

## **FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USE IN SONG LYRICS IN ENGLISH TEXTBOOK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This research aims to determine the types of figurative language in song lyrics in English textbooks and determine the types of figurative language most often used in song lyrics. In this research, the researchers used a qualitative method. Researchers used data collection documentation techniques. In analyzing the data, the researchers classified the figurative language data based on Perrine's theory. The researchers found four types of figurative language in the song 'Pathway to English,' namely, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, and metonymy. The variety of figurative languages most used is hyperbole. By using figurative language, the writer can also express their feelings to convey the song's meaning.

**Keywords:** Figurative Language, Song Lyrics, English Textbook

### **INTRODUCTION**

Language is an essential part of our life. It can use to communicate with other people all over the world. Communication has the purpose of sending a message to other humans. Harimurti (2015) stated that language is a sound symbol of an arbitrary language that allows humans to work together, interact and identify with others. As we know, songs are one of the media used by singers to convey messages and interact with their listeners. A tune could be a portion of writing that's a medium for the human being too specific their thoughts, sentiments and feelings. These days, the songs can apply and utilize as materials

in English language educating. Besides can encourage a student in the class, it can also help get inspiration, motivation, and get a new living experience through the song being listening.

In a song, song lyrics usually have different meanings and descriptions of the songwriter's real-life. However, some people still misunderstanding the song lyrics because they only focus on the conceptual definition, not what the singer meant. In linguistics, it is also called the study of the abstract meaning of words semantics. Semantic is a systematic study of meaning (Lyons, 1977), and linguistic semantic is a study of how language organizes and expresses sense (Kreidler, 1998). There are two kinds of meanings, namely literal meaning and figurative language.

Figurative language is an imaginative use of words to give the reader's imagination and interpretation of meaning in context rather than literal language. This research also uses Perrine's (1992) theory, which says that figure of speech is everything to say other than an extraordinary way. Perrine also classified figurative language into 12 types: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony.

Based on previous research, Yulianti (2019) found that in the semantic analysis of figurative language in Adele's songs on listener emotions, there were eighteen figurative languages applied in these songs. According to him, the listener's emotions caused by these lyrics are mostly subjective feelings for Juslin's theory.

The second review related to this research is "An analysis of Figurative Language in the Selected Songs Album of Jessie J" (Pribadi, 2019). The researcher found eight types of figurative language. They were personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy, and oxymoron in their study.

This research aimed to identify the types of figurative language found in the textbook entitled "pathway to English" in the eleventh grade. The problem analysis will focus on the kinds of figurative languages found in the song lyrics in the textbook entitled "Pathway to English"? And what kind of figurative language is most used in song lyrics in the textbook entitled "Pathway to English"? The researchers used song lyrics in English textbooks entitled "Pathway to English" because the teacher uses this book as a medium for teaching and learning activities.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

According to Perrine (1992), figurative language is a way to express something outside the usual way. Figurative language can convey meaning effectively because: (1) can provide imaginative pleasure to readers, (2) is a way to get additional images in poetry, which in this case can concretize something abstract in nature so that the poetry feels more sensual, (3) is a way to increase the emotional intensity, and (4) is a tool for concentration and at the same time as a tool to state something clearly. According to Perrine, figurative language consists of 12 types. They are simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony.

According to Keraf (2001), the simile is a figurative language that equates something to the other by using indirect comparison words. Then, metaphors have almost something in common with a simile or figurative language comparison. It's just that metaphorical figurative language is used directly and does not use conjunctions like simile or comparative figurative language. Personification is then a figurative language that gives the character, behavior, or character equipment from humankind to animals, objects, or concepts. The apostrophe is a speech figure that occurs when a speaker stops speaking to the audience (for example, in a play) and directs his speech to a third party such as the litigant or other individual, sometimes absent from the scene. Often the recipient is an abstract, personified quality or an inanimate object.

The word synecdoche is from Greek Synecdoche, "simultaneous understanding" (Jones & McKenzie, 1940). Synecdoche is a figure of speech using a name or phrases that are part to represent a whole. Then, metonymy is a figurative language that stated something else because it has a very close relationship. The symbol is a figurative language that emphasizes something that has a separate meaning beyond its true meaning. Then, allegory is a language style that uses descriptions or figures of speech to explain something. Then, the paradox is a style of language that states something contrary or contradictory. Then, hyperbole is a figurative language that exaggerates without detracting from the reality of its true meaning. Ironically, figurative language implies something different, sometimes even contrary to what is said.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research used a qualitative research approach. The object of this research was figurative language in the textbook entitled "Pathway to English". The researchers choose to analyze the ideas of figurative language. The lyric of the songs was analysis in Pathway to English. The pieces consist of five themes: Hero by Mariah Carey, If I Let You Go by Westlife, Diamond by Rihanna,

Congratulations by Cliff Richard, Yesterday by The Beatles. The instrument of this research was a printed paper of textbook which contained lyric songs.

