

# AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SONG LYRIC OF *SOLIPSISM* ALBUM OF *PAMUNGKAS*

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## **Abstract:**

*Songs are one of the media to communicate or deliver a message created by a song's writer to listeners. A lot of people like to listen to music. But, some people just listen without understanding the meaning of the song lyric especially the English song. This research study is about figurative language and song as a topic selection. The objectives of this research are divided into three parts. First, this study is to find out the types of figurative language in song lyrics of "Solipsism" album by Pamungkas. The second, to know the meaning of each figurative language, and the last is to know the most dominant figurative language. Figurative language is a language that uses figures of speech to way saying something. The research method is a descriptive qualitative method. The writer uses documentation analysis to collect the data. This research used theory from Kennedy and other sources were put to an understanding of linguistics context. The researcher focuses on analyzing 11 songs lyrically. After analyzing the data, the writer found nine types of figurative language such as Hyperbole, Litotes, Simile, Metaphor, Alliteration, Personification, Paradox, Irony, and Synecdoche. The most dominant of figurative languages used is hyperbole.*

**Keywords:** *Figurative language, Song, Lyric*

## 1. Introduction

In this time, listening to favorite music can make people enjoy it. A lot of people like to listen to music. But, some people just listen without understanding the meaning of the song lyric especially the English song. Even though we will more enjoyable if we know the meaning of the song lyric that we listen to.

Songs are one of the media in language to communicate or deliver a message created by a song's writer through a singer to listeners (Sari et al., 2019). In the statement above, the song is used as a medium of communication. We can speak with other people through songs. Because the song has a characteristic of the language. Through song, people can convey their voice to the listener with the meaning from the lyrics, so other people know the message from the song. The song is important for people around the world. With musical accompaniment make it into the song. Some people arrange words into a beautiful poem to be the lyric.

In the lyrics of a song, the songwriter will make beautiful and interesting words so that there are many figurative languages in them. It is supported by (Yastanti et al., 2019) Figurative language or figure of speech is a beautiful word that has implicit meaning. Sometimes, the meaning of figurative language cannot absorb correctly by the people. Because a figure of speech cannot be translated word by word. So people must understand what writers or speaker says with think deeper in figurative language.

Figures of speech convey shades of meaning that cannot be expressed exactly any other way, they convey a great deal in a shorter time than would otherwise be possible, and they are immediate because they embody the meaning in imagery instead of expressing it abstractly (Potter, 1967: 56-57). Figurative language has been regarded as deviant of the so-called literal language. By contrast, it is now well established that figurative language is a ubiquitous part of daily language and social communication (Kalandadze et al., 2018). Study of figurative speech has been stated by Susanto (2010). He explained about Figures Of Speech; Metaphor Used in Housing Advertisements in Newspaper

Figurative meaning and vocabulary have a great reciprocal relationship (Rohani & Arsyad, 2018). It can be stated that learning the figurative language will help vocabulary or in another way around learning vocabulary can also mean learning the figurative language. Besides of explanation above, we know that figurative language is very common in poetry, prose, and song lyrics as well. In the song, we through semantics to know the true meaning of the lyric. Usually, people like music because the singer or music is good. But now people in the world mostly like music because

they are popular in society. Because they hear through television and social media that now everyone can access it.

Rizky Pamungkas or Pamungkas is a singer and songwriter from Indonesia who produces his music and also produces his songs through his record label. He often sings and holds concerts in various cities than on television. There are many songs that he has created and already has 3 albums consisting of “Walk the Walk” released in 2018 is the first album of Pamungkas, “Flying Solo” released in 2019, and his new album is “Solipsism” released in 2020. From all his albums, “Solipsism” is the best Pamungkas’s album. There are 11 songs on the album that can be enjoyed. This album tells about the experiences of the Pamungkas life journey. The word Solipsism means self-thought is everything. ”Solipsism” was done by himself and was released under the label *Mas Pam Records*. The writer chooses this album because this is the new albums and interesting to analyze.

The researcher focuses on analyzing the figurative language of the songs lyric of Pamungkas’ “Solipsism” album. This Research presents step by step to analyzing the research. To analyze the data, the writer processes the data that has been collected. Such as understanding the lyric, analyzing and combining expressions of figurative language, and also grasping the meaning. Finally, the researcher arranges the data into several parts based on the classification of the data to conclude.

