

AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ON THE LYRIC OF COLDPLAY'S SELECTED SONGS

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Received: 06/11/2021

Accepted: 28/11/2021

Publication: 08/12/2021

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to know the kinds of figurative language used in selected lyrics of Coldplay song. This research was designed to identify some figurative language by understanding the general meaning when they are used in the lyrics of songs. The technique of descriptive analysis offered to analyze data by reading the data, then identifying the figurative language used in the lyrics of song. After identifying some figurative languages then they are categorized into some kinds of figurative languages. Then, the general meaning of figurative language by identifying the lexical meaning and contextual meaning of the four selected the lyrics of song are used to analyze the data got from the song. Based on research finding, some figurative languages were found in the Coldplay's selected songs. Most of figurative languages which are used in lyrics of Coldplay's selected songs is "Hyperbole" that has a great exaggeration used to emphasize a point, and used for expressive or comic effect. The meanings which were found from the song are classified into the connotative meaning. The lyrics of Coldplay's selected songs tell us about human's social life which contains about love, sadness, happiness, spirit and others. In the lyrics of Coldplay's selected songs, figurative languages are helpful to understand the song. The existence of figurative language is not to complicate the understanding of lyrics but to simplify and to clear the understanding of lyrics. Song is very suitable for the English Learners who want to improve their English skills in analyzing lyrics that contain figurative languages. From the explanation above can be concluded that in analyzing lyrics besides finding figurative language in lyrics, the meanings of the song that contain figurative languages and messages of the song can be understood.

Keywords— Analysis, Coldplay Song, Figurative Language, Lyrics

Introduction

Language is one of crucial tools of human beings to communicate one another. Without language, people will never able to communicate one another. People need language to communicate, to interact, and to get information from others. According to Harmer (2007) states that language is used widely for communication between people who do not share the same first (or even second) Language. It means that language can be a primary necessity in human life. It has a big role for every people in making good relationship with others.

Language is a means of communications. Through language, people can express their ideas, thought, and feelings. Hornby (1987) states that language is a human and non-intensive method of communicating ideas, feelings, and desires by means of a system of sounds and sound symbols. The language may represent the explicit and implicit feelings and thoughts. It can also be described as a vehicle of thought, because through language people can share or deliver what put in mind.

(Hariyanto, 2017:47) stated that there were many ways people do in delivering their idea to other people so that people can understand and catch the meaning of idea up. One of the ways that can be used is by song. Many people figure out their ideas and feeling into a song. In a song, there are also many messages that can be got.

Song is a part of literature and figurative language is also part of literature. Literature is influential to human's life. It is one way to express feeling, thought, emotion, and experience. Literature born due to the basic human urge to express himself, showed an interest in the mankind problem, and showed an interest in reality which lasts all the time (Semi, 2012:1).

Figurative language is language than cannot be taken literally (or should not be taken literally only). It uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation (Arp, 2011:73). Figurative language often found in literary works, such as: articles in newspaper, advertisements, novels, poems, etc. Figurative language is language deflection to create certain and rhetorical effects or special meanings (Shen, 2009).

There are many kinds of figurative language such as metaphor which is a figure of speech that makes a comparison between two things that are basically similar. Personification is a figure of speech where human qualities are given to animals. Hyperbole is the use of exaggeration as a rhetoric device of figure of speech. While simile is a figure of speech that directly compares two things by using connecting words—*as* or *like*, (Salwa & Ayu Liskinasih, 2016: 78).

In this research, the researcher discussed about a figurative language in Coldplay songs lyrics. A Figurative language has been widely examined by linguist for years ago. A Figurative language has the essence of style and beauty. Based on the data which analyzed by researcher, she states that a song is a poem played by the music with some instruments like piano, guitar, drum, etc. Song also is very important to entertain and refresh our mind. If you are depressed, you can listen to a song which can take you in peace. Song can break the saturation and bring you joy and also stimulate your imagination.

Coldplay is a Band from British, begin their career at 1998. Until today Coldplay have already seven songs albums, they are; first song album at 1999 entitled *The Blue Room*, the second album at 2000 entitled *Parachutes*, the third songs albums at 2002 entitled *A Rush Of Blood To The Head*, the fourth songs album at 2005 entitled *X&Y*, the fifth songs albums at 2008 entitled *Viva la Vida*, the sixth songs albums at 2011 entitled *MyloXyloto*, and the seventh songs albums at 2014 entitled *Ghost Stories*. (www.coldplay.com). until today Coldplay have already seven songs albums. The meaning of Coldplay songs not only about love but also about life and struggle and other social issues. The researchers choose five coldplay songs because we want to explore the coldplay songs album and also we are very familiar with the five songs.

