

An Analysis of Figurative Language in the Selected Songs Album of Jessie J

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ABSTRACT

This research was aimed to investigate the types of figurative languages and the contextual meaning of the types of figurative language used in the selected song album of Jessie J. In this research, the figurative language is the use of words in imaginative manner to give readers imagination of interpretation meaning in context than literal language. The researcher used the theories of figurative language by Saputri. This research was the kind of descriptive qualitative research considering the data of this study that were classified as the words. The subject of this research was the popular singer namely Jessy J. The primary instrument of this research was the researcher herself considered by her roles in collecting and analyzing the data. Viewed from the findings, the researcher found out 8 types of figurative language, they were (1) personification, (2) simile, (3) metaphor, (4) hyperbole, (5) irony, (6) litotes, (7) metonymy, and (8) oxymoron. The researcher interpreted the contextual meaning of those types of figurative language effectively.

Key words : Figurative Language, Types of Figurative Language, Contextual Meaning

INTRODUCTION

Language is a human property which is used to communicate each other around the world. People use language in their daily life to convey the messages to others whom they are talking to. Jakobson (1960: 353-359; cited in Harmastuty, 2016, p. 18) states that referential, emotive, conative, phatic, metalingual, and poetic are the six functions of language. Every function has its own characteristics. Such as, poetic function which is only concern in the messages. Thus, poetic function is not merely about poetry, but also about other fields. One of them is songs.

Song is one of literary works. It has two elements, namely music and lyric. Lyric is a kind of sung poems. It is one of the most natural of arts, being based on one of the most fundamental of human faculties of imitations which has functions as entertainment and also as more specific aim in telling a story (Williams, 1951 in Milton., 1961). To be sure, song is intellectual and spiritual entertainment giving a feeling of amusement and satisfaction for audiences.

The musical notes and words in songs which called as lyrics, they have big power in the songs because they express messages and give the listeners imagination of those songs. When the listeners don't understand the lyrics, it is hard to gain the messages from the songs. Lyric is one of types of poem. Ade & Okuyene (2008, p. 190) claim that "It is a short poem that can be sung or that is musical". Therefore, lyrics are involved in the poetic function of literature since it concerns on the messages which derived from the meaning of the lyrics.

According to Meyer (1997:1), a literature is a term used to describe written-text marked by using careful language, containing features such as imaginative metaphors, well-turned phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, and alliteration, which are read aesthetically or proposed by the author to be aesthetically read and are intentionally somewhat open in interpretation of the meaning of

language used. In linguistics, one of the branches in linguistics which is studied of meaning is called semantics (Heasley & Hurford, 1996, p. 1). There are some types of meaning of language that are discussed in the semantics. One of them is figurative meaning or figurative language.

A figurative language is figure or similarity of interpreting something with another thing, so it can be clearing, interesting and living (Pradopo, 2007, p. 62). The use of figurative of language is the use of words or phrases in a manner where the literal meaning of the words is not true or does not make sense, but "indicates a non-literal meaning which does make sense or that could be real".

There are many types of figurative language such as metaphor, personification, hyperbola, simile, symbol, irony, etc. However, the popular types of them are simile, metaphor, and personification. These become the essential parts of analyzing the song of Flashlight by Jessie J in this research. The song of Flashlight becomes the focus of analysis in this research for it is assumed that the song has many figurative language causing its legend and popularity.

The researcher assumes that the song lyric of Flashlight has many interesting language aspects. Some of them are relating to the use of adjective, adverb, and verb words or clauses, the slang words, the ambiguities of lyrics, the use of swear words, the use of figurative languages, moral values, etc. However, the most important language aspect that becomes the primary of this study in analyzing the song is the use of figurative language that found in the lyric of Flashlight.

The researcher formulated two research questions. The research questions of this study were:

1. What types of figurative language are found in the selected song album of Jessie J?
2. What are the contextual meaning of the figurative language used in the selected song album of Jessie J?

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Figurative language is the use of words in imaginative manner to give readers imagination of interpretation meaning in context than literal language. There are many types of figurative language which is very interesting to learning. There are many kinds of figurative meaning. Leech in Dewi (2010:2; cited in Saputri, 2014: 23) has classified figurative meaning into eight types. They are: personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy and oxymoron.

