The purpose of figure of speech is more narrowly definable as a way of saying one thing and meaning another, and we need with no more than a dozen by Perrine (2011: 57). Figurative language is language that uses figures of speech. Figurative language or usually called figure of speech is a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the word.

### Types of Figure of Speech

Figure of speech has some types. They are simile, metaphor, metonym, apostrophe, synecdoche, overstatement (hyperbole), symbol, allegory, irony, paradox, personification and understatement (Perrine, 2011: 61).

### 1) **Metaphor**

Metaphor is a figure of speech in which an implicit comparison that made two things usually unlike. Perrine (2011: 63) states that in metaphor the comparison is implied – that is, the figurative term and it is substituted for or identified with the literal term. So, metaphor is an imaginative way of describing a person, and object with something else that has dissimilar qualities to the person, object or idea that are trying to describe without the used of connotative words.

Example:

- a. “She is a most beautiful lady in my village’

The means is she is a most beautiful ladies compare with another ladies in their village.

- b. “Her face is a cover book”.

The means is her face is compare with cover book.

### 2) **Metonymy**

According to Perrine (2011: 65), Metonymy means the use of something closely related to for the thing actually means .So metonymy is a figure of speech that names one item or things to another which has closely associated (such as crown for royalty) in another word metonymy is the substitution of word naming an object for another word closely associated..

Example :

- a. “Dony was washing his Jazz”

The means of Jazz is a car, he don't use word car, but he mention the label. So it called using metonymy.

- b. The white house decides a new regulation

The word white house it means the US President.

### 3) **Personification**

Personification (from the Latin persona, person, and facere, to make) is the treating of an inanimate object as if it were animate and is probably the most beautiful and effective of all the figures. Perrine (2011: 64) defines personification consist in giving the attributes of a human being to animal, an object, or a concept. So, personification is figure of speech which provides animal, abstraction and inanimate object,

ideas, with human form, character, intelligence and emotion. And also give human attributes to something non-human.

Example : “The sunrise smiling with me”

In the example ‘sunrise is an object’ and it is a non-human. So the sunrise cannot smile with the human.

#### 4) **Simile**

Simile is a direct comparison between things which are not particularly similar in this essence. Simile used as a means of comparing things that are essentially unlike (Perrine, 2011: 61). In simile the comparing is expressed by the use of some words or phrase, such as like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems.

Example : “Your eyes like a star”

In the example use connective words *like*. The word ‘her eyes’ is compared with a star. The means is her eyes are brightness like a star in the sky with a glitter.

#### 5) **Synecdoche**

Synecdoche is taken from Greek means take up with something else. The use of synecdoche can simplify what is being talked about by stating significant detail only. Synecdoche (Perrine, 2011: 65) means the use of a word in a broadened sense that includes the ordinary meaning as one aspect. So, synecdoche is kinds metaphor which is a part of something used to indicate a whole.

Example: “Twenty hands are employed in the factory”.

Hand means the whole human beings, not just the hands ( one part of human body).

#### 6) **Apostrophe**

Closely related to personification is apostrophe, which consist in addressing someone absent or dead or something nonhuman as if that person or thing were present and alive and could reply to what is being said (Perrine, 2011: 65).

Example : ”please help me God”.

The word “God” showed that the speaker is speaking with God, and can answer his statement, as we know that God is not speaks as human.

## 7) **Paradox**

Mentioned by Perrine (2011:100) a paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true. It may be either a situation or statement. In a paradoxical statement the contradiction usually stems from one of the words being used figuratively or in more than one sense.

Example : "She feel alone in center of town"

It is a paradox. Maybe she feels alone in her life, but it's not in center of town. Because if in center of town sure busy.

## 8) **Hyperbole**

According to Perrine (2011:101) Overstatement or hyperbole is simply exaggeration, but exaggeration in the service of truth). Like all of figure of speech, overstatement may be used with a variety of effects. It may be humorous or grave, fanciful or restrained, convincing or unconvincing.

Example: "I will waiting you for a thousand years"

The means of example is the word 'thousand years' is an exaggeration. It is impossible to life until a thousand years because a people life not until a thousand years.

