

The Analysis of Figurative Language in Halsey's Selected Songs Lyric

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Abstract

Figurative language is a non-literal meaning of sentences or words in order to make attractive languages in written text based on the theory of Aristotle Therefore, this research aims to analyze what kinds of figurative language in Halsey's selected song which are Colors, The Feeling, Without Me, Haunting, Ghost, Walls Could Talk, and Nightmare. Moreover, the contextual meaning of the selected song's lyrics is analyzed based on the theory of Halliday. Contextual meaning has three types which are field, tenor, and mode by observing through reading the lyrics from genius.com. The Field and Mode of the songs refer to the culture of the composer lived in, and Tenor is symbol of participation of life objects. The result is in classified and percentage the data. Thus, it concluded and calculated that the seven selected songs of Halsey have 2 items or 13% of allegory, 1 or 6% of conceit, 5 or 31% of hyperbole, 4 or 25% of irony, 2 or 13% of litotes, 8 or 20% of metaphor, 2 or 13% of onomatopoeia, 4 or 25% of personification, 6 or 38% of rhetorical question, 11 or 69% of simile, and 3 or 9% of symbol. The result of this study will be able to give contribution to the readers who are interested in learning and understanding or interpreting those lyrics.

Keywords: *figurative language; contextual meaning; metaphor; Songs Lyric*

INTRODUCTION

In connection through communication, linguistic takes a part to transfer the information. It provides a speculation that the information in communication has an intention. According to the journal of Bao, Basu dan Dean (2018) the information that comes from a speaker decodes the syntax and obtains the conclusions of a meaning. the information decodes them into a comprehensive meaning. Furthermore, this makes sense that people who cannot communicate confidently can apparent to a songwriter as music which is part of communication. Basically, why music becomes a part of communication, it is because based on Miell, MacDonald dan Hargreaves (2005) music has a powerful meaning in communication. It presents peoples' emotions, intentions, and significations, and it is meaningful for others means to communications. Music brings an

emotional and physical movement through the language in music because it presents a meaningful language including non-literal meaning or a figurative language. Therefore, a lot of composers include figurative language in their songs in order to give the special impression to understand every lyric of their works. According to Griffiths (2006) figurative language is a text that has its non-literal meaning, in other words, the sentence does not literally have its definition, and there are some kinds of it which are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, irony, paradox, and so on. By using figurative language, a composer can write expressively and meaningfully lyrics so that it can be a relatable song for listeners or readers. Thus, we decide to find out the figurative language in some selected songs of Halsey based on Aristotle's theory and contextual meaning based on Halliday's theory.

Learning a language particularly another language needs an understanding of the language. The meaning of each word is necessary for learners of learning languages. Contextual meaning can be defined as the meaning which depends on the situation of the word or phrase is used. As theory from Lyons in a journal of Harya concluded that the meaning bases on the circumstance of the text it is used, and distinction situation may influence the meaning in the word or sentences. Context of the situation is chosen to analyze the lyric songs of Halsey, and it is strengthened with the theory of Martin in the journal of Dijk by updating the theory context of the situation from Halliday. He summarized that the list of notions of situational context in Halliday's theory of field, tenor, and mode is defined clearly which are field is social action, the tenor is role structure, and mode is symbolic organization. In other words, Field is the area and occasion of context supported by language, whereas the Tenor is the character involved such as the nature of participants, status, and roles, and the Mode is the symbolic organization of languages such as its role, its status, and rhetorical mode. Figurative language is usually used to create a symbolic written text to express peoples' ideas in other words it is a style of creating literature in the modern areas, or existence of cyber literature is considered (Nanda).

However, it is not only used in the language of literature, such as drama, poetry, or prose but they are also alive in linguistics study or common usage in writing lyrics on the song and daily speech. Therefore, figurative language is an additional style of writing to make it meaningful which has some types of it. They are an allegory, conceit, euphemism, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metaphor, metonymy, onomatopoeia, oxymoron, paradox, personification, rhetorical question, simile, symbol, synecdoche.

