

An Analysis of Figurative Language On James Arthur's Selected Songs 'Say You Won't Let Go' and 'Impossible' and Its Contribution to Teaching Poetry

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Abstract.

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The objectives of the study are: 1) To identify types of figurative language are found in James Arthur's song —Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible. 2) To find out the meanings of figurative language are found in James Arthur's song —Say You Won't LetGo and Impossible. 3) To reveal the contribution of James Arthur's —Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible lyrics in students' writing poem The study uses descriptive qualitative, that is a type of qualitative research. The method of this study belongs to library research. The first step is downloading selected songs —Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible. The second step is listening to the songs repeatedly. The third step is analyzing to figurative languages in songs —Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible. The fourth step is identifying the kinds of figurative languages in Purpose Album. The fifth step is finding out the messages of figurative languages in songs —Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible. The results of the study show that the writer found 10 types of figurative languages in songs lyric of songs —Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible by James Arthur. There are Simile, metaphor, symbolism, sarcasm, tautology, irony, oxymoron, litotes, and hyperbole. The writer found 79 of figurative language expressions in songs —Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible by James Arthur. They are 3 of simile expressions, 1 of metaphor expressions, 44 of symbolism expressions, 11 of sarcasm expressions, 8 of tautology expressions, 1 of irony expressions, 5 of oxymoron expressions, 2 of litotes expressions, and 4 of hyperbole expressions. In order to conduct this research, the writer collects literary texts as references and sources of theories. The researchers then assesses the data using theories of references relevant to the study in order to contribute to the teaching of poetry. This study can be utilized as a source or reference for teaching poetry because the song lyrics contain figurative language that can be used to teach poetry. They can get communications in the form of song lyrics. Furthermore, it assists students in appreciating literary works. Students can use this research to learn about the many types of figurative languages and how they communicate.

Key Words: *Figurative Language, Songs Lyric, Poetry, James Arthur*

Introduction

Wardhaugh defines language as "a system of arbitrary vocal symbols utilized for human communication" (1992:3). Language can be viewed as a tool for communicating something that is close to one's heart. In the sense of expressing thoughts, ideas, concepts, or feelings, language can also be employed as a tool for contact or communication. Language is defined as a system of symbols in the form of sound that is arbitrary, productive, dynamic, diversified, and human in sociolinguistic studies. The term spoken refers to a type of language in which words are pronounced verbally and are frequently accompanied by tone and body language. Language is a collection of facts from personal experience, and speakers of a particular language feel that their worldviews are universal.

Listening is one of the important parts of our lives. Listening is an activity to make it easy to listen and understand others through sounds that can be heard by our ears. Listening is one of our daily habit. We can hear directly with sound or through media such as music or movies.

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

In brief, the researcher would like to find out the types of figurative language in the song's lyric of James Arthur's titled -Say You Won't Let Go and -Impossible and the meaning of figurative language in the song. Therefore, the title of this research is An Analysis of Figurative Language James Arthur's Selected Song -Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible.

Literature Review

A. Review of Previous Studies

In a separate location, the researchers discovered some research connected to this research that is relevant to the research objects in the next paragraph. The first previous study employed by academics was *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Song Lyric of Solipsism Album of Pamungkas*, which was written by Tri Mulyani:2020. Pamungkas' songs lyric contain figurative language such as Hyperbole, Litotes, Simile, Metaphor, Alliteration, Personification, Paradox, Irony, and Synecdoche, according to her. She also noted that Hyperbole is the most prevalent figurative language in the song lyric of Pamungkas' Solipsism album.

The second study looked at figurative language in song lyrics and discovered that exaggeration is the most commonly utilized figurative language. Ema Rizqal Maftuhah's thesis "Figurative Language in Selected Brian Mcknight's Songs" and Heny Listiani's thesis "An Analysis of Figurative Language Revealed on The Song Lyric by Taylor Swift's "Speak Now" Album" found that hyperbole is the most common type of figurative language in those songs. Through the wonderful lines, the song writer uses hyperbole to express the complete meaning.

