

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ON “IN A PERFECT WORLD” ALBUM BY KODALINE AND ITS CONTRIBUTION FOR POETRY TEACHING

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Abstract:

The aims of this research are to find out kinds of figurative language used in this album, the analysis also to describe the meaning of each figurative language in lyrics album, and also to know the contributions of this album for poetry teaching. This research contains analysis result on lyrics by Kodaline album. The analysis includes analyses on kind and explicit meaning of figurative languages. This analysis uses a qualitative research approach. There are totally 9 songs that are analyzed. These are then called as the data. Data obtained is analyzed using Perrine Lawrence's theory. The result of 9 songs analysis showed that there are contains of 4 figurative languages such as personification, metaphor, hyperbole, and simile that reflect phrases. The figurative languages that the writer finds contain 5 personifications, 6 metaphors, 10 hyperboles, and 1 simile. This research finds total 189 words, 19 phrases, and 14 sentences from 6 songs of this album. The phrase 'losing all my breath' is hyperbole, it means this phrase defines the author's feeling that he feels so fascinated by someone, until he feels like dying.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Lyric, Poetry*

1. Introduction

Nowadays, in the digital era, gadgets, or digital devices are more surrounded than printed books. People are too busy to read books, watching the show, and even loving a poem. But most people like to actually listen to music in an album. A lot of people will enjoy songs without considering their gender, educational background, age, and even region. People not only appreciate songs but also build amazing songs with lovely lyrics and music. Listening to a song is a pleasurable activity, but listeners cannot have pleasure if they do not understand the figurative language commonly found in the song.

Music and poetry have certain parallels. A song or poem is made up of verses and stanzas combined in a lyric type. The songwriters usually express their concepts, thoughts and feelings through the lyrics of songs he or she has created. Lyric is the foundation genre for the poetics or systematic literary assumptions of cultures throughout the world (Culler, 2015:1). Usually, when an author tries to make language unique, they use words other than standard and popular language, which is called figurative language. By using this figurative language, an author will provide his readers with an unexpected surprise and have a powerful influence on their minds. According to Keraft (2009:13), figurative language is a way of showing mind through a special language that shows the soul and the characteristics of the writer.

Based on basic competencies in English syllabus for Senior high school point 3.9 and 4.9, song lyrics can be used for teaching poetry. Students can analyze, read, find messages, and interpret song lyrics. Song lyrics itself is a part of poetry, so when students read song lyrics they can find and get meaning of each lyric and also can analyze what kind of figurative language that is used in song lyrics.

There is an article entitled “Figurative Language Analysis in Celine Dion’s Song Lyrics Falling into You Album” by Stella Vania Ardhyanti. She found four figurative languages from two songs; there are metaphor, imagery, simile, symbolism, and personification. The writers used contextual meaning, to know and understand the meaning hidden in the song, so that there will not be misunderstandings in making sense of the song. Whereas, in this research is discussing not only about kinds of figurative language and its meaning, but also its contribution for poetry teaching.

The writers were exploring the figurative language found in the song lyric, the meaning of it, and the contribution of this album for teaching poetry. This topic is interesting to be discussed because it can make us better understand the meaning of lyrics in a song. The data were taken from Kodaline’s album entitled In a Perfect

World in 2013, and the writers analyzed 6 songs; they are After the Fall, Talk, All Comes Down, Pray, The Answer, and Lose Your Mind.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Definition of Figurative Language

Figurative language, figurative or “figure of speech” is figurative language, beautiful language that is used to elevate and enhance the effect by way of introducing and comparing an object or a particular thing with objects or other things that are more common. Figurative language is language using figures of speech (a way of saying one thing and meaning another), according to Kerraff (2009:13), figurative language is a way of showing mind through a special language that shows the soul and the characteristic of the writer (language user). There are many types of figurative language such as: metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, etc.

2.2 Definition of Song

Song is a small piece of music, usually with words. It combines melody and vocals, even though some composers have written instrumental parts, or musical works without words, which mimic the quality of a singing voice. Prasetia, Masulan, & Hamsia (2014) state that songs should be more artistic when using the figurative language. The composer uses it in lyrics of songs because it can make the listeners understand easier, interest, and gives entertainment. Jamalus in (Setiawati & Maryani, 2018) said that song can be explained as art works in singing to musical instruments accomplishment.

2.3 Lyric

Lyric was poems created to be performed or sung with the melody on different occasions. Sometimes poems are called lyrics simply because they're short. Lyric is a way of expressing the nature of poetry, a poem that is at its most poetic. Often lyric is characterized as opposed to narrative, assuming a modern binary in literary modes (Jackson & Yopie, 2014).