Beside on the background above, there are three problems can be formulated as follows:

1. What types of figurative language are found in the song lyrics in the *Solipsism* album of Pamungkas?
2. What are the meanings of figurative language are found in the song lyric of *solipsism* album of Pamungkas?
3. What is the most dominant figurative language in the song lyrics in the *Solipsism* album of Pamungkas?

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Figurative Language**

Figurative language is a language that has a figurative meaning which used a word or phrase to express or describe something or someone that does not have a literal meaning. Kennedy & Gioia, (2005:118) state in the book that a figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotation of words. Another

opinion becomes from Perrine (1992: 61), a figurative language is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way.

The figurative language also has implied meaning is used in poetry, prose, and song lyrics. To make it more interesting, some literature uses expressions of figurative language. It is related to (Sinjiardita et al., 2018) that figurative language is a language that contains figures of speech, such as personification, metaphor, simile, and hyperbole, etc. There are expressions to express something that has a hidden meaning.

According to the description above, figurative language is a language that uses figures of speech to way saying something and means another. This is a way to show the hidden meaning in the writer's thoughts through words. Figurative language has a characteristic of the writer in delivering his writings to the public. The implied meaning or it can conclude that the meaning of the figurative language is based on the context.

### **3. Research Methodology**

#### **3.1 Participants / Subject / Population and Sample**

The composed in the methodology of the research are the objective of the research, the source of the data, the method of the data collection, and the last is the method of analyzing data. This research will use a descriptive qualitative method. The descriptive qualitative approach does not apply the detailed arithmetic calculation or statistic contains sentences or descriptions of the objects (Moleong, 2011:11). The technique of the data analysis used in this research is qualitative research because the object of the research was in the form of words not in numbers (Syafitri & Marlinton, 2018). This research also uses an interactive analysis model from Miles and Huberman (1992:20) there are 4 steps in the interactives model that starts from data collection, data reduction, data display, verification.

##### **1. Data Collection**

At these steps, the researcher focuses on documentation data from the song lyric of the "Solipsism" album.

##### **2. Data Reduction**

After the data has been collected, the researcher attempts to find the lyric which contains figurative language.

### 3. Data Display

The collected data is presented in table form and then summarized in the form of a percentage chart to make it easier for readers.

### 4. Verification

After display the data, the next step is to make conclusions or verification based on data reduction which is to answer the problems of this study.

## 1.2 Instruments

This Research is an investigation to find out the figurative language in the songs lyric and examine carefully to obtain the desired conclusion. the writer presents step by step to analyzing the research. In this research, to make the analysis easier the researcher needs to use the source of data. The researcher focuses on analyzing the figurative language of the songs lyric of Pamungkas's "Solipsism" album. All of the songs in the album were analyzed. The album consisted of 11 songs which were written by Pamungkas. The lyric is taken from the website *azlyrics.com*. You can find all the songs on this website. The titles of the songs are: Queen of Heart, Intentions, Be My Friend, Live Forever, Deeper, Be Okay Again Today, Higher than Ever, Riding the Wave, Still Can't Call Your Name, I Don't Wanna Be Alone, Closure.

## 3.2 Data Analysis Procedures

In this case, the writer uses documentation analysis to collect the data. Arikunto (1990:321) states that the study document is getting the data about the case or variable as a note, transcripts, book, magazine, etc. According to Rose and Grosvenor (2001: 50), documentary research is a valuable method for understanding and explaining social relations. Document analysis is not only collecting and writes in quoting form but also find the result of the analysis of the document.

The process of collecting the data is starting from:

1. Reading and understanding the lyrics. The researchers start from search the Pamungkas's album from the website *azlyrics.com*. Next, the researcher selected the song lyric of the "Solipsism" album.
2. The researcher attempts to find the phrase and sentence which contain figurative language and also grasping the meaning.

3. After that, make a note and wrote down the data which is used figurative language.
4. Finally, the researcher arranges the data into several parts based on classification.

After finding figurative language in the data, the writer use procedure to analyze the data as follows:

1. Identification

After collecting the data the writer identifies the data based on the kinds of figurative languages such as simile, metaphor, hyperbola, personification, symbol, synecdoche, etc, which focus on phrase literal and non-literal meaning of figurative languages.

