

LANGUAGE STYLES USED IN WHITNEY HOUSTON'S SONGS



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ABSTRACT

LANGUAGE STYLES USED IN WHITNEY HOUSTON'S SONGS

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This study focuses on the types, meaning and the function of figurative language that used in Whitney Houston's songs. The writer uses theory by Keraf (2009) to analyze the types of figurative language and the function of figurative language. Whereas, semantics theory by Leech to analyze the meaning of the types of figurative language. In supporting this research of figurative language that found in Whitney Houston's songs, the writer uses qualitative methods. The result of this study, the writer found there are 7 metaphors, 2 hyperboles, and 5 repetitions. Based on the fuctions of figurative language, the writer concluded that figurative language functioned as a means to influence or convince the listeners, which means that language can make the reader or listener more confident with the author says; as a tool for creating the right atmosphere, and as a tool to reinforce the effect of the ideas. Overall the meaning of love is emphasizes on the use of love to educate, to achieve dream and love for someone.

***Keywords:** Language Style, Figurative Language, Meaning and Function, Song, Semantics, Whitney Houston.*

ABSTRAK**GAYA BAHASA YANG DIGUNAKAN DALAM LAGU- LAGU DARI
WHITNEY HOUSTON****Ulfa Hayatul Kamila****E1D014053**

Penelitian ini berfokus pada jenis, makna, dan fungsi bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam lagu-lagu Whitney Houston. Penulis menggunakan teori dari Keraf (2009) untuk menganalisis jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan dan fungsi bahasa kiasan. Sedangkan, semantik teori oleh Leech (1974) untuk menganalisis makna dari jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan. Dalam mendukung penelitian bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan dalam lagu-lagu Whitney Houston, penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif. Hasil dari penelitian ini, penulis menemukan ada 7 metafora, 2 hiperbola, dan 5 repetisi. Berdasarkan fungsi dari bahasa figuratif, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa bahasa figuratif berfungsi sebagai sarana untuk mempengaruhi atau meyakinkan pendengar, yang berarti bahwa bahasa dapat membuat pembaca atau pendengar lebih percaya dengan apa yang disampaikan oleh penulis; sebagai alat untuk menciptakan suasana yang tepat, dan sebagai alat untuk memperkuat efek dari ide-ide penulis tersebut. Secara keseluruhan arti cinta dalam lagu tersebut adalah menekankan pada penggunaan cinta untuk mendidik, untuk menggapai impian dan cinta yang diberikan untuk seseorang.

Kata Kunci: Gaya Bahasa, Bahasa Figuratif, Makna dan Fungsi, Lagu, Semantik, Whitney Houston.

INTRODUCTION

Language is a part of human being. It takes an important role in our life. We need language as a bridge to see the world and to minimize the gap between one people with the others. People use language to interact and communicate with the other. They can express their thought, feelings, ideas, and opinion in many ways. People can use spoken language such as conversation, poetry, songs, and speech. While in a written language they use a medium such as novel, book, and also magazine.

Literature is a medium through which humans express their ideas, feelings and emotions. Usually, the literary authors use it to express their feelings. According to Oxford Dictionary, a song is a short piece of music with the words sung. In this case, the lyrics of the song are categorized as poetry. These days, songs become one of the most popular ways to express feeling, ideas, or messages. According to Hornby (2010) song is a short piece of music with words that you sing. Song is a part of music which consists with melody, rhythm, and also lyrics. It is used to deliver the writer's feeling and emotion. From this explanation, it is important to make this thesis entitled "Language Styles Used in Whitney Houston Songs". The writer is very interested to examine the language style, the meaning and also the function of that song because of the song is very famous, as we know that when we hear about that songs that is sung by other people, we also know it is a Whitney Houston's song.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Language Styles

Language style is a way of using language. The style of the language makes it easy to capture any character and personality (Keraf 2010). According to Ducrot and Todorov (1994), they are states that the language style is a choice among others alternatives in using language. It refers to a way to convey the same information by

using different expressions and related to the various language variations that different situations and needs are used.

According Keraf (2010) language style is a way of giving expression through a special language that shows the soul and personality of the author (language users). The language force is an applied language study method that uses textual analysis to make discoveries about the structure and function of language (Simpson: 1996). Literal language refers to words that do not deviate from the intended meaning. Non-literal or figurative language refers to words, and groups of words, which exaggerate or alter the ordinary meaning of component words. Figurative language or language style is a way of showing meaning through a special language that shows the soul and the characteristic of the writer, Keraf (2009).