Therefore, this is interesting object to be analyzed to find out the types of figurative language because this songlyrics of Coldplay has used many of figurative language. In these songs lyrics, Coldplay not only write the lyrics about love but also about life, struggle, faith, and many more. It also analyzed about social context used in that songs lyrics. Based on that, the researcher is able to understand the types of figurative language and social context used in Coldplay song lyrics.

Literature Review

There are one question problem in this research. That is what are the type of figurative language which are found in Coldplay songs lyric. To answer the question problem, the researchers use theory of figurative language based on *Knickerbocker and Reninger* theory (1963) based on their book entitled *Interpreting Literature*. In their book, they stated that figurative language divided into several types, they are; *simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, hyperbole, and symbols*. More specifically, it answers questions about what the participants are engaged in, in which the language figures as some essential component. *Tenor*, The tenor of discourse refers to who is taking part, to the nature of the participants, to their statuses and roles. It says something about the kinds of role relationship that exist between the participants. *Mode*, The mode of discourse refers to what part the language plays and the participants expectations about what language can do for them in that situation. So, to more explain about the theory in this research, the researcher gives some explanation below.

Relevant Theory

Semantics

Generally, semantics is a doctrine and educational discipline intended to improve habits of response of human beings to their environment and one another especially by training in the more critical use of words and other symbols. It means that semantics is a discipline study about human response in their daily life, such as conversation. Definitely, we need the meaning what they said, by studying semantics we can understand about that. Moreover, semantics can be applied to entire texts or to single word.

Example: “*Destination*” and “*Last stop*”

Technically, it means same thing, but the student can analyze their subtle shade of meaning. Semantics is a study of how language organize and express meanings (Keidler,1998:3). Semantics concerns about meaning as communicate through language, while for some others, semantics is a study about all of aspects meaning and they have to add the label linguistic to arrive at a more precise definition.

Figurative Language

Generally, figurative language divided into some types, they are simile, metaphor, allegory, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, litotes, hyperbole, irony, paradox, allusion, and many more. To get deep understand about figurative languages, the writer provides some definition about figurative language. The first definition from www.ehow.com, they state that:

“The term figurative languages refers to by passing the literal meaning to deepen, broaden, or bring about new ideas or insights into a word or phrase. In many ways, figurative languages is a description, in which abstract terms are used in place of concrete description. This type of language appeals to one’s imagination and creates visual images to display the impact of what is being written. Figurative language can include many words and phrases, and there are several types of figurative language. Most commonly, it can refer to making comparisons, repeating sounds, exaggerating or creating an appeal to the senses.”

The second definition from *Perrine* (1982:6), she states that:

“Figurative language is used in any form of communication, such as in daily conversation, articles in newspaper, advertisements, novels, poems, etc. The effectiveness of figurative language in four main reasons, *Perrine* (1982) First, figurative language affords

readers imaginative pleasure of literary works. Second, it is a way of bringing additional imagery into verse, making the abstract concrete, making literary works more sensuous. The third, figurative is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and conveying attitudes along with information. And the last, it is a way of saying much in brief compass. She divides figurative language into seven types, namely metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, paradox, overstatement, understatement, irony and illusion.”

The third definition from *McArthur* (1992:402), he stated that:

“Figurative Language is the language in which figures of speech such as metaphors freely occur. He also states that figures of speech are a rhetorical device using words in distinctive ways to achieve a special effect. *McArthur* classified figures of speech into four main groups they are:

1. Phonological figures which include alliteration, assonance, and onomatopoeia.
2. Orthographic features: They are visual forms created for effects.
3. Syntactic figures: They may bring the non standard into standard language.
4. Lexical figures: They extend the conventional so as to surprise or entertain.”

And last definition from Indonesian linguist *Muliono* (1989:114), he stated that:

“Figure of speech according to *Muliono* divided into three categories. They are, comparison, contradiction, and association. Comparison which consist of simile, metaphor, and personification. Contradiction which consist of hyperbole, litotes, and irony. Association which consist of metonymy, synecdoche, and euphemism.”

