



FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN JOHN MAYER'S SELECTED SONGS: A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS

BAHASA FIGURATIF DALAM LAGU JOHN MAYER: ANALISIS STYLISTIK

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Abstrak. Penelitian ini mengidentifikasi dan mendeskripsikan bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan dalam lima lagu terpilih John Mayer dengan tema patah hati. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif. Berdasarkan analisis, hiperbola mendominasi dalam penelitian ini. Penulis lagu menggunakan hiperbola dalam lirik lagu untuk menekankan kepada pendengar apa yang ingin dikatakan penulis lagu atau apa yang telah dia lakukan dalam hidupnya, penulis menggunakan hiperbola untuk mewakili perasaannya dan untuk mengungkapkan apa yang ingin dia katakan. Lagu-lagu pilihan John Mayer mengandung makna di luar kalimat atau bahasa kiasan. 31 kalimat menggunakan bahasa kiasan dalam lirik lagu, hiperbola adalah jenis bahasa kiasan yang paling dominan muncul dalam lagu ini karena digunakan untuk menekankan situasi atau kondisi untuk efek khusus. Penggunaan hiperbola inilah yang kemudian membuat karya-karya tersebut menjadi sangat indah dan bermakna seperti diketahui hiperbola digunakan untuk memperkuat kesan dengan melebih-lebihkan, hal inilah yang kemudian memberikan kesan kuat pada beberapa lirik lagu.

Kata kunci: Bahasa kiasan, hiperbola, lagu.

Abstract. *This research identified and described the figurative language found in five selected John Mayer songs with broken heart themes. The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method. Based on the analysis, hyperbole dominates in this study. Songwriters use hyperbole in the song lyrics to emphasize to the listeners what the songwriter wanted to say or what he'd done in his life, the writer used hyperbole to represent his feelings and to express what he wants to say. John Mayer's selected songs contain meanings beyond the sentence or figurative language. 31 sentences use figurative language in the song lyric, hyperbole is the most dominant type of figurative language that appears in this song because it is used to emphasize a situation or condition for special effects. The use of hyperbole is what then makes the pieces very beautiful and meaningful as it is known that hyperbole is used to strengthen the impression by exaggerating, this is what then gives a strong impression on some of the song lyrics.*

Keywords: *Figurative language, hyperbole, song.*

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INTRODUCTION

As a popular form of entertainment, many song lyric use figurative sentence which give listeners a different understanding. To give meaning to a song, we can interpret each lyric and understand the whole of the song. The song consists of several series of lyrics that have meaning in them. Interpreting the lyrics and understanding the whole of the song will allow us to understand the meaning or content of the song. According to [1], there is a formula that makes it very easy for someone to understand the concept of communication. He said that 'who says what to whom by what channel with what effect'. Laswell also agrees that there is a process of delivering messages from the communicator to the communicant in communication.

Because of the effect of understanding these various songs, it often causes various speculations about the meaning, [2] the ambiguous and expressive nature, literary language tends to influence, persuade and ultimately change the attitude of the reader. The relationship between elements of music and elements of poetry or song lyrics is one form of mass communication from songs formed and songs by communicators to communicants in large numbers through mass media functioning as a medium of delivery.

According to [3], a good style of language must contain three things: elements, namely honesty, polite, and attractive. He said that in terms of this style, we know two terms, namely "rhetorical language", "figure of speech". As part of the language, figurative language becomes an inseparable part of music and makes it a means for musicians to convey their intended meaning to their music lovers. Figurative language is also a means for musicians to convey their message in a more unique language. The figure of speech complements the music and makes it more meaningful.

The figure of speech also makes the music itself more interesting and makes it more beautiful and pleasant to hear. This then makes people more interested in listening to music. According to [4], a figurative of language is something that gives characteristics and differences to a text. Text at a certain turn can stand a kind of

individual who is different from other individuals. Therefore, figurative language completes the language and makes it more pleasant in a very beautiful way.

Based on the explanation above, this research applied figurative language theory, proposed by [5] and [6]. This research identified and described the figurative language found in five selected John Mayer's song with broken heart theme. This theme of research is unique because broken hearth is a natural feeling that happen to human but how they interpreted the feeling is various.

