AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN ED SHEERAN’S SONGS

ARTICLE

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Bachelor Degree in English Department Faculty of Teacher Training and Education University of Mataram

By:

VIVIN ANGELLIA
EID114106

ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM
LANGUAGE AND ART DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF MATARAM
2018
RATIFICATION

An article entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Ed Sheeran's Songs" by Vivin Angellia has been approved on August 28th 2018 by:

First Advisor,

[Signature]

Dr. Muhammad Fadirl, M.A
NIP. 195812201985101001
An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Ed Sheeran’s Songs

ABSTRACT

By:

Vivin Angellia

Figurative language is language which employs various figures of speech. This study discusses about an analysis of figurative language used in Ed Sheeran’s songs. The purposes of this study are to identify and to explain the kinds of figurative language used in Ed Sheeran’s songs and to elaborate the meanings implied in each figurative language used in Ed Sheeran’s songs. The thesis described kinds of figurative language that are included in Ed Sheeran’s songs. From the analysis, the researcher searched the songs by collecting figurative language in Ed Sheeran’s songs especially song lyrics that are consist of metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, imagery and symbolism in some words and lyrics from some lines in each song. After collecting songs, the researcher found there are nine songs that have been collected by listening to the songs of Ed Sheeran that contain of figurative language entitled Give Me Love, Autumn Leaves, The A Team, Wake Me Up, Grade 8, I See Fire, Thinking Out Loud, Photograph, and Lego House. Then, the researcher identified nine of Ed Sheeran’s songs that included figurative language by highlighting them while quoting the lyrics consist of figurative language. Henceforth, classifying words and sentences contain of figurative language that have meanings which are found in nine of Ed Sheeran’s songs. To support the analysis, some other related theories and references were used. This study is highly expected to give contribution for the reader to know more about figurative language clearly. It can help the readers know contextual meaning and speak English fluently. And it can also be expected to enrich new knowledge especially in literature.

Key Words: Figurative language, Ed Sheeran’s songs.
ABSTRAK


Kata kunci: Majas, lagu-lagu Ed Sheeran.
1. **Introduction**

   Figurative language is a language which has not real meaning and has more than one meaning. Figurative language is a figure of speech in a way of adding extra dimensions to language that is used by the singers who makes a song becomes more imaginative, nudge and adds the intensity of the singers’ feelings for songs by using words or sentences of what they want to say with interesting expressions meaning by conveying and attracting the listeners to feel the sensation (Perrine, 1977:61).

2. **Statement Problems**

   1. What kinds of figurative language are used in Ed Sheeran’s songs?
   2. What meanings are implied in each figurative language used in Ed Sheeran’s songs?

3. **Purposes of the Study**

   1. To identify and to explain the kinds of figurative language used in Ed Sheeran’s songs.
   2. To elaborate the meanings implied in each figurative language used in Ed Sheeran’s songs.
4. Review of Related Literature

Figurative language is not uncommon or exclusively poetic; it is a ubiquitous part of spoken and written discourse (Kreuz, Roberts, Johnson & Bertus, in press; Lakoff & Johnson, 1980; Smith & Pollio, 1990). A speaker who metaphorically states, “My aunt is an elephant,” may be referring to girth, length of nose, or fondness for peanuts. If discourse participants cooperate by expressing themselves as clearly, concisely, and completely as possible, as Grice (1975) hypothesized, then potentially ambiguous figurative language must accomplish certain communicative goals better than literal language (Gerrig & Gibbs, 1998; Glucksberg, 1989; Kreuz, Long & Church, 1991). That is the benefits of using figurative language must outweigh potential costs of being misunderstood.

Using figurative language is an effective way of communicating an idea that is not easily understood because of its abstract nature or complexity. Although figurative language does not offer a literal explanation, it can be used to compare one idea to a second idea to make the first idea easier to visualize. Figurative language also is used to link two ideas with the goal of influencing an audience to see a connection even if one does not actually exist. Writers of prose and poetry use figurative language to elicit emotion, help readers form mental images and draw readers into the work. Figurative language takes many different forms in linguistics and literature. Also, figures were seen as stylistic ornaments with which writers dressed up their language to make it more entertaining, and to clarify the meanings they wanted to convey (Perrine, 1977).
5. Previous Studies

The first previous study that is used by the researcher is *Figurative Language Used in Owl City’s albums: A Pragmatic Perspective* by Luthfi Yulidar (2014) from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. In her study, she analyzes not only the pragmatic perspective but also figurative language used in Owl City’s songs. Her research uses pragmatic approach to find out the illocutionary act.