## 9) **Understatement**

Perrine (2011:102) states, understatement or saying less than one means, may exist in what one says ore merely in hoe one says it. So understatement is contradiction with overstatement.

Example : If, for instance, upon sitting down to loaded dinner plate, someone says, "This looks like a nice snack", someone is actually stating less than the truth.

## 10) **Verbal irony**

According to Perrine (2011: 104) defines verbal irony is saying the opposite of what one means that used in the service of sarcasm or ridicule. So it means that verbal irony is a way to express our feeling to the other people with the purpose of sarcasm or ridicule but sometimes it can be satire (like sarcasm but more formal than sarcasm).

Example : "Your rapport is very good, until red's color all"

The example above is irony, actually he want to say that the rapport is very bad, but in first he said use soft word to scorn. This is clear that what the subject said is much remarkable different from what is expected.

## 11) Allegory

Allegory is a narrative or description that has a second meaning beneath the surface. Although the surface story or description may have its own interest, the author's major interest is in the ulterior meaning. Perrine (2011: 88) defined allegory sometimes as an extended metaphor and sometimes as a series of related symbols. Meaning do not ray out from allegory as they do from a symbol.

Example: "Story about mouse deer and crocodile"

## 3. Research Methodology

This research using qualitative descriptive analysis method. Descriptive method is the method of explaining, analyzing, and classifying something through various technique, survey, interview, questionnaire, and test. According to Freankell and Wallen (2009) qualitative research is defined as a research study that investigates the quality of relationships, activities, situations or materials. Descriptive method is done by describing facts and then continued by analysis and reasons. Qualitative research is procedures of the research which produces descriptive data in the form of written words or oral words about the object that is observed. This research is designed to identify some figurative language by understanding the general meaning when they are used in the lyrics of songs. Therefore, it describes facts and then continued by analysis and reasons. This study used a qualitative approach to describe the figure of speech in the Ed Sheeran's song lyrics in the album entitled "Divide".

### 3.1 Data Sources

According to Ary, Jacobs, Razavieh and Sorensen (2006: 446-447) data sources are original documents (report, books, diaries, correspondence, etc.), relics, heritage, or artefact. These are the direct outcomes of events or the record of participants. In conducting the study, the writer used song lyrics Ed Sheeran's album entitled "Divide". The lyric contained 16 songs: Eraser, Castle on the Hill, Dive, Shape of You, Perfect, Galway Girl, Happier, New Man, Hearts Don't Break Around Here, What Do I Know?, How Would You feel, Barcelona, Bibia Be Ye Ye, Nancy Mulligan, and Save Myself.

### **3.2 Techniques of collecting data**

According to Creswell (2014:234), the qualitative researcher collects data themselves through examining documents, observing behavior, or interviewing. There are many ways to collect the data, such as: documentation and questionnaire. This technique was used to get data relating to figure of speech in Ed Sheeran's songs. Documentation in this case is the text of Ed Sheeran songs. The techniques of taking the data as follows, the first one is the researcher selected the Ed Sheeran's songs. Then the researcher writes out the lyric of Ed Sheeran's songs. And the last one is the researcher read all of the lyric of Ed Sheeran's songs.

### **3.3 Techniques of analyzing data**

Techniques of data analysis are an important part of research because the researcher will get the data of the research and the conclusion of the data analysis. According to Creswell (2014:245) data analysis in qualitative research will be processed hand-in-hand with other parts of developing the qualitative study, namely, the data collection and the write-up of findings. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses descriptive analysis technique to analyze the figure of speech used by Ed Sheeran's songs. To gain easiness of this study and to answer the research problem, after the data have been collected, then the researcher analyzed them systematically. In order to make it systematic, the researcher conducted the analysis through some steps as follows, the first one is the researcher listening to the Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album to understand that lyrics. The second one is the researcher reading and learning all sentences from the lyrics. Then the researcher identifying and write the song lyrics contain kind of figure of speech. And the last one the researcher analyze the figure of speech in Ed Sheeran's songs.

## **4. Findings**

In the research findings, the researcher analyzed the figure of speech from six songs of Ed Sheeran. The analysis is done applying the theories of figure of speech. From this album the researcher got some figure of speech that found in the certain songs. The researcher writes the result of analysis figure of speech in Ed Sheeran song in the table below.

