An Analysis of Figurative Language in Michael Jackson Song Lyric

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to find out the figurative language in Michael Jackson song lyrics. Therefore, the researchers formulated a question as the problem. As follows: (1) what are the kinds of figurative language in Michael Jackson's song lyrics? (2) What is the dominant type of figurative language in Michael Jackson's song lyrics? This research used Perrine theories to analysis kinds of figurative language in Michael Jackson song lyrics. There are 12 types of figurative language according to Perrine they are: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole/overstatement, understatement, and irony. The researchers used qualitative design because data are collected by using document in form of word and a procedure of systematic analysis of context text (words, phrase, sentences, document, etc.), analysis content by qualitative enable researchers to understand the text by grouping words that have same meaning into categories. The researchers used ten song from the website Genius.com as an instrument to find the data to be analyzed based types of figurative language. The researchers finding showed that are 6 types of figurative language that found in Michael Jackson's Songs namely: personification, apostrophe, metaphor, hyperbole, simile and symbol. While, there are 6 types of figurative language weren't found in Michael Jackson's Songs namely: synecdoche, metonymy, allegory, paradox, understatement, and irony. After analyzing all the data the researchers found the types of figurative language are dominantly used in Michael Jackson's songs are hyperbole consists of 11 sentences (30%). It can be concluded that figurative language can be found and learnt in the songs.
Keywords: Analysis, Semantics, Figurative language, Song

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bahasa kiasan dalam lirik lagu Michael Jackson. Oleh karena itu peneliti merumuskan pertanyaan sebagai masalah. Sebagai berikut: (1) apa jenis bahasa kiasan dalam lirik lagu Michael Jackson? (2) Apa jenis bahasa kiasan yang dominan dalam lirik lagu Michael Jackson ?. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Perrine untuk menganalisis jenis bahasa kiasan dalam lirik lagu Michael Jackson. Ada 12 jenis bahasa kiasan menurut Perrine yaitu: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole / overstatement, understatement, and irony. Peneliti menggunakan desain kualitatif karena data dikumpulkan dengan menggunakan dokumen berupa kata dan prosedur analisis sistematis teks konteks (kata, frasa, kalimat, dokumen, dll), analisis isi secara kualitatif memungkinkan peneliti untuk memahami teks dengan mengelompokkan kata-kata. yang memiliki arti yang sama ke dalam kategori. Peneliti menggunakan sepuluh lagu dari website Genius.com sebagai instrumen untuk mencari data yang akan dianalisis berdasarkan jenis bahasa kiasan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada 6 jenis bahasa kiasan yang terdapat dalam Lagu Michael Jackson yaitu: personifikasi, apostrof, metafora, hiperbola, simile dan simbol. Sedangkan, ada 6 jenis bahasa kiasan yang tidak ditemukan dalam Lagu Michael Jackson yaitu: synecdoche, metonymy, allegory, paradox, understatement, dan irony. Setelah menganalisis semua data, peneliti menemukan jenis bahasa kiasan yang dominan digunakan dalam lagu Michael Jackson adalah hiperbola terdiri dari 11 kalimat (30%). Dapat disimpulkan bahwa bahasa khiasan dapat ditemukan dan dipelajari di dalam lagu-lagu.
Kata kunci: analisis, semantik, bahasa kiasan, lagu

INTRODUCTION

Language is the conventional spoken or written symbol system used by people to communicate with each other. Language is very important thing to our life because language has strong influence in the society relationship. People need language to communicate, to interact and to get information from other people. According to Herman (2018:33), language is a system of sound symbol which has an arbiter character used by the member of social group to cooperate, to communicate, and to identify them (Lumbantobing, et al, 2020; Pardede et al, 2021; Thao, et al, 2021). Moreover, Kurniawan (2014:91) added that, the main instrument in communication is a language. So, the conclusion about language is a system of arbitrary symbols as a conversation is used by all people to communication her or his feeling, ideas, experience, and knowledge in the form of oral, written, or only a signal. As human beings, we cannot separate ourselves from involvement of social communication and interaction, which certainly makes ourselves impossible to live without language.

