

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SELECTED SONGS OF 'A STAR IS BORN' ALBUM

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Abstrak: Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan dan mendeskripsikan jenis bahasa kiasan (majas) yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Lady Gaga pada album "A Star is Born". Dalam penelitian ini, data dikumpulkan melalui pemilihan, pengetikan ulang, dan pengelompokan lirik. Selanjutnya dicetak dan disoroti pada bagian kalimat/kata yang mengandung unsur bahasa kiasan. Jenis bahasa kiasan yang termasuk dalam penelitian ini adalah metafora, perumpamaan, personifikasi, dan hiperbola. Analisis data dilakukan dengan mengklasifikasikan, merekam, dan menyandingkan data menggunakan metode pengkodean menurut Saldana (2009). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa majas hiperbola dan personifikasi banyak ditemukan dalam lirik lagu ini dan diikuti oleh simile. Dapat disimpulkan bahwa alasan utama penggunaan majas hiperbola yang dominan dipengaruhi oleh faktor pendengar sebagai target. Hal ini dikarenakan majas hiperbola menyatakan sesuatu secara langsung yang cenderung menggunakan kata-kata yang berlebihan bahkan dramatis. Hasil penelitian ini dapat dijadikan sebagai referensi alternatif bagi pembaca yang tertarik untuk mempelajari dan menafsirkan lirik lagu.

Kata kunci: Majas; Lady Gaga; Lirik Lagu

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to find out the types of figurative language and its implications contained in the lyrics of the song Lady Gaga on the album "A Star is Born". In this study, data were collected through selection, retyping, and grouping of lyrics. Furthermore, it is printed and highlighted in the part of the sentence/word that contains elements of figurative language. The types of figurative language included in this study were metaphor, parable, personification, and hyperbole. Data analysis was carried out by classifying, recording, and encoding data using the coding method according to Saldana (2009). The results of the research show that hyperbole and personification are found in the lyrics of this song and are followed by similes. It can be concluded that the main reason for the dominant use of hyperbole is influenced by the target reader and listener factor. This is because the hyperbole figure of speech expresses something directly which tends to use excessive and even dramatic words. The results of this study can be used as an alternative reference for readers who are interested in studying and interpreting song lyrics.

Keywords: Figurative Language; Lady Gaga; Song Lyrics

INTRODUCTION

Literature can be interpreted as a source reference used in various activities in the field of education or other activities. Literature can also be interpreted as a reference used to obtain certain information. Literature can be in the form

of books or various other writings. According to Teew (2013:244), a literary work is a manifestation of a system that must be controlled by the reader in a way so that the works will be meaningful. Kasnadi et al (2019) pointed out that literary works is a creative works that influenced by writer's imagination, experience, feeling and even thoughts

that utilize the language as the main medium. Therefore, a literary work is made by the use of appealing words and feeling.

Song is a medium for expressing imagination, illusions, ideas, feeling and expression to the reader. Butler (2005:33) stated that, all these thoughts and feelings, as expressed by the words of the text, and related to a final understanding of the situation. Song is one of the media to expressing imagination, illusions, ideas, feeling and expression to the reader. Moser (2007:278) stated, in written language a song and lyrics bear witness to the presence of relevant oral genres in contemporary systems of literary communication. So when people who listening to song will be interested and also able to imagine the ideas that the author wants to convey. People who listen to, the song will be interested and also able to imagine the ideas that the author wants to convey. In a song, there is also something that makes everyone comfortable.

Figurative language is a part of literature. This is one literary device that can be used to create a special effect by making some interesting or creative types comparison. Abrams (1999:96) stated, figurative language is a striking beginning of what language users have to understood and understood of standard of a meaning of words, or sequence standard order of the words, to achieve some special meaning or parable and effects. They call attention to such truths, and they give them emphasis. Figurative language allows us to explore languages in new and interesting ways. Arifin (2018) emphasizes that in fact, everyone uses the language to express their feeling or meanings in daily life. Figurative language usually used to express the emotion, feelings, and even goals.

This study analyzed and identified the figurative language of Lady Gaga's song lyrics on the album "A Star is Born". The focus of this study is to analyze and identify the figurative language used in the song lyrics, and to find out the themes conveyed in the lyrics of the song. Refer to the previous explanation, the researcher interested

in analyzing the figurative language used in Lady Gaga's song lyrics in a study entitled "Figurative Language in Selected Songs of Lady Gaga "A Star is Born" Album.

