

**AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES USED IN
SELENA GOMEZ' SONGS AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO ENGLISH
TEACHING AT SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**



A THESIS

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ABSTRACT

This thesis entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Languages Used in *Selena Gomez*’ Songs and Its Contribution to English Teaching at Senior High School”. The figurative languages found in *Selena Gomez*’ Songs are analysed into three aspects that are the types, meanings, and the contributions toward English teaching. The writer uses the Formalism theory and SLA as the theoretical approach to analyze the figurative languages and the contributions of seven songs of *Selena Gomez*. In this study, the writer applied qualitative method. The writer focuses on four types of figurative languages analysis, those are hyperbole, metaphor, simile, and personification. The data of study acquired from seven songs of *Selena Gomez*. Those songs are from five albums, “*impreska*, “*vol.31.2018*”, “*for you, 2014*”, “*revival, 2015*”, “*stars, 2013*”, “*soundtrack “13 reasons why*”. After analyzing the data of this study, the writer found twenty four (24) expressions from four types of figurative languages. Twelve are hyperbole, six metaphor, three simile, and three personification. Hyperbolic expression is the most figurative language used in seven songs of *Selena Gomez*. In addition this study gives contributions toward English teaching. The data found that this study gives contributions to English teaching.

Key words : *Figurative Languages, Selena Gomez, Song Lyric, Analysis.*

ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini berjudul “ Analisis Majas yang Terdapat di Lagu- lagu Selena Gomez dan Kontribusinya untuk Pembelajaran Bahasa Inggris di Sekolah Menengah Atas”. Majas yang ada dilagu- lagu Selena Gomez dianalisis melalui tiga aspek yakni tipe, makna, dan kontribusi terhadap pembelajaran bahasa Inggris. Penulis menggunakan teori Formalisme dan SLA sebagai teori pendekatan untuk menganalisis majas dan kontribusi yang di temukan di lagu- lagu Selena Gomez. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menerapkan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Penulis hanya fokus pada empat jenis majas yaitu, hiperbola, metafor, simile, dan personifikasi. Data diperoleh dari tujuh lagu dari Selena Gomez, tujuh lagu tersebut diperoleh dari lima album, yakni “impreska”, “vol.31.2018”, “for you, 2014”, “ revival, 2015”, “stars, 2013”, “soundtrack”13 reasons why”. Setelah menganalisis data penelitian, penulis menemukan 24 lirik yang mengandung majas. Diantaranya yakni, dua belas hiperbola, enam metafor, tiga simile, dan tiga personifikasi. Majas hiperbola adalah majas yang paling banyak digunakan dalam tujuh lagu Selena Gomez. Dan penulis menemukan bahwa lagu yang digunakan sebagai media pembelajaran memberikan kontribusi pada pembelajaran bahasa Inggris.

Kata Kunci : Majas, Selena Gomez, Lirik Lagu, Analisis.

1. Introduction

When we are talking about literature or literary works, people in general will assume that literary works deal with something that is truly beautiful and imaginative. Moreover, people in general thought that literary work is only about something which cannot be seen as a “concrete” work. Despite from all ideas about literature of general people, literature is actually a work which combines all life experiences. Started from histories, love lifes, economics, politics, education, humanism, wars, even death, etc. In order to share each of experience of life, literature plays a best role to cover all of those thing to presents a great work into a novel, poems, lyric, etc. The tool to beautify a literary work called “figurative language”. Reaske (1966: 33) defines figurative language as a language which employs various figure of speech

Figurative languages help people who deal with literary works such as a writer, a composer, or an actor to convey their thoughts, ideas, and even experiences in a beautiful way wheterit is conveyed indirectly or directly. Song lyrics which consist of figurative language will be more valueable, artistic, and beautiful.

Song which consisted of figurative languages is sometimes difficult to interpret for general listeners, especially Indonesian listeners, because they have different capability to interpret the figurative language which is included in those songs. Since English become a world’s tool communication Indonesian learners’ realize how important English language is. Whereas, English as foreign language (FL) in Indonesia, sometimes to learn foreign language is more complicated than

second language. Learning English can be stressful if a learner does not find an enjoyable way to acquire English. Therefore, a lot of enjoyable way to learn English appeared along with the English as the international language. One of enjoyable way to learn English is listening to music song.

