FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ED SHEERAN'S SONG LYRICS

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ABSTRACT

This article deals with "Figurative Language in Ed Sheeran's Song Lyrics". The objectives of the study were to find out the types of figurative language in Ed Sheeran's song lyrics and to find out the meaning of figurative language in Ed Sheeran's song lyrics. The method of the study applied to the research is a qualitative method. The results of this study were 42 figurative sentences found from 9 Ed Sheeran Song Lyrics which consist of metaphor with 14 data, hyperbole with 16 data, personification with 3 data, and simile with 9 data.
Keywords: *Figurative Language, Simile, Metaphor, Personification, and Hyperbole.*

ABSTRAK

Artikel ini berjudul "Bahasa Kiasan pada Lirik Lagu Ed Sheeran". Tujuan dari penelitian ini untuk mengetahui jenis bahasa kiasan pada lirik lagu Ed Sheeran dan untuk mengetahui arti dari lirik lagu Ed Sheeran. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil penelitian ini adalah bahwa penulis menemukan 42 kalimat bahasa kiasan dari 9 lagu yang terdiri dari metapora sebanyak 14 data, hiperbola sebanyak 16 data, personifikasi sebanyak 3 data, dan simile sebanyak 9 data.
Kata kunci *: Bahasa Kiasan, Simile, Metapora, Personifikasi, dan Hiperbola.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is communication tool for human being. Humans use language to communicate and express their thought, ideas, feeling, and opinion with others. Language can be spoken and written. According to Kridalaksana (1993:21) languages are symbol sounds and arbitrary language that allows people to work together, interact and identify things. It means that language is very necessary for all people in this world because language is the most basic thing for a human to convey intentions to others. Spoken language can be found in novels, newspapers, or even songs. So, from all the definitions above, it can be concluded that humans cannot live without language.

In linguistic, language relates to meaning is called semantic, where semantics is learning about meaning. According to Palmer (1976:1) semantic is the technical term used to refer to study of meaning. Semantics studies consist of two parts; literal

and nonliteral meaning. Literal meaning refers to everyday, the most basic meaning of the word, while nonliteral is used when a word means something other than its everyday meaning.

Figurative language is a language that uses words or expression with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. We can say that figurative language uses diction and of course has messages. Usually, figurative language can be found in novels, poetry, and poem. Besides that, it turns out the use of figurative language is also found in many songs. To understand deeply the message represented by the use of figurative language interpretation is needed. In this era, many people listen to music if they feel bored, emotional, and sad because listening to songs makes the listeners feel good, relax, and happy if they listen to the music or sing a song depending on their mood.

According to Rozakis (1995:28), figurative language is saying one thing in terms of another. It means that figurative language has other meanings from actual words or sentences. So, the reader will be difficult to understand. Writers usually use figurative language because they want to show their creativity or make the literary works more beautiful so people will feel interesting to listen and read them.

The writer focused on figurative language used in Ed Sheeran's song lyrics. The purpose of discussing figurative language in songs is to know the composer's efforts to attack the reader or listener's attention through the use of figurative language which carries the intended meaning that is not explicitly expressed. Referring to the importance of figurative language use in song lyrics. The writer intends to find the figurative language in Ed Sheeran's song lyrics.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

Some relevant theories are used for conducting this study, they are semantics, meaning (linguistic), and the types of figurative language.

a. Semantics

Semantics is the study of the meaning in language. According to Crystal (1991:310) semantics is one of the branches of linguistics devoted to the study of meaning in language. Meanwhile, Verhaar (1992:142) says that semantic is a theory of meaning. Semantics is a study about the relationship between the distinction linguistics with relationships of a symbol in the activity of talking.