According to Kennedy (1995:678), figurative language does not mean a device for starting what is proven to be untrue. Indeed they often state the truth that more literal languages cannot communicate directly. They call attention to such truths, and they give them emphasis. Figurative language allows us to explore languages in new and interesting ways. The figurative language is a form of language that uses images that are very concrete and literal as a base. In other words, this is a form of language that makes someone guess in interpreting a sentence as a standard understanding of the sentence.

The previous studies which were related to the present research were as follows: Arifah (2016) investigated the figurative language in five John Legend Song. The writer found out that existing kind of figurative language in the lyric that was hyperbole which most dominant types of figurative language. Listiani (2015) conducted a study on analyzing the figurative language in song lyrics by Taylor Swift "Speak Now" album. She concluded that, in some of Taylor Swift's song lyrics there were hyperbole, simile, personification, metaphor, symbol, synecdoche and oxymoron, but hyperbole was the most dominant in the song lyrics.

Marliani (2018) analyzed figurative language in Harris' song. After completing the study, she found out that the existing kind of figurative language in the lyrics of Hariis' song were metaphor and personification that predominantly used in the songs followed by hyperbole and simile. Lonanda (2013) did a study to analyze the use of figurative language in characterization of The Nightingale and the Rose short story by Oscar. She found 14 figurative languages occurred in the story, they are: eight similes, one metaphor, two personifications and two ironies, one hyperbole. But the type of simile mostly found in characterization of

characters in the story. Another previous study was conducted by Habibi (2016) who analyzed figurative language in Edensor novel by Andrea Hirata”. He found 20 sentences of simile in the Edensor Novel. It consist 18 used like and 2 used as. Then he found 8 sentences metaphor, 6 sentences personification, 5 sentences hyperbole, 1 sentence synecdoche and 4 sentences symbol.

Therefore, the purpose of this study in generally to finding out the types of figurative language contained in the song on Lady Gaga album “A Star is Born”. In thus study also intended to finding out which type of figurative language more dominant used in the lyrics and some of implication.

METHOD

This study employed a descriptive qualitative design, because the data were in form of the text and lyrics of the Lady Gaga’s song which contained various types of figurative language. In this case the researcher used study document as the way to collect the data. The researcher focused on analyzing the figurative languages in four songs that were used in the song lyrics of Lady Gaga. The title of the song are: Shallow, Always Remember us This Way, Is that Alright?, Music to My Eyes. The researcher did this research because Lady Gaga is one of the song writers who make cool songs, and one of the most popular singer in American and in the world.

The data of this research were collected from the lyrics of the song in Lady Gaga “A Star Is Born” album. After classifying the collected data into figurative language types, the researcher used on codified them. The data analysis was done through reading and observing the figurative languages which were found in this songs. The researcher listed the data which found in “A Star is Born” album. The researcher analyzed the figurative meaning to make a clear definition. To analyze the findings, the researchers classifying the figurative language into the following categories: (1)

Si: Simile, (2) M: Metaphor, (3) P: Personification, and (4) H: Hyperbole.

FINDING AND DUSCUSSION

The writer finds fifteen of figurative language after analyzing the four selected songs of Lady Gaga in “A Star is Born” album.

Findings

Table 1: Figurative in *Shallow* Song

No	Types	Lyric
1	Personification	Aren’t you tired tryin’ to fill that <u>void</u> ?
2	Hyperbole	I’m off the <u>deep</u> end, watch as I <u>dive in</u> .

This song *Shallow* is a song that describes about two people who meet and fall in love, even though each one is experiencing a very difficult situation. At the end, they shares and gives each other support in overcoming the life problems they were experiencing. Shallow itself has a superficial “uncontrolled, conscious” meaning and in this song Lady Gaga or Ally stated that she was expressing her feelings and diving deep into her feelings of superficial relationships in the sense that the feelings they felt that day were very serious.

Table 2: Figurative in *Remember us this Way* Song

No	Types	Lyric
1	Simile	It’s buried in my soul like California gold
2	Metaphor	Lovers in the night
3	Personification	You found <u>the light</u> in <u>me</u> that I couldn’t find. You look at me Babe, I <u>wanna</u> catch on <u>fire</u>
4	Hyperbole	<u>That Arizona</u> sky burning <u>in your eyes</u> and the whole <u>world</u> <u>fades</u>

The song *Always Remember Us This Way* is a song that describes someone who asks her partner to always remember the difficult times that they have gone through together, both in happy and difficult conditions. Even though they are no longer together for a reason. In the song, Lady Gaga brings lyrics that can make listeners or readers touched and accompanied by mellow music that signifies the situation as if we were in that position.