The songwriters usually express their concepts, thoughts and feelings through the lyrics of songs he or she has created. Although song music handles tones as its heart, song lyrics handle words as its raw material. The terms are used in a specific pattern to create an image, a concept or a narrative. Lyrics require human creativity in the use of words, as an artistic work. Growing songs

have different meanings and typically the writer uses an implied interpretation or clear meaning in the lyrics. Study about analyzing the lyric in some singer has been elaborated by Susanto (2017). In his study he said about the interpersonal meaning realized in the lyrics of Christina Perri's album "lovestrong" and the contribution for teaching a modern English grammar.

2.4 *In a Perfect World* album by Kodaline

This is one of the best albums from Kodaline band. Kodaline band was formed in 2011 and released this album in Ireland on 14 June 2013 with five singles, 17 tracks, and 44 minutes 44 seconds duration. B-unique/RCA was the recording publisher of this album.

3. Research Methodology

This analysis applies descriptive research with a qualitative approach. This means that the description of the phenomenon must be systematic, factual and accurate. According to Cohen (2007:462), the qualitative method is the study that has been carried out with a view to explaining social phenomena, using social phenomena in a wide sense. Object of this study was Kodaline's album entitled *In a Perfect World*. There were 6 songs taken. Data of this study were song lyrics of this album. The data were collected through documents; the steps were conducted such as, 1) Taking 6 song lyrics from Kodaline's album, 2) Writing down those chosen song lyrics to be analyzed.

Steps of data gathering in this research are reading song lyrics, analyzing the lyrics using Perrine theory of figurative language, and then identifying the implicit meaning of figurative language. Method analysis that is used in this album is content analysis.

4. Findings

4.1. Sub Findings

This research founds total 189 words, 19 phrases, and 14 sentences from 6 songs of *In a Perfect World* album. The writer collected figurative language of Kodaline's songs into description based on those songs. Here was the figurative language of Kodaline's song lyrics:

No.	Figurative Language	Sentence/Phrase
1.	Personification	<p>a. <i>My head is saying</i> that this is for the better.</p> <p>b. <i>Sirens are screaming</i>, but I can't hear a single sound.</p> <p>c. Maybe <i>time will tell</i>.</p> <p>d. <i>The crowds in my heart they've been calling out</i> your name.</p> <p>e. Use your mind and <i>make it talk</i></p>
Simile		a. Feeling <i>like a plastic bag</i>
2.	Hyperbole	<p>a. Sirens are screaming, <i>but I can't hear a single sound</i>.</p> <p>b. Waterfall inside my eyes.</p> <p>c. <i>I still hear</i> the sound of that runaway train, <i>roll through my heart</i> is lost lovers refrain.</p> <p>d. You got me <i>losing all my breath</i>.</p> <p>e. How did you give me, <i>to have my heartbeat out my chest?</i></p> <p>f. You light up my cold heart</p> <p>g. Lost in the memory, <i>as it shakes up the corners of my heart</i>.</p> <p>h. We all fall down from the highest clouds to the lowest ground.</p> <p>i. Until <i>your heart gets ripped and torn</i></p>
3.	Metaphor	<p>a. Love is a battle.</p> <p>b. You're the <i>vision in my soul</i>.</p> <p>c. I always knew you had <i>a heavy heart</i>.</p> <p>d. Yeah you filled up my glass with promises that could never last.</p> <p>e. But I still find the pieces of you in the back of my mind.</p> <p>f. Over time our wires crossed</p>

5. Discussion

In that album, there are four kinds of figurative language such as personification, simile, hyperbole, and metaphor.

1. Personification

Perrine says that personifications consist in giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or a concept (2015:72). Personification means referring to a dead object as a living object (Kreisler, 2013). As in this album in a few song lyrics were containing personification language style.

- a) *My head is saying* that this is for the better.

As we know, head is not a thing that is able to say or speak. It means the word “head” refers to mind. This is a personification, because it is a head that could speak like a human being.

The figurative meaning of this lyric is about someone who thinks they feel better about the recent situation. This runs toward a relationship that is in trouble, and causes the narrator to want their relationship to end.

- b) *Sirens are screaming*, but I can't hear a single sound.

The phrase “Sirens” is a device designed to produce a loud voice as a signal, while the word “Screaming” is a loud voice created by human. The lyric above clearly reflects a personification as its narrator gives the characteristic of a human being into a dead thing which makes sirens capable of screaming.

- c) Maybe *time will tell*.

Time is an unknown thing. The lyric is personification because the narrator gives human's characteristic into an unknown thing which makes time able to tell. This lyric represents as time passed, all will see the truth.

- d) *The crowds in my heart they've been calling out* your name.