Linguistic semantic look not only at grammar and meaning but at language acquisition as a whole. The study of meaning can be undertaken in various ways. Early in life, every human acquires the essentials of a language, a vocabulary, and the pronunciation, use, and meaning of each item in it. The speakers' knowledge is largely implicit. The linguists attempt to construct a grammar, an explicit description of the language, the categories of the language, and the rules by which they interact. Semantics is one part of grammar; phonology, syntax and morphology are other parts (Charles W. Kreidler Introducing English Semantics. Routledge. 1998)

Crystal explains in the following excerpt, there is a difference between semantics as the general public describes it. The technical term of the study of meaning in languages is semantics. But as soon as this term is used, a word of warning is in order. The linguistic approach studies the properties of meaning systematically and objectively, concerning as a wide of utterances and languages as possible.

The job of semantics is to study the basic, literal meaning of words as considered principally as parts of a language system, whereas pragmatics concentrates on how this basic meaning is used in practice, including such topics as how different expressions are assigned referents in a different context and the differing. Uses to which language is put (Riemer 2010)

b. Meaning (Linguistic)

The word meaning is commonly found in spoken or written language. Meaning is something which asked and it is given in comprehensive a language. Meanwhile, according to Lyons (1987:15), the meaning is

the relationship between language and the outside world that has been agreed together by its user to understand each other. Meaning can be divided into two kinds, namely literal language, and figurative language. The following discussion will be about literal language to give a better description or understanding of figurative language. Figurative language is therefore the focus of this study.

Language refers to the meanings of words, phrases, and sentences in their real or actual sense. Literal language is the language one uses to precisely say what one means. Literal language means exactly what it says, for example, the grass is green.

c. Figurative Language

Language is an important thing in human life. Language also plays an important role in human communication. Without language, we cannot communicate with others. Language is a system of arbitrary vocal symbols used for human communication. Figurative language is a language that has figurative meaning and incorporates the speaker's to touch the emotions, to cause shock and to persuade into action (Peter, 2002:12). Figurative language according to Abram (1999:96) is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else that standard order of words, to achieve some special meaning is commonly found in spoken or written language. Picken (2007:2) declares that "figurative language is noticed and frequently interpreted in considerable detail, and evaluation take place" from the definition above it can be concluded that a figurative language is a form of language that departs from normal word or sentence to form common literal meaning and goes beyond the literal meaning of words to achieve a particular effect. Verdonk (2003:3) states that figurative language is a kind of stylistic. Figurative language is usually used when someone says we may say or writes something in creating multiple meanings. It is strengthened by Peter (2002) who said that when he describes someone's manner of writing. Speaking or or performing, we may say, "she writes vigorous style" or "she started in fine style".

d. The Types of Figurative Language

According to Keraf (2009), there are many kinds of figurative language such as hyperbola, irony, metaphor, metonymy, personification, simile, symbol, and synecdoche.

a) Hyperbole

According to Keraf (2009:135) *hyperbola adalah semacam gaya bahasa yang mengandung suatu pernyataan yang berlebihan, dengan membesar-besarkan sesuatu hal.*(Hyperbole is a figure of speech that contains on overstatement, by exaggerating something". (my own translation)
For examples:
I had to walk 15 miles to school in the snow, uphill

The meaning of the sentence is the walk to school in the snow makes like a walk so far like 15 miles away.

b. Synecdoche

Keraf (2009:142) Synecdoche is the use of the part for the whole divided synecdoche into two parts. They are pars pro toto and totem pro parte. Pars pro toto is a part for the whole and totem proparte is when the whole things stand for its part.
For examples:
All eyes on me mean that all people looking at her.

c. Metonymy

Keraf (2009:142) *metonomia adalah suatu gaya bahasa yang menggunakan sebuah kata untuk menyatakan suatu hal lain karena mempunyai pertalian sangat dekat.*Metonymy is a style that uses a word to express something other because they have a very close relationship. Metonymy is also the rheto rical strategy of describing something indirectly by referring to things around it, such as describing someone's clothing to characterize the individual.

