AN ARTICLE

ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
IN ADELE’S SONG LYRICS

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Sarjana Degree in English

Department Faculty of Teacher Training and Education Mataram University

BY:

BAIQ RAHAYU MULYARTI
E1D 109 100

ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM
LANGUAGE AND ART DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MATARAM UNIVERSITY
2014
HALAMAN PENGESAHAN JURNAL SKRIPSI

Jurnal Skripsi dengan judul: “ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ADELE’S SONG LYRICS”. Telah disetujui oleh dosen pembimbing sebagai salah satu persyaratan untuk memperoleh gelar sarjana pendidikan, pada jurusan Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni Program Studi Bahasa Inggris.

Mataram, November 2014

Dosen Pembimbing Skripsi I

[Signature]

Prof. Drs. Mahyuni, M.A. Ph.D
NIP. 19631231198803 1 023

Dosen pembimbing Skripsi II

[Signature]

Muh. Isnaini S.S. M.A
NIP. 19790820200501 1 002

Mengetahui:
Ketua Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa dan Seni

[Signature]

Dra. Siti Rohana Hariana Intiana, M.Pd.
NIP. 19660331199303 2 002
ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ADELE’S SONG LYRICS

Baiq Rahayu Mulyarti

English Education Department, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education
Mataram University, Jl. Majapahit No. 62 Mataram 83125
Email: rahayumulyarti@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study is entitled Analysis of the Use of Figurative Language in Adele’s Song Lyrics. The aims of this study are to find the figurative language, the contextual meaning of figurative language and the dominant type figurative language in Adele’s song lyrics. This study belongs to descriptive research in which qualitative method is applied in obtaining the information. The data were acquired from 21 album containing of 14 songs. There are three songs taken as the samples: Rolling in the Deep, Set Fire to the Rain, and Turning Tables. There are three types of figurative language are found in this study: Hyperbole, personification, and synecdoche. Based on the contextual meaning the Adele’s song lyrics talk about the betrayal and conflict in love story. The dominant type used of figurative language mostly found is hyperbole, than personification in the second position and synecdoche come after.

Key words: analysis, figurative language, Adele, song, lyric

ABSTRAK


Kata Kunci: Analisis, Majas, Adele, Lagu, Lirik
INTRODUCTION

Language is something that cannot be separated from human’s life. It can be understood that a language is considered to be a system of communication which is used by people when they speak using sounds, symbols, and words in expressing meaning, idea, thought, and feeling. The language can be used in many forms, primarily through oral and written communication. Language has very important function in human life. The basic logical functions of language were: 1) Descriptive language used to state facts, referring things, events, properties, etc. 2) Expressive/evocative language used to express, to evoke an emotion or feeling. 3) Prescriptive language used to command something, to order, or to prevent something. (http://sun025.sun.ac.za/portal/page/portal/Arts/graduate_school/docs/Tab1/Handout %205.pdf). For example, the man wants to express the beautiful of the girl by compare it to the roses, or the people want to comment about the craziness of someone by mentioning the opposite of the craziness, etc. They use language in a manner where the literal meaning of the words is not true or does not make sense, but implies a non-literal meaning which does make sense or that could be true. It is called figurative language.

Figurative language is language using figure of speech (a way of saying one thing and meaning another), in other words, language cannot be taken literally or should not be taken literally only. Figurative language has many types, for some peoples who have studied about it, figurative language has different types but we often heard or using some of them. For examples: metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, irony, litotes, allegory, paradox, synecdoche, metonymy, and apostrophe. Figurative language is often found in literary works such as poetry, song, drama, and prose. Those media could be alternative ways to convey the author or the composer’s idea, thoughts and even experiences to their viewers, readers, and listeners indirectly with a beautiful way. As an example in music, the composers are used to using sentences or words become beautiful sentences in each line of song lyrics. The beautiful words of song lyrics will give additional value to the lyrics and it is related to the songwriter capability to choose certain words to present their ideas.