2. Classifying

The writer classifies the data which is song lyrics in the album “Solipsism”. The writer must read carefully and interpret the meaning of the lyrics according to figurative language. Then the researcher detected the words, phrases, and sentences that might indicate or contains figures of speech.

3. Reanalyze

In classifying lyrics, the writer must carefully avoid mistakes. To avoid mistakes, the writer reanalyzes the data that has been obtained. It is important to know the mistake, because when in the process of classification, it may be an error in classifying lyrics with the figure of speech, and therefore need to be reviewed to strengthen the argument.

4. Coding

Before identify or classify the data, the researcher makes coding easy classifying and helps the reader to easily read the data. The lists of the songs in the “Solipsism” album are:

## 4. Findings

### 4.1 The types of figurative language as found in the lyrics of the “Solipsism” album

No.	Name of Song	Stanza and Lyrics	Types of Figurative Language
1.	Queen of the Heart	1. Taking a walk like a champ in the night	Simile
		3. Having a talk with you in my mind tonight	Hyperbole
		4. You worry so much as if the world is ending	Simile
		15. You're the queen of the hearts	Metaphor
		18. Your poetic mind, I can listen to you for hours	Hyperbole
		19. Like a valentine, darling you talk like flowers	Simile
2.	Intentions	2. All my feeling speaks	Metaphor
		8. Can't you just see it in my eyes	Synecdoche
		11. Free you so you shine your lights	Hyperbole
		16. I've lost the sense of me	Hyperbole
		18. Swim into your palette	Metaphor
3.	Be my Friend	24. City of egos	Metaphor
		25. Stories and worries I let you to read me raw	Litotes
		27. With the world that's gone mad	Personification
4.	Live Forever	1. I may be naive	Litotes
		14. I may be too old	Litotes
		15. Too late, too smart to talk	Alliteration
		16. I may be too broken,	Metaphor
		17. Way too damaged to pretend	Irony
		29. To see things I can't see	Paradox
5.	Deeper	3. 'Til I'm falling so hard into you	Hyperbole
		10. I wish you sunshine in the sky	Hyperbole
		11. And all the blue birds in your eyes	Metaphor
6.	Be Okay Again Today	17. Words can kill, it's real	Personification
		32. Be the bird's eye	Metaphor
7.	Higher Than Ever	14. The city is sleeping	Personification
		15. The music is fading	Personification
		16. The colours are disappearing	Personification

8.	Riding the Wave	3. Ruling the world I'd be king	Hyperbole
		12. I'm riding the wave	Hyperbole
		15. Down to my belly	Metaphor
		41. I'm just flowing around, floating about	Metaphor
9.	Still Can't Call Your Name	7. Every roses that I touch	Metaphor
		8. It's always you, yeah	
		19. Stoned and barely awake	Personification
10.	I Don't Wanna Be Alone	1. You've got a place in my heart, it's a new thing	Hyperbole
		2. You filled the space in my heart, it's what you bring	Hyperbole
		6. You've got a place in my mind, thought you should know	Hyperbole
		7. You run a show in my mind and I'm front row	Hyperbole
		9. You are a shark in my mind and I'm swimming	Metaphor
11.	Closure	1. Feel small again	Metaphor
		19. War on worry	Hyperbole

#### 4.2 The meaning of each figurative language is found in the song lyric “solipsism” album by Pamungkas

##### a. Simile

S-1.St-1.S: Taking a walk like a champ in the night

The underlined lyric is a simile. Because it is used the word “like”. (Sharndama & Suleiman, 2013), states that simile is a figure of speech that says that one thing is like another different thing. A simile uses some words or phrases, such as like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems. It is shown in the lyric “like a champ”. In this case, the word “champ” is used to compare with “walk”.

