

**AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ON THE LYRICS OF
RAEF'S SELECTED SONGS**



A THESIS JOURNAL

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the
Bachelor of Degree in English Education Department**

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MATARAM UNIVERSITY

2018



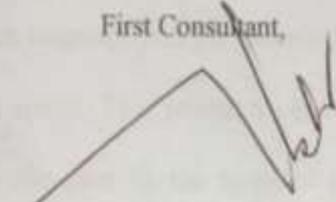
KEMENTERIAN RISET, TEKNOLOGI DAN PENDIDIKAN TINGGI
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APPROVAL

The Journal Entitled **An Analysis of Figurative Language on the Lyrics of Raef's Selected Song** written by **Magiratirrahmah, S.N. E1D011044** has been approved to achieve Sarjana Pendidikan (S.Pd.) in English Education Program, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education Mataram University.

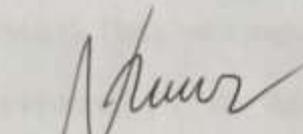
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RAEF'S SELECTED SONG**

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ABSTRACT

This research is aimed at finding out the figurative language, the dominant types of figurative language and the meaning of figurative language on the lyrics of Raef's selected songs. This research used descriptive method. There were eight songs used as the data in the form of music video and transcripts. The data were analyzed by identifying the figurative languages in each song, classifying based on the types of figurative language and explaining the meaning and reason of why those lyrics belong to that type of figurative language. The finding shows there were 24 lines of lyrics that contained of figurative language. There were six types of figurative language found from nine types of figurative language in Kennedy's concept they were hyperbole and personification (21%), paradox (8 %), metaphor (42 %), simile and synecdoche (4 %). In conclusion metaphor comes as the most dominant type of figurative language used, while simile and synecdoche show a very little number of usage.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Lyric, Song, Raef Haggag*

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the most important tools for human to interact and communicate. As a human, interaction and communication are needed in order to get information, fulfill the need in living of life also as the thing that cannot be separated as a human being. People can life well with a good interaction, and to get good interaction people need good communication. A good interaction and communication cannot be separated from the using of a good language. Thus, people can share their ideas, express their feeling, give and get information through communication.

According to Kreidler (1998: 19) language is a system of symbols through which people communicate. Brown (2007: 6) states that language is a systematic instrument to communicate ideas or feelings by using sounds, gestures, or sign agreed. It means that language is a tool to deliver the meaning and intention to others within communication which can be expressed as a spoken or written form.

Language has many branches of study. One of its branches is literature. Literature is the art of written work. It is derived from the word "littera" which means "art and letters". Literature is used to describe anything from creative writing or more technical or scientific work. Literature has three general genres which are prose, drama and poetry (Nuriadi, 2016:32). Firstly, prose is divided into two categories that are fiction and nonfiction. Fiction covers some actual work such as novel, short story, novelette, etc. Meanwhile nonfiction consists of the work like essay, biography, autobiography, letter, etc. Secondly, drama

consists of comedy, tragedy, tragicomedy, and absurd. Thirdly, poetry comprises of several forms such as ballad, sonnet, blank verse, free verse and lyric of poem.

Historically there is a term that is used refers to some sentences as the accompaniment on the music instrument namely lyric of song. Lyric of song is written work which expresses the human's feeling by using the beauty of language. The songs have the imaginative quality and specific characteristic of the language use. It is a short musical composition that has certain lyric and sung by human called singer.

As people listening to a song, they are usually interested because it sounds good, or they like the singer. They are not focus on the lyric and the meaning which actually important to be known. Knowing the meaning is important. Beside the listeners can enjoy the good song of their favorite singer, they also able to comprehend its deep and meaningful lyric. The more the listeners understand the meaning of the lyric the more they enjoy and include in a song.

Currently, song becomes so popular especially English one. Almost all of the people like music or song, from the youth until adult, from the love themes until the religious themes. Along with the development of music, the variation of music themes also develops. Usually the love theme becomes the most written and heard song, but lately religious theme especially Islamic songs start to be a trending song and Awakening Record comes as familiar Islamic song producer which produces many Islamic songs with its talented and famous singers. One of its talented singers is Raef Haggag with his album "The Path".

Raef Haggag is an American *moeslim* singer. His songs have power in influencing listeners by combining unique of music tone, beautiful diction, meaningful of lyric in literally and non-literally and consist of figure of speech. For instance, in his song entitled "*Home*" in line seventeenth "*Our smiles they shine from sea to sea*". This sentence indicates the types of figurative language namely hyperbole. It describes a point of sentences which exaggerate to show strong feeling or effect. The sentence shows that it is impossible for the reader or listener to see the smile shining from sea to sea, so the meaning can't be known directly. It can be said that this song has a deep meaning that become a big power in influencing the listener feeling.