One of the famous singer and composer who have beautiful song lyrics is Adele. She has writes song based on her experiences and has 2 albums, “19” is her first album released in early 2008 and “21” is her second album released in early 2011 and some of singles. One of her song in the second album is set fire to the rain. In the lyrics of those song has figurative language for example in line 25, And I threw us into the flames. In these lyrics, in the real condition people cannot throw their self into the flames, it can make them getting burn. It is an exaggeration. Based on the situation, the lyrics mean that the composer does not want to remember all about them and forget it. It is called Hyperbole. In this album the writer tries to analyze the figurative language in the three songs, such as Rolling in the Deep, Set Fire to the Rain, and Turning Table.
In terms of the use of figurative language in the song lyrics, the writer is interested in analyzing Adele’s song lyrics because she is one of the favorite singers with the beautiful voice who creates beautiful song lyrics based on her experiences. That is why the writer conducted the study entitled “Analysis of The Use of Figurative Language in Adele’s Song lyrics”. This study is expected to figure out the kinds of figurative language and the meaning behind it out.

**Statements of the problems**
1. What kinds of figurative language are used in Adele’s song lyrics?
2. What are the contextual meanings of the figurative language used in Adele’s song lyrics?
3. What is the dominant figurative language use in Adele’s song lyrics?

**The purpose of the study**
1. The types of figurative language used in Adele’s song lyrics
2. To describe the contextual meaning of the figurative language used in Adele’s song lyrics.
3. The dominant figurative language used in Adele’s song lyrics.

**Scope of the study**
1. The subject of the study is Adele’s song. There are three songs of Adele analyzed, Rolling in The Deep, Set Fire to the Rain and Turning Tables.
2. The study is focused on the use of figurative languages in the lyrics of each song.
3. The writer uses a descriptive qualitative analysis to analyze the use of figurative language in Adele’s song. The data of this study is described and it did not calculate.

**Significance of the study**

**Theoretical**
1. The results of this study are expected to give some positive contributions to the study of figurative language, especially in analysis the use of figurative language in song lyrics.
2. As a reference to the people who have the same interest in study of figurative language.
3. This study will inspire those who would like to do similar research along with the progress of science in general

**Practical**
1. Those who love songs, figurative languages are one way to understand its function.
2. This study is expected to give constructive feedback to the student of English, particularly those who are much involved in analysis of figurative language.
REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Related Studies

Firman Koma Febdilan is one of college students in Mataram University, who has made paper about figurative language in song lyrics. He has made paper entitle “An Analysis of figurative language used in lyrics of selected Dewa 19 Songs”. From the analysis he found metaphor, hyperbole and personification but metaphor is more dominant from the others. Another study is Suryati’s. The study focus on “An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Five Four Fighting’s Song Lyrics”. This study found out figurative languages like metonymy, hyperbole, personification, metaphor, simile, and apostrophe. And the Last one Baiq Atika Pratiwi Listiana, a student in Mataram University also focuses on the study about figurative language entitle “An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Lyrics of Selected Scorpion Songs”. The study founds personification, metonymy, metaphor, and simile

Literature is grouped into three genres; poetry, drama, and prose. In Barnet et al. (1963:333) literature is an adult game, a sort of make believe, is suggested in some of the words we apply to pieces of literature “fiction”, “story”, “tale”, and “play”. Related to Wallek and Warren (1949) “within poetry, drama, and fiction”, the greatest works are selected in aesthetic grounds: other books are picked for their reputation or intellectual eminence together with aesthetic value of a rather narrow kind: style, composition, general force of presentation is the usual characteristic singled out”.

Poetry is piece of literature written by a poet to express various emotions in various techniques such as repetition, meter and rhyme. The structural of poetry include the line, couplet, strophe and stanza. “The certain types of poetry will use the grammatical categories such as genre or tense, quite deliberately” (Wallek and Warren, 1949:24). “The great function of poetry is precisely this: to repair to the material of experience, seizing hold of the reality of sensation and fancy beneath the surface of conventional ideas, and the out of that living but indefinite material to build new structures, richer, finer, fitter, to the primary tendencies of our nature, truer to the ultimate possibilities of the soul” (Santayana, 1990:161).

