

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN HELLO MY NAME IS ALBUM BY BRIDGIT MENDLER**Dewi Wulan Sari**Faculty of Letter and Culture, dewi_wulansari@staff.gunadarma.ac.id, Gunadarma University**ABSTRACT**

Figurative language is the linguistic devices that are used in order to make language more beautiful and interesting. The aims of this research are to find out the figurative languages found in Hello My Name Is Album by Bridgit Mendler and to find out the most dominant figurative language found in Hello My Name Is Album by Bridgit Mendler. This research used qualitative research method. This research used the theory of figurative language from Kennedy & Dana (1995). The data source of this research is Hello My Name Is Album. The data of this research is the lyrics that have figurative language in it. Out of 47 data found in this research, 14 data are simile, 10 data are metaphor, 11 data are personification, 7 data are overstatement, 2 data are metonymy, 1 data is synecdoche, 2 data are paradox. Based on the data collected, simile is the most dominant figurative language found in Hello My Name Is Album.

Keywords: Figurative language, lyric, album**1. INTRODUCTION**

Literature is now increasingly favored by many people. Many people enjoy literature in their spare time or deliberately take the time to enjoy the work of literature. One type of literature that is favored by people of all ages is song. Songs are literary works made in the form of lyrics and sung to the accompaniment of music. Now, more and more people are enjoying songs, even more people are composing songs as their profession.

In composing songs, creativity and originality are very important. Originality is necessary so that the songs that are made are not the same as the existing songs. Creativity can determine the beauty and appeal of a song. Sometimes, to make the song sound more beautiful and attract attention, the songwriter adds a figurative language element to it.

Figurative language is one of the linguistic devices that can be used in spoken or in writing with the aim that what is being said sounds more interesting. Figurative language is different from the common language because what is said in the figurative has another meaning and cannot be translated literally. Therefore, figurative language is now widely used in song lyrics so that the song sounds interesting, beautiful, unique, and different from other songs in general.

Hello My Name Is is Bridgit Mendler's debut studio album. Bridgit Mendler is an American singer and song writer. The album was released on October 22, 2012 by Hollywood Records. The Album consists of 12 songs and has received positive reviews from the music critics. Through this album, Bridgit Mendler received 3 awards, namely About to Pop (Best song) and Best Acoustic Performance on the song ready or not, and Best Music Video on the song Hurricane.

The research analyzed the figurative language in Brigit Mendler debut Album, *Hello My Name Is*. The researcher interested to do a research in this topic because figurative language is a special language that cannot be interpreted literally. Figurative language needs deep understanding and the writer would like to give more example and understanding to the reader through this research. This album was chosen by the researcher because the Album was a debut album from Bridgit Mendler and has received positive reviews. Besides, this album was nominated in various awards and won 3 of them.

2. THEORETICAL REVIEW

Kennedy and Dana (1995 p.677) stated that "figurative language may occur whenever the speaker or the writer tried to emphasize some sentences from the usual denotations." (quoted from Wahyu Widya Lestari's thesis, 2019). These are the examples taken from various books.

1. Simile

Kennedy & Dana (1995 p.680) stated that "simile is a comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, usually *like*, *as...than...*, or verb such as *resembles*. A simile expresses similarity, but the things compared have to be dissimilar in kind". For example:

Life, like a dome of many-colored glass.

The sentence above is a simile. It compares two things by using *like*, *as*, *than* or a verb such a *resemble*. It compares *life* and *a dome of many-colored glass* which means that live is so colorful. It can be happy, gloomy, or even sad.

2. Metaphor

Kennedy & Dana (1995 p.680)stated that "metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which in a literal sense, it is not." The difference between metaphor and simile is methapor is metaphor uses to compare two unlike things without using the connective such as *like*, or *as*. For example:

Your fingers are sausages.

The sentence above is a metaphor. It compares *fingers* and *sausage*. The writer try to tell someone that his/her hands is so puffy and looks like a sausage.

3. Personification

Kennedy & Dana (1995 p.686) stated that "personification is a figurative language in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term such as truth, nature, is made human". For example:

The wind stood up and gave a shout.

The sentence above is a personification. The sentence is categorized as personification because it shows human activity that done by something is not human. It is clear that *the wind*, which is nonhuman, cannot stand and give something.

4. Apostrophe

Kennedy & Dana (1995 p.687) stated that "apostrophe is a figurative language which is a way of addressing someone or something invisible or not ordinarily spoken to. In an apostrophe. A poet or writer may address an inanimate object, some dead and absent person or an abstract thing". For example:

Return, Delights!

The sentence above is considered as apostrophe because the writer is speaking to the abstract thing.

5. Overstatement

Kennedy & Dana (1995 p.687)stated that "overstatement is a figurative language which used to emphasize a point with a statement containing exaggeration". For example:

Every time I shake, some skinny gal loses her home.