B. Review of Related Theories

A term or phrase with a metaphorical meaning is used to communicate or describe something or someone that does not have a literal meaning in figurative language. Kennedy and Gioia are a married couple (2005:118). According to the writers of the book, a figure of speech can arise whenever a speaker or writer speaks or writes. They also claim to have modified the meaning of words for the sake of freshness or emphasis. Perrine (1992: 61) expands on the above observations, adding that "figurative language" refers to "any way of saying something different than the conventional one."

In poetry, prose, and song lyrics, figurative language is utilized to convey hidden meaning. Some writing uses metaphorical language to make it more fascinating and to achieve the primary goal. Figurative language, according to (Sinjiardita et al., 2018), is a language that comprises figures of speech such as personification, metaphor, simile, and hyperbole, among others. Through song lyrics, there are various ways to portray feelings or anything with a hidden meaning.

According to the definitions given above, a language that employs figures of speech to convey information from one person to another. This is a method of conveying the hidden meaning of the writer's thoughts through the use of lovely words. The composer's song in delivering his writings to the public is characterized by figurative language. The inferred meaning, or the conclusion that the meaning of figurative language is based on the context, is based on the context.

Method

A. Research Design

Qualitative research and quantitative research are the two types of research designs. The method employed in this study was descriptive qualitative research. The study design is the researcher's plan on how to proceed to achieve a knowledge of some group or some phenomenon in its context,' according to Ary et al (2010: 426). Moloeng cites Bogdan and Taylor as sources (2010:4). A qualitative approach is a research procedure that collects descriptive data from people and their observed behavior in the form of written or spoken data. The study's goals are to discover the different sorts of metaphorical language in James Arthur's song lyrics Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible. What does each figurative language contained in James Arthur's chosen song lyrics mean, and what is the most prevalent figurative language in James Arthur's song lyric named "Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible?"

B. Object of the Study

The object of the study is the research herself because the researcher does not need to a questionnaire. Researcher immediately observes the data from song lyrics at any time in [kapanlagi.com](https://lirik.kapanlagi.com), because it is easy to find lyrics on this website <https://lirik.kapanlagi.com/artis/james-arthur/say-you-wont-let-go/> and <https://lirik.kapanlagi.com/artis/james-arthur/impossible/>. lirik.kapanlagi.com website search words that are widely used to find song lyrics.

C. Roles of Researcher

According to El-Farra, in Secondary and Primary Data (25), there are three types of researcher roles:

1. Observer as a participant (Recognized Outsider)

It is a field work relationship, and both the subjects and you are aware of it. You're particularly interested in gaining the group's trust, for instance, suppose you want to know what the lyrics of a song signify.

2. Observer as Participant (Marginal Participant) The researcher may attend an outward-bound course to aid team development if you are only there to observe rather than participate in the activities in the same way as real candidates do.

3. Participant in full (Full Participant)

The researcher makes an attempt to join the gang. The researchers keep their identities hidden and their goal hidden. The researcher must acquire the group's trust before proceeding. For instance, the participant could be able to figure out which music is the most popular among the audience.

Method of Data Collection and Data Analysis

a. Method of Data Collection

In this study, the writer collecting data by doing the following steps:

1. Downloading songs of James Arthur entitled -Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible.
2. Listening to the songs.
3. Listening to figurative languages of —Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible songs by James Arthur.
4. Identifying the types of figurative languages of — Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible songs by James Arthur.
5. Finding out the messages of figurative languages of —Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible songs by James Arthur.
6. Describing the contribution of *James Arthur's* song lyrics in teaching poetry.
7. Making conclusion.

b. Method of Data Analysis

1. Compression of data

"Data reduction" is defined by Mathew B. Miles and A. Michael Huberman as "the act of selecting, focusing, simplifying, and changing data that appears in written-up field notes or transcription" (1994: 10). The researcher outlines the results of the figurative language category and explains how those results were determined.

