



## AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN "EYE OF THE TIGER" SONG LYRICS

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### Abstract:

Figurative language as a means of conveying a hidden message helps a songwriter to compose and produce impactful and meaningful songs. Using figurative language, the singer able to convey the messages in the song in a concise and meaningful way. In addition, when analyzing the types of figurative language, a song called "Eye of the Tiger" attracts the attention of the researcher. This research then focuses on analyzing the types of figurative language found in the lyrics of Survivor's song "Eye of the Tiger" and its meanings. The purpose of the study is to identify, classify and describe the meanings of the fictional languages used in the song "Eye of the Tiger". This study uses a descriptive qualitative method. Document analysis is used as the data collection method in this study. The result of the data analysis shows that there are five types of figurative language in the lyrics of Survivor's song "Eye of the Tiger". They are metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification and alliteration. In addition, the researcher also describes the meaning of this type of figurative language.

*Keywords: figurative language, Analysis, types of figurative language, meaning, song*

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### INTRODUCTION

Music as an art form has influenced and captivated audiences throughout history. Popular songs are often an important part of pop culture, and their lyrics have the power to convey deep messages and affect listeners' feelings (Pannese et al., 2016). One example of a song that has achieved extraordinary popularity is "Eye of the Tiger" which was popularized by the American rock band, Survivor, in 1982. This song not only managed to top the charts, but also became one of the anthems of strength and enthusiasm. Figurative language or figurative language has a very important role in creating emotional and artistic impact in song lyrics (Colston, 2020). In the context of "Eye of the Tiger," the lyrics were written by Jim Peterik and Frankie Sullivan, and have been widely praised for their powerful and motivating themes. However, despite the song's widespread popularity and influence, no studies have specifically analyzed the use of figurative language in the lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger." The problems in the lyrics of the song "Eye of the Tiger" can be found through an in-depth analysis of the use of figurative language. Several problems that can be identified in the lyrics of this song are confusion in interpretation, accuracy of metaphors and similes, figurative consistency, and meaning and social context (Pannese et al., 2016). First, the use of figurative language can lead to different variations of interpretation, which in turn can cause confusion in understanding its meaning. Second, it is important to evaluate the accuracy of the metaphors and similes used in the song lyrics. Problems can arise if the metaphors or similes are inadequate or inaccurate, thus obscuring the true meaning intended by the

songwriter (O'Callaghan & Grocke, 2009). Third, in the lyrics of the song "Eye of the Tiger," there is difficulty in maintaining a consistent use of figurative language. This consistency involves the use of metaphors, comparisons, personifications, or other forms of figurative language that may appear in song lyrics. This inconsistency can disrupt the unity and continuity of the meaning that the songwriter wants to convey (Barbieri, 2020). Fourth, it is important to understand the meaning and social context behind the use of figurative language in the lyrics of this song. Song lyrics often reflect the social and cultural realities at the time they were written. If the use of figurative language is not fully understood in the relevant social context, then problems may arise and reduce the expressiveness and accuracy of the message to be conveyed (Bach & Chao, 2012).

Previous research related to the figurative language has been done by many researchers. A descriptive qualitative research conducted by Maudy Yaser Fajrin and Aseptiana Parmawati with entitled "An Analysis Of Figurative Language Found In Song Of Bruno Mars Entitled "Grenade" in 2021. The objective of this study is to examine the figurative language present in the lyrics of the song "Grenade" by analyzing their context and interpreting their meanings. The data source consists of song lyrics obtained from online platforms, and the research methodology involves a descriptive qualitative analysis. The findings indicate that the song employs various forms of figurative language, including metaphor, hyperbole, and repetition. Notably, hyperbole emerges as the most frequently used figurative device in the lyrics. The contextual meaning of each figurative language is often clarified in relation to the specific situation portrayed in the lyrics (Fajrin & Parmawati, 2021).

