AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SELECTED ARIANA GRANDE SONGS

Ni Luh Putu Tarisa Damayanti[1], I Gusti Ayu Mahatma Agung[2]

Universitas Mahasaraswati Denpasar
[1] pututarisa0@gmail.com, [2] ayu.mahatma@unmas.ac.id

Abstract

This research aims to identify the types of figurative language used in Ariana Grande's song lyrics and to describe the contextual meaning. The primary data and secondary data were the two different types of data used in this research. Primary data came from the lyrics of selected Ariana Grande songs, while secondary data came from articles, books, magazines, and journals. The descriptive qualitative method was used in this study. The various types of figurative language found in this study include simile, metaphor, hyperbole, allusion, alliteration, and personification. The study found that the songs mostly use a metaphor. The findings of this research can support learners' understanding of the meaning of song lyrics that use figurative language.

Keywords: Contextual Meaning, Figurative Language, Song Lyrics

INTRODUCTION

One of the methods of people's communication is language. Without language, humans will never be able to communicate with each other. In addition to that, people need language to interact, search for, and share valuable knowledge with others. People use language in various ways in literary works, both verbally and in writing. Figurative language, based on Nursolihat & Kareviati (2020), is a language that includes words or idioms with meanings in addition to their literal definitions. Therefore, it is necessary to infer the meaning of words or expressions because they may be difficult to understand if their dictionary definitions are taken literally. It is difficult to accept figurative language literally. The use of language to influence or attract listeners and readers, specifically through the use of metaphors, is known as a metaphoric dialect (Murtadho, 2022). It makes it simple for people to decipher the significance of a word. We cannot accept figurative language literally since it employs figures of speech rather than real meanings. As a result, the meaning of figurative language is not entirely conveyed in its terms (Sopiansyah & Inayah, 2021). Figures of speech master can alter a viewer's perception of a term or notion by contrasting it against something else. The figure of speech can assist people in improving their public language skills (Pandanwangi & Anggraeni, 2021).

Literature, based on Meyer (2018), is a concept that is used in literary works that carefully consider their use of language, including elements like imaginative metaphors, attractive phrases, elegant syntax, rhymes, and gorgeous alliterations. Literature developed from the essential human impulse to put oneself, demonstrated concern for humanity's problems, and demonstrated a passion in fact that has endured throughout history (Pandanwangi & Anggraeni, 2021). The author purposefully leaves room for interpretation and wishes to read himself aesthetically. People who read and comprehend literature do not just comprehend the grammar or utterances, as well as the content of it. Figurative language is defined as speech that employs phrases or terms with meanings other than the strict interpretation. As a result, implying the significance of the phrases or utterances is required, so the meaning in the

vocabulary may be difficult to understand unless the terms are interpreted correctly (Setiawati & Maryani, 2018).

Loveana et al. (2021) assert that a song is a portion of audio structure or sound played by a vocalist or a musical instrument. Songs could be implemented as a form of entertainment, a method of communicating with everyone, and a way to express one's feelings and moods. Song also contains lyrics about feelings that one wishes to share with others. Songs allow us to express our emotions. Songs include a wide range of topics, including friendship, love and hate, happiness and grief, life tales, and others. Literature includes songs. It features a structure that includes an intro, verse, chorus of a refrain, break, bridge, and coda chorus. It also includes language elements like lyrics, rhyming words, and alliteration. Several songs make use of funny puns and slang. This also employs poetic techniques like metaphorical language (Astriani & Bhuana, 2021). Lyrics and instruments are two essential components of a song. Song components include the lyrics. That lyric is described by Ardhyanti & Supriyatiningsih (2020) as telling tales and communicating with listeners in a way that is akin to how individuals converse with one another. The explanation provided above leads to the conclusion that a piece of music is a kind of poetry that incorporates songs and employs metaphorical language used in the songs, which are a part of songs that function like stories or a discussion between individuals.

