

Analysis of Figurative Language in “Easy On Me” Song Lyrics

Ni Wayan Swarniti

Universitas Dwijendra
swarnitiniti@gmail.com

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Abstract- It is very interesting to analyze figurative language in a song lyric, because figurative language makes the language more unique by using metaphor, hyperbole, etc. The aim of this research is to classify and analyze the lyric of Adele’s Song Easy On Me based on figurative language used. This research implies qualitative research. The data source in this research was song lyric of Adele’s Song entitled Easy On Me. Technique of collecting data in this research was observation. The theory used was from Miller and Greenberg (1981) about figurative language. Each data was analyzed based on the theory of figurative language descriptively. Based on the result of this research, in Comparative Figurative Language, just found data in personification (4 data). In Contradictive Figurative Language, it was found hyperbole (3 data), litotes (2 data), and paradox (1 datum). In Correlative Figurative Language, it was found in this data source, namely: allusion (1 datum), ellipsis (2 data), metonymy (2 data), and symbol (8 data). The most data found in data source was symbol. This song lyric had many figurative languages. It means this song lyric tried to use figurative language to express the feeling or idea imaginatively. In other word, this song lyric tried to create a special image and bring out one's emotions.

Keywords: Figurative Language; Semantic Analysis; song lyric; linguistic analysis

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool to convey messages, whether by oral or written messages (Ibrahim et al., 2019). Language is used to convey the message from the speaker and the hearer (Sabata. Y., 2018). Language is one of crucial tools of human beings to communicate one another (Hariyanto, 2017). Language is a means of communication that is widely used by societies where communicators and communicants can convey ideas, thoughts, and so on (Siregar et al., 2021). According to Harmer (2006) states that language is used widely for communication between people who do not share the same first (or even second) language (Harmer, 2006). Communication can be done verbally or nonverbally, of course in doing communication people use language to deliver the message to the listener, the message itself can be idea,

meaning that will be transferred to the listener (Susanthi et al., 2021). To produce these kinds of information, ideal communication principles must be applied (Umbas & Jayantini, 2021).

Hornby (1987) states that language is a human and non-intensive method of communicating ideas, feelings, and desires by means of a system of sounds and sound symbols (Hornby, 1987). Language is very important thing in human life (Swarniti, 2019). Not all languages has the same concept with the word used in communication (Santika & Sudiana, 2021). In learning language, there is figurative language that makes a language more unique. For example, in song lyric from Jessie J entitled Flashlight, the lyric is “I’m stuck in the dark but you’re my flashlight”. The lyric “you’re my flashlight” is classified as metaphor in comparative figurative language term.

Figurative languages give the value in a language (Swarniti, 2021a).

Figurative language is a method taken to express a feeling or an idea by comparing two different things, similes an object to another which has no similarity at all between them or treat inanimate object like animate creature (Siahaan, n.d.). According to Webster (1988), figurative language is one way to express an idea imaginatively (Webster, 1988). Meanwhile, according to Erika Sweeney (1995): "Figurative language refers to a way of using description to create a special image and bring out one's emotions (Sweeney, 1995). Hatch (1995) states that, traditionally, figurative language has been described in terms of categories: simile, metaphor, allusion, personification, and so forth (Hatch, 1995).

Figurative language is seen more effective to transfer the meaning of the writer because, the first, figurative language affords readers imaginative pleasure of literary works; the second, it is a way of bringing additional imagery into verse, making the abstract concrete, making literary works more sensuous; the third, figurative is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and conveying attitudes along with information and the last, it is a way of saying much in brief compass (Perrine, 1991). Using figurative language appropriately in writing and speaking can communicate a thought effectively (Kreuzer, 1960).

Figurative language feature has been displayed to play a simultaneous role in musical composition and communication, academic extension, and scientific erudition (Gunawan et al., 2021). The figurative language feature is not unusual or solely rhapsodical; it is an omnipresent piece of oral and written discourse (Roberts & Kreuz, 1994). Unfortunately, figurative language feature is not always obvious or exact (Berta & Swarniti, 2020). Figuration is addressed as employment that is driven by a metaphoric or metonymy kinship to some other employment that might be somehow marked as literal (Santika et al., 2019). Literal thus is not kind of par for the course meaning as routine usage, whereas it is independent on a figurative aspect from one denotation to another (Dancygier, B., & Sweetser, 2014).