Figurative language is especially suitable for analyzing the lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger" due to its poetic nature. Songwriters use a variety of figurative language devices to convey their message, evoke emotion, and create vivid images. By examining the figurative language in the lyrics of this song, we can gain a deeper understanding of the song's theme, symbolism, and the intended impact on the listener (Neil J & Paul B, 2001). One aspect of the suitability of this song for figurative language analysis lies in the motivational and empowering themes it contains (Colston, 2020). Figurative language devices such as metaphors and similes can be effective in capturing and amplifying the emotions associated with overcoming challenges, embracing courage, and reaching goals. In addition, the use of figurative language in the lyrics of this song can also help create a clear picture and bring the song's message to life. For example, the use of personification in lyrics can give human attributes to abstract objects or concepts, thus strengthening the expressive power and the desired impression (O'Callaghan & Grocke, 2009). In analyzing the lyrics to "Eye of the Tiger," a study of figurative language will provide deeper insight into the artistic choices of the songwriters. Through understanding the types of figurative language used, we can reveal hidden meanings, understand their impact on listeners' emotions, and appreciate the beauty and complexity contained in the lyrics of this song.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The research design for "An Analysis of Figurative Language in 'Eye of the Tiger' Song Lyrics" is a qualitative study. Specifically, it employs a descriptive research approach to examine and analyze the figurative language present in the lyrics of the song. The qualitative nature of the study allows for an in-depth exploration of the figurative language used in the song, focusing on its types, meanings, and how it contributes to the artistic expression and overall meaning of the song. The researcher will conduct a thorough examination of the lyrics, identifying and classifying the different types of figurative language employed. The analysis will involve a close reading and interpretation of the lyrics to understand the intended effects and implications of the figurative language used. The research design also incorporates a data collection method that involves studying and documenting existing sources of the song lyrics. This design ensures a comprehensive exploration of the figurative language in "Eye of the Tiger" and provides insights into the linguistic and artistic aspects of the song. The research subject for "An Analysis of Figurative Language in 'Eye of the Tiger' Song Lyrics" is the song itself, specifically the lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger." The focus of the study is on the figurative language used within the song, such as metaphors, similes, personification, and other literary devices. The research subject does not involve human participants or entities, but rather the analysis and interpretation of the written text.

### **Research Subject**

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### **Research Procedure**

Research procedure refers to the systematic and organized approach used to conduct a research study. It outlines the step-by-step process that researchers follow to collect data, analyze information, and draw conclusions (Lindgren et al., 2020).

The research procedure for "An Analysis of Figurative Language in 'Eye of the Tiger' Song Lyrics" involves several steps to achieve the research objectives.

1. **Data Collection:** The researcher will obtain the lyrics of the song "Eye of the Tiger" from a reliable source, such as an official website or a reputable database. The lyrics will serve as the primary data for the analysis.
2. **Literature Review:** Before conducting the analysis, the researcher will conduct a literature review to gain a comprehensive understanding of figurative language, its types, and its significance in song lyrics. This will help establish a theoretical framework for the analysis.
3. **Identification of Figurative Language:** The researcher will systematically read and analyze the lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger" to identify instances of figurative language.

This may include metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, and other relevant literary devices.

4. **Data Analysis:** Once the figurative language instances are identified, the researcher will categorize and classify them according to their specific types. Each instance will be thoroughly examined to understand its intended meaning and its contribution to the overall message and artistic expression of the song.
5. **Interpretation and Description:** The researcher will interpret and describe the meanings and effects of the identified figurative language within the context of the song. This will involve analyzing the metaphorical associations, symbolic representations, and rhetorical devices employed in the lyrics.
6. **Data Presentation:** The findings of the analysis will be presented in a clear and organized manner. This may include tables, charts, or textual explanations to illustrate the distribution and significance of different types of figurative language in the song.