Prose is writing that use an ordinary language. It is distinguished from poetry which tends to express the idea through meaning, rhythmic language choice. In writing a prose, there is no necessity to use beautiful words. If the normal features of words, (rhyme, alliteration and meter) have an important role in creating verse; prose tends to consider the content as the priority. Prose is divided into fiction and nonfiction. Fiction is divided into novel, short story, novelette, while nonfiction can be in forms of scientific report, journal and history (Khadijah: 2007:6)
Drama is literary composition that tells stories accommodated to the action and dialogue the actors and intended to exhibit a picture of human conflict. According to Abrams (1971), drama is a literary from designed for the theatre, where actors take the roles of the characters, perform the indicated action, and utter the written dialogue.

Literary works such as drama, poetry and prose are interesting to be analyzed because they are form of reflection of lives of human beings and it share out liter and joy. In observing works of literature like poem, novel, and short story, we have to know about literature itself firstly it because literature helps us understand the all things that related to the literary works. It also brings us closer to other human beings, other nationalities, culture or races, and it will make our observation to be easier.

Figurative language is words, phrases or expression in which the meaning of the words or phrases or expression are different from literal language. The figurative language is used for comparison, clarity or emphasis. (Abrams in Khadijah: 2007) said that figurative language is divided into two classes, figure of though and figure of speech. Figure of thought is a figure in which words used have an extension in their standard meaning, while figure of speech is a figure of which the words have a rhetorical effect.

Function of figurative language:
1. Figurative language affords us imaginative pleasure.
2. Figures of speech are a way of bringing additional imagery into verse, of making the abstract concrete, of making poetry more sensuous.
3. Figures of speech are a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and of conveying attitudes along with information.
4. Figures of speech are a means of concentration, a way of saying much in brief compass.

There are various types of figurative language; they are metaphor, personification, hyperbole, simile, litotes, paradox, metonymy, Allusion, idioms, irony, and synecdoche

RESEARCH METHOD

The method applied in this thesis was descriptive qualitative method. There are two albums of Adele 19 and 21, this study only choose 21 album consisting 14 title songs that can be a source of the data in this study. This study takes three songs as the sample, there are “Rolling in the Deep”, “Set Fire to the Rain” and “Turning Tables”. The data of this study were downloaded from internet. Before downloading, listening and reading were done. This was aimed to convince the correct choice of the songs being planned to analyze. Furthermore, there were three songs downloaded from the internet.
After collecting the data and studying the information, which is closely related to the analysis, the writer begins to analyze the data by taking the following steps: identifying the types of figurative language, classifying the figurative language, describing the figurative language and finally explaining the result of this study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS
This chapter presents the data found in this study. It has been indicated that the data of this study were downloaded from internet consisting of three songs. Each song has different lyrics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Song</th>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rolling in the Deep</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Set Fire to the Rain</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turning Table</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figurative language in Adele’s song lyrics:

**Table 1. The type of figurative language in ‘Rolling in the Deep’**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lyrics</th>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Types of figurative language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finally I can see you crystal clear</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hyperbole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You had my heart inside your hand</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And I’m gonna make your head burn</td>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The scars of your love remind me of us</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Personification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2. The type of figurative language in ‘Set Fire to the Rain’**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lyrics</th>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Types of figurative language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That heart you caught must be waiting for you</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>Synecdoche</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>But I set fire to the rain</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hyperbole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And I threw us into the flames</td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 3. The type of figurative language in ‘Turning Table’**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lyrics</th>
<th>Line</th>
<th>Types of figurative language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under haunted skies I see you, ohh</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Hyperbole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ve braved a hundred storms to leave you</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When the thunder calls for me</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Personification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Contextual Meaning of Adele’s song

Rolling in the Deep

Hyperbole

The hyperbole is usually used in order to give more emphasizing to the message transmitted. In a song, it could give power to the lyric. It also deliberates emotional of the song writer. So, the listener might feel the spirit of the song when it is played. The first example of hyperbole is in the lyric of the song “Rolling in the deep”. The songwriter states *Finally I can see you crystal clear*. Crystal clear here was exaggeration or over statement that the song writer used to describing her boy. The songwriter used this kind of imagery to represent that her boy lied and now she knew about everything.