In linguistics, the study that relates to meaning is called semantics. Linguistics is divided into parts such as, syntax, morphology, phonology, pragmatics, and especially semantics. According to Leech as cited in Syafitri and Marlinton (2018:44),

semantics is a study of the meaning as a branch of linguistics (Sitanggang, et al, 2020; Sinaga, et al, 2020). Linguists traditionally analyze human language by observing the relationship between sound and meaning. Meaning can be studied in its directly spoken or written form through the field of semantics. So, semantics is the study of meaning in language. We know that language is used to express meanings which can be understood by others. But meanings exist in our minds and we can express what is in our minds through the spoken and written forms of language (as well as through gestures, action etc.) Figurative language is a part of semantic.

Figurative language is one type of literary work which emphasis on connotation rather than denotation meaning. Generally, figurative language is language that used words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. According to Ekasani (2015:24), figurative language is sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor, which works to carry meaning beyond its literal meaning (Manurung, et al, 2020; Panjaitan, et al, 2020; Siburian, et al, 2020). Furthermore, Abrams (2009:118) gives keywords to get understanding figurative language, that is apprehending the standard meaning of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect. So, when a speaker uses

figurative language, it means of indirect statement that says one thing in terms of another. Figurative language is when you describe something by comparing it to something else. The concept of figurative language is also difficult for struggling readers to understand, but all people need to be able to identify and use it in reading. The purpose of figurative language is to capture readers interest and to deliver the idea and imagination in more entertaining way. Figurative language can be found in any source, such as in daily conversation, articles in newspaper, advertisements, novels, poems. But, we can also find it in songs or lyric song, especially English song.

Song is one of literary works that has the purpose for entertainment, enjoyment and information. The lyrics (words) of songs are typical of a poetic, rhyming nature, though may be religious verses or free prose. Through the lyrics, the listeners will know the meaning of the song. Sometimes, listeners find difficulties to understand what a singer means in a song, because what conventionally says is not always the same as what a singer intends to express. Song is a piece of music with words that are sung, has a function to express the thoughts and feeling that has two elements such as lyric and music (Lubis, 2017:1). Song is considered to be a system of communication with other people using sounds and song to express a feeling, sense, idea, emotion or thought. When listening a song, sometimes people do not focus on the lyric that used in a song. Usually people just like the song because of the singer or maybe the music is good. And sometimes when people try to focus on the lyric, they will find some difficulties in understanding the meaning of the song lyrics. Especially, when the lyric used figurative language.

The researchers want to concern about how to classify the figurative language especially in Michael Jackson's songs because there are so many figurative languages could be analyzed by the researchers. Michael Jackson is an American singer, songwriter, and dancer. Dubbed the "King of Pop", he is regarded as one of the most significant cultural figures of the 20th century. Jackson is the most awarded artist in the history of popular music. Actually in fact so many people outside they do not really understand about figurative language, how to classify the type and explain the meaning each figurative language. Figurative language is sometimes difficult to interpret for general listener, because they have different capability, mainly in figurative language in Michael Jackson's songs. Moreover, not everyone is able to interpret the true meaning of figurative language. Every song has many messages and needs to analyze the meaning of the

song to understand the song. Figurative language is important to be understand since it is useful give more detailed and accurate description of the meaning of the word. From the phenomena, the researchers are interested in conducting the study of figurative language used in Michael Jackson's songs.

Whereas, knowing the meaning of a lyric is important so that the message to be conveyed by the composer can be understood by the listener. Figurative language does not mean exactly what it says, but it forces the reader to understand the meaning of the singer's song lyrics. As example is in the lyrics of Michael Jackson's song entitled 'Fall Again'.

> *E.g All this time away Is killing me inside (Hyperbole)*

This sentence is included into hyperbole. The researchers feel that his time was killed because his waiting and his hope for his love that no comes. It makes the researchers like killed slowly.

The previous studies of figurative language analysis on song have been conducted by some researchers. One of them was by Hariyanto (2017) entitled The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyric of Firework by Katy Perry (A Study of Semantic). She is analyzing the types of figurative language that were used in the

song lyrics and to know the most dominant figurative language.