Shaw (1972: 283) says, "A personification is figure of speech in which abstraction, animals, ideas, and inanimate objects are having human form, character, traits or sensibilities". Barnhart (1995: 118) says, "A simile is figurative of speech in which two quite different things are compared because they appear to be similar in at least one characteristic". Metaphor is one of figurative speech, which compares one thing to another directly (Peter, 2012). Hyperbole is exaggeration or overstatement. The exaggeration is so great that others are not able to take the statement literally.

McArthur (1996: 532) state that "Irony refers to words with an implication opposite to their usual meaning." . Leech (1969: 169) says the term 'litotes' is sometimes reserved for a particular kind of understatement in which the speaker uses the negative expression where a positive one would have been more forceful and direct. Leech (1969: 152) says, metonymy is a figure of speech that consists in using the name of one thing for that of something else with which it is associated. Leech (1969:132) states, oxymoron is the yoking together of two expressions which are semantically incompatible, so that in combination they can have no conceivable literal reference to reality.

There are several kinds of meaning in English. One kind of meaning is a contextual meaning. Lyons in Manik (2013:8) says that contextual meaning is the meaning of words according to the situations in which they are used. Different situations give different meaning.

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

The researcher applied descriptive qualitative methods for completing this study because this study was intended to describe the types of figurative language used in selected songs of album by Jessie J. The descriptive qualitative research is a research whose findings were described with words (Sulityaningsih, 2018:202). It also is lined by Fraenkel and Wallen (2006), qualitative data were collected in the form of words, phrases, sentences by describing them rather than numbers.

Research Subject

This sub-chapter describes the subject of this research. The research subject of this study was the popular English singer known professionally as Jessie J. She is also known as an English song writer. She was chosen as the research subject because of her popularity in the music industry.

Research Instruments

To answer the research questions, the researcher used certain instruments. The instruments of this research are described below:

The first instrument was called the researcher. This research was categorized as the qualitative research; it means that the researcher herself was the primary instrument because she collected and analyzed the data. The second instrument was the observation field note. In order to answer all research questions, the researcher used the observation field note. It was also used by researcher to collect the data by recording the types of figurative speech and their contextual meaning. The last instrument was the table. The table was used by the researcher in order to classify the figurative speech.

Source of Data and Data

The source of data in the study is subjects from which the data can be obtained (Arikunto, 2010:129). This research used songs' lyrics of selected songs in album by Jessie J. All of data sources were taken from that songs. The data in this research referred to the information that the researcher collected for the study. Data was raw material that needs to be processed to produce information. The data of this study were the utterances produced from song's lyric containing figurative language. Song lyrics included words, sentences or utterances for doing something based on the text dialogue. The primary source of the data in this study was the text itself. Some information from other books and internet was to complete this study.

Data Collection Procedures

All of data in this research were qualitative data. As descriptive qualitative research, data collection techniques included structured open-ended individual questions. Data collection techniques included observations of targeted events and the examination of documents.

Data collection methods were the way of collecting data used in this research. There were some data collection methods or steps employed to collect data used in this research. In this study, the researcher used qualitative approach in which the data were in the form of utterances.

Several steps of collecting the data in this study were taken in order to find types of figurative language and get its contextual meaning. They were (1) browsing the song lyrics of Jessie J album, collecting the songs, (2) reading and understanding the lyrics of the songs, (3) identifying out all the words, phrases and sentences containing figurative languages as the data, (4) noting down the data classifying them, and (5) classifying the data based on their analysis of figurative languages.

Data Analysis

In this sub-chapter, researcher explained steps of how she will analyze the data. There were three steps in analyzing the data. These steps were identification, classification, and interpretation.

The first step of data analysis was identification. Researcher identified the figurative languages contained on the songs' lyric of selected songs by Jessie J. In this step, researcher recognized the characteristics of figurative languages by implementing theories of figurative Language by Saputri (2014). All of figurative languages identified by researcher were written on observation field note.

The second step of data analysis was classification. Classification aimed to divide the data according to types of figurative language. After the data were identified, researcher classified figurative languages viewed from the classification of figurative languages. Based on Chapter II of this study, the figurative languages were classified into eight types: personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy, and oxymoron.