The meaning of a lyric can either be explicit or implicit. Some of lyrics are composed in poetical composition which makes it similar with poetries that there are many words written using figurative languages. According to Nuriadi (2016:162) figurative language is the language or expression used verbally in order to describe or figure out one intention, idea or message of one speaker. Figurative language used to beautify a sentence structure that primary purpose is to obtain a certain effect in order to create an imaginative impression to listeners or audience, both orally and in writing. Each author has a different style to express their writing ideas each article produced will have a writing style that is influenced by its author. Figurative language is used to create and make a literary work to be better, look more alive, and create a better quality of literary works.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting the research in Raef songs as the object of research. This study focuses to describe

the figurative languages, the dominant types of figurative language and the meaning of figurative language in Raef's songs.

B. METHODOLOGY

a. Research Design

According to Kothari (1990:1) research is an academic activity and as such the term should be used in a technical sense. In this research the researcher applied descriptive qualitative research since it is conducted to describe the findings. The objects of the research are the figurative language in Raef Songs lyric and the meaning of figurative language in Raef selected song lyrics. The research designed by providing the transcript of Raef songs and analyzing its content descriptively.

b. Source of Data

The data in this research were taken from the lyrics of Raef's selected songs which released in his album in 2014. The album consists of twelve songs but only eight were used as the data resources.

c. Method of Data Collection

Observation and documentation were used as the method in collecting the data.

1. Observation

The observation was conducted by listening to the songs, searching the songs, downloading the album and selecting the most suitable songs for the research.

2. Documentation

The documentation phase consisted of the selected songs and lyrics from the Raef album “The Path”. There were twelve songs in the album, but only nine of songs were selected which relates to the research.

d. Method of Data Analysis

Data analysis is the process of systematically searching and arranging the field note, interview transcripts, and other materials that the researcher accumulates in increasing understanding. The procedure of data analysis in this research was drawn as follows:

1. Identification

After collecting the data, the first step applied is identification of figurative language in each word phrase and sentence in song lyrics. The researcher reads and observes every line of those nine Raef’s selected song lyrics to find out the type of figurative languages.

2. Classification

The researcher classified each figurative language by listing and grouping the figurative language found in each song based on the kind of figurative language. They are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, litotes, irony, paradox, metonymy, synecdoche.

3. Explanation

After classifying the figurative language found in each song, the researcher explained each figurative language that found in each song. After that the researcher told the reason of why these lyrics belong to the type of that

figurative language, and the meaning of that figurative language. The last, the researcher took conclusion based on the data finding.

C. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter the researcher presents the data finding and the analysis of figurative language used in eight songs of Raef. In order to find the data that would be analyzed, the researcher identified every lyric of those songs first after that the researcher analyze all of that eight songs, find out figurative language contained in each song and elaborate the meaning and the reason of why those lyrics belong to the type of that figurative language.

1. Findings

In order to easily display the data finding about all type of figurative language found in Raef's selected song lyrics, the researcher make a classification table that shows total frequencies in Raef's song lyrics. The detail of the data is as follows:

Table 1. All types of figurative language in Raef's selected song lyrics

| No | FL | SC/L | Lyrics | Total |
|----|----|--------|--|-------|
| | | S3-L1 | I thought of this before over <i>a million times</i> | |
| | | S3-L17 | I prayed about this just over a million times | |
| | | S6-L1 | I have been through sunshine | |
| | | S6-L17 | Our smile they shine from sea to sea | |
| | | S8-L23 | Stand by my side it's our time to fly | |
| | | S1-L4 | It greets me with its cheerful eyes | |
| | | S5-L5 | No matter what world's bring | |

| | | | | |
|-------|------------|--------|--|----|
| | | S6-L15 | Our lakes they praise the great | |
| | | S7-L2 | That love never lives to see another day | |
| | | S8L-22 | When freedom calls, I'll be there | |
| | | S2-L7 | And when I doubt , I will have no doubt | |
| | | S5-L15 | Some folks are dying to live, and other live to die | |
| | | S6-L10 | Home is where the heart is, home is where your love is | |
| | | S5-L6 | And even if the birds won't sing | |
| | | S5-L9 | And even if the sun won't smile | |
| | | S6-L2 | Made friends with the moonlight | |
| | | S2-L9 | Digging our pages past | |
| | | S3-L19 | And when there's a gray in our hair and we have not much to do | |
| | | S5-L18 | The world turns gray now | |
| | | S8-L9 | The storm cloud are coming | |
| | | S8-L48 | Pray for sunny weather | |
| 5 | Simile | S5-L20 | I will remember what you said as I watch the stars spark | 1 |
| 6 | Synecdoche | S4-L19 | Our hand alone can feel so helpless and weak | 1 |
| Total | | | | 24 |

2. Discussion

a. Types of Figurative Language Used in Raef's Selected Song Lyrics

Based on the identification and classification above , there are six types of figurative language found related to Kennedy's concept of figurative language .The types of the figurative language found are hyperbole, personification, paradox, metaphor, simile, and synecdoche.