For example, Somebody was your love to open the door means someone falling in love asked a girl to accept his love. The sentence is closely related to the thing meant.

d.Personification

Keraf (2009:141) declared that personification a kind of figurative language which describes a lifeless thing. Personification is a figure of speech that describes an inanimate object like a human being. Personification gives human characteristics to an inanimate object, animal, or idea it makes the reader imagine things. For example, *The stars danced around the night sky* which means that the sky of that night is beautiful because of stars.The sentence describes stars is as a human does. The word of dance has a connotative meaning.

e. Simile

Keraf (2009: 138) says that a simile is a figure of speech in which an explicit comparison is made between two things essentially unlike. The comparison is made explicit by the use of some words or phrases such as like, as, than, similar to, appears, or seems. A simile is a figure of speech that compares two, unlike things, using words like or as.
For example, His head is a big as a helmet it means that his head as big as a helmet means he is big.Here the head is compared to the helmet.

f. Irony

Keraf (2009:142) describes irony is the opposite of what one means. The irony is a hint that wants to say something with other meaning on what it contains in the world.
For example:How quick you did the job, till I wait for a long time it means to do the job, one need longtime that it kept his friendwaits for a long time too. But it is only to say the feeling that he or she is unsatisfied with the condition. The irony is though for many students of literature to understand.

g. Metaphor

Metaphor is a part of figurative language using in analogy or close comparison between two things that are not normally treated as if they had anything in common. According to Perrine (in arp,2010:74), metaphor is a figure of speech in which comparison is made between two things essentially unlike but have some quality. Metaphors compare two things directly without using a connective word such as like as if etc.
For example, His heart is snow. "His heart as a tenor, the snow as the vehicle it means thathis heart" is compared with snow directly withbout usingthe connection word.

h. Symbol

According to Kennedy (1983:496), the symbol is a sign of some kind (a word or thing) thatsuggests something outside beyond itself. Whereas the simile says A is like B, the symbol will speak only about B, the symbol may be a concrete thing an object, aperson, an action, which is described for its own sake and further and suggestion ofmeaning.
For example, The national flag is the symbol of practice feeling. It means that a national flag has a powerful meaning in a country. The symbol is literally, something which is itself and yet stands for something else, usually abstract.

e. Song Lyric

Listening to music is one of comfortable activity. When people feel sad, happy, or feeling bad, music can be an alternative for expression of feeling. According to Hornby (1995:1133) song is a piece of music with words that is sung. There is one more important part of the song, it is called a lyric.
Lyrics are a set of words that make up a song, usually consisting of verses and choruses. A lyric is a paper written by someone who has imagination in composing beautiful words that have deep meaning.

f.Brief Description of Ed Sheeran's *Divide* Album

Divide is the third album by English singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran. It was released on 3 March 2017 through Asslyum Records.

Castle on the Hill and *Shape of You* were released as the Album's lead singles in January 2017. The album won The Grammy Award for Best Pop Vocal at the 60th annual Grammy Awards.

3. RESEARCH DESIGN

In this study, the writer used a descriptive qualitative approach since this research is intended to describe and to know be contextual figurative language in Ed Sheeran's song lyrics. This means that this thesis does not intend to find a new theory but to find new evidence to prove the truth of the theory.

The statement of problems of the study with relation to this topic as follows:

1. What are the types of figurative language found in Ed Sheeran's song lyrics?
2. What are the meanings of the types of figurative language found in Ed Sheeran's song lyrics?

The data were collected through the following procedures:
1. Reading the lyrics of Ed Sheeran's selected song lyric.
2. Identifying and interpreting the data based on the way Ed Sheeran expresses figurative language.
3. Underlining and classifying the words or sentence which have the figurative language.

4. DISCUSSION

This study deals with figurative language in Ed Sheeran's songs. The data presented are from Ed Sheeran's nine (9) songs, namely: *Dive, Happier, Eraser, What Would You Feel, Photograph, Save Me, Shape of You, Castle on the Hill,* and *Perfect.* After collecting the data, the writer classifies the data based on the type of figurative language. In analyzing the data, the writer found four types of figurative language used in Ed Sheeran's song lyrics, namely simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole.