The sentence above shows an overstatement. It is not possible that the skinny gal will lose her home just because someone shake.

6. Understatement

A contrary from overstatement, Kennedy & Dana (1995 p.687)stated that "understatement is a figurative language which implying more than is said." or what the writer are talking about is described with a lesser strength than the reality. For example:

One could do worse than be a swinger of birches.

The sentence above shows an understatement.

7. Metonymy

Kennedy & Dana (1995 p.687)stated that "metonymy is a figurative language which used to refer the name or a thing substituted for that of another closely associated with it". For example:

The White House decided.

The sentence is the example of metonymy. The sentence above is not literally refer to the house which is painted white. The White House means the American Government.

8. Synecdoche

Kennedy & Dana (1995 p.688) stated that "synecdoche is a figurative language which used to tell the use of a part of thing to stand for a whole of it or vice versa". For example:

She lent a hand.

The example above is the example of synecdoche because "she" doesn't only lent her literal hand but also lent her overall presence.

9. Paradox

Kennedy & Dana (1995 p.688) stated that “paradox is a figurative language which occurs in a statement that at first strike us as self-contradictory but that on reflection makes some sense”. For example:

Enemy mostly is a good friend.

The sentence is a paradox because the term “Enemy” and “Friend” are two contrast things.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

In conducting this research, the researcher uses qualitative method. Fraenkel and Wallen (2012, p.426) state that “research studies that investigate the quality of relationships, activities, situations, or materials are frequently referred to as qualitative research”. Meanwhile, according to Moloeng (2010 as cited in Rahayu, 2017, p. 34), “qualitative method is a research procedure that obtains descriptive data in written or spoken form from the people and their behavior which is being observed”. Qualitative method is the research method that deals with description and explanation. Qualitative research method is used because this research needs explanation to interpretate the data collections.

The data source in this research is Bridgit Mendler Debut Studio Album, *Hello My Name Is*, standard edition. This Album was released on October 22, 2012, through [Hollywood Records](#). The standard edition of *Hello My Name Is* Album consists of 12 songs. They are *Ready or Not*, *Forgot to Laugh*, *Top of the World*, *Hurricane*, *City Lights*, *All I See is Gold*, *The Fall Song*, *Love Will Tell Us Where to Go*, *Blonde*, *Rocks at My Window*, *5:15* and *Hold on for Dear Love*. The data of this research are the lyrics that contain figurative language in it.

The data of this research are collected through these following steps. First, the 12 song lyrics from *Hello My Name Is* are collected by the researcher. Second, the songs are listened by the researcher many times in order to get familiar with the songs. Third, the songs lyrics are read thoroughly by the researcher. After that, the figurative languages in the lyrics are marked by the researcher. The next step, the figurative languages in the lyric are collected to the table by the researcher.

After all of the data have been collected, the researcher analyzes the data thoroughly. The first step, based on the theory of figurative language proposed by Kennedy & Dana, the figurative language are classified by the researcher. The second step, the data of the research are analyzed by the researcher. The third step, the data as well as the analysis are rechecked by the researcher. The fourth step, the conclusions of the data analysis are drawn by the researcher.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research conducted, 65 data are found. Out of 9 kinds of figurative language proposed by Kennedy & Dana, only 7 kinds of figurative language are found. They are simile, methapor, personification, overstatement, metonymy, synecdoche, and paradox. Th etable bellow will explain the data collections

Table 1. Figurative Language in *Hello My Name Is* Album

Kinds of Figurative Language	Frequency
Simile	14
Metaphor	10
Personification	11
Overstatement	7
Metonymy	2
Synecdoche	1
Paradox	2
Total	47

Source: *Hello My Name Is*, 2012

In the table above it is clear that from the total of 47 data, 14 data are categorized as simile, 10 data are categorized as metaphor, 11 data are categorized as personification, 7 data are categorized as overstatement, 2 data are categorized as metonymy, 1 data is categorized as synecdoche, 2 data are categorized as paradox. Based on the data collected, simile is the most dominant figurative language found in *Hello My Name Is* Album.

Simile

Simile is used to compare two different object as explicit as possible by using the words such as *like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems*.

Table 2. Simile

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 6	Livin' like a fairytale	<i>Ready or Not</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The sentence “*Livin' like a fairytale*” is categorized into simile because it compares *livin* and *fairytale* by using the word *like*. The lyricist compares *livin* in the real word and a *fairytale* which is just an imagination and a creation because the lyricist would like his/her life to go as he/she wanted and planed.

Table 3. Simile

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 30	Everybody knows that everybody glows like the city lights	<i>City Lights</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The sentence “*Everybody knows that everybody glows like the city lights*” is categorized into simile because it compares *everybody* and *city light* by using the word *like*. The lyricist tries to show that everybody is so special that they can glow like a city lights which bring the light to the solid darkness at night.

