



An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Nine Track Mind Album by Charlie Puth

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: 07 January 2024	In writing songs, songwriters often use figurative language. This research analyzed the figurative language in the album Nine Track Mind by Charlie Puth. This research aimed to determine the type of figurative language used and the meaning shown by figurative language in the songs on the album. This research is descriptive research with qualitative and quantitative approaches. The data found in this research were analyzed by the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) and supported by the theory of Wellen and Warren (1984). This research showed that songwriters used ten figurative language, namely 60% hyperbole, 10% allusion, 10% repetition, and 20% metaphor. In addition, the songwriter also uses connotative and denotative meanings in the album.
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1. Introduction

Language is a systematic instrument of communicating ideas or feelings using sounds, gestures, or signs agreed (Brown, 2000; Prakash, 2014). Language can be said as a means of communication in human life (Boughoulid, 2022; Nasution & Tambunan, 2000). Most people need language to communicate, interact and get information from other people (Stowe & Haverkort, 2003). It can be said that language can be used to express someone's feelings or emotions and express their ideas, thoughts, and imaginations, expressed by speaking or writing (Moser, 1989). Written language can be found in novels, newspapers, poems, movies and magazines with subtitles (Stalker, 1974). Meanwhile, spoken language can be found in songs, speech, movies, and conversations. As human beings, we cannot separate ourselves from social communication and interaction, which certainly makes us live and have language. In

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contrast to spoken language, written language should use the proper structure to make the reader understand what the author wishes to convey.

A written text can be “good” if the reader can understand the writer’s intentions. However, sometimes, the author uses words to embellish his writings in figurative language, which needs more understanding to analyze the meaning inside. “Affirm that figurative language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as a standard meaning of words or the standard order of word, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect” (Norton et al., 1957). Another important point of a written work is clarity. Harvey states in his journal that “clarity is the number one priority in all issues of writing style” (Harvey, 2015). On the other hand, it is still possible for a writer to make mistakes by choosing words wrongly. Moreover, the need of every literary man to be able to portray their works more vividly and more interesting cannot be ruled out. So, the researcher believes figurative language helps every literary man transform their opinion to the readers and helps them visualize what is happening in their literary work.

Figurative language is commonly used in poems or song lyrics. Hornby stated that a song lyric is a short poem in several verses set to music to be sung, which contain figurative language (Hornby, 2015). The songwriters or composers usually beautify the language they use any figurative language so that the listeners will be more attracted to listen to the song. Listening to a song is an enjoyable activity. However, the listeners can only get pleasure if they understand the figurative language that is commonly found in the song lyrics. Lyrics are categorized into literary works, referring to imaginative literature (Hornby, 1974). It is imaginative since the songwriters created it at some time in history and intended to speak to other human beings about some ideas or issues that have human relevance. To understand society or what human beings experience in life, (Herman & Culler, 1999) stated that the features of literature in song lyrics are a body of thinking that is exceedingly hard to define literally. It follows the willingness of readers to pay attention and explore uncertainties in this literary work sample.

The significance of this study is that it can help English learners understand the meaning of figurative language in a song, and it is hoped that it will be useful for finding references or previous research about the meaning contained in figurative language in a song. The method and data are based on the theory of (Knickerbocker & Reninger, 1969) and supported by the theory of (Levin, 1949). The techniques used in this research are note-taking and observation. In this study, data collection was processed in several steps, such as searching for song lyrics, reading and recording song lyrics containing figurative language, and grouping them into figurative language types.

2. Literature Review

Several previous studies on figurative language have been reviewed. The research about figurative language in the song lyrics has to identify the types of figurative language and the dominant types of figurative language found in the lyrics of the song Saif Adam. Researchers use the theory of Perrine. A qualitative descriptive method was used in this study to interpret the learning theory carried out in the process of identifying the

figurative language contained in the lyrics of the song. The difference between this study is the data source and theory: this study only focuses on using one song lyric (Milana & Ardi, 2021).

The second research is about the use of figurative language in Adele's song lyrics by (Mulyarti, 2014) has purpose to find the type of figure of speech used in Adele's song lyrics. Knowing the contextual meaning and the type of figure of speech that is more dominant in Adele's song lyrics. The methods used to obtain information are descriptive and qualitative. The data was obtained from the album 21, which contains 14 songs. Three songs were sampled: Rolling in the Deep, Set Fire to the Rain, and Turning Tables. Three types of figurative language are found in this study: hyperbole, personification, and synecdoche. The difference is only in the topic. Researchers try to describe and identify various types of figures of speech used in Adele's song lyrics. Therefore, this research is unique, distinguishing it from previous studies.