METHOD

The method used in this study is a qualitative descriptive method, according to [7] qualitative research is a research strategy to collect data about a person, a group or a community from the participants own perspective. To analyze the meaning of the figure of speech words found in the song lyric, all data were classified based on the kinds of the figurative language. The analyses were continued by analyzing the meaning of figure of speech found. In this paper, the kinds of figurative language classify using [5] theory, the kinds of figurative language are simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, dead metaphor, allusion, and paradox.

This paper is an attempt to understand some figure of speech through the formation process, In the research, several songs that have been selected are: "you're gonna live forever in me", "never on the day you leave", "emoji of a wave", "in the blood", "moving on and getting over", "rosie", "changing", will be searched for what figure of speech is contained in it and the description and purpose of the figure of speech. According to [8], all the kind of meaning that contains implicit in context certain can form the presence of figure of speech.

Meanwhile, [9] defines qualitative research as a complex picture, examining words, reporting knowing views, and conducting studies in natural situations. Qualitative research is descriptive research and tends to use an inductive approach to analysis. As for qualitative research, the researcher departs from the data using existing theories as explanatory material. The data are analyzed using deep explanation or description and not involving measurement or statistics. This study

places more emphasis on disclosing the meaning contained in the description of the data, therefore this study uses approach qualitative method.

With this qualitative method, it is necessary to emphasize that qualitative research is interpretive. According to [9] the characteristics of qualitative research are "interpretive" that means it giving an impression, opinion, or theoretical view on something. Qualitative research is one of a form of interpretive research in which qualitative researchers make an interpretation of what they see, hear, and understand. Their interpretations may differ by background, their history, context, and prior understandings. After the research report is published, then the readers and participants who interpret, which is often different from the researcher's interpretation. Because readers, participants, and researchers are both involved in the process interpretive, it appears that qualitative research does offer different views on an issue.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Metaphor

Metaphor is an implied comparison, or an expression that is used in a new sense, on the basis of similarity between its literal sense and the new thing or situation to which it is applied, without "like" or "as" [12].

Sample Analysis of Song 3

It's raining on the mission bell they're draining out the wishing well

It breaks my heart

This lyric belongs to a metaphor, as we know metaphors provides or obscure clarity or identify hidden similarities between two different ideas. "it's raining out the mission bell" are sentences that are actually unrelated to each other. John described his feelings or things he experienced such as the rain that fell on the mission bell, according to research The mission bells can have two connotations: on the one hand, they call the people to worship and salvation, but on the other hand they indicate the domination and oppression of the indigenous people by the power of the colonial Spanish church. which is then in the next sentence "drained out the wishing well" These two sentences are a description of John's broken heart which is marked by a mission bell that is hit by rain and eliminates all hopes and missions

in the future or the ideals he wants . These lyrics are then followed by its break my heart. the snippet describes how john is so desperate with his separation in this song and how he loses hope and is heartbroken.

Sample Analysis of Song 4

Will it wash out in the water, or is it always in the blood?

This lyric is a metaphor because the sentence contains two different elements. In this sentence john says whether it can be lost (wash out in the water) or will remain in him (in the blood). Of course, these two sentences are two different elements because blood is a fluid in the human body that cannot be washed with water. But this statement is included in a metaphorical figure of speech where john describes where the blood is a hereditary bond, because in this song john describes his family, the song explores the relationship dynamics in his family and how that may have impacted the way he loves.

Sample Analysis of Song 7

Friends behind their fences

This is a lyric that contains a metaphor because in this case friend and fence are two different things which then when compared have a new meaning, which is like friends who take refuge or fence themselves off.

Allusion

Allusion is reference to some well-known place, event or person. Not a comparison in the exact sense, but a figure in the sense that it implies more than its narrow meaning [5]. As we know an allusion is a device that makes the reader think of another person, place, event, or thing. An allusion is when we he hints at something and expect the other person to understand what are we referencing.