Previous studies with a focus on figurative language have been conducted. The first study was conducted by Arditami (2017). She conducted research entitled "An Analysis of The Figurative Language Used in Katy Perry's song Firework." Following an analysis of "Katy Perry's" song lyrics, the author discovered six different types of figurative language. They are metaphors, personification, similes, symbols, and paradoxes. Additionally, the researcher describes the significance of certain forms of figurative language. This study uses the same qualitative methodology to analyze song lyrics. However, the fact that the singer or song title is different makes this study different from the earlier study. Six new varieties of figurative language, including metaphors, personification, similes, symbolism, and paradoxes, were discovered in the previous study; however, symbols and paradoxes were not found in the current study. Another research was conducted by Fajrin & Parmawati (2021) with the title "An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Song of Bruno Mars Entitled Grenade." The study aims to look at the figurative language employed in the lyrics of the song "Grenade" by looking at their surroundings and trying to understand their meaning. Online lyrics of songs were used as the data source, and descriptive qualitative analysis was used as the research methodology. The findings showed this specific song uses figurative language, including repetition, hyperbole, and metaphor. Additionally, exaggeration is one of the lyrics' most figurative language. This study also uses song lyrics as the data source and descriptive qualitative methodology to assess the metaphorical language of a song. The distinction is that this study looked at six kinds of figurative language, whereas the last study only focused on three, namely metaphors, hyperbole, and repetition. There were differences in the vocalists picked and the songs selected as well. This researcher chose Ariana Grande, whereas the previous researcher selected Bruno Mars.

The third article was written by Nurhaida & Marlina (2017), entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Views (Opinion Column) of Online Padang Ekspres Newspaper." The findings of this investigation revealed up to 100 words or phrases that were classified as metaphorical language. Out of 100 data points, 66 were metaphors, 25 were similes, and 9 were personifications. The primary language utilized in newspapers is how this study comes to its conclusion. The most common connotation of the metaphor Padang Express Online is

good. This article tries to define the types and significance of figurative language employed by the author in Online Padang Ekspres Newspaper in March through May 2016 editions. The current and previous studies have similarities, namely the exploration of contextual meaning from the data analyzed, which is essentially the same as finding more metaphors. Meanwhile, the difference in this study's data source is song lyrics, whereas the previous study used online newspapers. In the previous study, three varieties of figurative language were discovered: metaphor, simile, and personification, but this study discovered six categories of figurative language. Consequently, the authors of the study concentrated on the figurative language employed frequently in song lyrics and the message it conveys. This study aims to understand the kinds of figurative language used in specific Ariana Grande songs and the context in which it is employed in the song lyrics.

METHOD

This study applied the descriptive qualitative method to conduct a more in-depth analysis and address issues in this research. A wide variety of data are used in qualitative research, including audio and video recordings of interviews, different kinds of texts, documents, and photos. Making new, important distinctions as a result of getting closer to the phenomenon being examined allows for iterative qualitative research to better grasp the scientific community's knowledge of the phenomenon being studied (Aspers & Corte, 2019). The technique shows the real situations, activities, or realities that happen based on the data gathered in the research. Descriptive research investigates the realities of "what is" with descriptive data (Astriani & Bhuana, 2021). This study's major source of data is the song lyrics of particular Ariana Grande Songs. Ariana Grande is an American singer and entertainer whose particular song is extremely well-known. Before assuming the character of Cat Valentine in the Nickelodeon television series Victorious in 2009, she started her work on the play Broadway Music 13. Her songs are listened to and even covered by a large number of individuals worldwide. By listening to her songs, it is discovered that the songwriter uses figurative language to write the lyrics uniquely. The substantiating information, however, is derived from additional sources, including a selection of literary works, periodicals, journals, biographies, articles, and some books that provide additional information on the subject, as well as some electronic data from the internet. A researcher can gather data in a variety of ways, according to the data collection method. The authors used the technique of note-taking and documenting in order to collect the data. The authors followed the following procedures when collecting the data: reading through references from several papers on the subject while listening to Ariana Grande's songs. Finally, the researcher investigates the contextual meaning of figurative language by identifying the contextual meaning. The researchers employed some of the following steps when analyzing data: the data were classified based on their types of figurative language. This research provided the use of theory proposed by Keraf (in Nurhaida & Marlina, 2017). Then the data of types of figurative language found in the data were analyzed, the meaning of the figurative language from the song lyric was identified and analyzed, and finally, a conclusion was made.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The authors chose three of Ariana Grande's popular songs. Regarding the title, the first is "Just Look Up," a song performed by Ariana Grande and Kid Cudi for the movie "Don't Look Up," which came out in cinemas in 2021. The second song chosen by the authors is "The Light is Coming," which Ariana Grande popularized in a duet with Nicky Minaj. The song was