Other research is about figurative language on the song lyrics "you are my sunshine" by Anne Murray (Yusnitasari et al., 2022). This study analyses the types of figurative language contained in the lyrics of the song "You Are My Sunshine". This study aimed to determine the types of figurative language used in the Lyrics of the Song "You Are My Sunshine" by Anne Murray. How are the types of figurative language used in the lyrics of the song "You Are My Sunshine" by Anne Murray? In this study, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method by analyzing the data in the song lyrics. In collecting data, this study identifies and classifies the types of figurative language in song lyrics. The difference is only in the topic. The researcher tries to describe and identify various types of figurative language used in the song "You Are My Sunshine" lyrics. This study succeeded in finding nine types of figurative language. However, the type of figure of speech is not found in the song lyrics because the song lyrics are ordinary language sentences.

The fourth research is about figurative language in "easy on me" song lyrics by (Swarniti, 2022). This study aimed to classify and analyze the lyrics of the Adele Easy on Me song based on the figurative language used. This research contains the meaning of qualitative research. The data source in this research is Adele's song lyrics, Easy on Me. The data collection technique in this research is observation. The theory used is based on Miller and Greenberg's (1981) theory about figurative language. Each data was analyzed descriptively based on the theory of figurative language. Based on this research's result, Comparative Figurative Language data was found in personification (4 data). In Contradictive Figurative Language, it was found to be hyperbole (3 data), litotes (2 data), and paradox (1 datum). In Correlative Figurative Language, it was found in this data source, namely: allusion (1 datum), ellipsis (2 data), metonymy (2 data), and symbol (8 data). The most common data found in data sources are symbols. The lyrics of this song have much figurative language. That is, the lyrics of this song try to use figurative language to express feelings or ideas imaginatively. In other words, the lyrics of this song try to create a special image and bring out one's emotions.

3. Method

The data were taken from the fifteenth (15) songs on the Nine Track album. Data were collected using observation and note-taking. The data collection steps were listening to the songs in the Nine Track Mind album, reading the song lyrics, recording the data contained in the song, and selecting and grouping the data into types of figurative language. This study used qualitative and quantitative methods to analyze the data. The data was then presented descriptively by using two theories. First, the theory by (Knickerbocker & Reninger, 1969) proposed types of figurative language such as simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, paradox, dead metaphor, and allusion. Second, as an additional theory to the theory of figurative language from (Wellek & Warren, 1956).

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Types of Figurative Language and Their Meaning Found on Song Lyrics of Nine Track Mind album

There are several types of figurative language, and their meaning can be found in the song lyrics of the Nine Track Mind album. The types of figurative language were categorized according to the theory of figurative language. The analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics is explained as follows.

a. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a style of language that exaggerates the actual reality or its nature to intensify a statement or situation. According to Keraf (1984), hyperbole is a language style that contains exaggerated statements, by exaggerating something.

Data 1: *I'll be there to save the day" (One Call Away, line 12)*

Data 1 is hyperbole because, in reality, you cannot save the day like a superhero in a movie. This line means that you will always be there to support someone. You will always be there if someone needs you.

Data 2: *You know you're not alone" (One Call Away, line 22)*

This is a hyperbole because it was exaggerated because she could be alone.

Data 3: *It's been a long day without you, my friend" (See You Again, line 1)*

The text above is categorized as hyperbole because the word contains meaning, which means that someone who seems to have not seen his friend for a long time is like an entire day.

Data 4: *And I'll tell you all about it when I see you again" (See You Again, line 2)*

The text above is a type of hyperbole, because it describes someone who longs to meet, to the point of wanting to tell everything.

Data 5: *That I'll be standing right here talking to you" (See You Again, line 9)*

The text above is categorized as hyperbole, which means someone who will always be loyal to wait for him in the same place when he meets.

Data 6: *See the bigger picture" (See You Again, line 14)*

The word above is a form of hyperbole, which means "that one day we will meet in a more beautiful place.

b. Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech used to explain or describe something by referring to other things that are considered to have characteristics similar to the thing or person who wants to be described. According to Keraf (1981), a metaphor is a figure of speech that contains an implied comparison that equates one thing with another.

Data 7: *All the planes we flew" (See You Again, line 7)*

Data 8: *Good things we've been through" (See You Again, line 8)*

The text above is called a type of metaphor, where the meaning of the text is someone who has been friends for a long time and has spent time together.

c. Allusion

Allusions are often used within a metaphor or simile. The comparison alludes to an event or person of significance that everyone should understand. Allusions often refer to previous works of literature, especially the Bible and Greek or Roman mythology.