Here, to analyze the types of figurative language which find in Coldplay songs lyric, the researcher focused on *Knickerbocker* and *Reninger* theory (1963). According *Knickerbocker and Reninger* (1963:400), figurative language divided some types, they are:

1. *Simile*: figure of speech, in which a more or less fanciful or unrealistic comparison is made, using like or as
Example: *My Love is like a red red rose*
2. *Metaphor*: figure of speech which concisely compares two things by saying that the one is the other. It is considered implied comparison (without using „like“ or „as“).
Example: *You are my sunshine*
3. *Personification*: figure of speech which assigns human quantities to non human (object, concept or animal).
Example: *The trees are waving to the tiger.*
4. *Hyperbole*: figure of speech which an exaggeration or overstatement, usually deliberate and not meant to be taken literally. Example: *She rushed out of the room in floods of tears*
5. *Symbols*: occurs when a noun which has meaning in itself is used to represent something entirely different.
Example: *Indonesian flag* represent about braveness and holiness
6. *Synecdoche*: Actually synecdoche divided into two types,

Pars pro toto (part for whole) means if there is noun mentioned in a part, so it means the noun mentioned in a whole.

Example: “*White house*” means The U.S government

Totem pro parte (whole for part) means if there is noun mentioned in a whole, so it means the noun mentioned in a part Example: “*Our school get a cup of basketball champion*”

Here, the researchers intent to investigate the types of figurative language. The analysis in this research just made simple in order to easy the readers understand. So, in this research, the researcher used descriptive approach because she does not used numeral data in this research.

Research Approach

The method applied in this research is the descriptive approach, It determined the types of figurative language, and described the figurative meaning which found in lyrics of Coldplay songs albums. And also described about the social context. The data of this study were not in the form of number but description and explanation about the Coldplay song lyrics.

Source of data

In this study the researcher used Coldplay song lyrics. The data were taken five songs are randomly from different sources in website. First song entitled, *Yellow* from second album entitled *Parachutes*, *Fix You* from fourth album entitled *X&Y*, *The Scientist* from third album entitled *ARush Of Blood To The Head*, *Paradise* from sixth albums entitled *Mylo Xylo*, and *Sky full of Stars* from seventh album entitled *Ghost Stories*.

Research Instrument

This study concern to the text which content of lyrics by Coldplay.

Technique of data collection

The data from Coldplay songs lyrics. There are several steps to collect the data, they are:

1. Searching the lyrics in website
2. Reading and Understanding the lyrics
3. Analyzing the lyrics

Technique of data analysis

There are several steps that are used in analyzing the data, they are:

1. Understanding, this process is started by reading the songs lyrics carefully
2. Identifying, this process is started by reading the songs lyrics and determined which belong to figurative language types based on theory figurative languages from Knikerbocker and Renninger (1963).
3. Classifying, this process is started by separating the song lyrics into specific categories of figurative language
4. *Describing*, this process is started by describing about the figurative meaning which already classified into separated points, and also described about the social context used in Coldplay songs lyric based on theory of social context based on Halliday and Hasan (1985).

Results and Discussion

In this research, the researcher provided five songs lyrics in Coldplay. They are; *Yellow*, *The Scientist*, *Fix You*, *Paradise*, and *Sky full of Stars*. She tried to identifying about types of figurative language in Coldplay song lyrics and explain about social context. To avoid misunderstanding, the researcher tells about synopsis of each song lyric which used in this research. Actually, the synopsis bellow based on the researcher’s mind.

Yellow, this song lyric telling about someone adoring their beloved person. Like in this lyric, from begin until the end of this lyric tell about love and hope to get beloved persons. The vocalist of Coldplay, Chris Martin who written this lyric tries to show his love to his beloved persons.

The Scientist, in this song lyric tells about someone who wants to come back again to ex lover. The boy aware about the situation, it is totally different with past when they still together. He tries to convince the girl in order to back again with him, but she will not. This situation make the boy becomes frustrated. In this song lyric, „The Scientist“ means no need the scientist to making up the relationship. Because how difficult for the girl to back again with him.

Fix You, this song lyric telling about motivation to move on to get better future and make the past as a valuable lesson. There is someone (he) in this lyric who wants to protect his lover. His lover get a hard problems in her life, and the boy tries to make calm and protects to her.

Paradise, this song lyric telling about dreams. In this lyric there is little girl who has a trouble in her life, and she wants to go away from her trouble, and the other hand she has a big desire in her life, but that will never to be come true. So, she just dream in every her sleep.

Skyfull Of Stars, this song lyric, Chris Martin as vocalist and writer of this song describes about the beautiful girl like stars in the sky. He very falling in love with her. She has change his life, and he never forget about her. Below are the findings and discussion of this research.