### **Technique of Data Collection**

Technique of Data Collection refers to the specific methods and approaches used to gather data in a research study (Assarroudi et al., 2018). It involves selecting appropriate tools, instruments, or procedures to collect information relevant to the research objectives. The choice of data collection techniques depends on the nature of the research, the research questions, and the type of data needed. The technique of data collection for "An Analysis of Figurative Language in 'Eye of the Tiger' Song Lyrics" can involve the following methods:

1. **Document Analysis:** The primary technique for data collection is document analysis. The researcher will collect the lyrics of the song "Eye of the Tiger" from a reliable source, such as an official website or a reputable database. The lyrics will serve as the main data for the analysis. The researcher will carefully read and analyze the lyrics to identify and examine instances of figurative language.
2. **Transcription:** If the lyrics are not readily available in written form, the researcher may need to transcribe the song lyrics from an audio or video recording. This involves listening to the song and accurately transcribing the lyrics word by word. Transcription ensures that the researcher has a written text for analysis.
3. **Data Recording:** The researcher can record the identified instances of figurative language in a systematic manner. This may involve creating a spreadsheet, a coding sheet, or any other suitable format to record relevant information about each instance, such as the type of figurative language, the specific lines or phrases, and any observations or interpretations.
4. **Data Verification:** It is important to ensure the accuracy of the collected data. The researcher can cross-check the transcribed lyrics with official sources or consult with experts in song analysis to verify the correctness of the lyrics and the identified instances of figurative language.

## Technique of Data Analysis

Technique of Data Analysis refers to the methods and procedures used to analyze and interpret the collected data (Assarroudi et al., 2018). The technique of data analysis for "An Analysis of Figurative Language in 'Eye of the Tiger' Song Lyrics" can involve the following approaches:

1. **Identification of Figurative Language:** The first step in data analysis is to identify and classify the instances of figurative language present in the song lyrics. This includes identifying different types of figurative language such as similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole, and others. Each instance should be carefully noted and categorized based on its specific type.
2. **Contextual Analysis:** Once the figurative language instances are identified, the researcher can analyze the contextual meaning of each instance. This involves examining the surrounding lyrics, the overall theme of the song, and any relevant cultural or historical context. By considering the context, the researcher can interpret the intended meaning and effect of the figurative language in the song.
3. **Interpretation and Explanation:** After analyzing the contextual meaning, the researcher can provide interpretations and explanations for each identified instance of figurative language. This may involve explaining the intended metaphorical or symbolic associations, the emotional impact, or the rhetorical purpose of the figurative language within the song.
4. **Comparative Analysis:** In addition to analyzing individual instances, the researcher may also conduct a comparative analysis. This involves comparing the different types of figurative language used in the song and examining their relative frequency, effectiveness, or thematic significance. The researcher can identify patterns or recurring themes related to the use of figurative language in the lyrics.
5. **Synthesis and Conclusion:** Finally, the researcher can synthesize the findings of the data analysis and draw conclusions about the overall use and impact of figurative language in "Eye of the Tiger." This can involve summarizing key findings, discussing the artistic and communicative effects of the figurative language, and highlighting any notable observations or insights.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Findings

"Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor is a popular song released in 1982. The lyrics of this song contain several examples of figurative language. The types of figurative language used in the lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger" such as:

Table 1. Figurative Language found in "Eye of the Tiger"

NO	LYRIC	TYPES FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
1	"Risin' up, back on the street"	Metaphor
2	"Just a man and his will to survive"	Simile

3	"Went the distance, now I'm back on my feet"	Hyperbole
4	"Went the distance, now I'm not gonna stop"	Personification
5	"So many times, it happens too fast"	Alliteration

**Lyric No 1** Shows "rising up" represents overcoming challenges or difficult situations. It suggests a rise from a low point or setback, implying the ability to overcome obstacles and move forward. The metaphorical comparison is made by connecting this rise with being "back on the street." Being "back on the street" is an expression that signifies being active and engaged in the real world, ready to face whatever comes your way. It implies a sense of being back in the game, ready to take on challenges and seize opportunities. Overall, the metaphor portrays the idea of resilience, strength, and determination. It encapsulates the spirit of bouncing back from adversity, getting back on your feet, and being ready to face the world with renewed energy and determination.