Data 9: *Superman got nothing on me" (One Call Away, line 3)*

This line is an allusion because it uses a well-known figurative to explain its point. It means that Superman has no advantage over you and that you are equally powerful.

d. Repetition

Repetition is a word, in the context of a repetition song that is used to repeat a word so that the meaning is conveyed.

Data 10: *I'm only one, I'm only one call away*

Repeating the same word "I'm only one"

The types of figurative language from the album *Nine Track Mind* were analyzed using the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963). This was then supported by the meaning of figurative language, which was analyzed using the theory of Wellen and Warren (1984). The types of figurative language are displayed in the following Table 1.

Table 1. The Occurrence of Types Figurative Language

Types of Figurative Language	Frequency	Percentage
Allusion	1	10%
Hyperbole	6	60%
Repetition	1	10%
Metaphor	2	20%
Total	10	100%

From the analysis, the researcher compares the study with the previous study. The writer compares this study with a similar research but with a different object. Some previous studies concern this topic:

This study has similarities and differences from Mulyarti's research (2014). It is almost the same because it also discusses the types of figurative language. There are several types of figurative language used, which are the same in every study, such as hyperbole, metaphor, etc. Other figurative languages analyzed by Mulyarti (2014) are symbols and synecdoche. Hyperbole is also the dominant type found in Adele's song lyrics.

Then, Milana & Ardi (2021) identified the types of figurative language based on Perrine's theory. She also found that the dominant type of figurative language used in the song lyrics by Saif Adam's album is a metaphor, and the most minor figurative language used is irony.

This research also explains the same method for identifying the types of figures of speech in song lyrics. Nevertheless, the object and theory differ from the previous research mentioned above. The researcher identified the types of figurative language in Charlie Puth's nine-track mind album, which consists of three songs.

The table above shows the figurative language used in the *Nine Track Mind* by Charlie Puth album; the researchers found ten pieces of data. Consists of 4 types of figurative language, shown in the table above. The types of figurative language found are allusion, hyperbole, repetition, and metaphor. The number of figurative languages found in the fourteen Charlie Puth songs in the *Nine Track Mind* album is allusion with 1 data or 10%, hyperbole with 6 data or 60%, repetition with 1 data or 10%, and metaphor 2 data or 20%.

The dominant figurative language used in the songs on the *Nine Track Mind* album, especially "One Call Away" and "See You Again," is hyperbole, with a total of 6 or 60%. The songwriter uses a lot of imagery in his song "One Call Away" to show feelings in a song. Therefore, songwriters are more likely to use hyperbole to emphasize the song. Besides that, it is more meaningful to convey to listeners when listening to the song on the *Nine Track Mind* album by Charlie Puth.

This study analyzes the types of figures of speech and the dominant types that appear in Charlie Puth's Nine Track Mind Album. The purpose of using figurative language in lyrics is to help lyric readers, and even song listeners understand the meaning of each lyric. The song is one of the media to learn figurative language because many songs use figurative language to make the song more exciting and lively. It also helps the reader or listener to determine the true meaning of the song's lyrics. There are still many aspects that can be learned about the types of figurative language. It is suggested that other researchers continue this topic. Other researchers can undertake similar topics or expand literary analysis with other linguistic features and aspects.

5. Conclusion

Based on the result of this study, the number of figurative languages found in Charlie Puth's Nine Track Mind album is ten sentences. The result showed one on allusion, or 10% of the total data; six data on hyperbole or 60% of the data; one on repetition or 10%; and two on metaphor or 20%. The dominant figurative language in the song One Call Away on the Nine Track Mind album is hyperbole with 2 or 20% data.

From the data analysis, the figurative language used in the song is the main part of the song itself. Figurative language is a way of expressing the songwriter's ideas and feelings. Therefore, the song is more lively and more poetic. Moreover, the meaning or message to be conveyed is deeper when heard by the listener. The song and figurative language become inseparable, where most of the figurative language songs are in the lyrics to make them more interesting, especially the figurative language in the songs on the Nine Track Mind album. The inclusion of the song as one of the research materials, in order to find out the functions contained in each figurative language used in the song, of course, has its function where the songwriter uses language not only as an aesthetic but also to give the meaning of a song lyric. This article can be useful for understanding the types and functions of figurative language in songs and can be a reference for readers. Therefore, listeners or readers no longer have difficulty finding the meaning of sentences using figurative language in the song.

Conflict of interest

The author(s) declare(s) that there is no conflict of interest.

Authors' contribution

Author made substantial contributions to the conception and design of the study. The authors took responsibility for data analysis, interpretation and discussion of results. The authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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