Based on the theory used in this study, figurative language divided into six. Those are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbol, and synecdoche. In this study, the figurative language that is found in Coldplay songs albums selected lyric they are; *Yellow* lyric are found six metaphors and one hyperbole. *The Scientist* lyric are found two metaphors, one simile, and six symbols. *Fix You* lyric are found three metaphors and one symbol. *Paradise* lyric are found three metaphors, four symbols, and one synecdoche. And *Sky full of Stars* lyric are found six metaphors.

Finding

No	Song Title	Figurative Type	Verse	Lyric
1.	Yellow	Metaphor	Verse 1 line 4 Verse 2 line 4 Verse 3 line 3 Verse 4 line 1 and 2	Look at the stars Look how the shine for you And everything you do Yeah, they were all yellow I came along I wrote a song for you And all the things you do And it was called yellow So then I took my turn Oh what a thing to have done And it was all yellow Your skin oh yeah your skin and bones Turn into something beautiful You know, you know I love you so You know I love you so

3.	Fix You	Metaphor	<p>Verse 7 line 3</p> <p>Verse 4 line 1, 2, 3</p> <p>Verse 6 line 2 and 3</p> <p>Verse 7 line 1</p> <p>Verse 3 line 2 and 3</p> <p>Verse 4 line 4</p>	<p>Question of science Science and progress Do not speak as loud as my heart</p> <p>Running in circles Coming up tails Heads on a science apart</p> <p>I was just guessing At number and figures Pulling the puzzles apart</p> <p>Question of science Science and progress Do not speak as loud as my heart</p> <p>Lights will guide you home And ignite your bones And I will try to fix you</p> <p>And high up above or</p>
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				<p>Every tear a waterfall</p> <p>In the night the stormy night She closed her eyes In the night the stormy night Away she flied</p> <p>When she was just a girl She expected the world But it flew away from her reach And the bullets catch in her teeth</p> <p>Life goes on It gets so heavy The wheel breaks the butterfly Every tear a waterfall</p> <p>She dreamed of para-para-paradise Para-para-paradise Para-para-paradise Whoa-oh-oh-oh She dreamed of para-para-paradise Para-para-paradise Para-para-paradise</p>
		Symbol	<p>Verse 4 line 4</p> <p>Verse 2 line 4</p> <p>Verse 3 line 3</p> <p>Verse 5 line 9 and 11</p>	

		Synecdoche	Verse 1 line 2	<p>Whoa-oh-oh-oh So lying underneath those stormy skies She said oh-oh-oh I know the sun must set to rise</p> <p>When she was just a girl She expected the world But it flew away from her reach So she ran away in her sleep Dreamed of para-para paradise Para-para paradise Para-para paradise Every time she closed her eyes</p>
5.	Skyfull of Stars	Metaphor	Verse 1 line 1, 3, and 6	<p>Cause you're a sky A sky full of stars I'm going to give you my heart</p>
			Verse 2 line 2	<p>Cause you're a sky A sky full of stars And cause you light up the path</p> <p>I don't care Go on and tear me</p>

			Verse 3 line 3 and 4	<p>apart I don't care if you do Cause in a sky, a sky full of stars I think I saw you</p> <p>Cause you're a sky A sky full of stars</p> <p>I want to die in your arms Cause you get lighter The more it gets dark I'm going to give you my heart</p>
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Conclusion

Based on data analysis of figurative language in Coldplay song lyrics, it can be concluded that the most type of figurative language which found in Coldplay lyrics is a metaphor and symbol. The vocalist and the writer of the song lyrics of Coldplay, Chris Martin used many metaphor and symbol in his song because he wants to show about the beauty of the lyric that he wrote. The song lyrics of Coldplay not only about love but also about life based on true story.

There are five kinds of figurative languages which found in five songs of Coldplay in the lyric such as, metaphor, synecdoche, hyperbole, and symbols. These kinds of figurative languages are used by the song writer in order to make his creation look alive, so we can feel the truly condition that the song writer tries to show in that song.

The use of the social context in this study also opens up all the meanings and the purposes from five songs selected lyrics by Coldplay. The words that firstly look complicated can be elaborated in the social context, so that they can be better understood. So, by using the figurative languages and their social context, the researcher wants to attract our attention and slowly leads us to the theme.

The finding and discussion above indicate that the researcher answered two questions in the statement of the problem. It shows that the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger to analyzed type of figurative languages which found in these songs lyrics and the theory of Halliday and Hasan to analyzed the social context which explained in every songs selected lyrics cooperative principle.

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