2. Visualization of data

Looking at displays, according to the author, helps us grasp what is going on and take action based on that understanding, such as additional study or caution. Huberman and Miles (1994: 39). Data from qualitative study can be displayed in a table, graphic, phi chard, pictogram, or other format.

3. The conclusion is drawn/verified.

Making and verifying conclusions is the penultimate phase in a qualitative data analysis, according to Miles and Huberman. After reviewing the results of the forms of figurative language used in the songs in this study, the researcher acquires clear information about the outcome, and then proceeds to draw conclusions/verify the message of that figurative language.

Finding and Discussion

A. Research Finding

1. Figurative Languages types found in songs lyric in James Arthur's Selected Song "Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible"

a. Simile

Simile is a kind of figurative language that is used to compare two or more objects. The songwriter can use the words "as" or "like" to compare them. The researchers conclude 3 lyrics that contain similes.

Table 4.1
Simile Table

No	Simile
1	You made me feel as though I was enough.
2	Oh, and you look as beautiful as ever.
3	I promise 'til death we part like in our vows.

b. Metaphor

Metaphor is a kind of figurative language that is used to convey or compare two things that are comparable. The researchers discovered a metaphor-filled lyric.

Table 4.2
Metaphor Table

No	Metaphor
1	Write it on the sky line.

c. Symbolism

"The word symbol is derived from "Symballein meaning "to throw together," from the Greek "symbolon" and Latin "symbolum," which meant token," according to Webster in Fadaee (2010:20).

Table 4.3
Symbolism Table

No	Symbolism
1	I met you in the dark.
2	you lit me up

d. Sarcasm

Sarcasm is a figurative language that employs irony to criticize or communicate current events. In James Arthur's Selected Song "Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible" contains 11 sarcastic lyrics, according to the writer.

Table 4.4
Sarcasm Table

No	Sarcasm
1	But you'd never know
2	When all is done, there is nothing to say
3	What do you mean

e. Tautology

Tautology is a kind of figurative language in which the same thing or term (with the same meaning) is said multiple times to reinforce the message.

Table 4.5
Tautology Table

No	Tautology
1	Just say you won't let go Just say you won't let go
2	Impossible Impossible Impossible

f. Irony

Irony is a type of figurative language used to "find or construct the opposite of the apparent meaning" (stull 2002:4)

Table 4.6
Irony Table

No	Irony
1	I know I needed you But I never showed

g. Oxymoron

Oxymoron is a kind of figurative language in which two opposing ideas are combined in a statement.

Table 4.7
Oxymoron

No	Oxymoron
1	'Cause I played it cool when I was scared of letting go
2	For a minute, I forget that I'm older

h. Litotes

Litotes is a kind of figurative language that uses double negatives to communicate understatement, or in other words, a positive remark is expressed by negating its opposite terms.

Table 4.8
Litotes

No	Litotes
1	Just say you won't let go
2	And you were strong and I was not

i. Hyperbole

Overstated statements or claims that are not meant to be taken literally are known as hyperbole.

Table 4.9

No	Hyperbole
1	Write it on the sky line
2	Darling, your love is more than worth its weight in gold

2. The Meaning of Figurative Languages Used in "Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible" Songs Lyrics.

a. Song Lyric of *Say You Won't Let Go*

Symbolism is present in this lyric's figurative language. The statement "*Say You Won't Let Go*" is a demand. In the literal meaning, *-Say You Won't Let Go* means a demand or a desire that was said by speaker to listener. The speaker wants to say the speaker's desire to live together forever with his life partner. But, in figurative language, the meaning of || *Say You Won't Let Go* || is the singer wants his girlfriend knows about his desire to live together forever which is supported by the sentence "*But I wanna stay with you until we're grey and old*".