Table 3: Figurative in *Is That Alright?* song

No	Types	Lyric
1	Simile	It felt <u>like</u> summer All of your words are <u>like</u> poems to me
2	Hyperbole	I dream of our story, <u>of our</u> <u>fairy-tale</u>

The song *Is That Alright?* an emotional ballad in a person that culminates in the 32 years old star of Lady Gaga as Ally. This song is about Ally's character for her lover, Jackson Maine. Lyrics, the piece illustrated how Ally (Lady Gaga) wants to spend the rest of her life with Jackson, she wants to die with him. Thus, the song is a musical expression of a relationship (to death separates us) that loves each other very much in her live and who has passed through the ups and downs of life in the world of entertainment with him. If their relationship continues, they will be fine. But, they separated for a reason. This song is sung by Lady Gaga with warm and romantic tones and lyrics.

Table 4: Figurative in *Music to my Eyes* song

No	Types	Lyric
1	Metaphor	and be the dawn I know will move you
2	Personification	Let your melodies fly in my direction Dance the horizon with you
3	Hyperbole	Take me to your paradise

This song tells a story about love that is full of twist and turns between a rocker who is at the end of his career and a newcomer singer who is not yet confident in the world of entertainment. The rocker, played by Bradley Cooper and the newcomer singer played by Lady Gaga found several conflicts that often occur in everyday life to the entertainment world. Both have deep feelings in each verse of the song and touching musical tones.

Based on previous findings, the researcher would like to discuss the research question in this study based on deliberately chosen songs from *Shallow*, *Always Remember Us This Way*, *Is That Alright?*, and *Music To My Eyes* song lyric. The research focused on types of figurative language contained in Lady Gaga's song. After getting the data, the lyrics of the song were classified into types of figurative language, for example there were 3 simile, 2 metaphor, 5 personification, and 5 hyperbole found by the researcher. Therefore, studies are categorized into the following table:

Table 5: Figurative in Lady Gaga's Song

No	Types	Frequency
1	Simile	3
2	Metaphor	2
3	Personification	5
4	Hyperbole	5

Discussion

Simile

It's buried in my soul like California gold

Based on the lyric above, it can be categorized as simile. The lyric represents the figurative language of simile by using word 'like'. This means to directly compare 'her potential' as the California gold. California gold is the expression of her body which is gold, sparkling and radiant, and expensive. This parable was likened to the body or potential that exists within oneself. Littlemore and Low said (2006:41-42), simile is a parable that looks simple

and they are frequently treated as such by language book. Simile can be defined as a comparison devices made between different types that has, at least one point in common and is clearly define the word. Here, the author described the hidden meaning that behind an Ally there was enormous and valuable potential and talented.

It felt like summer.

Based on the lyrics previous, the lyric was simile “it felt like summer” because she compared herself to a child who she thinks that live is so simple. The author used the conjunction “like” with “summer” that related to the situation in her life. Simile, there is a comparison between two objects or more objects and of various types with similarity usually marked by words: like, as, so, appear, seem, more than; The author here compared her life with summer where summer was also usually fun, like reading in the park or relaxing. Summer was parable expression that showed her comparison with summer.

All of your words are like poems to me.

The previous lyric was simile “all of your words are like poems to me” because the figurative language use “like” directly to compare “words” her lover’s to be as beautiful as the poems. Here, the author used the word “poetry” as the main topic parables like poetry are anything that the lover says was likened to poetry where using flattering and beautiful words.

Metaphor

Lovers in the night.

The lyric was metaphor “Lovers in the night” because the figurative language stated as if the song wants to talk that the wound was too strong but it has to come back sad and give up everything. “Night” here is like a wound where the author wants to express the night means dark or means deep sadness. According to Glucksberg (2001:10) states that metaphor are like simile. In metaphor it is usually (although not always) false. When the hearer or listeners recognizes a metaphor as being

false, it implicitly convert it from the categorical form incorrectly to the appropriate simile form

And be the dawn I know will move you.

Based on the previous lyrics, was metaphor “And be the dawn I know will move you”, because the figurative language does not use “like” or “as”. This figurative language to compare the part of felling of the author who is not confident with her potential, but as time she will become the dawn for her and others. Metaphor also compares objects that has similar points, but without using certain words such as: like, as, etc. Metaphor is a figure of speech in which the comparison of an implied object is made between two unlike things that have something in common.

Personification

Aren't you tired tryin' to fill that void?