released in 2018 and reached the top 10 in Greece and New Zealand. The third song is called "Sweetener." The song, which was released in 2018, has a very beautiful or sweet romantic meaning. The following are the findings of the analysis as presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Types of Figurative Language found in Selected Ariana Grande's Songs.

Title of Songs	Figurative Language	Lyric
Just Look Up	Metaphor	*-I feel your eyes, they're locked on every part of me.*
		-And then my dumb heart says
		-It's so close, I can feel the heat big time
	Personification	
The Light is Coming	Simile	*Now we shooting the shot like a drive-by.*
		-Ah, 'gonna break that shit down.
	Metaphor	*-Trophy wife, aw, out you won me*
		- Time is oh so precious
		-Given you a box of chances every time you blow it all (blow it all)
	Hyperbole	
		-The light is coming to give back everything the darkness stole
	Personification	

		-Now I'm the bad guy, call me Chun-Li
		-Yo Ariana, come let me give you a high five
	Allusion	
Sweetener	Simile	-Make everything taste like it is salt
		-Then you come through like the sweetener you are.
	Metaphor	-When life deals us cards.
	Hyperbole	-And then we lay it back, talk the rest of the night
		get it, get it, get it, get
	Alliteration	Hit it, hit it, hit it, hit it

Discussion

The Figurative Language Analysis and Contextual Meaning in Ariana Grande's selected songs

Simile

Similes typically involve comparing two fundamentally dissimilar items based on similarities in a single feature. A simile compares similarities using connectives like "like" and "as," among other terms. Through the use of connectives, its figurative language attempts to compare various objects. Commonly used to make writing more vivid and powerful (Nurhaida & Marlina, 2017). The following line employs a simile:

> Data 1
> ***Now we shooting the shot like a drive-by.***
> Because the singer uses the word "like" to connect being a shooter to riding, the lyric is categorized as a simile. Which has the context in which it is intended to shoot quickly like driving. This line is found in the song "The Light is Coming."

Data 2
Make everything taste like it is salt
This phrase employs a simile by describing a cocoon as tasting entirely like salt. This is written with salt to represent the genuine meaning of how difficult life is. This line is found in the song entitled "Sweetener".

Data 3
Then you come through like the sweetener you are.
This phrase also uses simile because it uses the term "like," which is used to compare someone to an obviously distinct person. The true meaning is that this individual is also dating him to encourage him when things are tough. This line is found in the song "Sweetener."

Metaphor
Figures of similarities include metaphor as well. A metaphor, which is a type of comparison that directly connects two objects, is similar to a simile. A metaphor, however, is a comparison made directly without a term of relationship (Nurhaida & Marlina, 2017). The following line employs a metaphor:

Data 4
I feel your eyes, they're locked on every part of me
This line shows the use of metaphor since it depicts the word "feeling" the eye being locked, even though doing so would be quite difficult. Therefore, the authenticity of what she sees can be judged from the sight of her eyes, which increases her level of trust. This line is found in the song entitled " Just Look Up."

Data 5
And then my dumb heart says
This line depicts a metaphor for the heart, which declares that it is illogical. The heart is one of the organs of the human body that does not have a mouth to speak. The adjective "dumb" denotes a situation in which a person is oblivious to something but nevertheless has the potential to grasp it. The essential significance of the line, however, is that it explains why it is so simple to believe. Can be explained as to why I made a mistake or did the incorrect thing. This line is found in the song entitled " Just Look Up."