A. The Types of Figurative Language in in Ed Sheeran's Song Lyrics

There are four types of figurative language found in Ed Sheeran's *Divide* album which consists of nine (9) songs, namely: *Dive, Happier, Eraser, What Would You Feel, Photograph, Save Myself, Shape of You, Castle on the Hill,* and *Perfect.*

a. The Types of Figurative Language in *Dive*

Dive is one of the popular songs of singer and songwriter Ed Sheeran. The song lyric tells about someone who wants to know how women honestly feel about him. Because if just you are not serious about having relationships with him then just let it go. The writer has found some types of figurative language. From the songwriter found 4 sentences of hyperbole that are I could fall, or I could fly, Before I dive right into you, I could live I could die Hanging on the words you say, and I have traveled the world there's no other like you and 1 sentence of metaphor that is You are a mystery.

b. The Types of Figurative Language in *Perfect*

This song has been released since 2017 and has become one of the most hit songs in the *Divide* Album. Since its release until the day the music video has been watched by almost 2,4 billion people. This song is a song composed by Ed Sheeran which contains an expression of his love and loyalty with a romantic lyric that was deliberately created for his wife.

The writer only found 2 types of figurative language, 1 sentence of metaphor that is I'm dancing in the dark with you between my arms, and 2 sentences of hyperbole that areI see my future in your eyes and Darling just kiss me slow, your heart is all I own.

c. The Types of Figurative Language in *Happier*

This song tells about someone who reunites with his former lover. Even though he is sick, he admits that his ex is much happier whit his substitute. Even though he

has agreed with other people, but still feelings cannot be fooled. Love still grows in silence. The writer only found two types of figurative language; 3 sentences of a simile that are Aint nobody hurt you like I hurt you But ain't nobody love you like I do, But if he breaks your heart like lovers do, just know that I'll be waiting here for you and I saw that both your smiles were twice as wide as ours. 1 sentence of metaphor that is I saw you in another arms and 1 sentence of personification that isNursing an empty bottle telling myself you're happier.

d. The Types of Figurative Language in *Eraser*

This song tells the story of how Ed Sheeran lives his life as a superstar which is not always fun. He feels he has sacrificed something most important to gain success until finally, Ed Sheeran realizes that what he sacrificed is a very valuable thing. Ed Sheeran wants to remove everything that will get him into the bad, like alcohol and ecstasy pills. Moreover, the fame you have is easy to make you fall and waver.

The writer has found 2 types of figurative language that are 2 sentences of a simile that are I'm well aware of certain things that will destroy a man like me and I'm not trying to preach like I'm reverend run. 2 sentences of hyperbole that are I look in the mirror questioning what I've become and Now the wave I have to ride and 1 sentence of metaphor that is Learned to sing inside the lord's house

e. The Types of Figurative Language in *Shape of You*

The song *Shape of You* simply tells the story of meeting Ed Sheeran with a woman at a bar and falling in love with her. Love then grows to blossom, but late love leads to physical lust, not emotional lust (true love).the writer found 3 sentences of simile that are Your love was handmade for somebody like me, We push and pull like magnet do, and Now my bed sheet like you.

f. The Types of Figurative Language in *Castle on the Hill*

This song has a theme of love, which is about childhood memories, adolescence, and adulthood. He also does not hesitate to express his nostalgia for returning to his hometown.

There are 3 sentences of metaphor that are I'm on my way, Miss the way you make me feel, and We watch the sunset over the castle.

g. The Types of Figurative Language in *Save Myself*

Save My self tells of someone willing to do everything for others, without thinking about the rewards that will be received later. This song describes that we need to start taking care of ourselves before we even attempt to care for someone else. Sometimes it is in our nature to care for and protects others all the while we are the ones who need the shoulder to cry on the protection from hurt.