> *E.g.: like a house of cards (Simile)*
> *drifting through the wind (Personification)*
> *one blow from caving in ((Hyperbole)*

From the example, the researchers found that figurative language can be found the word 'like' in the sentence refers to someone who has lack of spirit will be indicated like a house of cards. It means even they can stand and run their life, but they do not have strong foundation to keep them stand when facing the problems. Then, personification from the lyric above means someone who does not have any spirit in life, they do not have any goal in their life. And hyperbole, the sentence shows the power of a blow that can broke house of cards in one blow. This means how the problem will fall people down when they have strong foundation, spirit, in running their life.

There are many problems when someone listening a song such as, there are many songs that have figurative meanings on it which are difficult to interpret by the listeners, who have less ability in interpreting the meaning of figurative language. Based on the explanation the researchers provided above, the researchers are interested in analyzing figurative language in Michael Jackson's songs. By analyzing the figurative language of the

songs, readers or listeners will know the functions or meanings expressed in the song lyrics of Michael Jackson. Thus, the researchers will carry out a study entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Michael Jackson Song Lyrics".

METHODOLOGY

In this research, the researchers used qualitative research design. According to Creswell (2014:9), qualitative research relied on text or image data and usually had unique steps in analyzing the data and draw on diverse designs. It delivered by the description of words and languages in a particular context. Qualitative research is more holistic and often involves a rich collection of data from various sources to gain a deeper understanding of individual participants, including their opinions, perspectives, and attitudes (Sitanggang, et al, 2019)).

There are some qualitative research types such as basic interpretative studies, case study, document or content analysis, ethnography, grounded theory, historical studies, narrative inquiry, phenomenological. Based on the kinds of the way to do qualitative research, this research is a kind of document or content analysis as the method to obtain the data from the lyrics of Michael Jackson's songs. The content analysis focuses on analyzing and interpreting recorded material to learn about human behavior. The material may be public records, textbooks, letters, films, tapes, diaries, themes, reports, or other documents. The research is considered document or content analysis because it describes and analyzes the song lyrics' data. Finally, qualitative research would be appropriate to be used in finding, analyzing, and presenting the data of the research in a more detail way.

The subject of the research is song lyrics of Michael Jackson's. The object of the research is Figurative Language found in that Song Lyrics. The researchers then identified and analyzed several songs on the album and looked for the types of figurative language found in them. It means that the data source is a kind of document. According to Ary et al. (2010), the term 'documents' here refers to a wide range of written, physical, and visual materials, including what other authors may term artifacts. Document analysis can be of written or text-based artifacts (textbooks, novels, journals, meeting minutes, logs, announcements, policy statements, newspapers, transcripts, birth certificates, marriage records, budgets, letters, e-mail messages, etc.) or of no written records (photographs, audiotapes, videotapes, computer images, websites, musical performances, televised political speeches, YouTube videos, virtual world settings,

etc.). There were ten songs that analyzed, they are, 1) Heal the World, 2) Black or White, 3) Will You Be There, 4) Gone Too Soon, 5) Remember the Time, 6) Earth Song, 7) I Just Can't Stop Loving you, 8) Fall Again, 9) Beat It and 10) Human Nature.

In this research, Instruments are tool facilities that are used by any researchers in order to collect the data. Arikunto (2013: 134) stated that instrument in collecting data is a tool that is used by researchers to help them in collecting data in order to make it more systematic and easy (Pakpahan et al, 2019). This research instrument is a script of song lyrics downloaded from the suitable downloading link on the website Genius.com as an instrument to find the data.

This part is very important in any form of researchers. According to Ary et. al. (2010), the most common data collection methods used in qualitative research are observation, interviewing, questionnaire, and document or artifact analysis. As in Ary et al. (2010) explained, content or document analysis is a research method applied to written or visual materials to identify the material's specified characteristics.

In this research, the technique collective data in qualitative used document method as the way to collect the data because the researchers collected the data from songs.

Therefore, in this research the researchers used method documentation with reading the text, analysis and collecting.

Steps in data collection, 1) Browsing the website of Genius.com, 2) Finding the scripts of the song lyrics, 3) Copying the song lyrics from the Genius. Com, 4) Reading and identifying figurative language used of Perrine theories and 5) Collecting all types of figurative language uses news as data.