Types of Figurative Language

To achieve these objectives, the authors classify data based on figurative language types and apply pragmatic contexts to illustrate their implications. The results show that the type of figurative language in the lyrics of some songs sings by Whitney Houston, the authors find the type of figurative language as follows:

1. Hyperbole: a kind of language style that contains exaggerated statements, its size and its nature with the intention of emphasizing members on a statement or situation to intensify, increasing the impression of its influence,
2. Metaphor: a style of language that expresses a direct expression of analogical comparison,
3. Repetition: a figure of speech which using recurrence to show the forceful pretension. Repetitions are repeats the words, phrases, lines or stanzas.

Concept of Meaning in Figurative Language

Language is a symbolic system of arbitrary sounds used by society for communication purposes. It is said to be systematic because the language has certain rules and the language also has subsystems, namely phonological subsystems, grammatical subsystems, and lexical subsystems. The arbitrary nature of this

language according to Chaer (2007) implies that there is no specific relationship between the phoneme-forming of words with its meaning.

Lyon (1971) mentions that: "semantics is generally defined as the study of meaning" meaning that semantics is generally interpreted as a study of meaning. According to Palmer (1981), semantics is expressed as: "the technical term used to refer to the study of meaning and the meaning of a part of language, semantics is a part of linguistics" which means that semantics is a technical terminology that refers to the study of meaning and because meaning is part of the language, then semantics is part of Linguistics. According to Leech (1974), the meanings of words are complex, in which they have such components as an idea, a quality, a relationship, personal feeling, and association.

The Function of Language Style

The style of language is a rhetorical form that is the use of words in the story and effect to influence the reader or listener (Tarigan, 2009). With this style of language, we can use the ability to manifest or listeners who enjoy our work, such as the use of figurative language that exists in the work we make. The point is information that can cause certain feelings of the heart, such as good or bad impressions, pleasant or unpleasant feelings (Ahmadi 1990). Therefore, it can be concluded that the function of the language is as follows: (1) The style of language as a means to influence or convince the listeners, (2) The language style is used as a tool for creating the right atmosphere, (3) The style of language served as a tool to reinforce the effect of the ideas that conveyed.

According to Nurgiyantoro the style of language as part of the novel intrinsic element is closely related other novel intrinsic elements, ie themes, characterizations, plots, backgrounds, angles view, and value. According Keraf the function of that language style as follows: to explain, to Strengthen, to turning the object off, to stimulating associations, and also for decoration.

RESEARCH DESIGN

This research used qualitative research because this study focuses on the analysis or interpretation of the written material in context. Materials can include textbooks, newspapers, magazines, papers, articles, poem, song's lyric. The material of this study focuses on song's lyrics. Data were analyzed descriptively, after discovering the appearance of figurative language in the data source and recording it, the first step in the analysis was to identify the kind of figurative language found by using figurative language type theory by Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963). The theory of Halliday (1978) is used to support the understanding of the linguistic context of the song lyrics.

The data were taken from several lyrics of Whitney Houston's album *I Will Always Love You* and *I Have Nothing* on The Bodyguard's album, released in 1997, *One Moment in Time* and *The Greatest Love of All* on the Whitney Houston album released in 1995. The writer classifies the data on the types of figurative language (hyperbole, metaphor, and repetition). Based on Arikunto (1990), study documentation method is used to get the data about case or variable as note, transcripts, book, magazine and also internet. There are several steps in collecting the data: (1) The writer will search for the song and the song lyrics of Whitney Houston from the internet, (2) The writer will listen and read the lyrics and understand the song lyrics in Whitney Houston songs, (3) The writer will select and identify the figurative languages, (4) Classify the non literal language styles, (5) Describing and explaining the figurative language that found in the lyrics.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

After classifying the type of figurative language in Whitney Houston's song the writer found 14 sentences that used figurative language in 4 songs sung by Whitney Houston. In this study, there are 2 hyperbole found in the data, 5 repetition, and also 7 metaphor. In the discussion, the writer will discuss the data which has analyzed. Besides that, the discussion also answers the research questions in chapter

one such as; the types, the meaning and also the function of figurative languages used in Whitney Houston's songs.

Metaphor

In *I have Nothing* song shows the term of metaphor:

(1) "All my *colors* for you" (stanza 1, line 4)

The word "colors" has the same comparison with the physical state that the singer has. The singer will give everything that she has for someone even though it is herself. The function of non literal language style or figurative language is being a tool for creating the right atmosphere in the lyrics.

(2) "Don't make me close one more *door*" (stanza 4, line 17)

The author says that the line is metaphor because there is the word "door" is non-literal or figurative language which means the heart of the singer who has closed and do not want to loving anymore. The function of non literal language style or figurative language is being a tool for creating the right atmosphere in the lyrics.

(3) "You break down my walls" (stanza 5, line 26)

The author says that the line is metaphor because of the "my walls" words in non-literal language style means my life, a life owned by a writer who is destroyed by someone that she loves. The same as before the function of language style is used as a tool for creating the right atmosphere.