## 4.1 Metaphor

No.	Lyrics	Song title
1	I think that money is the root of evil and fame is hell	Eraser
2	The world may be filled with hate but keep erasing it now	Eraser
3	To be caught up on the trappings of the industry	Eraser
4	You are a mystery	Dive
5	I found a love for me, darling just dive right in	Perfect
6	I see my future in your eyes	Perfect
7	And until then I'll smile to hide the truth	Happier

The lyric number 1 used metaphor because the money compares with root of evil and the fame compare with hell. The songwriter means if you have a lot of money you will become someone who easily falls into misery and your fame that will make you fall even more into the hell of life. Lyric number 2 is metaphor to because the world compare with the hate. It means that the world maybe filled with people who hate each other's. Also lyric number 3 used metaphor because the lyric term hard work with words "trappings of the industry" the speaker means here he feels constrained in the work rules he did. The lyric number 4 used metaphor because the lyric explains someone who hasn't been known for sure and make other people curious, so the songwriter used the word "mystery". The lyric in number 5 "I found a love for me, darling just dive right in" used metaphor because he found a person he loved be equalized with the word love. Lyric number 6 used metaphor because the songwriter says he saw his future in someone eyes. People will not see their future in someone eyes. And the last lyric used metaphor because he said will hide the truth with smile. The songwriter compares the word smile like another thing that can hide something.

## 4.2 Metonymy

No.	Lyrics	Song title
1.	Our conversations with my father on the A14	Eraser
2.	Learned to sing inside the Lord's house	Eraser
3.	Walking down 29th and Park	Happier

The first lyric contain metonymy because he addressing A14 that mean road lane. The second lyric used metonymy because the word “Lord’s house” closely related with the church, mosque, temple and etc. The next lyric used metonymy because the lyric substituted 29th state Park Avenue with 29th and park only.

### 4.3 Personification

No.	Lyrics	Song title
1	Instead, I look on the mirror questioning what I’ve become	Eraser
2	Relationships and hearts you fixed, they break as well	Eraser
3	And every day that Satan tempts me	Eraser
4	Running from the law through the backfields	Castle on the Hill
5	I could fall, or I could fly	Dive
6	Before I dive right into you	Dive
7	I have met an angel in person (metaphor) Nursing an empty bottle and telling myself you’re happier	Perfect

The first lyric used personification because mirror is an object (non-human), so mirror cannot be questioning like human. The second lyric used personification indicate by “hearts you fixed, they break as well” it means that hearts (human) were personified as a thing that can fixed and break. The third lyric use personification shown with Satan is object that personified like human being that can tempt someone. The fourth lyric contain personification because the law is an idea that personify like human can pursue someone. The fifth lyric is personification indicated by “I could fly” I in here is human so human cannot fly like a birds (animal). The sixth lyric is personification to because you (human) is personify like the sea that can dive by someone. The last lyric is personification because someone is personifying with angel (object). The last lyric used personification because bottle is a thing or object that cannot tell to someone.

## 4.4 Simile

No.	Lyrics	Song title
1.	I'm not trying to preach like I'm reverend run	Eraser
2.	Your love was handmade for somebody like me	Shape of you
3.	We push and pull like a magnet do	Shape of you
4.	My bedsheets smell like you	Shape of you
5.	Ain't nobody hurt you like I hurt you	Happier
6.	Nobody love you like I do	Happier

In the first lyric used simile because it compared someone with reverend run. The second lyric used word “like” it means compare someone with the other one. The third lyric used simile indicate by the word “like” comparison between thing with object characteristic. The fourth lyric comparing the smell of bedsheets with someone it showed the lyric used simile. The fifth lyric used simile because comparing what other people do with what they have done. The six lyric is simile it shown by comparing somebody love with their love.

## 4.5 synecdoche

No.	Lyrics	Song title
1.	Found my heart and broke it here	Eraser
2.	And ain't nobody wanna see you down in the dumps	Eraser
3.	I used to think nothing could be better than touring the world with my song	Eraser
4.	Age twelve telling me I've gotta chase those dreams	Eraser
5.	I found a love, to carry more than just my secrets	Perfect

The first data of synecdoche could be seen from the word “found” and “heart” it means that he found someone he loved. The second lyric is synecdoche because the word dumps means failed. The third lyric used synecdoche indicate by “touring the world with my song” it means he will tour the world then listens his song. The fourth lyric used synecdoche because the lyric means the experience at age of twelve tells him to reach out or realize his dream. The next lyric is synecdoche because the word found a love it means he met someone he loved.