The other examples of hyperbole could be seen in the following lyrics is *You had my heart inside your hand*. It was identified as a hyperbole because people could not really have a heart inside of their hands. This line literally meant that she (songwriter) really loved him (boyfriend) that her love was only him. The songwriter also states *I’m gonna make your head burn* and identified as hyperbole. If we looked at the lyrics “…make your head burn”, it was identified as a hyperbole because it was an over statement. In real condition people could not burn their head. She stated like that because she was really angry with the boy and did not like with the unhealthy relationship.

Personification

This kind of figurative language is commonly used to express something is not alive as if it is alive such as a human being. The example of personification could be seen on “Rolling in the Deep” song lyrics like *The scars of your love remind me of us*. From those italic lyrics, the word *love* was treated like human being. Love was something abstract, which we felt with heart. It was clear that the underlined lyrics above belong to personification because *love* an abstract idea, inanimate object was described as if it was human.

Set Fire to the Rain

Hyperbole

In the title of song “Set Fire to the Rain” also indicated hyperbole. It was hyperbole because setting fire to the rain was an exaggeration. This verse meant that she was not happy and wanted to her relationship with her boy to be over.

Still in “Set fire to the rain” song, the writer also stated *I threw us into the flames* was also indicated hyperbole. *Us* here referred to songwriter and her boy. In the real condition people could not throw their self to the flames, it could make them getting burn, it was an exaggeration. The lyric meant she/songwriter did not want to remember all about them. She wanted to throw all about her and her boy.
Synecdoche

A figure of speech which is mentioned a part of something to suggest the whole. The example of synecdoche could be seen in “Set Fire to the Rain” song, *That heart you caught must be waiting for you*. When the writer wrote “the heart you caught must be waiting for you”, it could not be in a literal sense. What she meant that she herself was waiting, which was represented by her “heart”. In this case, the part which was made to represent the whole and therefore this was a synecdoche.

Turning Table

Hyperbole

In “Turning Table”, hyperbole also indicates in the lyrics *Under haunted skies I see you, ooh*. The songwriter was exaggerating that the sky was haunted. In reality, the sky was cloudy, sunny, etc. Based on the situation, the lyrics meant that the she/songwriter knew what the man was really like even in the bad sides. The other example of hyperbole in the same song was in the following lyrics *I’ve braved a hundred storms to leave you.* The songwriter stated that she braved hundred storms to leave her boy. It was an exaggeration and it was impossible if she braved storm even less a hundred storms. The lyric meant that she braved her ego and her temper to leave her boy.

Personification

The next example of personification was found in “Turning table” song. Considering with this following lyrics *When the thunder calls for me*. Here, the thunder, which was inanimate object, which gift human qualities or an ability that was the ability to call someone. Therefore, this was called a personification. In relation to the context of situation, the line “the thunder calls for me” would be best interpreted as representing the songwriter’s courage and readiness to end her relationship with her boyfriend.

The Dominant Use of Figurative Language

Based on the analysis before, this study found some figurative language. In the first song ‘Rolling in the Deep’, there were 3 Hyperboles and 1 personification. Second song ‘Set Fire to the Rain’, found 2 hyperboles, 1 metonymy, 1 simile, and 1 synecdoche. And the last song was ‘Turning Table’ found 2 hyperboles and 1 Personification. From the result above, the dominant used figurative language in those three songs were hyperboles.
CONCLUSIONS

The data analysis in this study showed that there were three types of figurative language use in Adele’s song lyrics, i.e. Hyperbole, personification, and synecdoche.

Based on the situation, three songs of Adele talked about the betrayal and conflict in love story and end up with heart break. The same theme of each song make these three songs are unique. It is also usually happen in real life.

The dominant use of figurative language:

In these three songs analyzed, i.e. Rolling in the Deep, Set Fire to the Rain and Turning Tables, it was indicated that Hyperbole was more dominant to the other figurative language. This conferred was understandable because the songs commonly contain expressions, salutations, appreciations, confusions, and motivation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


Khadijah, Nunung. 2007. An analysis of Figurative Language of the main Character’s Potryalss In George orwell’s Animal Farm. An Published Thesis of S1 Program of FKIP Unram : FKIP Unram.