**Lyric No 2** Shows the comparison is made by using the word "like" or "as," which are common indicators of a simile. It states that a man's will to survive is similar to a powerful force, emphasizing the strength and significance of his determination. The simile suggests that the man's will to survive is not merely a simple desire but a force that drives him forward. It highlights the resilience and unwavering determination within the individual, depicting it as a potent and unstoppable energy. By comparing the man's will to survive to a powerful force, the simile implies that this determination has the ability to overcome obstacles and endure through challenging situations. It portrays the man's resolve as something that cannot be easily diminished or defeated. Overall, this simile in the lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger" highlights the significance of an individual's determination to survive. It portrays this determination as a powerful force, capable of propelling someone through difficult circumstances and inspiring them to overcome challenges.

**Lyric No 3** Shows the phrase "went the distance" is used metaphorically to describe a journey or a struggle. It implies that the person has faced and conquered significant obstacles, enduring a demanding and arduous journey. The hyperbole lies in the exaggerated claim of "going the distance." It amplifies the extent of the challenges faced, implying that the person has overcome a tremendous amount of adversity and endured a long, difficult journey to reach their current position. The phrase "now I'm back on my feet" further emphasizes the hyperbole. It suggests that despite the immense difficulties faced, the person has managed to recover and regain stability. It symbolizes a successful comeback and a return to a strong and steady position. By employing hyperbole, the line emphasizes the magnitude of the challenges overcome and the tenacity required to overcome them. It conveys a sense of resilience and strength, highlighting the individual's ability to rise above obstacles and find a way to regain control and stability. Overall, the hyperbole in this line of the lyrics portrays the person's journey as an epic struggle, magnifying the scale of their achievements. It underscores the theme of

resilience and triumph over adversity, inspiring listeners to persevere through challenges and find the strength to get back on their feet, no matter how difficult the journey may be.

**Lyric No 4** Shows the concept of distance is personified by giving it the ability to possess a desire or will. By suggesting that distance itself has a will to stop or persevere, the lyrics metaphorically represent the challenges and obstacles faced by the person. The personification of distance conveys the idea that the journey or struggle undertaken by the individual has taken them a significant distance, both physically and metaphorically. It implies that distance has become a tangible force, an entity that the person is up against. Furthermore, the line emphasizes the determination of the individual by stating, "now I'm not gonna stop." It signifies the unyielding resolve and refusal to give up in the face of challenges. By attributing this determination to distance, the personification emphasizes the magnitude of their willpower and commitment. The personification of distance in this line serves to create a vivid and relatable image, making the struggle and determination more tangible and relatable to the listeners. It adds depth and emotion to the lyrics, as if the distance itself becomes an opponent to be conquered. Overall, the personification of distance in the lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger" enhances the message of determination and perseverance. It symbolizes the challenges faced on the journey and underscores the individual's unyielding resolve to keep pushing forward, regardless of the obstacles encountered.

**Lyric No 5** Shows The alliteration "So many times, it happens too fast" in the lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger" is created by the repetition of the "s" sound in the words "so," "times," and "fast." This alliteration adds emphasis and rhythm to the line. Alliteration is a literary device that involves the repetition of consonant sounds in close proximity. In this case, the repeated "s" sound creates a musical quality to the line, enhancing its impact and making it more memorable. The phrase "So many times, it happens too fast" suggests a pattern of events or situations that occur rapidly and frequently. The alliteration amplifies the sense of urgency and intensity in these occurrences, emphasizing their significance and impact on the person's experience. The repetition of the "s" sound also adds a smooth and flowing quality to the line. It contributes to the overall musicality and rhythm of the song, enhancing the lyrical quality and making it pleasing to the ear. Furthermore, the alliteration helps to draw attention to the phrase and highlight its importance within the lyrics. It creates a sense of cohesion and unity within the line, tying together the words and ideas. Overall, the alliteration in this line of the lyrics serves to add emphasis, rhythm, and musicality. It enhances the overall impact of the line, making it more memorable and engaging for the listener.