The second previous study is entitled *A Study of Figurative Language That Conveys Connotation Related to American Cultural Values in Pop Songs: The Case of Taylor Swift* by Wichukorn Suriyawongpaisal (2013) from Kasetsart University in Thailand. He analyzed figurative language analysis in Taylor Swift’s songs. Three common types of figure of speech that express connotations related to American cultural values were found: metaphor, simile, and hyperbole. Four aspects of American cultural values of love and care, individualism, honesty and trust, and liberalism were revealed through four main themes: bond and relationship, independency, honesty, and dignity respectively.

The third previous study is conducted a study entitled *A Semantics Study of Metaphorical Language Used in the Josh Groban Closer Album* by Fatmawati (2006) from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. She classifies the data based on human perceptual system by Michael C. Haley. Then she applies semantics approach in order to get the inside meaning of it. After analyzing the data, the researcher has found 31 metaphor expressions in this song.
There are 16 abstract concept of metaphor expressions, 2 energy metaphor expression, 7 terrestrial metaphor expression, 1 animate creature expression, 1 substance metaphor expression and the last 4 human expressions.

The fourth previous study is done by Nana Nurdiana (2015) from State Islamic Institute of Palangkaraya entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Katy Perry’s Songs*. The source of the data was taken from the five songs lyrics of Katy Perry’s songs such as Roar, Unconditionally, Dark Horse, Birthday and Ghost. The research design used in this study is descriptive qualitative research with a document or content analysis as the research type. The thesis described type of figurative language and contextual meaning from Katy Perry’s song.

6. Methods

This study used descriptive method as the technique of the data analysis. The descriptive technique is used to analyze figurative language applied in Ed Sheeran’s songs such as Give Me Love, Autumn Leaves, The A Team, Wake Me Up, Grade 8, I See Fire, Thinking Out Loud, Photograph, and Lego House by describing the data in order to tell the imagination that are conveyed through songs by using figurative language. To analyze the data, the researcher elaborating meanings of figurative language in song lyrics that are included in nine of Ed Sheeran’s songs which have different definitions in song lyrics contain in each song consist of metaphor, simile, personification, hyperboles, imagery and symbolism.
Then, after meanings of Ed Sheeran’ songs have been elaborated, the researcher explaining in general kinds of figurative language that applied in other songs. Last is describing some song lyrics in some lines with the definitions and meanings in those songs.

7. Discussion

This study focuses on analyze the types of figurative language in Ed Sheeran’s Songs and meanings implied in nine of song lyrics. There are six types of figurative language such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, imagery and symbolism. However, only six examples are presented in six songs here.

1. Give Me Love

Line 23: After my blood is drowning in alcohol

It uses figurative language of personification. Actually, blood can drown in alcohol so it means that he is drinking himself to drown his sorrows.

2. Autumn Leaves

Line 37-38: Touch down like a seven four seven

This included in figurative language of simile. It means that the leaves are touched down like Boeing 747, an American wide-body commercial jet airliner and cargo aircraft, is going to take-off.
3. The A Team

**Line 2: Breathing in the snowflakes**

It is described as cocaine powder which when inhaled burns through the respiration system that is a figurative language of symbolism.

4. Grade 8

**Line 1: My mind is a warrior**

The first line is a figurative language of metaphor that means his mind doesn't give up so he wants to win whatever challenge is given to it like a warrior in a war who is fighting for his lands.

5. I See Fire

**Line 8, 12, 22: Watch the flames burn on the mountain side**

This line is imagery because makes use of particular words that create visual representation of ideas in people’s minds where everyone can imagine fire burning a mountain and smoke on it.

6. Thinking Out Loud

**Line 13, 28, 32: Kiss me under the light of a thousand stars**

This is also hyperbole because the light of stars is just seemed like a dot and stars cannot be counted as well.
8. Conclusion

There are nine of Ed Sheeran’s songs have been analyzed by the researcher about the meanings implied in song lyrics such as Give Me Love, Autumn Leaves, The A Team, Wake Me Up, Grade 8, I See Fire, Thinking Out Loud, Photograph and Lego House and it classified six types of figurative language included in these nine of Ed Sheeran’s songs such as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, imagery and symbolism. Nine of Ed Sheeran’s songs have different meanings in each of his song. In brief, from the data, some of them are about love, life and friendship.