Sample Analysis of Song 1

A great big bang and dinosaurs

Fiery raining meteors

It all ends unfortunately

In this lyric piece, John Mayer describes a major event in history “A Great Big Bang” the way does he describe this event in the lyric by using an allusion. as we know a great big bang and dinosaur is a very extraordinary event that caused the

death of many living things and dinosaurs in history. In the first lyrics john describes that the incident he experienced was also a very big event/impact full in his life like the great big bang. But it unfortunately ends like his relationship.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figure of speech which employs an exaggeration that is used for special effect [7]. Fiery raining meteors is Hyperbole, due to the fact the implied meaning in this lyric Snippet suggests something exaggerated.

Sample Analysis of Song 1

Fiery raining meteors

Fiery raining meteors is Hyperbole, due to the fact the implied meaning in this lyric Snippet suggests something exaggerated, "fiery raining meteors". The entire point of Using a hyperbole is to shock the listener into paying attention to what is being said. The phrase "fiery raining meteors" here manner the climax of the meteor crash that perish all of the dinosaurs (in previous lyric). Refers to That, this lyric describes all of the stunning things "fiery" can Have horrible ends.

Sample Analysis of Song 2

maybe we're not perfect But I'll be damned if I ever leave

Damned if I ever leave

The final refrain / bridge has the listener realizing this is a cautionary tale, and that there is still a chance to right the ship. Instead of experiencing all of the pain of separation or divorce why not try harder and admit the faults that exist and move on together. I'll be damned if I ever leave in this last lyric, john describes his regret and recalls the breakup by saying that he will "damned" the word damned means to emphasize or express anger or frustration with someone or something. clearly in this case john seemed exaggerated and as if the world would end if he died that person. Obviously that's not true, but john expresses his feelings in such a way or terms.

Sample Analysis of Song 3

It breaks my heart

"it breaks my heart" is a hyperbole because the heart is a human organ that is literally used for breathing and the heart cannot be broken like a hard bone. But

this statement is made to show the sadness that is felt. The heart is one of the organs that is very vital for humans, this sentence seems to be a description when we are hurt we feel that the person is hurting the thing that is very precious to us, our heart.

Sample Analysis Song 4

Could I change it if I wanted, can I rise above the flood?

In this lyric is included in hyperbole because John describes his question about the love story he wants to live. Will he be able to have a love story that ends happily or ends like a family and his parents separated, which has been described in the previous lyrics. "Can I rise above the flood" describes how he can change and fight against his surroundings which he describes as flood.

Sample Analysis of Song 5

Cause you've been gone; I'm growing older But I still can't seem to get you off my mind And I do believe I feel you all the time

This lyric John describes that even though he has separated from that person and time has passed, John illustrates that forgetting someone is a difficult thing. The memories of that person are still there and he expresses those feelings with can't get you off my mind and believe that he still remembers that person all the time.

Sample Analysis of Song 6

Take my heart by the hand

In real meaning it is impossible for us to hold someone's heart but in this case it means the expression 'take heart', on the other hand, has a much more positive connotation; it is a form of encouragement. When you tell someone to take heart, you are telling him to take comfort or take confidence from something.

Personification

“Personification is a type of metaphor in which a lifeless object, an animal or abstract ideas are made to act like a person and then giving human characteristics to an object, animal, or an abstract idea” [7].

Sample Analysis of Song 1

The moon's got a grip on the sea

The moon's got a grip on the sea is Personification due to the fact the sentence the usage of The moon that appears to be a dwelling element that may grip on the ocean. If taken literally, The meaning is “The moon that gripping the sea”. However, if we take it deeper, this is Very physics-related. The level of the ocean may be tormented by the gravity of the Moon or gravity of the solar. However, the moon's gravity has a bigger impact than the sun because the moon is towards the earth, so the moon can pull sea Water and make it a tide. Refers to that, the word “The moon's got a grip at the Sea” here is related to someone who has large impact that make large effect on A person's life and their feeling clearly can't be separated.

Sample Analysis of Song 2

Love grows in the time it's been

The word love is a noun, where love is something that humans feel towards something that is beautiful, kind, and affectionate. But love is not something that lives or can develop like living things or plants. And time is Time or the period of the whole series of moments when a process, action, or state exists or takes place. In this case, John uses personification to express that the love he feels develops over time even though it has passed. The refrain (love grows in...) expresses the passage of time and he explains that the girl is now leaving too.