The writer found 3 types of figurative language; there is 1 sentence of simile that is Dandy was wrong Cause I'm not like my mum, 1 sentence of metaphor that is So before I save someone else I've got save myself, and 3 sentences of hyperbole that are I gave my all oxygen to people that could breathe, Life can get you down so I just numb the way it feels and I drown it with a drink and out of date prescription pills.

h. The Types of Figurative Language in *How Would You Feel*

This song tells about someone who is in love with a woman, the couple has often walked, sat together. So he wants to convey his feelings of love to his ideal woman. He wants to spend his life alone with his lover, and he hopes that this woman also loves him. From this song, the writer found 3 types of figurative language. There are 1 sentence of personification (Watching the sunrise replace the moon), 2 sentences of metaphor (I'll be taking my time, spending my life, Love flows deeper than the river), and 3 sentences of hyperbole (Love flows deeper than the river, Falling the deeper in love with you, You are the one girl)

i. The Types of Figurative Language in *Photograph*

Photograph is Ed Sheeran's song tells about LDR or long-distance relationship with his partner. These lyrics seem to see that couples who do LDR generally go through it because of compulsion because every couple certainly wants to be together in love. The writer found 3 types of figurative language; 3 sentences of metaphor (Holding me close until our eyes meet, That's okay baby only words bleed and Loving can heal, loving can mend your soul), 1 sentence personification (We keep this love in photograph), and 2 sentences of hyperbole (You can keep me inside your pocket on your ripped jeans and Met to your heart where I should be).

B. The Meaning of Figurative Language Found in Ed Sheeran's Song Lyrics

Below is the meaning of the types of figurative language found in Ed Sheeran's song lyrics, namely *Dive, Happier, Eraser, What Would You Feel, Photograph, Save Myself, Shape of You, Castle on the Hill,* and *Perfect.*

a. Simile

The simile is figurative language that interestingly compares two different things to make the sentence more vivid. It is use conjunction or comparative. The conjunction used are, like, as, then, similar to, etc. Here some lyrics that use the figurative language of simile.

1. Saw that both your smiles were twice as wide as ours

The sentence "saw that both your smile were twice as wide as ours" is an example of a simile because the author use word "as" two compare the two different things. The author makes a comparison between the width of your smile and the width of our smile. He explained that your smile twice as wide as our smiles.

b. Metaphor

A metaphor is a figurative language that compares two unlike things implicitly but in a short form. The metaphor doesn't use a conjunction such as "like", "as", etc. however it directly connects the first and second parts.

1. I'mdancing in the dark with you between my arms

The sentence "with you between my arms" is an example of a metaphor. The author's real point is that he dances in a dark place while hugging his girlfriend.

c. Personification

Personification is a figurative language that compares inanimate objects or something that can not move to looks like animate. Further, it can behave like a human. Moreover, personification aims to represent the quality of experiencing a situation and to provide a concrete image.

1. We keep this love in photographs.

The sentence "we keep this love in photograph" is a personification. The word "photograph" is an inanimate object so it is impossible to store love because love can only be felt and stored in human hearts. So in figurative language, this sentence belongs to personification.

d. Hyperbole

Hyperbola is a figure speech that contains an overstatement, with exaggerating something.

1. I have traveled the world, there is no other girl like you

The sentence "I have traveled the world, there is no other girl like you is an example of hyperbole. because the author found that the sentence I have traveled the world is an exaggerated word. From the literal meaning, this sentence means he has traveled the world and met many women, but he has not found the same as his lover it meant he could not be replaced with anyone. But in this case, the author found that it is impossible for someone who can travel the world just by looking at someone (girl). So this sentence belongs to hyperbole.

5. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, there are some conclusions drawn as follows :

1. Figurative language is the one aspect that is used in Ed Sheeran's songs to give a powerful effect to the song. After analyzing the data, the writer found four types of figurative language being used in Ed Sheeran's songs such as **simile, metaphor, personification,** and **hyperbole.**
2. In this study, the writer found 42 data in Divide album of Ed Sheeran's song lyrics which consist of nine (9) songs, namely *Dive, Happier, Eraser, What Would You Feel, Photograph, Save Myself, Shape of You, Castle on the Hill* and *Perfect*. Therewere 9 data of simile, 14 data of metaphor, 3 data of personification, and 16 data of hyperbola.

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