1. Hyperbole

Kennedy (1983:496) affirms hyperbole is emphasizing a point with statement containing exaggeration. It can be ridiculous or funny. Hyperboles can be added to fiction to add color and depth to a character. There are five lines found as hyperbole which located in five of eight songs. The sentence, the reason and the meaning of each of hyperbole are shown as follow:

“I thought of this before over *a million times*” (S3-L1)

“I prayed about this just *over a million times*” (S3-L17)

The word million times indicates this sentence as a hyperbole, because it seems to be impossible for him to count his thought and pray until over a million times. The use of the word million times here to emphasize that he already thought of that seriously. The meaning of the sentences: the man emphasizes that he already thinks and pray of his decision more than once, and shows his seriousness on that.

“I have been *through sunshine*” (S6-L1)

The words *through sunshine* show the use of exaggerate statement in order to emphasize the meaning of a statement, because in our daily life we always feel the sunshine while in these lyrics the word *through the sunshine* seems like he passes the sunshine near to the sun. The meaning of the sentence is the man shows his pride. It seems like he is walking near to the sun and around the sunshine.

“Our smile they *shine from sea to sea*” (S6-L17)

It is impossible for someone to make a smile shines from sea to sea and the words *shine from sea to sea* is an exaggerate statement. The meaning of the sentence is their smile stuck on their lips in a long time, as the expression of their deep happiness.

“Stand by my side it’s our *time to fly*” (S8-L23)

The words “*it is our time to fly*” is the reason of why this lyrics belongs to hyperbole, because as we know that human cannot fly, the word fly here represents the emphasizing of the human action after they stand together as the words “Stand by my side” before that.

2. Personification

Personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth or nature) is made human (Kennedy, 1983:487). Personification gives human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or ideas. This can really affect the way the reader imagines things. There five six lines of personification found in this study which can be seen in the below:

“It *greet*s me with its *cheerful eyes*”(S1-L4)

This sentence is marked as personification because of the word “greet” and “cheerful eyes”. This two words make the sun seems like human since we know that sun doesn’t has eyes and mouth to greet. The meaning of the sentence is the sun and when it shines make him feel better.

“No matter what the world’s *bring*” (S5-L5)

The word *bring* is the mark of personification in this sentence. This sentence describe that world seems like a living thing which has a hand or something that it can use to bring something, Meanwhile the world is not a living thing which can bring something. The use of word *bring* here is only to beautify a sentence and to add the strong feeling of the message delivered. The meaning of the sentence is even the world shows a phenomenon he will keep in doing his activity.

“Our lakes they *praise* the great” (S6-L15)

The use of the word *praise* here is the mark of personification since we know that lake cannot take an action like human. The meaning of the sentence is the lake is expressing the respect toward the great like a human

“That love never lives to *see* another day“(S7-L2)

Love is an abstract thing when it followed by the word’ see’ it seems like human which has eyes, therefore this sentence is personification. The meaning of the sentence is the love will always there.

“When freedom *calls*, I’ll be there” (S8L-22)

Freedom is not a living thing, but in this case it follows by the word “*call*” which made it such a living things that has mouth to call. Therefore this sentence contains of figurative language especially personification. The meaning of the sentence is when the time of freedom arrive, he will be there.

3. Paradox

Paradox occurs in a statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection make some sense (Kennedy,1979: 489). In this study, there are two lyrics found as paradox, they are

“And when I doubt, I will have no doubt” (S2-L7)

“Some folks are dying to live, and other live to die”(S5-L15)

This sentence shows the two contradictory to provoke into seeking another sense or context in which it would be true. There is the word *doubt* with *no doubt* and *dying to live* with *live to dying* that contradict to each other in a sentence, so that these two sentences are paradox. The meaning of the first sentence is the man feels that there is certainty although at the first he feels hesitate and the second sentence is some people try hard to (try the best they can, like they will die) live, and other side people live but they seems like will die.