Based Miller and Currie (2000), there are many types of figurative language. It proves that how beyond of reach is the human ability in creating practical tools to make their life more colorful (Swarniti, 2021d). According to Miller and Currie (2000) states that there are some types of figurative languages, they are: simile, rhetorical question, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, apostrophe, alliteration, assonance

(Miller and Currie, 2000).

It is very interesting to analyze figurative language in a song lyric (Swarniti, 2021e). Actually, there are many texts that can be tried to be analyzed (Swarniti, 2021c). For example: script of movie, conversation in talk show, speech, short story, script of drama, song lyric, newspaper, magazine, etc. In this research, song lyric was chosen as data source. The reasons are song lyric has relevant data for this research, the writers of song lyric usually use figurative language to make their songs more interesting to be sung, the writers usually transfer the meaning of the song in song lyric implicitly. The data source in this research was song lyric "Easy On Me" by Adele. Adele is one of the most famous singer in the world. Every song that she is singing has a high value in life.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher was interest to conduct this research. The aim of this research is to classify and analyze the lyric of Adele's Song Easy On Me based on figurative language used.

II. METHODS

This research implies qualitative research. According to Wiersma (1991), qualitative research relies heavily on narrative descriptions (Wiersma, 1991). Meanwhile, Punch (1998), defines qualitative research as empirical research where the data are not in the form of numbers (Perrine, 1991). The data source in this research was sentences, clauses, phrases, even words that contained on song lyric of Adele's Song entitled Easy On Me. This song is one of songs in album entitled 3D that was released on November 2021 According to Nawawi (1991), the activity of library research is conducted by collecting the data from some literature, either in library or in other places (Nawawi, 1991).

Technique of collecting data in this research was observation. The researcher observe the data source, then classify based on the theory used (Swarniti, 2021b). The theory used was from Miller and Greenberg (1981) about figurative language. After the observation, the data were classified based on kinds of Comparative Figurative Language, Contradictive Figurative Language, and Correlative Figurative Language. Next step was analyzing data. Each data was analyzing based on the theory of figurative language descriptively.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this research, there some theories about figurative language were analyzed. They were Comparative Figurative Language, Contradictive Figurative Language, and Correlative Figurative Language. The result of

this analysis found based on the data source. The data were classified based on the theory used. Then, the researcher explained the reason why the finding belongs to Comparative Figurative Language, Contradictive Figurative Language, and Correlative Figurative Language.

A. Comparative Figurative Language

Comparative figurative language consists of metaphor, personification, and simile. In the data source, it was found personification only. The analysis is in the following description.

1) Personification

As mention by Miller and Greenberg (1981) "Personification is a figure of speech which an abstract idea, inanimate object, or aspect of nature is described as if it were human." (Miller, Ruth, 1981). In personification, the things can do the human usually do (Lede & Swarniti, 2020). The data and the analysis as follow:

- Data 1 I know there is *hope in these waters*
- Data 2 When I am *drownin' in the silence*
- Data 3 There ain't *no room for our things to change*
- Data 4 When we are both so deeply *stuck in our ways*

In data 1, the phrase *hope in these waters* was indicated as personification. This phrase means about hope something, but it used the word *waters* as the things that can be hoped. This phrase used the connotative meaning in the word *waters*. Based on data 2, personification was found in the phrase *drownin' in the silence*. Impossible for human drives in silence. This phrase used the things about human being in the word *silence*. Then, this phrase classified as personification. From the data 3, *no room for our things to change* is one of the song's lyric "Easy On Me" by Adele. This phrase was classified as personification (Santika & Suastika, 2022). The word *room* in this phrase was indicated or means as opportunity. So in this phrase, we change our things by using room. It is described as if it were human. In the last data above, data 4 was also indicated as personification. Personification was found in phrase *stuck in our ways*. Actually, we can stuck just in road or way that we never know before. But, in our ways, certainly we know very well about the ways (Santika, 2020).