##### b. Metaphor

S-1.St-15.M: You're the queen of the hearts

The lyrics explain to someone that he very adores. A Metaphor is a figurative language that compares two different things directly (Setiawati & Maryani, 2018). The word “queen of the heart” is a phrase that is used to express that. The songwriter positioned the special women in his life. He describes that women are number one. So the lyric included the type of figurative language as a metaphor.



c. **Hyperbole**

S-2.St-16.H: *I've lost the sense of me*

The underlined lyric is hyperbole. Hyperbole is a figure of speech which employs an exaggeration that is used for special effect (Ekasani, 2015). The lyric “lost the sense” has exaggerated meaning. The sense is not lost. The true meaning is the author fell overthinking until having a passionate feeling.

d. **Personification**

S-3.St-27.P: *With the world that's gone mad*

The lyric above is concluded personification. It is in the word “world” and “mad”. Personification is giving the characteristics of human to non-human (Defisyani, 2016). Actually, Mad is an adjective about the condition of humanity. So, it is an example of personification.

e. **Litotes**

S-3.St-25.L: *Stories and worries I let you to read me raw*

The word “raw” in this lyric is litotes. (Hornby, 1995) states that litotes or understatement is an expression of one meaning by saying something is the direct opposite of one thought. Litotes can also as expressions in the form of downplaying facts. The word “raw” is an adjective that describes someone who what it is. The author let the other people know him raw. In this case, the word “raw” focus on bad people. It is a downplaying fact. But, the author, not bad people.

f. **Irony**

S-4.St-17.I: *Way too damaged to pretend*

This lyric in concluded irony. According to (Perrine, 1992: 104), verbal irony is saying the opposite of what one means. That what is said is far different realistically. But is only to say unsatisfied feeling with the condition. In the sentence “too damaged to pretend” is a line of sarcasm. Because the sentence implies that to pretend you will not be able. Because it is too damaged. So the appropriate for the sentence is irony.

g. **Alliteration**

S-4.St-15.AI: *Too late, too smart to talk*

The underlined lyric is alliteration. The repetition of the same initial letter, sound, or group of sounds in a series of words (Setiawati & Maryani, 2018). In this case, the word “too”, “too”, “talk” is alliteration. Because showing repetition consonant sound T at four words in the lyric.

#### h. **Synecdoche**

S-2.St-8.Sy: *Can't you just see it in my eyes*

The underlined lyric above is concluded Synecdoche. Synecdoche is the use of the part for the whole (Perrine, 1992:65). This is substituted some significant details or aspects of an experience for the experience itself. In this case, the sentence “my eyes” is not mean only eyes but it is used to mention the author. One part of the body mentions all of the body people. The true meaning in this lyric is the author asks can you see me.

#### i. **Paradox**

S-4.St-29.Pa: *To see things I can't see*

In the sentence “to see things that I cannot see” is a sentence which states two contradictory things, on the lyric to see what cannot be seen, but both are the truth. So the appropriate figure for the sentence is the contradiction figure, which is an expression of paradox. The paradox occurs in a statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection makes some sense (Kennedy, 1979:130).

### 4.3 **The most dominant types of figurative language in the “Solipsism” album of Pamungkas.**

After finding out the types of figurative language, there are 13 of Hyperbole, 3 of Simile, 1 of Alliteration, 12 of Metaphor, 1 of Irony, 6 of Personification, 1 of Synecdoche, 1 of Paradox, and 3 of Litotes. Besides the table above, there are 13 lyrics containing hyperbole in the song lyric of Pamungkas. The most dominant type of figurative language in the song lyric “Solipsism” album of Pamungkas is Hyperbole.

## 5. **Discussion**

Based on the findings, there are some kinds of figurative language used in Pamungkas’s songs lyric, such as Hyperbole, Litotes, Simile, Metaphor, Alliteration, Personification, Paradox, Irony, and Synecdoche. After analyzing the data, the writer found 41 data of figurative language. The most dominant figurative language in the song lyric of the “Solipsism” album of Pamungkas is Hyperbole. There are 13 lyrics containing hyperbole in the song lyric of Pamungkas. The songwriter uses figurative language to emphasize to the readers about the feeling and emotion what the writer wants to say in his life through a song. Especially on the “Solipsism” album of Pamungkas. Figurative language makes song lyrics more beautiful to listen to. Because figurative language is used the imagination on the song lyric.

## 6. Conclusion

After analyzing the writer conclude that every song has an implied meaning and message for the listener. Figurative language is a language that uses figures of speech to way saying something. This is a way to show the hidden meaning of the songwriter's thoughts through words. The songwriter plays his imagination into a figurative language that will be beautiful lyrics. The final project very useful for students, especially in English class. Students can find out what figurative language is. Especially about the language that is in a song lyric. There is great knowledge that can be analyzing the songs. Because they can listen and analyze a word through song then help people to understand the meaning of the song. The writer suggests it can be useful for other people who want to learn the figurative language.

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