Data 6
Ah, 'gonna break that shit down.
Though gibberish is depicted in this song's lyrics, it is illogical to try to decipher this we call metaphor. When used to inanimate objects, the word "break" makes more sense. That shit is either lies or manipulation. "gonna break "implies exposing, completing, or demonstrating. Which means exposing a lie. This line is found in the song entitled " The Light is Coming."

Data 7
Trophy wife, aw, out you
The wife's trophy statement, which uses metaphors or parables, is displayed in this line. Normally, trophies are only used for inanimate items, but in this case, wives are being utilized as trophies. It conveys gratitude for a wife who is able to be a nice wife. The wife appreciates the role in the marriage. Her job is to make her husband appear good.

She presents herself in public as a beautiful, educated woman in order to elevate her husband's position. This line is found in the song entitled " The Light is Coming."

Data 8
Time is oh so precious
Due to the lyrics' ability to interpret time, they are a metaphor. This song refers to a valuable clock that can indicate many different things, including being of high quality or cost. Make the most of your time because that moment won't come around again. Time is one of the few items that, once wasted, cannot be restored. However, many individuals are unaware of how valuable time is in their lives. This line is found in the song entitled " The Light is Coming."

Data 9
When life deals us cards.
This song's lyrics explain how life deals us cards. The questioned card depicts either a barrier or perhaps bliss. So life presents us with a problem that could be either happiness or even challenges*.* This line is found in the song entitled "Sweetener."

Hyperbole
In figurative language, hyperbole and exaggerated remarks are used to accentuate a point (Ardhyanti & Supriyatiningsih, 2020). Two examples of hyperbole were found in Ariana Grande's Songs. The following line shows the hyperbole.

Data 10
Given you a box of chances every time you blow it all
There is an overstated line in this lyric, "a box of opportunities." However, the sentence implies that despite several opportunities, someone is still not using them appropriately. This line is found in the song entitled "The Light is Coming."

Data 11
And then we lay it back, talk the rest of the night.
Here is describe of talking all night long, which includes a phrase that embellishes a lyric. which refers to the situation of staying up late talking. This line is found in the song entitled "Sweetener."

Personification

Personification is the practice of treating something that is already lifeless as if it were still alive, based on the theory proposed by Keraf (in Nurhaida & Marlina, 2017). The following lines show examples of personification.

Data 12

It's so close, I can feel the heat big time
The heat is employed for a time in this lyric, which is not how it should be used in conditions where the temperature or the weather appears to be more appropriate. The lyric's message is that she can become more enraged while also becoming closer. This line is found in the song entitled "Just Look Up."

Data 13
The light is coming to give back everything the darkness stole

This lyric uses a term from the personification of nature to explain the light that returns in the dark. It has a background that when we think that life is over, it always comes as a surprise and gives us delight. This line is found in the song entitled "The Light is Coming."

Alliteration

Statistics of hearing include alliteration. The first consonant in two or more words is repeated in an alliteration. Fricative words are typically repeated, and the purpose of using figurative language is to stress, produce a good phrase, or express a certain meaning (Nursolihat & Kareviati, 2020).

Data 14
get it, get it, get it, get
Because the letter 'G' appears again at the start of the word, There are several get and it words that are repeated. It is categorized as an alliteration. The meaning is to get something that people want. This line is found in the song entitled "Sweetener."

Data 15
Hit it, hit it, hit it, hit it
Because the letter 'H' appears again at the start of the word, Several times have employed the phrases "hit and "it." It is categorized as an alliteration. The meaning is to describe there is an order to hit. This line is found in the song entitled "Sweetener."

Allusion

The allusion is a reference that uses the name of someone, somewhere, or anything else that is well-known or well-recognized and can be referred to as common. The following lines employed allusion.

Data 16
Now I'm the bad guy, call me Chun-Li
Here, the name Chun-Li is mentioned, which is categorized as an allusion because it uses the name of a well-known individual. According to the lyrics' intended meaning, he is a villain with a soul similar to Chun-Li. This line is found in the song entitled "The Light is Coming."

Data 17
Yo Ariana, come let me give you a high five
An allusion is a term used to describe a lyric that refers to the performer by the name of Ariana. Here, he calls the attention of Ariana Grande. High-fiving is a way of expressing joy in this lyric. High-five also describes the celebration. This line is found in the song entitled "The Light is Coming."