Sample Analysis of Song 3

Your heart is where my head should be

In this case John uses personification to indicate with the words "your heart is where my head should be" in this it doesn't mean directly that John's head can go into someone's heart, but this word describes how they should be with each other before. And how they supposed to lean on each other's, from this word john describes the disappointment of how their relationship should be.

Sample Analysis of Song 7

Time's been talking to me Whispering in my ear

This lyric is included in personification because in its true meaning, time is an ongoing and moving state and a living thing that can talk and whisper. But in this case, John is like describing how time and the ongoing process is like giving an explanation and answer to what he is going through.

Irony

According [7], Irony is a figure of speech which contains a statement in which its real meaning is completely opposed to its professed or surface meaning. Irony is a literary technique in which an expected outcome does not happen, or its opposite happens instead. The outcome can be tragic or humorous, but it is always unexpected. The definition of irony as a literary device is a situation in which there is a contrast between expectation and reality.

Sample Analysis of Song 1

Life is full of sweet mistakes

And love's an honest one to make

Life is full of sweet mistake is a really ironic phrase, John describes a life full of mistakes, which is basically a mistake, is something bad and unpleasant, but John describes it as something sweet where the word sweet is a very contradictory thing. Where from this sweet mistake was born love which later became the only honest one to make despite all the mistakes, love is one of the mistakes he made. But in that sentence he describes that although love is a mistake but it is one of the sweetest mistakes or beautiful mistakes that he has experienced from many other mistakes in his life.

Sample Analysis of Song 2

That you wonder what you still believe in

And you can't remember why you said goodbye

You'll hear an old familiar sound and hope it's her when you turn around

In this stanza, John describes how he remembers memories and goodbyes that have passed very ironically. "You'll heard an old familiar sound and hope it's her

when you turn around” In this verse, John describes how when he hears a familiar voice and hopes that the voice is the voice of someone he knows, but sadly no. “And you can’t remember why you said goodbye” this is the verse when how Johns expressing his dismay and maybe even regrets at how short sighted he was when he left.

Sample Analysis of Song 3

I been talking to myself Just to hear you

And you're saying everything I wish you would

This stanza is very ironic where John has to talk to himself and think if only his lover could say the things John wanted to hear and what if only that happened maybe everything that is happening right now could change.

Sample Analysis of Song 4

Does a broken home become another broken family?

Or will we be there for each other, like nobody ever could?

This stanza is John expressed about wanting love, but feeling too damaged by family dynamics to let love in completely. Fears ending up like his father, being mistreated by a cold, harsh woman. And wonders if he's doomed to repeat history. This lyric John describes how sad and irony he is and his situation and asks if he will also create another broken family like himself but in the next lyric he also hopes that they will continue to be by each other's side.

Sample Analysis of Song 5

Tell me I can have the fact you've loved me to hold onto Tell me I can keep the door cracked open, to let light through

“Tell me I can keep the door cracked open, to let light through” in this lyric describes how he hopes that he can still be with that person, and the sad irony of how he still has a glimmer of hope like the light that peeks through the door and hopes the person can pass through the door like it did.

Sample Analysis of Song 6

I'm fine with all the sorrow that tomorrow brings

This expression can be said to be ironic because in the lyrics it seems as if he is already prepared for all the bad things that will come later. it gives the effect of sadness and irony.

Simile

Simile is stated a comparison of two similar things introduced by the words like or as [7]. [10] stated that simile does the same thing as a metaphor, but with a like or as if in the wording to show that it is not literal.

Sample Analysis of Song 1

She'll fight for you like hell

Then force herself to like some other man

“she’ll fight for you like hell” is a simile is a figure of speech that compares two unlike things and uses the words “like” or “as” simile is a figure of speech that compares two things of different kinds. As we know that fight is a word where we fight which is usually used with other people or animals. Hell is a place of torture and misery in the afterlife which is believed by adherents of several religions and beliefs. So, the words fight for hell means to use all of one's power or effort to fight against something. Realization that john feel so much of the fault lies with him hurts. "She'll fight for you like hell" cuts deep because he gave up even while fought for both of them. After a while she gives up and forces herself to move on.

Symbols

Symbol is a thing (could be an object, person, situation or action) which stands for something else more abstract.