According to Flick (2009), qualitative data analysis is the classification and interpretation of linguistic material to make statement about structures of meaning-making in the material. After getting and collecting the data then the researchers took the next step which in to analyzing the data Steps in analyzing the data, a) Classifying types of figurative language used Perrine theories and b) Calculating the percentage of figurative language and the dominant types of figurative language found in Michael Jackson's son lyrics. The researchers used formula of Sudijono (2004: 43) as cited in Wijaya (2014: 24) to count the number of types of figurative language.

$$P = F/n \times 100\%$$

Note:

P = Percentage of types

F = Total frequency of types

N = Total types of all categories / data
    Drawing the conclusion.

Triangulation

In qualitative research, the researchers will reveal the data as the real life of the subject. This qualitative research used some methodologies. To make the data valid, triangulation was employed. According to Denzin (2009), triangulation is a way most commonly used for increased validity in qualitative research. In this case, the aim of triangulation is to determine the truth about some social phenomenon, rather the purpose of triangulation is to increase one's understanding of whatever is being investigated.

The researchers used descriptive method. Denzin (2009) stated that there are four basic types of triangulation, those are, 1) Data Triangulation; data triangulation means that use of a variety of data sources in a study, data sources involve time, space (place), and persons. the researchers used many data sources or participant to get the accuracy of data, 2) Investigator Triangulation; investigator triangulation means that used of several different researchers or evaluators or in other words means involve multiple researchers in an investigation and 3) Theory Triangulation; theory triangulation means the use of multiple perspectives to interpret a single set of data or in other words mean involve using more than one theoretical scheme in the interpretation of the phenomenon.

4. Methodological Triangulation

Methodological triangulation means the use of multiple methods to study a single problem or program or in other words mean involve using more than one method to gather data, such interviews, observations, questionnaires, and documents.

The researches chose to used data triangulation to analyze this research, the researchers collect songs Michael Jackson as data source, make this research more accurate.

FINDING AND DISCUSSION
Finding

In this chapter, the researchers classsified the data based on the types and most dominant of figurative language. The researchers found some various types of figurative language and most dominant of figurative language. For the types and most dominant, the researchers analyzed by using Perrine theory.

Types of Figurative Language. The appendices show that there were some types on figurative language that used in Michael Jackson's Songs. There are 37 lyrics include in types of figurative language and the most dominant of figurative language. There are 9 personifications, 2 apostrophes, 3 metaphors, 11 hyperboles, 10 similes and 2 symbols. The total data of the types of figurative language are:

Table 1 Frequency of Figurative Language in Selected Song Lyrics of Michael Jackson

No	Types of Figurative Language	f	Percentage
1	Personification	9	24 %
2	Apostrophe	2	6 %
3	Metaphor	3	8 %
4	Hyperbole	11	30 %
5	Simile	10	27 %
6	Symbol	2	5 %
	Total Data	**37**	**100 %**

Based on the table above the researchers found that there are 37 lyrics include in types of figurative language and the most dominant of figurative language based on Perrine's theory, they are personification consists 9 data. Apostrophes consists 2 data, metaphor consists 3 data, hyperbole consists 11 data, simile consists 10 data and symbol consists 2 data.

The Dominant Type of Figurative Language

In order to answer the research problem in this research that has been formulated in chapter 1, the researchers found the types of figurative language and the dominant type of figurative language used in Michael Jackson's songs. From the result of the analysis, the researchers find out the most dominant of figurative language found in Michael Jackson's Songs with the title 'Heal the World, Black or White, Will You Be There, Gone too Soon, Remember the Time, Earth Song, I Just Can't Stop Loving You, Fall Again, Beat it, and Human Nature