Based on the previous lyrics, the personification was “Aren’t you tired tryin’ to fill that void?” because the sentence using “tryin’ to fill that void” to declare the feeling of the author which was in a difficult situation and did not find a way out. The void here is an imagine a feel buried, and looking for away. In the word “void” here, can also describe the emptiness in the soul until the author wants someone who was able to fill it. According to Siswanto (2007:29), personification is a depiction of objects that are lifeless or inanimate, both invisible and abstract, which are treated as human beings.

You found the light in me that I couldn't find.

Based on the previous lyric, was called personification “You found the light in me that I couldn’t find” because this figurative language to describe experience of the author who has found her identity when she sings and has the opportunity to shine. The conjunction that is used by the author is light here 8 which means body or physical identity. A very bright beam of light depicted in an Ally who had found her way.

You look at me Babe, I wanna catch on fire.

Based on previous lyric that was personification in “You look at me Babe, I wanna catch on fire”. The word “fire” was daily words are used to describe the results of a chemical reaction from the process of changing from one chemical to another chemical. But here, the intention by the author of “fire” was to declare the passion or ambition experienced by the author. So, to beautify the parts and improvisation in wrote the lyrics.

Let your melodies fly in my direction.

The previous lyrics, was personification “Let your melodies fly in my direction” because the sentence use “your melodies” and “fly” to imagined to the readers that the author really love music. “Melodies” here was assumed by the author as if it were a living thing that has wings and flies. Basically the melody comes from music and flies as a bird that has wings. The parable of the melody that has wings is contrary to our thinking. Flying description was to show a strong feeling towards melody or music.

Hyperbole

I'm of the deep end, watch as I dive in.

The above lyrics is hyperbole “I’m off the deep end, watch as I dive in” because the author wrote the sentence to declare herself buried in which there was a process of generating imagination and compared of the object intended by the author to explain the situation when she was dissolves into her feelings. Which means that the author describes she was diving deep into her feelings. The fact that means that she enjoys the time together. In the word “dive-in” here can also describe where the feelings experienced by the author who sinks and destroyed. According to Abrams (1999:120), hyperbole is bold overstatement or excessive the extravagant from exaggeration of fact or of possibility. It may be used either for serious or ironic or comic effect.

That Arizona sky burning in your eyes

Based on the previous lyrics, was hyperbole “That Arizona sky burning in your eyes” because the author wrote the sentence “burning in your eyes” which declaratory a desire in a passionate work because she knows her potential, abilities and opportunity. Arizona sky here was interpreted as a burning feeling. And the whole world fades and the next lyric “And the whole world fades” to declaratory despair because she has to break up with her boyfriend for a reason. But she will always remember it by playing a music. The author used the fading word which means that desire and expectations have been destroyed. Faded descriptions are reinforced and so that the reader understands the meaning directly. I dream of our story, of our fairy tale. The previous lyric was hyperbole because the author imagined her future as a fairy tale. These lyrics are an exaggerated or excessive statement from the author. Here the author imagination was very deep for the relationship in the next life. A “fairy-tale” here means that the author described the future with an imaginary world like a king and queen with a happy ending.

Dance the horizon with you.

The previous lyric was hyperbole “dance the horizon with you” because this figurative language declare to expresses loyalty to a partners and still wants to be together. In this lyric the author used dramatic language and tends to make no sense. Our thoughts reject meaning which was where we can dance on the horizon. The author only wants to express her imagination to the reader that she wants to be always loyal to her decision to work with music.

Take me to your paradise.

The previous lyric was hyperbole “take me to your paradise” it means that the author wants to declare that her love is very deep towards music and her partner. However, in this lyric the author expressed it excessively with the word 10

“paradise”. The author drew “paradise” where was a place that someone imagined as a place in the afterlife where Gods and angels live. The description of “paradise” was used by the author to show strong feeling and desire in work. The author also hoped it would be a love story that ends sweetly. This style of language is often used by authors in an effort to describe objects, ideas, etc. by giving excessive pressure to get an intense effect.

CONCLUSION

Based on the result there were some conclusion of the study that could be drawn. Through figurative language, especially figurative language to have adequate competence. Students and the public were expected to use figurative language in their oral and written performances, so that they can make fresh and interesting expressions. The use of figurative language was very diverse, that was due to the imagined of the composer in applied his or her mind to the language differently depending on the conditions that occur in the song. The result showed 15 data of song lyrics were dominated by hyperbole and personification that was found by the researcher and followed by simile. Hyperbole is generally used in everyday conversation and also used in all types of literature such as poetry, prose or drama and song lyrics. The researcher concluded that hyperbole is used to make an object become bigger than a real object. But the statement was not intended to be taken literally.

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