The last step of data analysis was interpretation. To describe the contextual meaning of figurative languages, researcher conducted interpretation. Researcher interpreted contextual meaning of figurative languages. To base interpretation, researcher used some theories and previous studies. After that, researcher explained the interpretation with the rich description.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Types of Figurative Language

This part is intended to answer the first research question about the types of figurative language used in the selected songs by Jessi J. By conducting this study, some findings have been found based on the data examined focusing on the types of figurative language based on the data examined. According to Leech (in Saputri, 2014) mentioned that figurative language has been classified into eight types of figurative meaning namely: personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy and oxymoron. In this study, after collecting the data, the researcher went into the analyzing step towards the data examined. All of the data findings consisting the types of figurative language were gained by analyzing supported by related theories and presented in the following tables of types of figurative language in every song examined as below:

Table.1 Types of Figurative Language used in Price Tag Song

No.	Types of Figurative Language	Songs' Lyrics
1	<p>Personification (a comparison of meaning by giving human characteristics to an object, an animal, or an abstract idea)</p>	<p>1. OK, Coconut man, Moonheads, and me. You ready? 2. We just wanna make the world Dance 3. We need to take it back in time. when music made us all unite</p>
2	<p>Simile (a comparison between two different things by using like or as)</p>	<p>1. Seems like everybody's got a price 2. It's like this man, you can't put a price on the life</p>
3	<p>Metaphor (a comparison between two things by saying one thing is another)</p>	<p>1. We're paying with love tonight 2. So we gonna keep everyone moving they feet</p>
4	<p>Hyperbole (a comparison of meaning for exaggeration by telling more than the truth about the size, number, or degree of something without intending to deceive)</p>	<p>1. I wonder how they sleep at night 2. And guess what, in thirty seconds I'm leaving to Mars</p>
5	<p>Irony (a comparison by taking place when the opposite of what a person intended to do, or expected to happen, occurs instead)</p>	<p>1. Why is everybody so serious? Acting so damn mysterious</p>
6	<p>Litotes (a comparison of meaning in a form of understatement, always deliberate)</p>	<p>1. It's not about the money money money. We don't need your money money money</p>

	and with the intention of subtle emphasis)	
7	Metonymy (a comparison of meaning in which the name of one object or idea is substituted for that of another closely associated with it)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Got shades on your eyes, and your heels so high. That you can't even have a good time 2. Just give me six strings 3. We do this for the love so we fight and sacrifice every night
8	Oxymoron (a comparison by combining two opposing or contradictory ideas)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When the sale comes first and the truth comes second 2. Just stop for a minute and smile 3. And it wasn't low blows and video Hoes 4. So bring back the beat and then everyone sing

Table. 2 Types of Figurative Language used in Second Song

No.	Types of Figurative Language	Songs' Lyrics
1	Personification (a comparison of meaning by giving human characteristics to an object, an animal, or an abstract idea)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My mouth starts going the words start flowing 2. If I could turn back the hands of Time 3. I guess karma comes back around
2	Simile (a comparison between two different things by using like or as)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It's like I need to tell someone anyone who'll listen
3	Metaphor (a comparison between two things by saying one thing is another)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is a lesson learned, 2. And in the heat of the moment

4	<p>Hyperbole (a comparison of meaning for exaggeration by telling more than the truth about the size, number, or degree of something without intending to deceive)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. But no I went and told the whole world how I feelin', oh 2. I gotta change if I wanna keep you Forever 3. For a minute there I lose my senses
5	<p>Irony (a comparison by taking place when the opposite of what a person intended to do, or expected to happen, occurs instead)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I hate that I let you down and I feel so bad about it
6	<p>Litotes (a comparison of meaning in a form of understatement, always deliberate and with the intention of subtle emphasis)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I'm not a saint no not at all, 2. 'Cause nobody's perfect, No, no, no, no, no, no, no, nobody's perfect 3. But what I did it wasn't cool
7	<p>Metonymy (a comparison of meaning in which the name of one object or idea is substituted for that of another closely associated with it)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. But no I went and told the whole world how I feelin', oh 2. For a minute there I lose my senses 3. I swear I never would cross that line
8	<p>Oxymoron (a comparison by combining two opposing or contradictory ideas)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When I'm nervous I have this thing yeah I talk too much

