



The Analysis on Figurative Language in Harry Styles' Harry's House Album

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ABSTRACT

Figurative Language uses words to explain or express complex meanings that are not easy to imagine. Figurative Language often uses comparisons so that the meaning or description of something can be expressed well in literature artworks such as poetry, books, poems, and even songs. Figurative Language contains hidden meanings in it, especially in song lyrics. Figurative Language makes the listeners understand the song's meaning and messages, then make a song more beautiful and variable. This research aims to find out the kinds of figurative language used in song lyrics entitled *Harry's House* album by Harry Styles. The object of the research is song lyrics, especially in *Harry's House* Album, which contains 13 songs. The research method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. The data is collected from spoken and written words as well as observing behaviour. The data analysis is by identifying and classifying through the song lyrics, then analyzing it into the kinds of figurative language by using Kennedy's theory as guidance. The final result of this research is that there are 10 kinds of figurative language used through song lyrics in *Harry's House* album by Harry Styles. They are Personification, Simile, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Paradox, Irony, Metonymy, Synecdoche, symbolism, and Allusion. Moreover, the most used figurative language in song lyrics is metaphor. There are 12 songs used metaphor as figurative language through it.

Keywords: figurative language, album, song lyrics

Introduction

Language is a crucial human communication tool that must be well delivered to express our ideas, opinions, and emotions. It is used in various aspects of human existence, including economics, science, technology, education, and art. There are two styles of communication: oral and written. English is a global language that plays a significant role in various aspects of technology, culture, education, health, business, law, and science (Ibrahim et al., 2019; Mulyana et al., 2024). It provides opportunities for global communication and interaction, allowing individuals to gain knowledge and experience from diverse backgrounds.

In this digital era, where people especially students as young people and as digital native can access any learning materials anytime and anywhere. Most materials for learning available in social media as authentic materials such as songs, movies and others are in English. English has a positive impact on all aspects of education, particularly in Indonesia, where it is taught to students from elementary to university. Figurative language uses words or sentences with different meanings from their literal interpretations, is essential for conveying thoughts and feelings orally and writing in English literature. According to Kennedy figurative language is any language that uses a figure of speech. Figurative language can be found in various forms, such as meaning, messages, and plans for implementing English teaching (Alfiyani, 2021). Song is a widely-used form of art that expresses ideas and thoughts through various genres, including rock, jazz, dangdut, reggae, pop, and more (Alfiyani, 2021; Cieřlicka, 2017; Ibrahim et al., 2019). It generally uses figurative language in its lyrics to convey the beauty and color of the song, as well as what the singer wants to tell about life or messages to listeners (Aras et al., 2024).

The objectives of the study were to find out the types of figurative language used in the Harry Styles album *Harry's house* and to determine the most dominant type of figurative language used in the album. The significance of the study was to identify the figurative language used in the song. This research can be used to evaluate students' ability to use figurative language types, improve their analytical abilities, provide teachers with knowledge and help them implement students' ability to analyze songs, especially figurative language, and contribute to English language education.

The scope of this study is the type of language in the lyrics of Harry Styles' *Harry's House* Album, released in 2022. The limitation of the study is that the writer analyzes only the

figurative language in the lyrics of 13 songs, including Music for a sushi restaurant, Late night talking, Grape juice, As it was, Daylight, Little freak, Matilda, Cinema, Daydreaming, Keep driving, Satellite, Boyfriends, and Love of my life.

Figurative language is a literary device widely used in almost all forms of literature, introducing an ambiguity between literal and figurative interpretation (Alfiyani, 2021; Cieřlicka, 2017; Yunanda, 2021). It uses words to explain or express complex meanings that are not easy to imagine, often using comparisons to make the meaning or description of something clearer. This approach helps readers discover and live deeper into a work through pragmatics, which is the study of language and context, the basic form for understanding literary works. There are three types of figurative language: personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, litotes, paradox, irony, metonymy, synecdoche, symbol, allusion, and ellipsis (Elfrida et al., 2022; Gursoy & Sever, 2021; Nur Fatahhela Dewi & Nuruddin Hidayat, 2020).

Harry Styles's House is his third studio album, released by Columbia and Erskine Records on May 20, 2022. The album takes influence from Japan's city pop genre and features pop-funk, synth-pop, and R&B. The 13 songs on the album are based on his experiences during the pandemic at home, giving a house feel that is Harry Styles style house. Most of the Harry Styles House album includes metaphorical language and has a meaning based on what happened to Harry Styles personally.