CONCLUSION

In this study, songs from the popular artist "Ariana Grande" were examined. Three songs entitled "The Light Is Coming," "Just Look Up," and " Sweetener" was chosen for the study. Based on the information provided above in the study's results and discussion section, several lyrics that use figurative language include those that use similes, metaphors, hyperbole, personification, alliteration, and allusion. The most dominant type of figurative language found

in this study was a metaphor. In order to avoid misconceptions when interpreting the song, the authors employed contextual meaning to know and understand the message concealed within the song. Researchers hope that by analyzing the songs, other researchers will be inspired to do the same. It may also serve as a model or point of reference for authors who write on related subjects in the future. There are several suggestions based on the preceding conclusions. First, researchers can examine data sources other than songs that contain figurative languages, such as movies or poems. Second, future researchers can explain several figurative theories better in addition to the previous theories

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

REFERENCES

Ardhyanti, S. V., & Supriyatiningsih, S. (2020). Figurative Language Analysis in Celine Dion ' S Song Lyrics Falling Into You Album. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, *3*(1), 11–19. https://www.journal.ikipsiliwangi.ac.id/index.php/project/article/view/3040

Arditami, P. R. (2017). An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Katy Perry's Song Entitled "Firework." *Lingua Scientia*, *24*(2), 45–58. https://doi.org/10.23887/ls.v24i2.18799

Aspers, P., & Corte, U. (2019). What is Qualitative in Qualitative Research. *Qualitative Sociology*, *42*(2), 139–160. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11133-019-9413-7

Astriani, A. S., & Bhuana, G. P. (2021). An analysis of figurative language in A Thousand Years song lyrics by Cristina Perri. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, *4*(6), 973–978. https://journal.ikipsiliwangi.ac.id/index.php/project/article/view/5436/pdf

Fajrin, M. Y., & Parmawati, A. (2021). An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Song of Bruno Mars Entitled "Grenade." *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, *4*(4), 588–594. https://doi.org/10.22460/project.v4i4.p588-594

Loveana, N. F., Hawa, F., & Wahyuni, S. (2021). The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Meghan Trainor's Album "Title." *Proceeding of English Teaching, Literature and Linguistic (ETERNAL) Student Conference*, *1*(1), 418–426. http://conference.upgris.ac.id/index.php/etll/article/view/2739

Meyer, J. (2018). What is Literature? A Definition Based on Prototypes. In *Work Papers of the Summer Institute of Linguistics, University of North Dakota Session* (Vol. 41, Issue 1). https://doi.org/10.31356/silwp.vol41.03

Murtadho, A. M. (2022). An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Westlife's Songs. *JELL (Journal of English Language and Literature) STIBA IEC Jakarta*, *7*(1), 73–84. https://doi.org/10.37110/jell.v7i1.145

Nurhaida, N., & Marlina, L. (2017). An analysis of figurative language in views (opinion column) of online padang ekspres newspaper. *E-Journal of English Language & Literature*, *6*(2), 44–52. http://ejournal.unp.ac.id/index.php/jel

Nursolihat, S., & Kareviati, E. (2020). An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyric of "A Whole New World" by Zayn Malik and Zhavia Ward. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, *3*(4), 477–482.

https://doi.org/10.22460/project.v3i4.p477-482

Pandanwangi, G., & Anggraeni, A. (2021). Exploration Figurative Language in Westlife's Songs. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, *4*(6), 935–940. https://journal.ikipsiliwangi.ac.id/index.php/project/article/view/5415/pdf

Setiawati, W., & Maryani. (2018). An Analysis of Figurative Language in Taylor Swift's Song Lyrics. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, *1*(3), 261–268. https://doi.org/10.22460/project.v1i3.p261-268

Sopiansyah, I., & Inayah, R. (2021). The Analysis of Figurative Language in "Girl on Fire" Song Lyrics By Alicia Keys. *PROJECT (Professional Journal of English Education)*, *4*(2), 208. https://doi.org/10.22460/project.v4i2.p208-215