Sample Analysis of Song 1

A great big bang and dinosaurs

A great big bang and dinosaurs is Symbol because it portrays thing that has meaning beyond it, which in this finding" big bang theory and dinosaurs" where" big bang" is the star theory of the conformation of the cosmos, and also" dinosaurs" which were extinct creatures. Based on that," great big bang ” symbolizes an inception feeling where someone fall in love and “ dinosaurs ” symbolizes a sad feeling because it had to end.

Sample Analysis of Song 2

She'll cut her hair, and move somewhere

This lyric is included in symbols because of the word "shell cut her hair". Followed by the lyrics after it, I don't owe you anything describes how a breakup can change a person symbolized as hair that has been cut or thrown away. Symbolize something new like hairstyle.

Sample Analysis of Song 3

Oh honey

Honey is a symbol. Honey in the true sense is bee nectar that can be consumed and tastes sweet, but honey is also usually used to address a loved one. Such as girlfriend, wife, etc. Honey is usually used as a nickname for a couple.

Sample Analysis of Song 6

Under the January rain

In this lyric January rain becomes a memorable and memorable event by John and in the previous lyric also John says that he hopes the person doesn't leave him on a rainy day in January. January rain is a symbol of separation in the song.

Paradox

Paradox is "a statement of which the surface or obvious meaning seems to be illogical, even absurd but making good sense upon closer examination". Paradox is a statement or situation containing apparently contradictory or incompatible elements, but on closer inspection may be true. Paradox is a statement which contains apparently opposing or incongruous elements which, when read together, turn out to make sense.

Sample Analysis of Song 1

A great big bang and dinosaurs

A great big bang and dinosaurs is also called as Paradox, because "Big Bang and Dinosaurs" are two effects that have contradicting meanings which are located in one judgment but both of them are verity statement. Where the word "Big bang" then means an extraordinary event in which the cosmos was formed, while "Dinosaurs" are the creatures that defunct in a woeful way. Relate to that, it can be concluded that the meaning of these lyrics is an inconceivable experience to meet someone but it ended horribly.

Sample Analysis of Song 3

You don't have to try so hard to hurt me

This lyric contains a paradox where John describes that the person he means "honey" or usually honey is a call for loved ones or lovers. But in this lyric his loved ones are trying hard to hurt him, which is a contradictory thing, because someone we love should not want to hurt us.

Idiom

According to [11] stated that Idioms are "expressions which have a meaning that is not obvious from the individual words". Idiom means a construction whose meaning is not the same as the combined meaning of its elements.

Sample Analysis of Song 5

As good as gone

"As good as gone" Is an idiom. Usually refers to be very nearly, inevitably, or for all intents and purposes lost, departed, defunct, or deceased.

Sample Analysis of Song 6

Sometimes I wonder if she'll be the one

This is an idiomatic phrase that mean the person with whom one will share a lifelong romantic relationship; one's true love.

Sample Analysis of Song 7

"Till it tears you apart"

Tear apart is an idiomatic expression for a disagreement, problem, or outside factor to cause division in or force the dissolution of a relationship or group, such as of a romantic couple, family members, or organization. A noun or pronoun can be used between "tear" and "apart."

In presentation of data, the researcher presented the result of the research that has been analyzed using figurative theory in the form of table.

No	Kind of figurative language	Phrase
1	Metaphors	5
2	Allusion	1
3	Hyperbole	12
4	Personification	8
5	Irony	10
6	Simile	1
7	Symbols	9
8	Paradox	3
9	Idiom	3

Based on the theory that has been formulated by [5] and the theory of meaning by [6] “interpreting literature” and using a descriptive qualitative method, found that hyperbole dominates in this study proved by the presence of 10 hyperbole phrases, and the second most is personification. As well as other figure of speech. the used hyperbole in the song lyrics to emphasize the listeners about what the songwriter wanted to say or what he'd done in his life, the writer used hyperbole to represent his feelings and to express what he wants to say.

CONCLUSION

Based on the problem that has been formulated in chapter one about what are the types of figure of speech contained in John Mayer's selected songs and what is the meaning of the figurative language after it has been described that there are several figure of speech that have found such as metaphors, simile, personification, hyperbole, irony, allusion, symbols, paradox, idiom, and their use which has also been described in the previous chapter.

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