Metaphor

Metaphor is used as a way to compare two things that have the same quality without words like, as, and similar.

Table 4. Metaphor

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 5	The night is young	<i>Ready or Not</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The sentence “*The night is young*” is categorized into metaphor because it compares something without adding the words of comparison such as like and as. It compares *the night* and *young*. That is done to show the vibe and spirit of the young people reflected in the night.

Table 5. Metaphor

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 15	If you go, you're a joke	<i>Forgot to Laugh</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The sentence “*If you go, you're a joke*” is categorized into metaphor because it compares something without adding the words of comparison such as like and as. It compares *you* and *a joke*. The comparison is done to show that the person is simply like a joke, it is worth to be laugh at since the person never takes anything seriously.

Personification

Personification is figurative language that give human attribute to the non-human being, as if they were alive. In the other words, it is a way to make the non-human as a human being.

Table 6. Personification

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 53	All of the leafs on all of the trees are falling with me	<i>The Fall Song</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The personification is employed in the sentence “*All of the leafs on all of the trees are falling with me*”. Since the *leafs* on the trees are not human, they cannot fall they way “*me*” fall as a human. It means that a gust of wind hit the leaves on the tree so that they detached from the branches and fell to the ground.

Table 7. Personification

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 37	Love will tell us where to go.	<i>Love will tell us where to go</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The personification is employed in the sentence “*Love will tell us where to go*”. Love is not a human so love cannot tell or command someone to do something. The sentence means that the way people do and judge something is affected by the love that they feel.

Overstatement

Overstatement is a way to exaggerate something to sound better, worse or even more dangerous than it should be.

Table 8. Overstatement

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 8	You and me dance from the night to the dawn	<i>Ready or Not</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The sentence “*You and me dance from the night to the dawn*” is categorized into overstatement. It is because the sentence contains exaggeration. It does not really mean that the two people danced together from the night to dawn non-stop without feeling so tired and sleepy.

Table 9. Overstatement

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 20	We’ll be sitting on top of the world	<i>Top of the World</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The sentence “*We’ll be sitting on top of the world*” is categorized into overstatement. It is because the sentence contains exaggeration. It does not really mean that they can sit on the top of the world. It means that they, who are in love, can do anything that they want and be happy as if they own anything since they are together.

Metonymy

Metonymy is a figurative language which used to refer the name or a thing substituted for that of another closely associated with it

Table 10. Metonymy

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 4	And hit the gas quick	<i>Ready or Not</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The sentence “*And hit the gas quick*” is categorized into metonymy. What the writer means in the word “gas” is not literally the real gas. It actually refers to the car.

Table 11. Metonymy

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data	Cause I guess you pooped into my head	<i>Rocks at My Window</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The sentence “*Cause I guess you pooped into my head*” is categorized into metonymy. What the writer means in the word “*my head*” is not literally someone popped inside the head. It actually refers that the lyricist suddenly thinking about someone in mind.

Synecdoche

Synecdoche allows a smaller part of something to represent the larger whole, in rhetorical manner. Synecdoche can also work in the opposite direction

Table 12. Synecdoche

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 9	When I read your face	<i>Forgot to Laugh</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The sentence “*When I read your face*” is categorized into synecdoche. The word *face* mention actually refers to a larger whole. The sentence means that the lyricist tried to figure out what happen through the expression that expressed by the whole body.

Paradox

Paradox is a kind of figurative speech that show a contradiction. It may be a statement or situation that is unbelievable but somehow true.

Table 13. Paradox

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 44	My thick skin is feeling kinda thin	5:15

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The sentence “*My thick skin is feeling kinda thin*” is a paradox. How can something thich felt so thin. The words thick and thin are contrary to each other.

Table 14. Paradox

Number of Data	Lyric	Song Title
Data 64	And say I am sorry without a sound, sound, sound	<i>Hold on for Dear Love</i>

Source: *Hello My Name Is, 2012*

The sentence “*And say I am sorry without a sound, sound, sound*” is a paradox. How can someone say something without a sound. Saying something without a sound is called as speaking soundlessly and it is not common to be done in the conversation.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

From the research, 47 data are collected. 14 data are categorized as simile, 10 data are categorized as metaphor, 11 data are categorized as personification, 7 data are categorized as overstatement, 2 data are categorized as metonymy, 1 data is categorized as synecdoche, 2 data are categorized as paradox.

Based on the data collected above, it is can be concluded that the most dominant figurative language found in *Hello My Name Is* Album is simile. The number of simile dominates the other figurative language, it is 14 out of 47 data.

The researcher suggests the other researchers to conduct more research about figurative language by using different theory and source. The source of the data can be from novel, poem, movie dialogue, etc. It is hoped that by using the different theory and source, the other researcher may provide richer and more variable example of figurative language.

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