There are several steps to collect the data. First, read the lyric of the textbook entitled "Pathway to English" song. Second, select the figurative language. Third, write down the data. And last, arrange the data into several parts based on classification.

Data analysis is the method of efficiently organizing the meet transcripts, field notes, and other materials that the analyst gathers to extend the researcher's understanding of them to empower them to display what the analyst has found to others. There are several steps to analyzing the data. There are several steps to analyze the data, including: 1) the researcher reads the song lyrics from the textbook "Pathway to English"; 2) identify and interpret data based on the textbook "Pathway to English," which expresses figurative language; 3) the researcher inventoried the lyrics of the figurative language of the song "Pathway to English" into a table based on the theme. The next stage is to classify the figurative language of the song lyrics "Pathway to English" on the table. And the last, made the report or conclusion based on the data that have got.

## FINDINGS

The songs in the book "Pathway to English" were the object of this research. The researcher analyzed the song lyrics in the book "Pathway to English". The total of the songs was five songs. The researchers used the Perrine theory, which says that figure of speech is everything to say, other than the extraordinary way. Perrine also classified figurative language into 12 types, namely: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony.

The researchers integrated the figurative language of the songs 'Pathway to English' into a table based on the songs. This step is to create a complete list so that readers understand and make it easier to find out which song titles have figurative language in this study, namely: *Diamonds*, *Hero*, *if I let you go*, *Congratulations*, and *Yesterday*.

**Table 1.** Inventorying of Figurative Language Used in Song Lyrics

No	Song's title	Types of Figurative language	Song Lyrics
1	Diamonds	Simile	We're like a diamond in the sky
		Metonymy	A vision of ecstasy
		Hyperbole	When you hold me, I'm alive
		Hyperbole	Palms rise to the Universe

		Hyperbole	There's a hero if you look inside your heart
2	Hero	Hyperbole	And the sorrow that you know will melt away
		Hyperbole	When you face the world alone
		Hyperbole	Dreams are hard to Follow
3	If I let you go	Metaphor	We're worlds apart
4	Congratulations	Hyperbole	You couldn't live without me
		Simile	Now it looks as though they're here to stay
5	Yesterday	Hyperbole	There's a shadow hanging over me

## DISCUSSION

Based on the finding above, the researchers found a type of figurative language according to Perrine's found in song lyrics in the English textbook entitled 'Pathway to English.' In the first song, *Diamond*, there were three types of figurative languages: simile, metonymy, and hyperbole. In the second song, *Hero*, there were four song lyrics consist of hyperbole. In the third song, *If I Let You Go*, there was one song lyric consist of metaphor. In the fourth song, *Congratulations*, there was one song lyric consisting of hyperbole. In the last song, *yesterday*, two-song lyrics consist of figurative languages, such as simile and hyperbole. Hyperbole was the most figurative language that used in song lyrics in the English textbook.

This research is relevant to the researcher Avillanova (2019); by using the theory of Housel, she found four types of figurative language in song lyrics in the English textbook. They are simile, metaphor, hyperbole and personification.

The different results because previous researchers, Avillanova (2019) and researchers used other theories. The researchers used Perrine's (1992) approach, while the previous researcher used a view from Housel (2015). Housel (2015) argues that figurative language consists of simile, metaphor, hyperbole and personification. While Perrine (1992) argues that there are 12 types of figurative languages, including simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony. So this is the reason why the previous researcher does not find other types of figurative language.

Another study that also uses Parera's theory is the analysis of figurative language on song lyrics provided in "Pathway to English" textbook published by Erlangga for eleventh grades of senior high school by Budiarti (2017) that found there were five types of figurative language in song lyrics in an English textbook. They are metaphor, hyperbole, personification, litotes, and simile.

Based on the explanation above, we can see that the type of metaphor most often used in songs is hyperbole. It is due to the hyperbole intended to emphasize

a statement or situation to intensify it and increase its impression and influence on the listener.

## CONCLUSION

The researchers concluded that the type of figurative language found in song lyrics in the English textbook “Pathway to English” based on Perrine's theory consists of 4 types of figurative language. They are metaphor, simile, hyperbole and metonymy. Two lyrics are simile; eight lyrics are hyperbole; one lyrics is a metaphor; one lyrics are metonymy. The most figurative language used in song lyrics in the English textbook “Pathway to English” is hyperbole.

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