The phrase “heart” means a person's significant organ, while “calling” means attempting to reach a person by speech. “Crowds” means a feeling depressed. On the other hand, a sounding voice is impossible to heart, and then this is a personification because he just thinks about that person until his heart seems to be able to speak. This represents the feeling of the narrator that someone is missing so hard.

- e) Use your mind and *make it talk*

The word “mind” means the part of a person who allows them to be conscious of the world and its experiences, to assume and to feel; the professors of consciousness and thought, while “talk” means a conversation or a discussion in order to give information or ideas or feelings. We know that the mind cannot talk. The only part of the human body that can talk is the mouth. The phrase “make it talk” is literally a personification, it means the narrator should use his mind to think, the word talk represents think or narrator’s mind. Because the “mind” described in the talk is personification.

2. Simile

Simile is a comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, usually *like, as, then,* or a verb such as *resembles* (Perrine, 2015:72). A simile expresses a similarity. Simile compares items to other items using a connection word or a quotation word (Cuddon, 2013).

- a) Feeling *like a plastic bag*

The word “plastic bag” literally means a kind of packaging made of thin, flexible, plastic film used to contain and carry food, product, and so on. In this case, the plastic bag is a self-parable narrator, who feels the need to be embarrassed to and where it will be. It also uses *like* as comparison, it indicates simile. It represents the sense of confusion between the narrators with his dream.

3. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is obvious and deliberate exaggeration; an extravagant statement (Perrine, 2015:117). Hyperbole is a figure of speech that is not intended to be taken which has a way of expressing something.

- a) Sirens are screaming, but *I can't hear a single sound.*

Basically, a normal person can hear the loud voice; in the literal way this lyric may describe a deaf person who can hear a single sound. This lyric clearly indicates that we think the guy is deaf seeing as he can't hear a single sound from that siren, but practically it means the guy is in a bad situation like a broken heart that causes insensitivity to something. He may hear the sound but, because of his condition, he doesn't care. This lyric is a hyperbole, since the words use an overstated statement.

- b) Waterfall inside my eyes.
Waterfall means a cascade of elevated water created when a river or stream flows over a precipice or steep slope. It represents the feeling of the narrator who is feeling grief and almost crying.
- c) I still *hear the sound* of that runaway train; *roll through my heart* is lost lovers refrain
Sound is a noise that passes through the air or through another platform, and can be heard when reaching the ear of a person or an animal. It means that lyrics are hyperbole, because we know that heart cannot be turned by sound, we can only hear runaway train sound waves. This lyric is about a throwback from the start of a relationship. It is hyperbole because the sentence uses an overstated statement.
- d) You got me *losing all my breath*.
Normally, if a person loses all his breath, he is going to die. This phrase defines the author's feeling that he feels so fascinated by someone, until he feels like dying.
- e) How did you give me, to *have my heartbeat out my chest*?
Heart rate is your own pulsing which is surely in your body. If the heartbeat is out of the chest, it would be very unlikely to have happened. The lyrics describe the feelings of the author, in which he pounds enormously when he admires someone so much.
- f) You light up my cold heart.
The word "light" literally means something that makes things visible or affords illumination. You cannot light up a cold heart since there's no way to do it and you do not even know if your heart's cold either. The above lyric is an overstatement and represents someone who can make the heart of the narrator feel better than before, by paying attention or love which makes the heart of the narrator feel good.
- g) Lost in the memory, as it shakes up the corners of my heart.
The word "shakes" means irregular vibratory movements. The expression "shakes up my heart's corners" does not necessarily mean that the heart of a narrator is trembling. It's implied to the feeling that doesn't seem good about heartbreak in his heart's corners. This may be the narrator's highest limit of being broken-hearted as it says a heart shakes up. The word shakes is an exaggeration so this is a hyperbole we might infer.

- h) We all fall down from the highest clouds to the lowest ground.
The word “fall” means drop down suddenly to a lower position, or descend under the force of gravity. The term “down from the highest clouds to the lowest level” literally means a person who actually falls from clouds, but that is not. The mood of the protagonist is incredibly moving, from the best to the worst in a second. There’s something that has changed and it causes heartbreak. That is a hyperbole, because the sentence is overstatement.
- i) Until *your heart gets ripped and torn*.
Heart is the central or the important human’s organ, while “torn” means tear. It’s not about getting ripped and torn for real; it’s a hyperbole that keeps referring to a deep-term heart condition that is making an impression about a ripped heart because of the passing of time.