## **Discussion**

The data above presents the results of a study on the use of figurative language in the lyrics of the song "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor. This study connects the use of figurative language in song lyrics with several linguistic theories, namely Semantic Theory and Rhetoric. In the context of Semantic Theory, the study explains how the use of figurative language in song lyrics creates additional meanings and influences the

interpretation of the listener. For example, the use of metaphors like "eye of the tiger" portrays the perseverance and courage one faces when dealing with challenges. Through the use of figurative language, the song lyrics are able to communicate deeper messages and provide an emotional experience for the listener. On the other hand, from a rhetorical perspective, the study highlights how the use of figurative language in song lyrics creates a strong rhetorical effect. The use of similes, hyperboles, and other figures of speech in the lyrics influences the feelings and emotions of the listener. The song successfully instills a sense of spirit and motivation through the persuasive and evocative use of figurative language. By connecting the findings of this research with linguistic theories such as Semantic Theory and Rhetoric, the discussion attempts to explain how the use of figurative language in the lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger" has an impact on the interpretation by the listener and the rhetorical effects created. The data indicates that the use of figurative language in the song lyrics reflects the principles of semantic theory and rhetorical language, and it influences the listener's experience in receiving the conveyed messages of the song. The discussion also links the use of figurative language with its influence on the listener. The use of metaphors, similes, hyperboles, and others in the lyrics of the song can evoke emotions, motivate, and inspire the listener. When the listener hears lyrics filled with figurative language, they can feel the strength, spirit, and determination embedded within. Figurative language helps create an emotional connection between the song and the listener, making the song a source of strong motivation and inspiration. In the context of linguistic theories, the discussion also demonstrates how the figurative language in the song lyrics utilizes the semantic and rhetorical aspects of language. Through the selection of rich and meaningful words and the use of rhetorical devices, the song is able to communicate deeper and more significant messages. The appropriate use of figurative language also helps create the allure and power that distinguishes this song from others. Overall, the discussion portrays how the data from the lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor illustrates the use of figurative language and connects it with linguistic theories such as Semantic Theory and Rhetoric. The data indicates how the use of figurative language in the song lyrics achieves desired linguistic goals, such as delivering strong messages, motivating the listener, and creating an emotional connection. The song also reflects the social and cultural context in which it was popular in its time, as well as how figurative language can influence the listener and create a profound experience.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the data presented in findings and discussion, the analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger" by Survivor leads to the following conclusions. Figurative language plays a significant role in the lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger," contributing to the overall meaning and impact of the song. The use of metaphors, similes, and other rhetorical devices enhances the message conveyed and creates a deeper emotional connection with the listener. The lyrics of "Eye of the Tiger" employ figurative language to convey themes of perseverance, courage, and determination. The metaphorical representation of the "eye of the tiger" symbolizes strength and the ability to overcome challenges, resonating with the listeners and



inspiring them to face their own obstacles. The use of figurative language in the song lyrics aligns with the principles of Semantic Theory by adding layers of meaning and evoking emotions beyond the literal interpretation. This demonstrates the power of language and its ability to convey complex ideas through figurative expressions. From a rhetorical perspective, the figurative language in "Eye of the Tiger" creates a persuasive and motivational effect on the listeners. The deliberate choice of language and rhetorical devices contributes to the song's ability to inspire, uplift, and instill a sense of determination and resilience. The analysis of figurative language in "Eye of the Tiger" highlights the interplay between linguistics and artistic expression. The lyrics demonstrate how language can be creatively used to evoke emotions, convey messages, and connect with an audience on a deeper level.

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