Types of figurative language	definition
Allegory	An entire narrative that involves characters and events that stand for an abstract concept or event.
Conceit	An analogy between two completely distinct notions, e.g., war is peace.
Euphemism	Use of a pleasant word for one that is vulgar or obscene, e.g., powder room for toilet.
Hyperbole	Extreme exaggeration, e.g., he ate half a side of beef.
Irony	Sarcastic wit to mean the opposite of what is meant, e.g., I love that stuff! (meaning, I hate that stuff!).
Litotes	Understatement to magnify the significance of a statement, e.g., Verdi was not an unimportant composer.
Metaphor	A resemblance of two contradictory or specific objects is made based totally on a single or some frequent characteristics. For example, her hair is silk. Hair and silk are being compared.
Symbol	A sign to convey specific meaning and depends on the circumstances, e.g., a flag means patriotism of nations.
Synecdoche	The part stands for the whole, e.g., the law (= the police) broke down the door

RESULT

a) Analysis of Figurative Language

Figurative language is analyzed in accordance with the theory from Aristotle and determined based on the data analysis above. Thus, the Figurative language that Halsey serves in her selected 7 songs is presented in the table below.

i) Allegory

An allegory is found in the song lyric of Halsey titled Haunting and Nightmare. In this line of lyric Haunting song "**You've got**

a fire inside, but your heart's so cold" this means an illustration of someone's thoughts that he has jealous feeling. As the same as the pieces of lyric from Nightmare in *"But I'd rather be a real nightmare, than die unaware"* means it describes the pain of someone's torture, and death is the best way to stop that torture.

ii) Conceit

In this piece of a lyric from Nightmare's song *"Kindness is weakness"* it means the analogy of two different things. It describes good behavior is bad for her life.

iii) Hyperbole

Most of Halsey's selected songs have hyperbole where means to exaggerate words. Therefore, it can enrich the songs and play with listeners' imaginations. Here several pieces of the song that had been picked up of what hyperbole is appeared;

"Touched me, and suddenly I was a lilac sky"

"Got a million numbers and they're filling up your phone" "Gave love 'bout a hundred tries"

"We walk as tall as the skyline"

"I'm about four minutes from a heart attack"

iv) Irony

Not only speech is a sarcastic word that happens, but also through song a person can sarcas someone. Here is the lyric that contains Irony figurative of speech in songs of Ghost and Nightmare.

"I like the sad eyes, bad guys, mouth full of white lies" "I like it anyway"

"I love it every time"

"I've tasted blood and it is sweet"

v) Litotes

A statement of complaining someone occurs in order to sarcasm them with polite speech. Therefore, it happens in the lyric's song of Halsey titled Ghost and Nightmare.

"I don't like them innocent; I don't want no face fresh" "Come on, little lady, give us a smile"

Those means judgments are acceptable to everyone and every age in order to hurt people by using figurative speech.

vi) Metaphor

Not only hyperbole that has the most figurative language in the Halsey's songs, but metaphor also has it. In the songs Halsey put some metaphor lyrics as below;

"You said your mother only smiled on her TV show" "I'm off the deep end"

"Sugar on your lips, it starts to kill"

"I'm sinking faster and faster Between heaven and disaster" "I filled your cup until it overflowed"

"I'm the one who put you up there" "I've been cold since you left" "Fist fight in a limousine"

"If I shall die before I wake"

"I'm no sweet dream, but I'm a hell of a night"

vii) Onomatopoeia

These lyrics below shows a description of sounds into words in order to bold the lyric of the songs.

(Oh-oh-oh) Well, they'd be like" Shit is crazy, right?"

(Oh-oh-oh) "That ain't your baby no more"

viii) Personification

The figure of speech makes a lyric become meaningful, even it makes a thing can live by illustrating it with words. As the same as the lyrics of Halsey's songs below personification has appeared.

"The light came through" "My love was blind" "These walls could talk"

"The rug pulled beneath my feet"

ix) Rhetorical question

Asking people is required to answer the question, but in figure of speech the questions do not need to be answered because the lyric of songs is only to entertain the listeners of what it is about in their mind. Therefore, it can be instancing the piece of lyrics in the some selected Halsey's songs in the part of rhetorical question.

“My ghost, where'd you go?”
“What happened to the soul that you used to be?” *“Could it be I don't know what's good for me?”* *“Am I in love with you?”*
“Am I in love with the feeling?”
“How's it feel sittin' up there?”

x) Simile

The most of figure of speech in selected songs of Halsey is a simile. The lyrics inform to illustrate the comparison of two things which are connected each other. As the below as it mentions, these are the lyrics of simile in her songs.