4. Metaphor

Perrine states that between metaphor and simile is similar (2015:72). Both of which are comparisons between two things that are essentially unlike. The only distinction between them is the use of connective words. In metaphor is using the comparison of figurative terms that is substituted for identified with the literal term.

a) **Love is a battle.**

It is hard to be in love and relationships. It’s not a physical battle in love but mental and psychological struggles. When the soldier uses guns and knives to fight with the enemy, we fight emotionally and mentally in love. It represents the narrator’s struggle in a relationship.

b) **You’re the vision in my soul.**

Literal meaning from the above lyric is about a person as a sight of a soul. As we know soul has no sight, in this lyric the word “soul” reflects a person or mind. The narrator tries to convince if a woman he loves wants to be together with him and then she’s going to be all in his life, a path to life. It is indeed a metaphor because there is a statement in the lyric that one thing is another that tells the soul has vision while it can’t.

c) **I always knew you had a heavy heart.**

The phrase “a heavy heart” is a feeling of unhappiness, or in sad or miserable state. Heavy is a trait usually associated with the physical, and

the heart is close down with emotion. This lyrics represent the condition of someone who is hard to do something, may be something he doesn't like at all.

d) Yeah you filled up my glass with promises that could never last.

The word “filled” means putting it in a place and “Promise” clearly translates saying you ‘re going to do it or not. We could not fill a glass with promises, as normally glass is filled with water, and promises really don't have any form. The narrator states us to think about that in this lyric. This lyric has non-literal meaning the glass reflects the mind or feeling of the narrator in this lyric and it was full of promises that never turned out to be true; all the promise was only a lie and wasn't meant to be.

e) But I still find the pieces of you in the back of my mind.

Literally, the words “pieces of you” means part of a person and could actually tell us that there is a human piece back in his head. There is a non-literal sense which is a metaphor of a person who sticks to the mind of the writer, not a visual person. The narrator cannot forget the person who left him behind. If the narrator is not looking at her in the picture, but still thinks about her behind the narrator.

f) Over time our wires crossed

The word “wire” is material drawn out in a flexible plastic thread or bolt form, while “cross” means mark made by drawing one line to another. Figuratively this lyric means relations and conflict. She has changed significantly as is natural for most people, or we can assume that he has stuck in the way he is and is unable to adapt with her. Involves the transition in their relationship and they began to fight, and the non-literal meaning of the above lyric is incapable of trusting one another.

From analysis above, it explains the use of figurative language used in seven selected song of *In a Perfect World* album by Kodaline. The figurative languages that the writer found are 22 sentences/phrases which contain 5 personifications, 6 metaphors, 10 hyperboles, and 1 simile.

The result analysis has presented that the use of hyperbole was dominating in this album. It represents that song lyric that use figurative language was helping narrator to explain and help the reader to imagine the song lyrics, it also can be used to compare one idea to the other to make the first idea easier to imagine.

The contributions this album makes to poetry teaching through song lyrics.

The lyric of this album's songs will contribute to the teaching of poetry on Senior High School Grade X. Based on basic competencies in English syllabus for Senior high school point 3.9 and 4.9, song lyrics can be used for teaching poetry. Students can analyze, read, find message, and interpret song lyrics. Song lyrics itself is a part of poetry, so when students read song lyrics they can find and get meaning of each lyrics and also can analyze what kind of figurative language that used in song lyrics.

These album songs are easy for students to analyze. Each singles lyrics can be used as a source for poetry teaching. Students can gain more knowledge about the correlation between poetry and song, know elements of poetry through song, and learn English more creatively.

The teacher can ask the students to listen to Kodaline's songs in teaching poetry. The students read the song lyrics as they listen to the songs to get an understanding of the meaning and moral values expressed in the songs. Kodaline's songs contain many basic principles that can be taught to the students. The students will be interested in learning and knowing the moral values in the songs, and will have the motivation to learn poetry.

6. Conclusion

After studying the figurative languages in the album "In a Perfect World" by Kodaline, the writer concludes that each lyric really presents the song. We should know and understand how the writers attempt to tell us the story of a song. There are figurative languages used in this album which contain 5 personifications, 6 metaphors, 10 hyperboles, and 1 simile. The main figurative form used in the lyrics of the song is metaphor and the least figurative sense used in the album is simile.

Figurative languages in this album is meant to make each song acceptable for the listeners, and it represents how the author shows the story of the song using figurative words. It also makes the listener interested to figure out the deep meaning from the lyrics. In other words, the use of figurative languages in this album are to make the song more beautiful than using common sentences and also make the students learn about linguistics.

Kodaline songs can be used as a source for poetry teaching. Students can gain more knowledge about the correlation between poetry and song. Students will be interested in learning and knowing the moral values in the songs. It also can use to make students appreciate each meaning of the song lyrics. This album contains many basic principles that can be taught to the students.

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