One of the most influential songwriter and singer is Selena Gomez. Selena creates a bunch of song which is telling the listeners or viewers about women, love, friendship, spirit, or even broken heart feeling. Selena covers almost all of her song with figurative language. Selena Gomez has over 125 million followers on the *Instagram*. She is a singer who always write a song using figurative language in her lyrics. Every song has a beautiful message and meaning. There are a lot of messages and values which they can gather from her song.

Thus, the writer is interested in conducting study in this matter because Selena Gomez is one of the most favorite singer all over the world who made great songs. Hence, the listeners really love her songs, because she is a humble singer. Referring to the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing the figurative languages used in seven songs of Selena Gomez. They are, *Wolves (2018)(impreska, vo.31.2018)*, *The Heart Wants what it Wants (2014) (for you.2014)*, *Kill Them with Kindness (2016)(revival.2015)*, *Love Will Remember (2013)(stars.2013)*, *Stars Dance*, *Back To You (2017)(soundtrack"13 reasons why) and Who Says*.

2. Research Questions

Related to the background of the study, the study would like to answer the following questions :

1. What types of figurative languages are used in Selena Gomez' songs ?

2. What are the meanings of figurative languages used in Selena Gomez' songs?
3. What are the contribution of figurative languages in song lyric toward English teaching ?

3. Objectives of Study

Related to the background of the study, the writer has objective of study.

The objectives of the research are :

1. To identify the types of figurative languages used in Selena Gomez' songs.
2. To explain the meaning of figurative language used in Selena Gomez' songs.
3. To describe the contribution of figurative languages in song lyric toward English teaching.

2. Literature Review

Literature reflects various aspect of life. Literature can be said a gifted for human as a tool to express their imagination, ideas, thoughts, feeling, or even grieving through a language a medium to convey. Literature represents human's expression of life. Literature offers the devotees either imaginative stories or any factual information. Thus, literature devided into two; imaginative and informative literature. Wellek and Warren (1949) states that one way to define 'literature' is everything in print.

Literature classiffied into three general genres; poetry, drama, and prose. According to Nuriadi (2016:112) states that "the term "poetry" refers to knowledge, quality, and feature showed by a poem as a work of art ". Differs from

poetry, a drama usually plays by a people (players) which has their own dialog. Drama may be served if the dialog has the sense of diologic. Contrary with Prose, one of the literary work Prose. In Nuriadi (2016:33) it is stated that ‘prose’ is a form of language that exhibits a grammatical structure and a natural flow of speech rather than a rhythmic structure as it is commonly found konvensional writings of poetry.”

Literature is a world where people can save their expressions, feeling, ideas, thought and locked by a literary work which results a precious thing. Literature also has the value of entertainment. It serves various media to entertain lovers to get their satisfaction. Thus media are forms into poetry, novel, drama, song, and etc. One of the most enjoyable medium of literature is song. Song is like a magic that can hypnotize us; therefore, when they hear the songs they could be brought into the songs. For example, when they are listening to a song, they can feel the story of lyrics and the melody which play our emotion and feeling even our soul feel the message behind the lyrics.

3. Previous Study

The first research related to this study is “ An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Eminem Songs “ which has been researched by Ismi Syaepul Buhori(2014), the student of University of Mataram. Ismi used descriptive analytic method in her research. In her thesis, Ismi analyzed figurative language focused on methaphor, menonymy, simile, and hyperbole.

The second related study is thesis by Firman Koma Febdilan (2012). He conducted a research entitled “ An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in

Lyrics of Selected Dewa 19 Songs “: the writer attempted to describe the types and meaning of the figurative language that is focused on methaphor, hyperbole, and personification by firstly analyzing the general meaning and theme of the songs. The writer found methapor is dominant used in all songs.