“You're spilling like an over flowing sink”
“When your sorry head is filled with dope”
“A part of me just likes anatomy”
“You're pulling me in like you're gravity”
“Jagged like a pill”
“If I make you feel like I'm standing on the borderline” *“I was as pure as a river”*
“We have roots like the trees “
“They'd be like” *“Shit is crazy, right?”*
“You gon' play me like a violin”
“Someone like me can be a real nightmare”

Therefore, it means every people always compares themselves to look which one is better or as a distinction to tell if it is the best.

xi) Symbol

The sign of the word builds up a metaphor language that usually called symbol in order to interest the language. This almost appears in many song lyrics including

Halsey's song, for instance in below:

“You're a Rolling Stone boy” *“I'm notorious”*

“Name in the sky” *“He's made of gold”*

Those mean the subject of the lyric to symbolize themselves for defining obvious characters whose are intended.

No	Figurative Language	Frequency	Percentage
1	Allegory	2	13%
2	Conceit	1	6%
3	Euphemism	0	0%

4	Hyperbole	5	31%
5	Irony	4	25%
6	Litotes	2	13%
7	Metaphor	8	50%
8	Metonymy	0	0%
9	Onomatopoeia	2	13%
10	Oxymoron	0	0%
11	Paradox	0	0%
12	Personification	4	25%
13	Rhetorical question	6	38%
14	Simile	11	69%
15	Symbol	3	19%
16	Synecdoche	0	0%

b) Contextual meaning

The contextual meaning that occurs in the songs defines if a culture of where the composer is lived, it will affect the lyric of the songs. Moreover, the more background knowledge the composers has the more amazing songs they can create. Contextual meaning also defines the use of figurative language in the song lyric by delivering the context of the lyric. Therefore, figurative language is not only to make a beautiful word but also it is to share the opinion of the composers based on the context that they referred to or experienced in.

CONCLUSION

The figurative language is used to manipulate the contextual meaning of the songs so that listeners may know the culture of the songs. Therefore, a study on semantics is required to comprehend the meaning conveyed in the songs because most of the songs serve in a non-literal meaning, and it bases on the context it used. Through figurative meaning in music, a learning language can inevitably learn more about the linguistic knowledge without having adequate competence in figurative meaning. Learners are expected to create and apply the use of figurative language in their spoken and written communication skills in order to build a fresh and interesting expression. Also, it can deliver our expression without literally

the meaning that drives through the songs. The uses of figurative language in the songs are various. There are seventeen figurative languages that are created. It is caused by the imagination of the composer in applying his mind to the language differently to see the condition or context that occurs in the song.

In some songs found some of the same types of figurative language, and even a combination of figurative language, for instance, onomatopoeia and simile. This occurs because the combination is to build up the more complex meaning of the song and this study of figurative language that is often found is the personification, hyperbole, metaphor, and simile. Besides that, the researcher also found other figurative language as allegory, litotes, irony, symbolism, and conceit. The simile is the most dominant type of figures in Halsey's selected songs with the highest percentage with 69% as well because it is a figure of speech in which two essentially unlike things are compared. In rhetoric, the distinction or comparison of two things has strong point of resemblance which is a poetic or imaginative comparison. And the last, applying figurative language in music can lead a listener to interpret a song much better and attractive.

Contextual meaning in this research is a supportive figure of speech to find out the literal meaning where the non-literal meaning hides the literal meaning. To consider the contextual meaning the researcher uses theory from Halliday that the meaning is based on situation of speech or lyric which are Field, Tenor, and Mode. Those are notions of contextual meaning, and the meaning is determined to make specific intentions. Thus, the Field and Mode refer to the culture of the composer lived in, and Tenor is a symbol participation of life objects.

a) Suggestion

By considering the conclusion there are some suggestions from the researcher. For those who want learning figurative language should understand what figure of speech it is. To the readers of figures of speech to learn about literary criticism should know if this subject led us to find figures of speech and use of them. To the students of Applied Linguistics to apply a similar analysis on other text, because analyzing a song based on types of figures of speech can improve the students' ability in understanding of figures of speech. To the other researchers to find the other fields of language or other aspect which can be a way in conducting a new research of figures of speech, and make research in other modern or millennial song.

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