In daily lives, most people are engaged with songs. Especially, students as young people are easily attracted to songs with a background closely related to their life background, as the lyrics discuss transformation, accepting change, past self, and shifting viewpoints (Erni Putri Suriyani Bawemenewi & Ni Wayan Swarniti, 2024; Milana & Ardi, 2020; Santika & Syafradin, 2023). Therefore, a song with good figurative language like the song used in this study can be used as a reference in teaching English because the lyrics relate to students' lives, as well as students can easily understand figurative language material. The Harry Styles song can be chosen as teaching material whose background stories are known.

Previous studies have provided references for analyzing figurative language in Harry Styles songs. A study found three types of figurative language: repetition, which suggests constant thinking about oneself, and the use of repetition in Avril Lavigne's song (Aras et al., 2024). Ibrahim (2019) found seven kinds of figurative language in the "Endless Love" song lyric, dominated by repetition type. Study focused on Figure of Speech Analysis of Sam

Smith's Thrill of It All Album by Sam Smith Using Perrine's Theory and its Contribution to Teaching Poetry (Wayan Swarniti, 2022).

The researcher concludes to analyze figurative language in this thesis, including Kennedy's theory analysis. Although there are similarities in research in terms of figurative language, this thesis analyzed based on song lyrics in Harry Styles' House album.

Methods

This research utilizes a qualitative method, which involves collecting data from people's spoken or written words and observed behavior. The descriptive qualitative design aims to explain deeply a phenomenon focusing on the central phenomenon that needs to be explored and understood. The data sources used in this study are 13 songs from Harry Styles' album, Harry's House, which include Music for a Sushi Restaurant, Late Night Talking, Grape juice, As It Was, Daylight, Little Freak, Matilda, Cinema, Daydreaming, Keep Driving, Satellite, Boyfriends, and Love of My Life.

The researcher uses the instrument of the study, the researcher herself to validate the extent of qualitative research involved. This research uses documentation to collect data. The documents used to collect the data are newspapers, articles, letters, notes, books, and library archives. The steps in data collection include reading the lyrics, listening, validating, and describing the data used in the song lyrics.

Data analysis is conducted using the following steps, reading the song lyrics, writing the data found in the lyrics, identifying the figurative language in the lyrics, classifying the figurative language in the lyrics, and making a conclusion. Then, the data is displayed and served in table form to provide easy to comprehend results. The researcher also concludes by finding related literature and references to support the thesis.

Triangulation is a method used to collect data in a study, providing confidence to the researcher. Triangulation is divided into several types, such as data triangulation, investigator triangulation, theory triangulation, and methodological triangulation. This research uses investigator triangulation, which involves multiple researchers or an expert to investigate the results. In this study, the investigator analyzed some of the findings in Chapter Four, with the lecturer as an advisor. After validation, the researcher took a conclusion based on the identified data.

Result and Discussion

There are ten types of Figurative language found in 13 songs of Harry Styles using Kennedy's theory as guidance. The data consists of three personification, two simile, twenty metaphor, six hyperbole, four paradox, one irony, seven metonymy, one synecdoche, four symbolism, and two allusion. These figurative languages are categorized into Personification, Simile, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Paradox, Irony, Metonymy, Synecdoche, symbolism, and Allusion.

Table 1

The number of figurative languages used in Harry Styles *Harry's House* album.

No.	Songs	Personification	Simile	Metaphor	Hyperbole	Paradox	Irony	Metonymy	Synecdoche	Symbolism	Allusion
1.	Music for a sushi restaurant			5	2						
2.	Late night talking			1	1	1		1			
3.	Grape juice			1	1			3		1	
4.	As it was	1		1			1				
5.	Daylight			3					1	1	
6.	Little freak			3				1		2	1
7.	Matilda			3	2	2		1			1
8.	Cinema	1									
9.	Daydreaming		1	1	1						
10.	Keep driving			3				1			
11.	Satellite			4						1	
12.	Boyfriends			5				1			
13.	Love of my life			1	1	1				1	
Total		2	1	30	8	4	1	8	1	6	2

The following describes data from each type of figurative language, along with their conceptual and connotative meanings.

a. Personification

Personification is a phrase that uses objects, animals, or abstract concepts to create that the object can be alive like a human. Both in terms of nature, actions, and characteristics of humans, which are then implemented into a specific object.