Table. 3 Types of Figurative Language used in Abracadabra Song

No.	Types of Figurative Language	Songs' Lyrics
1	<p>Personification (a comparison of meaning by giving human characteristics to an object, an animal, or an abstract idea)</p>	<p>1. Know this ain't going away, here to stay, 2. All the doubts I had have gone away</p>
2	<p>Simile (a comparison between two different things by using like or as)</p>	<p>1. I gotta have you, like abracadabra</p>
3	<p>Metaphor (a comparison between two things by saying one thing is another)</p>	<p>1. You're bringing out all the colours, 2. No more black and white 3. You won the race and got the gold, 4. I don't wanna be the reason</p>
4	<p>Hyperbole (a comparison of meaning for exaggeration by telling more than the truth about the size, number, or degree of something without intending to deceive)</p>	<p>1. I can be all you want, 2. You're so damn keepable 3. It's so unreal you know,</p>
5	<p>Irony (a comparison by taking place when the opposite of what a person</p>	<p>1. See I just don't usually do this, But you're bringing me out.</p>

	intended to do, or expected to happen, occurs instead)	
6	Litotes (a comparison of meaning in a form of understatement, always deliberate and with the intention of subtle emphasis)	1. I wasn't expecting nothing, 2. I just wanna be your girl, whoa yeah
7	Metonymy (a comparison of meaning in which the name of one object or idea is substituted for that of another closely associated with it)	1. 'Cause you got my heart unlocked, 2. Feel your magic touch
8	Oxymoron (a comparison by combining two opposing or contradictory ideas)	1. When you're touching me I'm not afraid,

Contextual Meaning of Figurative Language

A contextual meaning refers to a meaning of words, phrases and/or sentences based on the situations applied through the language used in which the different situations also make different meaning as the interpretation used (Leech: 1969 in Saputri: 2014). In this study, the researcher conducted this study by analysing the three selected songs album by Jessie J. as the source of the data through the songs' lyrics as data examined. The selected songs are (1) Price tag, (2) No Body's Perfect and (3) Abracadabra.

In the phrase of „*the world dance*“ identified that dancing is categorized as the people's activity but in the lyrics, the author applied „dance“ to describe the world. It is similar with „*when music made us all unite*“ which is identified as the human activity in song's expression. The lyrics describe the situation of happiness among the people in the party. The singer said directly to people in order to invite the party.

Lyric of “*My mouth starts going the words start flowing*” assumed as the human behaviors referring to the expression done by the singer that used „my mouth“ and „the words“ as the objects of comparison. It is seen also in lyric of “If I could turn back *the hands of time*” which identified the objects of hands of clock referring the time happened in the past identified by „could turn back“.

After analyzing the third song, the researcher found two data in the form of utterances. The first data was I wasn't "*expecting nothing*". This was classified as a litotes viewed from the dictions chosen by the speaker. The speaker used two negative expressions: "*wasn't*" and "*nothing*". The double negative expression meant a positive meaning, so it means the speaker expected something. The second one was in the utterance "*I just wanna be your girl, whoa yeah*". This utterance was categorized as litotes because of its meaning. The meaning of this utterance refers to the deliberation that has negative meaning that can be viewed from the word "*just*". The deliberation means that the speaker has a simple hope.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Conclusion

Answering the first research question, the researcher found out some data that were classified into 8 types of figurative language. Those types are personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy, and oxymoron. In the first song entitled "Price Tag". The researcher found personification consisting 3 data, simile 2 data, metaphor 2 data, hyperbole 2 data, irony 1 datum, litotes 1 datum, metonymy 3 data, and oxymoron consisting 4 data. In the second song entitled "Nobody's Perfect", the researcher found personification consisting 3 data, simile 1 datum, metaphor 2 data, hyperbole 3 data, irony 1 datum, litotes 3 data, metonymy 3 data, and oxymoron 1 datum. In the third song entitled "Abracadabra", the researcher found personification consisting 2 data, simile 1 datum, metaphor 4 data, hyperbole 3 data, irony 1 datum, litotes 2 data, metonymy 2 data, and oxymoron 1 datum.

Answering the second research question, it can be concluded that the researcher interpreted the contextual meaning of the types of figurative language found in the selected song album of Jessie J those songs were entitled (1) Price Tag, (2) Nobody's Perfect, and (3) Abacadabra. The researcher effectively interpreted the contextual meaning viewed from the analysis of the situation or the context of the Jessy J's song lyrics.

Suggestion

For the teachers, the researcher suggests the teachers to teach their students about the figurative language. The reason can be viewed from the importance of figurative language. The figurative language is an important material that should be thought by the teacher. The contextual meaning of figurative language can affect ambiguity, so teaching figurative language specifically is important.

For the students, the researcher suggests the students to learn the figurative language specifically because it is an interesting subject. The students should read and understand this research in order to get useful information about the figurative language.

For others researchers who will conduct a study with the same topic, the researcher suggests them to use this research as their reference because this research contained some useful theories. The researcher also suggests the others researchers to conduct the similar research investigating the types of figurative language found in the reading text of selected TOEFL exercises.

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