

## **AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ARIANA GRANDE’S ALBUM “THANK U, NEXT”**

**Deni Arnita Hulu<sup>1</sup>**

Universitas Prima Indonesia

**Elia Nova Br.Sembiring<sup>2</sup>**

Universitas Prima Indonesia

**Natalia Widya Pasca Tarigan<sup>3</sup>**

Universitas Prima Indonesia

[deniarnitahulu98@gmail.com<sup>1</sup>](mailto:deniarnitahulu98@gmail.com)

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study analyzes the figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbol, irony and idiom) in the song lyrics. This study also aims to determine the most dominant type of figurative language and then to identify the themes of the twelve songs in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's album "thank u next." This study used descriptive qualitative research. From the results of the analysis, the researcher found that were 73 data using figurative, nine data for simile (12.32%), 17 data for metaphor (23.28%), eight data for personification (10.95%), 10 data for hyperbole (13.69%), nine data for symbols (12.32%), four data for irony (5.47%), and 16 data for idioms (21.91%). The most dominant is a metaphor. The themes contained in each song are Denial for the song Imagine, Needed for the song Needy, Space for the song NASA, Pretend for the song Bloodline and Fake Smile, Rebound Relationship for the song Bad Idea, Relationship for the song Makeup, Brief and Regret for the song Ghost in, Misinterpreted for the song In My Head, Friendship for the song 7 Rings, Empowerment and Self-Love for the song Thank U Next, and Self-Love for the song Break Up With Your Girlfriend, I'm Bored.

Keywords: Figurative Language, Song, Theme

### **INTRODUCTION**

Listening is one of the crucial skills in English, with listening humans can communicate with each other, from this communication will get information. Listening to songs is one way that can be used to improve English language skills. According to Underwood (1989), a simplified definition of listening becomes the activity of paying attention and getting meaning from something heard. Listening

to songs is fun. Especially when the listener knows what the song means, the listener can feel or appreciate the song. Usually, when listening to songs, we will look for the song's lyrics' meaning, especially when listening to English songs. But sometimes, there are one or two words or more that will have a different purpose if translated.

To make a song, usually, a songwriter takes a few days or maybe several months to make a song with interesting lyrics. The lyrics of the song are the outpouring of the songwriter's heart. To beautify and make the verses enjoyable, the writer will use figurative language. According to Yastanti et al., (2018), a characteristic in writings to delivering to the public by the writer. Expressing figurative language, people will use their imagination to imagine and think about the meaning behind the lyrics.

This research is also beneficial for learners interested in English, considering that learning English can be done in school. Learning English can also be done by watching movies and listening to songs. Sometimes, listeners discover new vocabulary and don't understand its meaning in each of the lyrics. This difficulty becomes a misunderstanding between the listeners and the writer. This research will make it easier for every listener to understand and enjoy the song and increase knowledge in understanding figurative language.

First, figurative language is used in the one-way album *all night long* by Fitria (2018). In this study, there are six types of figurative language in the One Direction album entitled *Up All Night*, namely repetition, parallelism, personification, metaphor, simile, and hyperbole. The dominant type of figurative language used is repetition in 50 lyrics, both anaphora and epiphora. Second, the figurative language in *Dark Horse Song Lyrics* by Katy Parry by Siska (2019). In this study, the lyrics of the song "Dark Horse" by Katy Parry contained 13 sentences covering three types of figurative language: simile, personification, and hyperbole. Based on the research results, song lyrics that are dominated by hyperbole have an effect that cannot be expressed literally for both the listener and the reader. Third, the use of songs to increase students' interest in listening. According to Yulianto (2017), in his research, he found that using songs to improve their listening ability in a fun way and not make students feel bored. The Last one is *Meaning of Figurative Language concerning Four Iron Maiden Songs* by Daniswara et al., (2016). This research found several figurative languages in the song, and the meaning used for it analyzing figurative language that is found is conceptual, connotative, and affective meaning.

In this study, the researcher presents an analysis of figurative language and the theme in Ariana Grande Album "Thank U, Next". The reason researchers researched the songs contained in Ariana Grande's album "Thank U Next," because according to Caulfield (2019), the song has occupied several positions on

the Billboard Hot 100 chart, so the song 7 Ring occupies the first position on the Billboard Hot 100 chart for eight weeks, the next thank u song occupies position one on the Billboard Hot 100 chart for three weeks and is in 2nd place for four weeks, besides that there is also a breakup song with your boyfriend, I'm tired of placing 3rd on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, this indicates that many music fans like the songs from the album, "Thank you, next."