Other figurative language is presented in this lyric is Simile. The statement *-You made me feel as though I was enough*, in the literal meaning *-enough* is complete. The figurative languages of this lyric are simile. The figurative language is simile because there is word *-as*. This lyric compares his life is complete if the singer spend the rest of his life with his life partner with if he does not live with his lover forever.

b. Song Lyric of *Impossible*

In those lyric, the figurative language is tautology. The purpose of this song is to underline the message that the singer wants to convey to others by using the word "I know, I know", another word that carries the idea of emphasizing a certain concept is "impossible."

The next figurative language is metaphor, in sentences "write on the sky line". In this lyric, the songwriter compares the paper with the sky line. The message of this lyric is the writer who is supposed to write all his life stories on paper but he says that writing in the sky is considered wider and more beautiful.

B. Discussion

Songwriters and singers can use songs to express their emotions, thoughts, ideas, and experiences. Some people love listening to music as they are living their lives. Others enjoy music because of the song's tone. Some people enjoy music because the lyrics convey their feelings, thoughts, or experiences. Some singers and songwriters compose songs utilizing figurative language in the lyrics. It improves the lyrics' degree of lexis. Songs that use metaphorical language are more imaginative and entertaining. As a result, when listeners hear the music and learn new words, they imagine what the lyric's message is. They then try to figure out what the message is. So, song can help others to learn English.

In his songs entitled *-Say You Won't Let Go* tells that he has the great relationship with the beautiful stories in his life. We can conclude that James Arthur always helps the listener to always keep the harmonious relationship to create the great family in getting the happiness in life forever.

Other title of his song is *-Impossible* talks about a relationship that failed because of betrayal and tells the story of a man's struggle to try to repair a relationship. But the struggle is considered unsuccessful and in vain. He conveys that there is no hope of getting back into a relationship that ended painfully.

In the research findings above, through learning the examples of implicit meaning analysis in this study, students may identify the types of figurative language that can help them expand their vocabulary. As a result, they can select and mix the relevant words. Finally, they will be able to write poetry that is both deep and beautiful.

The teacher could ask the students to listen to James Arthur's songs while teaching appreciation poetry. Students learn the song lyrics while listening to the songs in understanding the meaning and moral values presented by the music. James Arthur's songs include a variety of moral principles that can be established in students. Students will be interested in learning poetry and motivated to do so if they discover and understand the moral values in the songs.

Conclusion and Suggestion

A. Conclusions

According to research findings in the previous chapter, the writer gets conclusions as follows:

1. In "Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible" songs, James Arthur expresses his feeling. The songs reflect with his personal life stories and his love stories. Such as –Say You Won't Let Goll shows that he has the harmonious relationship.
2. The use of figurative language makes song more imaginative by listeners. The writer found nine types of figurative languages in songs lyric entitled "Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible" by James Arthur. There are simile, metaphor, symbolism, sarcasm, tautology, litotes, oxymoron, irony, and hyperbole.
3. We can truly understand the message by understanding the different forms of figurative languages used in James Arthur's song "Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible." Listening to music can be a pleasant approach to improve your English skills. We not only learn new words, but also how to pronounce them correctly.

B. Suggestions

1. Suggestion for the researcher
The researcher must be fluent in English when doing the study. Furthermore, the study's findings may be useful to others and provide benefits to anyone who wants to learn about life through the medium of art.
2. Suggestion for the reader
After reading this study, readers, particularly students, should understand more about literary works, particularly the meaning of figurative language. They should also use poetry to help them express themselves creatively.
3. Suggestion for Lecturer
The lecturer can select some songs from the "Say You Won't Let Go and Impossible." Songs that contain figurative language to teach poetry and then examine the messages of figurative languages.
4. Suggestion for students of English Education Study Program
To students of English Education Study Program in order to use these songs to know the types of figurative languages and the messages of figurative languages, which related to Poetry subject.

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