4. Definition of Figurative Languages

Risdianto (2011: 33) states that figurative language is wording that makes express comparisons between not at all like things utilizing figures of speech such as representation(methapors) and similes. Figurative language is language that consists figures of speech. Kennedy (1979:187) says that figure of speech maybe said to occur whenever a speaker or writer for the sake for freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotation of words. So, figure of speech is a way of saying something using non literal meaning of the word in order to cover the true meaning.

5. The Functions of Figurative Languages

Figurative language is literary devices which emphasize the connotative meaning than denotative. Figurative language is a language which employs various figure of speech. It is concluded that figurative language used to use word or expression with different meaning than literal interpretation.

There are several functions of using figurative language in literay work.

Firstly , the author tend to use figurative language because they can say what theywant to say more vividly that they can not say it directly. So that they can wrapped the literal meaning using figure of speech. Figures of speech offers several ways of adding extra dimation of language.

Secondly, figurative language provides ways of changing the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas to produce a greater effect. Moreover, figurative language creates a literary work more beautiful, as we can find in literary writing such as poetry.

Third, the writing of literature departs from ordinary ideas of saying something but by using figurative language this ordinary sentences constructed aesthetically. So that the writing of literature offers readers the aesthetic one. Therefore, figurative language affords imaginative pleasure. Figures of speech is a way of adding emotional intensity and conveying attitudes along with the information told.

6. Types of Figurative Languages

a. Simile

A simile is a direct comparison between things which are not particularly similar in their essence (Reaske, 1966:42). Simile is figurative language that used to explain the resemblance of two things, like their shape, character and colour. For example : Her skin is as white as snow

b. Metaphor

The second types of figurative language is metaphor. It like simile that is to comparison but in methaphor does not use “as” or “like” to create the comparison. According to Kennedy (1979:490) affirms that metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which in a literal sense, it is not. It doesn't use connective words such as like or as. Metaphor only makes sense when the similarities between the two things become apparent or someone understands the connection.

Lakoff (1987: 388) states that a metaphor is the understanding itself of one concept in terms of another. Metaphors are sometimes constructed through our common language. For example : Life is a journey.

c. Hyperbole

Nuriadi (2016: 164) affirms hyperbole is a literary device where the author or the writer uses some words or phrases to result in an exaggerating and overstating effect in order to produce its noticeable effect of work. Hyperboles can be added to fiction to add color and depth to a character. For example : His scream cuts my ear.

d. Personification

It is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth or nature) is made human (Kennedy, 1979:495). Personification gives human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or ideas. This can really affect the way the reader imagines things. For example : The sunflowers move into the yellow room.

7. Theoretical Approach

a. Formalism

Etymologically formalism derived from the word forma (Latin), which means form. In literature, formalism is the theory which is used to analyze literary works includes pronunciation techniques –including rhythm, rhyme, acoustic/sound, alliteration, assonance, figure of speech, etc. (Nuriadi, 2016). This theory freed from external elements such as history, biography, context culture etc.

Formalism is literature mode of criticism, born in Russia intwentieth century by initiative of a pioneer Victor Sklovskij.

b. SLA

Developing theoretical framework as the theory for teaching English as foreign language (TEFL), the teacher frequently thought about the way that theories applied, the used of media, and the good methods, techniques relevanced. There is not one perfect theory in second language acquisition (SLA). As Spolsky (1989) states, “ any theory of second language learning that leads to a single method must be wrong “. Departs from the explanation above teacher can combines theories to develop an apropiate English teaching. According to Cook (2011) stated, the teacher needs to do whatever is necessary, not just what is scientifically proven, but also combine parts of theories that best serve their students’ needs. Second language acquisition (SLA) is a very abstract and technical branch of TEFL. SLA wrapped by several types of methodologies of English teaching which is any one of them are wrong when it applied in classroom.

8. Method

In this study, the writer will use the descriptive qualitative research method. It means that there will be no statistical procedure in other word, the data will not be measured statistically. It describes the types of figurative language that are applied in the song and explains what the meaning that songwriter tries to describe using figurative language in song lyrics.

The method of collecting data in this study is documenting method. This method focuses on the bibliographical resources by collecting some information from books, website, dictionary, and other which are relevant to the topic of this study. The writer runs several steps. First, listening to seven songs of Selena Gomez. Second, reading the lyrics song of eight songs. After that, the writer highlighting lyric which consist of figurative language in it.