In the album Ariana Grande, Thank U Next, there are 12 songs and entitled *Imagine, Needy, NASA, Bloodline, Fake Smile, Bad Idea, Makeup, Ghost in, In my head, 7 rings, Thank U, Next, Break Up With Your Girlfriend I'm Bored*. This research can help listeners of Ariana Grande's song find out what the songwriters' figurative language means.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Figurative Language**

Figurative language is the language or word used to convey something to the reader or listener but does not describe or represent the true meaning. According to Ratna (2017), Figurative language is another way to say something other than the usual way of making speech more beautiful. Figurative language is usually used to beautify words, to describe a specific impression or atmosphere such as lonely, busy, romantic, etc. Figurative language has many types, but in this study, the researcher focused on seven types of figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbol, irony and idiom).

The simile is a part of figurative language that compares two different things but is considered to have similarities and uses conjunctions. According to Syafitri & Marlinton (2018), the simile is comparing two essentially unlike things. Simile describes how something is like another and creates it by using the conjunctions "like" and "as."

Metaphor is explaining or describing one thing to something else directly but still having the same meaning. According to Lukmana et al., (2019), metaphor is used to compare two things indirectly without showing similarities in words. Metaphors and simile are used to make a comparison, but they are not the same thing. Metaphors say something is something else, while simile states something like something else.

Personification is a speech figure that gives human nature to an object as if it can behave like humans. According to Fitria (2018), personification is giving animals, objects, and human nature to act and do things like humans. Human nature is transferred to non-human things or creatures, including behavior, character, physical characteristics, feelings and thoughts.

Hyperbole is a figure of speech that states something excessively. According to Fitria (2018), hyperbole is an intentional exaggeration or

overstatement, or comic effect. State or exaggeratedly conveying something so that sometimes it doesn't make sense. The words used look dramatic.

The symbol is a picture or shape of an object that represents an idea. According to Perrine (1974), the symbol may have roughly defined as something that means more than what it is. The symbols used in this speech figure are usually easy to understand and already familiar to the listener or reader, such as symbols of animals, objects, plants and models.

The irony is a figure of speech that conveys something with the opposite meaning. According to Partington (2007), the irony is a speech mode in which the purpose is contrary to the word. The irony is like satire because it contains contradictory or inversely proportional statements to the existing reality.

The idiom is a combination of words that forms a new meaning and has no relationship with the primary forming name. According to Setiawati & Maryani (2018), the idiom is words or expressions that cannot be translated as original or literally. The idiom's meaning does not come from the terms that form it but is created after the words are combined.

### **Song**

Songs are poems with other melodies and tones, so they are pleasant to hear. Nowadays, listening to music is an activity that is very popular with many people. Sometimes people fill their spare time by listening to music. According to Setiawati & Maryani (2018), the song is one of the literature shown by sung and accompanied by musical instruments.

### **Theme**

The theme of a song is a description of the content of the song, according to Hornby (2000), the subject or main idea in a lecture, written work, or work of art. Not infrequently, when someone wants to listen to a song, he will find out the theme in the song.

### **Biography of Ariana Grande**

Ariana Grande is an American singer, born on July 26, 1993. She is known for her long ponytail and very seductive voice. According to Sushmita (2019), She was named the second musician after The Beatles successfully occupied the top three positions on the Billboard Hot 100 music chart. This achievement was achieved thanks to three songs by Ariana Grande, namely 7 Rings, which has topped the Billboard Hot 100 for a month. Followed by her hit song, Break Up With Your Girlfriend, I'm Bored, came in second, and Thank U, Next came in third.

Ariana Grande's music video received 10 billion views. According to Bela (2019), on Ariana Grande's third album, she was certified platinum by the RIAA, the time magazine Ariana Grande, the most influential person in the world.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research has been conducted using descriptive qualitative research. This study intends to analyze figurative language in Ariana Grande's album "thank u next." This method will be carried out by selecting theories such as figurative language and sources taken from the relevant text, journals, and books that support figurative analysis. The Data are derived from the figurative language found in Ariana Grande's album "thank u, next."

The writer is collected the data by using the following procedure. Take the lyrics song of Ariana Grande's album "thank u next" from Azlyrics.com. Reading Ariana Grande's album "thank u next" lyrics song and finding out the figurative language related to the study's subject. Finding out the theme conveyed in each piece on the album Ariana Grande "thank u next."