In *One Moment in Time* song shows the term of metaphor:

(4) "When I'm racing with destiny" (stanza 3, line 21)

The word which is metaphor is the "destiny". The word destiny here compares with the reality experienced by the athlete which is confirmed again with the word racing, when the athlete is racing with her destiny and she is a black skin woman who are very ignored at that time. The function of language style is used as a tool for creating the right atmosphere.

In *Greatest Love of All* shows the term of metaphor:

(5) "Everybody searching for a hero"

This line means, everyone will always try to find our hero (a proper role model). The function of language style in this line is to "strengthen" its means that the line is affirmed to achieve meaning in that song.

(6) "Never to walk in anyone's shadows"

The word anyone's shadows here is a comparison between the word itself and how we perceive our desires according to our own way without having to rely on the others. The function of language style in this line is to influence the listeners.

In *I Will Always Love You* song there is Metaphor:

(7) "I hope life treats you kind" (stanza 5, line 15)

The word life means the teacher or someone who taught us so that which is a metaphor here is a word life. The function of language style as a means to influence the listeners

Hyperbole

In *I Will Always Love You* song

(1) "Bittersweet memories, that is all I'm taking with me" (stanza 3, line 8-9)

The author tells of beautiful memories that have been passed though they are not together anymore. The line is a hyperbole because it corresponds to the character of the hyperbole itself. The function of language style is used as a tool for creating the right atmosphere in this song's lyrics.

(2) "But above all this, I wish you love" (stanza 5, line 18)

In the line above, the hyperbole explanatory word is "all this", because if we look at the previous lyrics "I wish to you, joy and happiness but above all this, I wish you love" so make the word all this refers to the word "Joy and happiness". The function of language style is used as a tool for creating the right atmosphere in this song's lyrics.

Repetition

In *I have Nothing* song shows the term of repetition:

(1) "Take me for what I am 'cause I'll never change all my colors for you" (stanza 1, line 2-4)

"Take my love I'll never ask for too much" (stanza 2, line 5-6)

The repetition appears in the beginning of the stanza. The meaning of those lines about, the author says take my love, and I do not expect more reward, the writer wants is just someone who loved the author with everything she has. Language style function in this line is as a tool to explain the writer's own desire.

(2) "I don't really need to look very much further"

"I don't want to have to go where you don't follow" (stanza 3, line 9-11)

The repetition appears in the beginning of the stanza. In the lines above, the author just wants to express his wishes that do not want to stay away from someone her loves. The function of language style as a tool to explain the writer's own desire.

In *One moment in Time* song:

(1) "Give me *One moment in time*" (stanza 5, line 32-36)

The repetition found in the last of sentence. The sentence means giving me one of the loveliest moments in life, the happiest moment in life. The function of this language is to "strengthen" its means that the line is affirmed to achieve meaning in the song.

(2) "I will feel, I will feel eternity" (stanza 5, line 39-40)

The repetition appears in the beginning of the line. The sentence I will feel explain or affirm that the author has reached the eternity or have realized her dream by trying. The function of this language is to "strengthen" its means that the line is affirmed to achieve meaning in the song.

In *I Will Always Love you* song:

(1) "*I would only be in your way*"

So I'll go, but I know

"*I'll think of you every step of the way*" (stanza 1, line 2-4)

The repetition found in the last of sentence. It explains that the mean of “way” is how to remember you and I hope I will always with you every day. The same as before, the function of this language is to "strengthen" its means that the line is affirmed to achieve meaning in the song.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Every song must have a style of language or figurative language that has a deep meaning by the songwriter when writing the lyrics of the song. The meaning contained in the lyrics of the song is literal and non literal. From the lyrics in the 4 songs studied by the author, there are: I Have Nothing, One Moment in Time, Greatest Love of All, and I Will Always Love You, the all four of which are about love and are expressed in different languages with different purposes.

Suggestion

The style of language, in this case, figurative language has an important position in linguistic studies, especially in literature, such as poetry, novels, song lyrics, etc. This thesis examines the figurative language of 4 songs in 2 different albums of Whitney Houston on The Bodyguard album and Whitney Houston album. The song is a song about love that has many profound meanings. Not only about love to the couple, but in the song tells how to educate children with love and how to achieve dreams with love. The author hopes:

1. For literature lecturers, this research can be used as an example to teach about figurative language.
2. For students majoring in English, can learn and gain more knowledge about figurative language.
3. For the next researcher to continue the study to compare, since figurative language can't be understood briefly, it must continue to be studied in some literature. The authors hope the results of this study can be useful for further researcher relating to figurative language and figurative meaning. In addition,

this thesis is also expected to enrich references to English literature, especially for the English Department.

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