In this research the writer will use analytic and decriptive method in context of formalism theoretical approach indooing so the writer uses some procedures as follows :

a. Identification of figurative language

From the data collected, the first step in analysis figurative language is identification of figurative language its self, identification the meaning and finding out the constribution toward English teaching. In doing identification the writer will make use the codes in order to make easier in identifying.

a.1 Encoding

In doing identification the writer will use the codes in order to make easier in identifying. The encoding will be drawn in the table below :

No	Song	Figurative Language		Line
		Types	Lyric	
1

The meaning of figurative language which found in some lyrics will be explained in the table below :

No	Song	Lyric	Meaning
1

b. Classification of figurative language

The second step is classification of figurative language. The figurative language which is found in lyric will be classified in terms of their own types of figurative language, such as,hyperbole, methaphor, simile and personification.

c.Explanation of meaning of figurative language

In this last step, the writer tries to explain the meaning behind the figurative language, and find out the purpose.

d. Describing the constribution of the figurative languages study toward English teaching.

9. Findings and Discussion

Table 1. The types of figurative languages used in seven songs of Selena Gomez.

No	Title of Song	Figurative Languages		Line
		Types	Lyrics	
1	Wolves	Hyperbole	1. I've running with the wolves.	8,39
			2. I've been running through the jungle.	7,17,38,47
			3. Blindly I am following.	21

2	The Heart Wants What It Wants	Metaphor	4. This is a modern fairy tales	37
			5. No wind in our sails	39
		Simile	6. Shining like stars	19
			7. Lighting me up like Venus	20
			8. And every second's like torture	22
		Hyperbole	9. But I'm not alive until you call	11,28,45
			10. There's million reason why I should give you up.	15,32,49
11. You got me scattered in pieces.	18			
3	Love Will Remember	Personification	12. Love will remember you, love will remember me.	9,19,29,34
		Hyperbole	13. We lit the whole world up, before we blew it up.	26
4	Stars Dance	Hyperbole	14. Light up the moon I can make the stars dance.	7,15,24
			15. Everything I touch turns to love.	19
5	Kill Em With Kindness	Metaphor	16. Your lies are bullets	30
			17. Your mouth's a gun	31
			18. Kill em with kindness	6,7,8,9,22-26,36-40
6	Back To You	Personification	19. Thought that I can chase you with a cold evening.	2
			20. Let a couple years water down how I'm feeling about you.	3
		Hyperbole	21. You could break my heart in two.	9,27,41
			22. You're stuck in my head and I can't get you out of it.	32,51
7	Who Says	Metaphor	23. When you're a diamond in a rough.	5
		Metaphor	24. Won't let you touch the sky.	37

Table 2. The meanings of figurative languages used in seven songs of Selena Gomez.

No	Song	Lyric	Meaning
1	Wolves	1. I've been running with the wolves	She will do anything to get the man's love, no matter how painful the struggle might come to her.
		2. I've been running through the jungle	The woman would like to do anything to please the man she loves.
		3. Blindly I am following	She gives all her undivided attention just for him, even though she doesn't know whether the man will love her or not.
2	The Heart Wants What It Wants	4. This is a modern fairy tale	A modern fairy tale is a metaphor for her sad relationship.
		5. No wind in our sails	There is nothing which can supporting her relationship till the end.
		6. Shining like stars	She feels like the most happiest women in the world.
		7. Lighting me up like Venus	The woman feel great of how the man pleased her.
		8. And every second's like torture	When the man left her she starting to feel lonely, broken heart, and painful.
		9. But I'm not alive untill you call	She feels insecure and questioning their relationship . the only cure for her insecurity is the man's call.
		10. There's million reasons why I should give you up	There are a lot of reasons why she should end her relationship with the man.
3	Love Will Remember	11. You got me scattered in pieces	The man makes the woman broken and miserable.
		12. Love will remember you, love will remember me	The memories of love will stay in their heart and their mind. It would never be forgotten.