The data are analyzed using the following procedures: classifying the seven types of figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbol, irony, and idiom understatement from lyrics song of Ariana Grande's album "thank u next." Finding out the theme conveyed in each piece on the album Ariana Grande "thank u next." Counting the seven types of figurative language used in the lyrics song of Ariana Grande's album "thank u next." Converting each type of figurative language's frequency into percent, then finding out the most dominant type of figurative language from the lyrics song as a result. And the last conclusion the based on the results found.

To converting the frequency to percent, as following:

$$x = \frac{f}{n} \times 100\%$$

Where:

X= percentage of the obtained figurative language

F=frequency of each type of figurative language

N= the total number of all figurative language

## FINDINGS

After analyzing seven types of figurative language, namely; Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Hyperbole, Idiom, Symbol, and Irony in Ariana Grande's album "thank u, next" the researcher presented the percentage of each type. It can be seen on the table as follow:

**Tabel 1.** The Percentage of Figurative Language in Each Song

No.	Song	Types of Figurative						
		Si	Me	P	H	S	Ir	Id
1	Imagine	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
2	Needy	-	2	-	4	-	-	5
3	NASA	2	9	1	5	1	-	1
4	Bloodline	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Fake Smile	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
6	Bad Idea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	Makeup	1	-	-	-	-	-	8
8	Ghostin'	-	2	-	1	-	-	1
9	In My Head	-	-	3	-	4	-	1
10	7 Rings	4	2	3	-	2	1	-
11	Thank U	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
12	Break Up	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total		9	17	8	10	9	4	16
Percentage (%)		12,32	23,28	10,95	13,69	12,32	5,47	21,91

**Abbreviation:**

Si = Simile

Me=Metaphor

P=Personification

H=Hyperbole

S=Symbol

Ir=Irony

Id=Idiom

In this, the researcher presents some data from the types of figurative language and theme of each song in Ariana Grande's Thank U next album, which will prove the researcher's work.

**Table 2.** Figurative Language and Theme

No	Song	Data	Data Analysis	Thema
1	Imagine	1: <i>Drip-drip-dripped in gold</i>	In this lyric which figurative language <b>is used as a metaphor.</b> Drip-drip dripped in gold has the real intention of expressing self-confidence.	In this song, the writer tells about the beautiful images in a previous relationship and refuses to admit that it has ended. And the theme for "imagine" is Denial.
2	Needy	2: <i>If you take too long to hit me back</i>	Hit me in the lyric of this song has a different meaning from the actual sense, the importance of the song's thought is contact me, which means the lyrics are called an <b>idiom.</b>	Needy is spoiled and always wants to be noticed in a relationship. This song conveys that there is a feeling of "needed" in a relationship and the biggest mistake in a relationship is pretending not to need each other.

				And the theme for "needy" is required.
3	NASA	3: <i>give you the whole world, I need space.</i>	In the line, give you the whole world called hyperbole. Songwriters exaggerate how the characters in a song want to be described to their listeners, and then I need space, which means that the girl needs time for a while. It is called a <b>metaphor</b> .	NASA "National Aeronautics and Space Administration" the US government agency responsible for space exploration. This song tells about someone in a relationship who wants time alone without his partner. The theme of "NASA" is space.
4	Bloodline	There is no figurative found from this song.	-	This song tells of someone who just wants to "have fun" without the commitment to a relationship and doesn't want that guy in her bloodline. The guy doesn't love her but is more attached to a "just for show" relationship. The theme is Pretend.
5	Fake smile	4: <i>Fuck a fake smile, smile</i>	In these lyric, the word fuck shows a <b>symbol</b> of hatred for a fake smile.	Being a celebrity who must always appear happy in public. In this song, the writer says that she no longer has to bother pretending to be happy to please others. The theme of "Fake Smile" is Pretend.
6	Bad idea	There is no figurative found from this song.	-	In this song, it is told that someone is in a relationship with someone just to numb the pain. The theme of "Bad Idea" is Rebound Relationship.
7	Makeup	5: <i>Highlight of my life, just like Fenty beauty kit.</i>	This lyric is called a <b>simile</b> . Fenty Beauty Kit is a trendy label for various types of makeup. In this glance, the writer	This song tells of a couple who quarrel and find a way out. The theme of "Makeup" is Relationship.