Gravity's holdin' me back

As it was: Line 2)

The sentence above is personification because it gives human characteristics to an object. The object in this sentence is gravity, and then the human characteristic is holding back. The word gravity is interpreted as one type of physics style affected by the attractive force of an object to the center of an object because gravity has the characteristic of pulling. While holding back is human nature's condition to stop something from moving to somewhere. The lyric is a connotative meaning of the word gravity and has other meanings or connotations related to the past. So, this sentence means that the writer uses this sentence to pull him back to the past. The past is where he gets the reality of life more than the present. A condition where he is still in love with his ex-girlfriend. However, now it is just wishful thinking because their broken relationship made the writer fail to move on and forced him to return to the past.

b. Simile

Simile compares two items indicated by conjunction, usually a verb like, as, or like. Simile compares two different kinds of items, but they have at least one thing in common. The comparison is apparent in the parable.

She said, "Love me like you paid me"

(Daydreaming: Line 2)

The sentence above is a simile because it compares something using the word "like". The sentence above compares "love me" and "you paid me". The phrase "love me" is the writer hopes to be given an attitude of affection from his girlfriend. Then the phrase "paid me" does not mean the writer is paid with money or else. It is described as the writer describes buying and getting the thing according to transactions between buyers and sellers. The interpreted meaning is that he admires his girlfriend for giving what is the same as transactions between buyers and sellers, and the buyer will buy what the seller sells. They will get benefit each other without any loss in mutual relation. So, the connotative means that Harry hopes the girl he loves will love him back and vice versa. His girlfriend cannot refuse what he wants because the girl already puts him in passionate condition relation.

c. Metaphor

Metaphors are comparisons to something abstract. It created a deeper and more imaginative meaning. Metaphor is the claim that one thing is something else than what is in the literal

sense. It does not make use of conjunctions like or as. In contrast to similes, metaphors do not use comparative words such as like or as. So, metaphors compare two things that are the same and state facts using comparisons more positively without using like or as.

Green eyes, fried rice, I could cook an egg on you

(Music for Sushi Restaurant: Line 1)

The sentence above is a metaphor because it compares objects without using "like" or "as". As shown in the phrase compares "green eyes" and "fried rice, I could cook an egg on you". As we know, green eyes are the color of one part of the body from which an aura can influence humans. Then the phrase "cook an egg on you" is a cooking activity that requires a stove so that the pan used for cooking is hot. This sentence can be interpreted as the writer's admiration for the girl of her body shape. So, the connotative meaning of the song lyrics above is adored by the writer to want the girl to agree to date him immediately. It is stated that the writer can do anything that the girl wants. That is a half-treat to prove his admiration for the girl.

d. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a forceful, purposeful overstatement that is not meant to be taken literally. That means done to highlight how accurate the statement is. Hyperbole is a figure of speech used by the writer to exaggerate something in a particular way. It is very important for writers because they need an exaggerated thing because it gets attention from readers.

If the stars were edible

(Music for a sushi restaurant: Line 17)

The sentence above is hyperbole because it contains an exaggerated effect. The writer describes that the star can be eaten. The sentence cannot possibly happen because the star is one of the twinkling celestial bodies far from earth. Stars are often described as the beautiful sky if there are no clouds or rain. In contrast, stars can never be eaten by humans. Edible is an action to consume something that is to support living things. The word edible can be interpreted as the fact that the writer cannot rely on love as food because loving someone is impossible if love can survive without eating. The implicit meaning here is that the writer is so in love with his girlfriend. He forgets that to treat loves someone not only with pure love but must-see other aspects to build the desired love relationship.

e. Paradox

Paradox is a statement that seems self-contradictory at first but makes sense after further logical interpretation. Paradox is a statement that includes two seemingly different facts yet is or might be accurate.

I've never been a fan of change, But I'd follow you to any place

(Late night talking: Line 13)

The sentence above includes paradox because the meaning seems illogical and absurd but makes good sense upon closer examination. The first sentence, "he never becomes a fan of change," this sentence is true. The logic is that what can rule as a fan of change is only destiny from God. Humans never become fans of change because they cannot be multi-tasking person who manages all humans, even the universe. In the second sentence, he states he can follow any place. The contrast here is how it is possible that the writer cannot be a fan of change, but he can follow anywhere without being limited by anything. Logically, when a writer cannot be a fan of change because of limited abilities, he should not be able to follow his girlfriend anywhere because of the limit of space and time. So, the connotative meaning is that the writer is worried about his future life, whether he will still be with his girlfriend or not. It is out of his control. However, now he is still trying to provide the best for his girlfriend by living the storyline as it is.

f. Irony

Irony is a contrast or disagreement between what happened and what was anticipated. Irony shows something real, but that does not happen. Something weird that crosses the line because the opposite of what is supposed to be expected.