4. Metaphor

Metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which in a literal sense, it is not. (Kennedy, (1983:482) There is not a connective words such as like or as. Metaphor is not plainly limited in the number of resembles it may indicate. There are ten sentences of metaphor in this study:

“*Home* is where the *heart* is, home is where your *love* is” (S6-L10)

This sentence is metaphor. In these lyrics there is a comparison between the word *home* with *heart* and *home* with *love*. The meaning of the sentence is our own home (land) is the most important and comfortable place in the world like heart and love to our body.

“*Made friends with the moonlight*” (S6-L2)

In the lyric there are two words that indicate as the sign of metaphor, they are friends and moonlight which make moonlight compared like his friend (human). The meaning of the sentence is moonlight is the man’s partner like human, they have a good relationship.

“And even if the birds won’t sing” (S5-L6)

The word sing in this case make the bird compared to human which can sing while the bird only producing a sound namely chirp. The meaning of the sentence is the bird produce a beautiful sound like human.

“And even if the sun won’t *smile*” (S5-L9)

The word smile is the reason of why this sentence indicates as a metaphor since that sun compared to human in the case of having smile. The meaning of the sentence is even the sun will not shine he still do his activity.

“Digging our pages past” (S2-L9)

This sentence is marked as metaphor especially indirect metaphor because of the word *pages past* which compared as someone’s past life. The meaning of the sentence is open again the moment in the past.

“And when there’s a gray in our hair and we have not much to do”

(S3-L19)

This is metaphor because it comparing the human process of becoming old with the word gray in hair. The meaning of the sentence is Getting old and the time has passed

“The world turns gray now” (S5-L18)

This sentence is metaphor that marked by the word turn gray which indirectly compared with the process of time changing. The meaning of the sentence is the man has not much time because it flies day by day.

“The storm clouds are coming” (S8-L9)

The storm cloud based on the non literal meaning indirectly compared with the bad condition or danger, so this sentence can be said as metaphor. The meaning of the sentence is there is a problem or danger in front of them.

“Pray for sunny weather” S8-L48

The word sunny weather is a figurative language especially metaphor. Based on its meaning, the sunny weather metaphorically means a good or better condition. The meaning of the sentence is The hope and pray for a better live and environment.

“All day I m paving my way”

In this sentence the word “paving” is a mark for a type of figurative language called Metaphor. It is not the literal meaning as man the really in

process of paving a way, but the man want to prepare his way to go to the life after. The word “paving” metaphorically means the process of preparation

5. Simile

Kennedy (1983:482) defines simile is comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, usually like, as, than or verb such as resembles. Generally, a simile refers to only one characteristic that two things have in common. There is only one sentence of simile in this study:

“I will remember what you said as I watch the stars spark” (S5-L20)

This sentence categorized as simile because simile is the comparison of two things indicate by some connective; usually as, like, as or a verb such a resembling. In this lyric the word *remember* what you said is compared with the word *watch the stars spark* by using connective “as” as one of the signs of simile. The meaning of the sentence is he will Remember and keep it in his mind, put it on his long-term memory.

6. Synecdoche

Synecdoche is the use of part of a thing to stand for the whole of it or vice versa (Kennedy, 1979: 489). From the definition above a synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole.

There is only one synecdoche found in this study. It can be seen in the table below:

“Our *hand alone* can feel so helpless and weak” (S4-L19)

The word *hand alone* is representative of a person. Hand is a part of a body but in this case it represents the whole body or we can say as the representative of the owner of that body: a person. So this lyric is said as synecdoche since it marks with the word *hand* which as a part of thing that represents the whole. The meaning of the sentence is people alone who want to help is helpless and weak if we compare with many people

D. CONCLUSSION AND SUGGESTION

1. Conclusion

This study has discussed the analysis of figurative language in Raef's selected song's lyrics. It was specifically discussed about the types of figurative language, the dominant types of figurative language, the reason indicated and the meaning of figurative language.

Overall, the result of this study can be inferred into some points below:

- a. The study found that there are six from nine types of Kennedy's concept of figurative language found in the lyrics of Raef's selected songs, they are hyperbole, personification, paradox, metaphor, synecdoche, and simile while apostrophe, litotes and metonymy are not found there.
- b. Based on the analysis there are twenty four lines that contain of figurative language. Metaphor is the dominant types of figurative language with the number of percentage 42% and followed by personification and hyperbole with each of them has the number of percentage 21%. Paradox placed the medium position with the

number of percentage 8% and the last position are simile and Synecdoche which has the same number of percentage 4%.

2. Suggestion

In order to get comprehensive understanding about figurative language it is suggested that:

- a. The next researcher should have more data and references in order to make study more detail.
- b. Observation on figurative language in other literature is also expected in order to have broader and deeper understanding.
- c. The other studies on figurative language are expected to be conducted in boarder field.

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