			equates the highlights of his life with the makeup label's popularity.	
8	Goshtin	6: <i>Heaving tears, a rain parade from hell (from hell)</i>	a rain parade from hell parable of deep sorrow and a rain parade from hell also has the meaning of exaggerating. This lyric has two types of figurative language, namely <b>metaphor</b> and <b>hyperbole</b> .	This song is about feeling bad for someone you are with because you love someone else. The theme of "Goshtin" is Grief and Regret.
9	In my head	7: <i>Caught in the moment, tangled up in your sheets</i>	In this song, there are <b>idioms</b> and <b>personifications</b> "tangled up in your sheets." The idiom is tangled up, and the personification is explained by the sheets that can become tangled up.	This song is about being in love with a version of somebody you've created in your head-falling for someone they are not. The theme of "In My Head" is Misinterpreted.
10	7 rings	8: <i>Girls with tattoos who like getting in trouble</i>	In this lyric, it's called <b>simile</b> , which means that the girls who use the tattoos always involved in the problem.	This song tells how the writer got up after his relationship ended by having fun with his friends. The theme of "7 Rings" is Friendship.
11	Thank u, next	9: <i>Cause she grew from the drama</i>	In this song, figurative language is found, namely <b>irony</b> , the lyric in this song mean a girl whose life is full of drama. For example, when there are small problems, she makes them seem big and difficult to pass.	In this song, the writer talks about his exes, who have taught him valuable life lessons. The theme of "Thank U, Next" is Empowerment and self-love.
12	Break Up With Your Girlfriend, I'm Bored	10: <i>You're singin' my songs in the streets, yeah, yeah</i>	The lyrics of the song called <b>Irony</b> mean slap to haters, who say that they don't like the song, but always playing the song.	In this song, the writer argues that she is better off dating herself and loving herself than a guy. The theme of "Break up Your Girlfriend, I'm Bored" is Self-love.

## **DISCUSSION**

Figurative language is a method used by people to convey their intentions indirectly. This research, relevant to the Edyawati et al., (2016) figurative language in Adele's Selected Song Lyrics, found the most dominant type of figurative language in song is a metaphor. Another relevant research is Nursolihat & Kareviati (2020), an analysis of the figurative language used in the lyric of "A Whole New World" By Zayn Malik and Zhavia Ward, the researcher found that the most figurative language in song is a metaphor. Another relevant is Permatasari et al., (2015) analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics in Rainbows. The researcher found that metaphor is the most frequent type of figurative language used between its three lyrics. The theme of the three-song lyrics is disappointment, depression, love, and sadness.

Based on the relevant research, the table above shows that the most figurative language is a metaphor, which is 17 out of 73 total frequency. It means that the percentage of metaphor appears in album Thank U next song lyrics is 23,28%. The second is an idiom, which is 16 lyrics out of 73 total frequency, it means that the percentage of idiom appears in album Thank U next song lyrics is 21,91%. The third type is hyperbole, which is ten lyrics out of 73 total frequency, which means that the percentage of hyperbole in appears of the poems in the album Thank U Next song lyrics is 13,69%. The fourth type is simile with nine lyrics out of 73 total frequency, which means that the percentage of simile appears of the lyrics in album Thank U Next by Ariana Grande song lyrics is 12,32%. The fifth type is the symbol with nine lyrics out of 73 total frequency, which means that the percentage of irony appears of the lyrics in the album Thank U Next by Ariana Grande song lyrics is 12,32%. The sixth type is personification, with eight lyrics out of 73 total frequency. The percentage of personification that appears in the lyrics of the album Thank U next song lyric is 10,95%. The last type is irony with four lyrics out of 73 total frequency, which means that the percentage of personification appears of the lyrics in the album Thank U Next song lyrics is 5,47%.

## **CONCLUSION**

After analyzing the use of figurative language in the album Thank U Next by Ariana Grande, the researchers conclude as follow: 73 data were using figurative, 9 data for simile, 17 data for metaphor, 8 data for personification, 10 data for hyperbole, 9 data for symbols, 4 data for irony, and 16 data for idioms. The most dominant type of figurative language on Ariana Grande Thank U next album is a metaphor. The total number is 17 lyrics.

The themes contained in each song are Denial for the song Imagine, Needed for the song Needy, Space for the song NASA, Pretend for the song

Bloodline and Fake Smile, Rebound Relationship for the song Bad Idea, Relationship for the song Make Up, Brief and Regret for the song Ghostin, Misinterpreted for the song In My Head, Friendship for the song 7 Rings, Empowerment and self-love for the song Thank u next, and Self-love for the song Break Up With Your Girlfriend, I'm Bored.

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268

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