B. Contradictive Figurative Language

Besides Comparative Figurative Language, this research also analyzed about Contradictive Figurative Language. The types of Contradictive Figurative Language are hyperbole, irony, litotes, and paradox. One of figurative language, irony, cannot be found in data source. The data found below was based on the data source in this research. Then, it was followed by the analysis of each data.

1) Hyperbole

According to Potter (1967) "hyperbole or overstatement is figurative language that contain exaggeration element about something." (Potter, 1967). In the following description, there are some data that indicated as hyperbole.

- Data 1 There ain't *no gold in this river*
- Data 2 That I've been *washin' my hands in forever*
- Data 3 *Feel the world around me*

Three data above were classified as hyperbole in figurative language. In data 1, the phrase *no gold in this river* is too exaggeration. The word *gold* means the precious thing. So, the word *gold* here is overstatement. This phrase was classified as hyperbole. From data 2 above, the sentence That I've been *washin' my hands in forever* has hyperbole. The phrase *washin' my hands in forever* contains hyperbole in figurative language. The word *forever* in this phrase is exaggeration. In daily life, it is impossible to wash our hand forever. So, this phrase was indicated as hyperbole. The meaning of *washin' my hands in forever* in this phrase was letting go of engagement forever. Based on the last data, data 3 above was classified as hyperbole too. This phrase *Feel the world around me* contains exaggeration. Actually, we can feel the things around us. It is like water, air, and anything, but not the world. The world is large to feel.

2) Litotes

Litotes is a figurative language that contains statement which made smaller from the original (Potter, 1967). In data source was found some data about litotes. There were in the following description.

- Data 1 There ain't no gold in this river
- Data 2 There ain't no room for our things to change

All of the data above were classified as litotes in figurative language. The data 1 *There ain't no gold in this river* used double negation to give the information that there is no previous thing here. The negations are *ain't* and *no*. based on data 2, this sentence has figurative language. The figurative language can be seen in this sentence *There ain't no room for our things to change*. This sentence used double negation too. The meaning of this sentence was there is no opportunity to change.

3) Paradox

Paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true (Perrine, 1969). Miller and Greenberg (1981) states that paradox "refers to a statement or situation that seems absurd or contradictory on the face of it and yet may well be true in essence" (Miller, Ruth, 1981).

- Data 1 I had no time to choose what I chose to do

In the data above, it can be said as paradox in figurative language. The sentence *I had no time to choose what I chose to do* means there is no opportunity to choose what the thing that must be chosen. The author needs to choose a choice, but there is no time to choose.

C. Correlative Figurative Language

In Correlative Figurative Language, there are five kinds. It consists of allusion, ellipsis, metonymy, symbol, and synecdoche. Four kind of Correlative Figurative Language were found in this data source, namely: allusion, ellipsis, metonymy, and symbol. One kind of Correlative Figurative Language that cannot be found was synecdoche.

1) Allusion

Perrine (1969) explains that "Allusion is a reference to something in history or previous literature and is, like a richly connotative word or a symbol, a means of suggestion far more than it says" (Perrine, 1969). Miller and Greenberg (1981) also state that allusions are richly suggestive for readers who are willing to take the trouble to track them down and a poem may occasionally depend on the readers' understanding of an allusion (Miller, Ruth, 1981).

- Data 1 I was still a child

Based on the data 1 above, this sentence was classified as allusion. The word *child* in this sentence means the act of the author like a child.

So, *child* here has a figurative language. That was allusion.

2) Ellipsis

Ellipsis is figurative language that eliminates words or parts of sentence (Potter, 1967). There were three data that was indicated as ellipsis in figurative language.

- Data 1 When I am drownin' in the silence
Baby, let me in
- Data 2 I had good intentions
And the highest hopes
But I know right now
It probably doesn't even show

From the data above, it can be seen that these data mentioned as ellipsis. The data 1 *let me in* means incomplete sentence. The sentence that has relation with it is *When I am drownin' in the silence*. The author wants to join to *drown in the silence*. It has a figurative language ellipsis. In data 2, it was also mentioned as ellipsis in figurative language. The word *It* in the data *It probably doesn't even show* is ellipsis. The word *It* means highest hopes. So, it is omission in the next sentence.