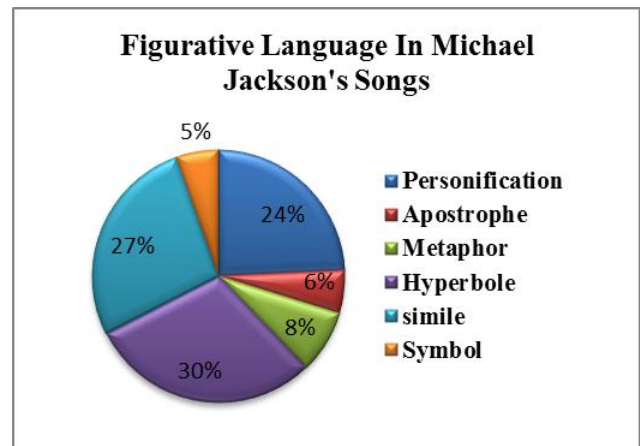according by Perrine theories. The chart can be seen below:

Chart 1 Figurative Language in Michael Jackson's Songs

Based on the chart above, there are 100% data include in figurative language, there are 24 % data in personification, there are 6 % data in Apostrophe, there are 8 % data in metaphor, there are 30 % data in hyperbole, there are 27 % data in simile and there are 5 % data in symbol. The researchers can conclude that the dominant type of figurative language used in Michael Jackson's songs is hyperbole with a total of 11 data or 30 %

Discussion

From the result of data analysis, the researchers concluded that by using theory Perrine the researchers found out the most dominant types of figurative language used in selected song lyrics of Michael Jackson is hyperbole. In the finding the data the researchers found types of figurative language are simile, metaphor,

personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole/overstatement, understatement, and irony.

Based on the findings, the researchers found several similarities and differences in the result of previous studies and the results of the research conducted by researchers at this time. The results of previous research with the title "The Analysis of Figurative Language used in the Lyric of Firework by Katy Perry (A study of Semantic) of January 2017 Edition". There are similarities and differences from the research.

The similarity of this research with the other researchers are the first, both of the researchers used descriptive qualitative as research design. The second, both of the researchers used document to collect data. But in this research also has the contrast with the other researchers. The first contrast, in this research the researchers found 6 types of figurative language on Michael Jackson's songs, namely: personification, apostrophe, metaphor, hyperbole, simile and symbol. While in previous study the researchers found 7 types in Katy Perry's song, they are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, affiliation, symbolic, paradox, and personification. The second, the researchers to find out the types of figurative language and the dominant type of figurative language used in Michael Jackson's songs. Whereas in previous study the researchers to find out the figurative language used in the lyric of firework and to analyze the contextual meaning of figurative language in that song.

The researchers concluded that as follow: The first is personification used consist in giving the attributes of human being to an animal, an object, or a concept, so that people can see that non-human things seem like doing human's activity. The second is apostrophe which consists in addressing someone absent or dead or something non-human as if that person or thing were present and alive and could reply to what is being said. The third is metaphor used to compare between things that are different. One thing represents another thing which is inanimate. The Fourth is hyperbole who a statement can made emphatic by overstatement. The fifth is simile the explicit comparison of two things, indicates by the word or phrase such as like, as, then, similar, resemble or seems. The last is symbol used as something that means more than what it is. The meaning of any symbol whether an object, an action, or a gesture, is controlled by its context.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis, it is found out the researchers concluded that the Michael Jackson song consists of 37

sentences that used figurative language. The analysis has two problem of the research the first is what kinds of figurative language found in song lyrics of Michael Jackson's song and the last is what figurative language is dominantly used in song lyrics of Michael Jackson of figurative language that occur in the song.

After analyzing lyrics of Michael Jackson song, the researchers concluded that figurative language can be found and learn in the songs. The researchers found there are six kinds of figurative language, the results of analyzing the ten songs are, there are nine personifications, two apostrophes, three metaphors, eleven hyperboles, ten similes and two symbols. The percentages are personification 24 %, apostrophe 6 %, metaphor 8 %, hyperbole 30 %, simile 27 %, and symbol 5 %. The dominant figurative languages are the analyzed by Michael Jackson song lyric is Hyperbole 30 %.

From the results of the discussion above, through this research in order to enrich learning and understand the meaning of figurative language, the researchers hope the findings of this research can give contribution. Researchers hope to enrich the field of research because it allows us to understand the broad meaning of figurative language. It is hoped that this research will be useful for students, English teachers, and English readers. Hopefully this will provide

researchers with more information about the figurative language in the lyrics of the Michael Jackson Songs. It is also hoped that this will provide information to other parties who are interested in reading this research.

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