## 4.6 Apostrophe

No.	Lyrics	Song title
1.	I hope that Damien's proud	Eraser

The lyric used apostrophe it shown by the word Damien. Damien here is the idol of the songwriter; Damien will not answer the songwriter words because Damien is not beside him.

## 4.7 Paradox

No.	Lyrics	Song title
1.	And when the worlds against me is when I really come alive	Eraser
2.	And I'll find comfort in my pain	Eraser
3.	One had two kids but lives alone	Castle on the hill

The first data of paradox because if the worlds against him how could he come alive. The second lyric used figure of speech paradox because it shown contradiction between comfort with pain. Someone will not fell comfort with a pain. The last lyric used paradox it shown contradiction because if someone have two kids she will happy and will not fell alone.

## 4.8 Hyperbole

No.	Lyrics	Song title
1.	And jumping in harder than ten thousand rocks on the lake	Dive
2.	We talk for hours and hours about the sweet and the sour	Shape of you
3.	And tasted the sweet perfume of the mountain grass I rolled down	Castle on the Hill
4.	I have met an angel in person	Perfect

The first data of hyperbole is shown by the word “ten thousand rock on the lake” somebody cannot count the rocks on the lake but the songwriter tell the truth about a lot rocks on the lake. The second lyric used hyperbole because the word “hours and hours” it means the songwriter tell if they are talk so long. The third lyric used hyperbole because the mountain grass will not have a smell like perfume than the songwriter exaggerating the smell of the mountain grass. The last data used hyperbole because he exaggerating beautiful person with the word angel, is it not true cause someone cannot see an angel.

## 5. Discussion

From the data finding above the researcher makes some discussion that in the *Divide* album by Ed Sheeran the song lyrics using figure of speech. There are eight kinds of figure of speech used in Ed Sheeran's six songs. Those are; metaphor, metonymy, personification, simile, synecdoche, apostrophe, paradox, and hyperbole. Actually there are twelve kinds of figure of speech but in selected Ed Sheeran songs only eight kinds of figure of speech were found. It shows that Ed Sheeran using a lot of figure of speech in his song. The researcher found ten verse use metaphor, two verse use metonymy, ten verse use personification, eight verse use simile, seven verse use synecdoche, one verse use apostrophe, four verse use paradox and five verse use hyperbole. The table will have showed the result of the analysis:

Figure of speech	Song titles						
	Eraser	Castle on the Hill	on Dive	Shape of you	Perfect	Happier	
Metaphor	3	-	1	-	2	1	
Metonymy	2	-	-	-	-	1	
Personification	3	1	2	-	1	1	
Simile	1	-	-	3	-	2	
Synecdoche	4	-	-	-	1	-	
Apostrophe	1	-	-	-	-	-	
Paradox	2	1	-	-	-	-	
Hyperbole	1	1	1	1	1	-	
Total	17	3	4	4	5	5	

The researcher also found the contribution of Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album to poetry teaching, that is six songs that containing a lot of figure of speech that can be uses for poetry teaching. In this *Divide* album by Ed Sheeran has a lot of songs that uses figure of speech, with the music very easy listening make students enjoying learn about poetry subjects especially figure of speech. The students will feel enjoy and fun when learn about poetry using this songs album because they not only read the text but also listening the songs. This songs album can be a variation teaching media so that learning is not boring.

## 6. Conclusion

From the findings and discussion above, the researcher concludes that there were a lot of verses contained figures of speech. The researcher analyzes the figure of speech in this album by selected the song after that listen and write the songs. Then wrote the song lyrics that contained in the song lyrics. The researcher found seven verses use metaphor, three verses use metonymy, eight verses use personification, six verses use simile, five verse use synecdoche, one use apostrophe, three verses use paradox and five verses use hyperbole. This songs album also has a contribution to poetry teaching that can be a variation teaching media so that learning poetry is more enjoy and interesting.

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