		13. We lit the whole world up, before we blew it up,	She felt that her relationship was perfect until they broke up.
4	Stars Dance	14. Light up the moon, I can make the stars dance	She can make the man feel happy and believe that the man will be amazed by her.
		15. Everything I touch turns to love	Everything she does, will make him happy.
5	Kill Em With Kindness	16. Your lies are bullets	Bullets is a metaphor for lies, they both might be able to hurt a person.
		17. Your mouth's a gun	Gun is a metaphor for a mouth. They both are dangerous.
		18. Kill em with kindness	Defeating negative things (bullying) with positive actions.
6.	Back To You	19. Thought that I could chase you with a cold evening.	She could not believe that the man she loves left her, she tried to be back together but it doesn't work.
		20. Let a couple years water down how I'm feeling about you	The time will erase the memories about him over her mind.
		21. You could break my heart in two	The man she loves might be able to hurt her and make her sad.
		22. You're stuck in my head and I can't get you out of it	The memories of the man she loves will always stay in her mind forever.
7	Who Says	23. When you're a diamond in the rough	A girl has to be brave and be herself, ignoring what haters say about us. Inner beauty reveals when we believe it will be.
		24. Won't let you touch the sky	It describes the people that always think that we cannot achieve what we dream about and would not be on top.

Table 3. The contributions of figurative languages used in song lyrics to English teaching.

No	Contributions
1	Song lyrics is the tools to strenghten and reinforce vocabulary, listening, speaking.
2	Song usually easy to obtained and teacher can select the song to suit the needs and interest of the students.
3	Through music song, teachers can makes environment more enthusiastic.
4	Songs offer a good variety of language samples and prepare the students for genuine language that students will face.
5	Songs are regarded as one of the mostly-enjoyed activities and one the most effective language learning strategies by most young learners.
6	Songs provide a large amount of repition which is not tedious and which results in automatic use of the target language.
7	Using song as medium to teach can control timing easily.
8	Song provide a variety of new vocabulary for students.

The writer found twenty four figurative languages in seven songs of *Selena Gomez*, which are eleven hyperbole, four metaphor, three simile, and two personification. The most figuuative languages used in seven songs of Selena Gomez is hypebole The first song entitled *Wolves* presents four hyperbole, one personification. In the second position, *The Heart Wants What It Wants*, it has three metaphor, three hyperbole, three simile and only one personification. Third in *Love Will Remember* reveals one personification and one hyperbole. The fourth, song entitled *Star Dance* it has two hyperbole. The fifth, *Kill Em With Kindness* song it has three metaphor. Next in *Back To You*, the song reveals two personification and two hyperbole. The last song, *Who Says* there are two

metaphor. The writer reveals eight contributions of the study toward English teaching at senior high school.

10. Conclusion

Figurative language is a tool to beautify literary work, and it's a language which people use to express their thoughts, ideas, and feeling unliterary. There are plenty types of figurative languages started from simile, hyperbole, metaphor, personification, and so on. Every types of figurative language has it own function to be used to convey a word, phrase, clause, or a sentence. This thesis focused on analysing personification, simile, metaphor, and hyperbole in seven songs of Selena Gomez.

The writer elaborates the findings on figurative languages which reveals twenty four figurative languages in seven songs of Selena Gomez. The most figurative language which use in these seven songs is hypebole. This study analyze figurative language in terms of meanings and types and also the constribution toward English teaching at SMA by which figurative language within songs to be used as material for teaching English.

The function of figurative languages in seven songs of *Selena Gomez* are to beautify the lyric and to draws the feeling of love, hatred, broken heart, betray, dilema, sincerity, fighting, and regret in more fancy and interesting way of saying. Through song lyric, human being can feel so many emotion such as love, hatred, fond, even dissampointment. The writer concluded that song lyric is suitable for English learners' related to the constributions within teaching English at senior high school (SMA).

11. Suggestions

- To analyze figurative language in song lyric, the next researcher has to analyze and understand the song first to make analysis more easy
- To make the analysis more intense, the next researcher has to specify certain types of figurative language.
- The next researcher suggested to analyze another aspect of this song such as, moral values, character, and plot.
- This study is also expected to enrich students knowledge of figurative languages especially in Selena Gomez's song.

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