3) Metonymy

Metonymy according to Miller and Greenberg (1981) is "an object, idea, or event is referred to by naming some attribute or quality associate with it (Miller, Ruth, 1981). In the following explanation, there was the data and the analysis of metonymy in figurative language.

- Data 1 There ain't no gold in this river
- Data 2 That I've been washin' my hands in forever

The two data above were indicated as figurative language metonymy. In data 1, the word *gold* in sentence *There ain't no gold in this river* has a different concept. The word *gold* means previous thing. So, the word *gold* is a metonymy for the concept of previous thing. Based on data 2, the phrase *washin' my hands in forever* has a metonymy. This phrase means letting go from one thing. So, that is why this phrase was classified as metonymy in figurative language.

4) Symbol

A symbol may be defined as something that means more than itself (Perrine, 1969).

Every symbol has their own meaning (Swarniti, 2020). In this data source, symbol was the most kind of figurative language was found in this research. There were eight data that was found, then analyze. The explanation is in the following description.

- Data 1 There ain't no *gold* in this river
- Data 2 That I've been washin' my *hands* in forever
- Data 3 I know there is hope in these *waters*
- Data 4 When I am drownin' in the *silence*
- Data 5 I was still a *child*
- Data 6 There ain't no *room* for our things to change
- Data 7 When we are both so deeply stuck in our *ways*
- Data 8 Feel the *world* around me

All of data above have figurative language. The figurative language is symbol. Every sentences have their own symbol and meaning. In data 1, *There ain't no gold in this river* the symbol is the word *gold*. The word *gold* has a symbol as previous thing. In data 2, the phrase *washin' my hands in forever* has a symbol in figurative language. The symbol of

IV. CONCLUSION

All of the data found and each analysis were explained in detail above. Based on the explanation above, it was concluded as follows:

There were Comparative Figurative Language, Contradictive Figurative Language, and Correlative Figurative Language that was done to be analyzed in this research. In Comparative Figurative Language, just found data in personification. The personification found was 4 data. In Comparative Figurative Language, metaphor and simile were not found.

In Contradictive Figurative Language, it was found hyperbole, litotes, and paradox. The only one Contradictive Figurative Language that was not found. It was irony. The data of hyperbole was 3 data. The data of litotes was 2 data. The data of paradox was 1 datum.

In Correlative Figurative Language, there are five kinds. It consists of allusion, ellipsis, metonymy, symbol, and synecdoche. Four kind of Correlative Figurative Language were found in this data source, namely: allusion, ellipsis, metonymy, and symbol. One kind of Correlative Figurative Language that cannot be found was synecdoche. The data of allusion was 1 datum. The data of ellipsis was 2 data. The data of

this phrase is letting go from one thing forever. Then in data 3, this data also has a symbol in figurative language. The word *waters* in sentence *I know there is hope in these waters* has a symbol as situation. So that is why this data classified as symbol in figurative language. From data 4, the sentence *When I am drownin' in the silence* also has a symbol. The symbol is in the word *silence*. The word *silence* in this sentence means there is no more words. In data 5, the symbol is in the word *child*. The word *child* in sentence *I was still a child* has a meaning as the author act like a child. In data 6, there is a sentence *There ain't no room for our things to change*. From this sentence, the word *room* has a symbol in figurative language. The symbol of the word *room* in this sentence is opportunity. Data 7 was also indicated as symbol in figurative language. From the sentence *When we are both so deeply stuck in our ways*, the symbol is in the word *ways*. This word has a symbol as situation. In the last data, data 8 also has a figurative language. The figurative language is a symbol. The symbol in this sentence is in the word *world*. The word *world* means anything. Based on those reasons, all of data above were classified as symbol in figurative language.

metonymy was 2 data. The data of symbol was 8 data. The most data found in data source was symbol.

Based on the result analysis, this song lyric had many figurative languages. It means this song lyric tried to use figurative language to express the feeling or idea imaginatively. In other word, this song lyric tried to create a special image and bring out one's emotions.

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