In this world, it's just us

(As it was: Line 9)

The sentence in the lyrics above is irony because it contradicts what happened. "In this world, it's just us" means that only the writer and his girlfriend are in this big world. This sentence contradicts that almost 8 billion people live in this world, and they thought it was impossible for just them. So, the connotative meaning is that the writer does not consider everyone, only his girlfriend in him. Just his girlfriend without thinking about others because as a form of deep love, then made him say that.

g. Metonymy

Metonymy is a figure of speech using a similar term for the genuine meaning of the name of a person, object, or something as a replacement. Metonymy uses words that are suggested by another really mean.

You bring blue lights to dreams

(Little Freak: Line 4)

The sentence above contains a symbolism because it comparing an object to something else. The word blue is a symbol that represents loyalty and peace. Blue is often found in the sea, air, and sky. Just looking at it makes one feel at peace. This sentence represents calming in mind and heart. The connotative meaning is that the writer describes gratitude because his ex-girlfriend has given him much peace while with him. Made what he only dreamed of come true, even if it was only for a moment before breaking up.

h. Synecdoche

Synecdoche uses a part of anything to represent the whole thing or the other way around. Synecdoche is a figure of language, meaning a part of the name is used for the real names.

I'm on the roof

(Daylight: Line 1)

The sentence above is Synecdoche because the word means a part of the thing that represents the real thing. The word roof is a covering of an object, such as a vehicle or a house. The roof also protects against weather changes such as rain or heat. This sentence cannot be interpreted connotatively because the roof is part of the building, vehicle, or else. The meaning of the interpretation of the roof is a situation where the position of the place is different between the writer and his girlfriend. So, the conceptual meaning of this sentence is that the writer misses his girlfriend because he is in a different place. The following sentence is called "You're in your airplane seat" meaning that the writer is just stuck at home while his girlfriend is heading to another place on a plane.

i. Symbolism

Symbolism is a figure of speech in a context that determines the significance of every symbol, whether an item, a person, an object, Etc. Symbol is an image that represents something more significant than what it is.

We're on bicycles, saying, "There's life out there"

(Daylight: Line 18)

The sentence above is symbolism because it compares something with a well-known item. A bicycle is a two-wheeled vehicle that allows a person to move from one place to another. The lyrics describe a bicycle as a life where a wheel keeps spinning, sometimes up, sometimes down. However, the wheel will continue to follow its way as life continues as usual. So, the connotative meaning is that the writer compares his life sometimes with up and down like bicycle. Even though he is in depression condition because of the problem, the writer is still trying to fix it with a positive mind that there is still hope out there to continue doing for a better life than today.

j. Allusion

Allusion occurs when a speaker or writer alludes to a particular occasion or historical figure in a speech, writing, or musical composition. Additionally, it is a figure of language that alludes to something as a vague or indirect reference to a well-known narrative, occasion, person, or thing to draw comparisons in the audience's minds.

Matilda, you talk of the pain like it's all alright

(Matilda: Line 9)

This sentence is an allusion because it includes a well-known person in a famous book. The word "Matilda" in this sentence refers to the role in the film entitled Matilda in 1996. The character is taken from a children's book by Roald Dahl, who describes a child with super strength named Matilda. The lyrics are interpreted to mean that the writer compares Matilda with her ex-girlfriend. The writer remembers that when they were still together, her ex-girlfriend always told her about past problems that traumatized her. Even though they have broken up, the writer still imagines the difficulties of his ex-girlfriend from all the trauma of the problems that have haunted her for years until now. He worries about his ex-girlfriend facing it alone, even after breaking up. So, the connotative meaning is that while they were together until now, they have broken up, the writer describes his ex-girlfriend as a person who is super strong in dealing with her trauma in the past, and she can still survive it.

Conclusion

This study examined the figurative language used in Harry Styles' Harry's House album, focusing on the most dominant figurative language. The data analysis revealed ten types of figurative language, including Personification, Simile, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Paradox, Irony, Metonymy, Synecdoche, symbolism, and Allusion. Metaphor was the most dominant figurative language, with 47,61% of the percentages. Other dominant figurative languages included metonymy, hyperbole, symbolism, paradox, personification, allusion, simile, irony, and synecdoche.

Songs are simple materials accessed by students to support their learning exposure beyond the class. Therefore, students are able to have additional learning materials such as song which relate with their background as well. Songs written in English can make students easier to learn related to English material. Teachers can use this research to understand the definition of each figure of speech, identify figurative language in song lyrics, and help students practice examining the figurative language in each song.

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