

AN INTERPRETING ANALYSIS OF IU'S HIT SONGS THAT ACHIEVE PERFECT ALL-KILL

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Abstract

Nowadays, all about K-Pop (Korean Pop) widely known in the world, South Korea's music industry is known to have a music chart system that is very influential on the career and achievement of a singer. The system is to measure the success of a group or solo singer when they release a song. Some of the terms that are known by most K-Pop fans are real-time all-kill (RAK) certificates, certified all-kill (CAK), and perfect all-kill (PAK). Songs that receive RAK, CAK, or PAK certificates, can be interpreted as best-selling songs played on digital music services in Korea. This is an interpreting analysis of IU's hit songs taken from 2011 until 2020, aimed to see what linguistic factors that makes them hit and achieve PAK. This research used a qualitative method. This research concluded 8 from 15 of IU songs make it achieve PAK because of numerous factors such as: the music, the instrument, the singing style, and the lyric with figurative languages. In academic environments, teacher may teach the students how to analyze song lyric because it is useful to teach vocabulary, idiom, and also elements of poetry.

Keywords: Analysis, Interpreting, Music, IU

INTRODUCTION

Song has an important role of human being, for some people, to learn any languages not only through reading (Mufiah & Nur Rahman, 2019), People can simultaneously learn the art of language while they are listening to the song. The kids when they are began to speak, the parents teaches "cicak-cicak di dinding", "twinkle-twinkle little star", and so on. Teenagers can find out more vocabulary from western song their like or songs that were hits. At the same time, their knowledge increases along with training their pronunciation (Winarti et al., 2016). Song has an important role in human life. Song is a part of music in which there are words or called by lyrics, which are intended become a song with certain tones with kinds of pattern (kompasiana.com). The lyrics in a song are the writer's feeling pours into a verbal form (Nuraeni et al., 2020). Some lyrics contain elements of art as well as poetry (Azizah & Alpiyah, 2018). Both have in common, because which is a branch of art. The song became a most particular thing because it contains the poetry, it is like the poem that was given the rhythm. Because human being love pretty and beautiful things, those the reasons why the song has been part of human life.

Nowadays in the music world, people not only familiar with Western music, but also listen to K-Pop songs. We can heard everywhere in this world, not just Western songs, Chinese Pop, and also J-Pop (Japan Pop), they are also have K-Pop (Korean Pop), South Korean nowadays has recently grown more fans and popularities ever since they introduced their culture which are everything from music, artist, movie, drama, etc., in year 2001. These fever also known as "Korean wave" or "Hallyu" (Elaskary, 2018).

Because K-Pop already spread throughout the world, digital music is one of the media that is various people used to be able to access K-Pop songs. IU, one of K-Pop artist most popular and have a lot of fans in the world, dubbed as a digital queen and ‘nation’s little sister’. Lee Ji-eun popularly known as IU, IU began her career at the age 15, IU become a great soloist female that wins many charts digital music and got the perfect *all-kill* (PAK). IU is a South Korean singer-song writer and actress debuted in the year of 2008 as singer, 2010 and debuted as actress. She is very talented, in addition to sing, she also has the expertise to write the song lyrics, good in playing guitar, dance, and she is also as singer for the Korean drama soundtrack, her songs have beautiful lyrics and supported by the beautiful voice, easy listening music as well be a characteristic of this one as a Soloist. Therefore, the writer purposes to write this research is to analyze and to look more into those songs. And wish to discover their meaning without being objective and to value more this one form of art, which is music.

Purposes

The purposes of this research are:

- a. To understand the elements of interpreting in music forms.
- b. To analyze and have more understanding of context from the IU’s hit songs.

Based on the consideration in the background, the writer formulated the problems of the research as mentioned below:

- a. What are the meaning of IU’s hit songs that achieve perfect *all-kill*?
- b. What linguistic factors that influence those songs to be a hit and achieve perfect *all-kill*?

The limitation of this research was analyzed IU’s hit songs that achieve perfect *all-kill* between year 2011-2020, and they are:

- a. “You and I” – from album “Last Fantasy” (2011). Writer: Kim Eana
- b. “Friday” – feat. Jang Yi Jeong, single 2013. Writer: IU
- c. “Léon” – feat. God-G in “Infinity challenge” project, single 2015. Writer: IU
- d. “Through the Night” – from album “Palette” (2017). Writer: IU
- e. “BBIBBI” – single 2018. Writer: IU
- f. “Love Poem” – from album “Love Poem” (2019). Writer: IU
- g. “Blueming” – from album “Love Poem” (2019). Writer: IU
- h. “Give You My Heart” – from “Crash Landing on You” OST. (2020). Writer: Nam Hye Seung, Park Jin Ho

METHOD

Research in simple terms, refers to a search for knowledge (Setiawati & Maryani, 2018). Thus, research is an original addition to the available knowledge, which contributes to its further advancement. It is an attempt to persue truth through the methods of study, observation, comparison and experiment. In other words, research is simply gathering the information you need to answer a question and thereby help you solve a problem (Della & Sembiring, 2018). There are different types of research and one of them is “descriptive analytical.” According to Tavakoli in (Pratiwi et al., 2019) data analysis is “the process of reducing accumulated data collected in research to a manageable size, developing summaries, and looking for patterns. While interpreting means an explanation or conceptualization by a critic of a work of literature, painting, music, or other art form; an exegesis (Ardhyanti & Supriyatiningsih, 2020). The writer used descriptive method for research it means that the writer analyzes and interprets IU’s song

lyrics in order to describe the lyrics to find the meaning underneath it. The population of research is taking the IU's selected songs have chosen from several album which are "LAST FANTASY", "MODERN TIMES REPACKAGED-EPILOGUE", "INFINITY CHALLENGE PROJECT", "PALETTE", "LOVE POEM", "CRASH LANDING ON YOU OST.", that achieve perfect *all-kill*. The samples of this research are 8 songs which taken on their album and singles.

Steps that writer was used in order to gather the data:

First of all, the writer was listening to IU's song and trying to categorized the music genre in order to make it easier to analyze. The next step is observation, the writer was listening the song while reading the lyrics. And figure out whether she sings it with emotion or less emotion. Before analyzing the data, the writer did some activities which were aiming for the data identification, classification and discussion. And finding out whether certain songs have any special connection for both the singer and the writer. After that, the writer was trying to analyze parts of the songs, such as : the way the singer sings it, the instrument, the melody. And then, the writer was trying to interpret the songs: on this stage the writer was trying to decipher the song lyrics from its verse one by one.

The data analysis was presented through the following procedures:

Firstly, through online research, the writer put a list of IU's hit songs that achieve perfect all-kill and so far she has 15 songs and the writer sorting and choosing into 8 songs. In this case the writer tried to analyze and interpret IU's hit songs that achieve perfect all-kill by using the descriptive method analyzing the song and the elements of the songs. Then the analysis is followed with some comments of each song lyrics.

The steps that are going to be taken to analyzed and interpret those songs are:

(taken from <http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/78602.aspx?p=2>)

- a. What type of figurative language or poetic devices did the writer use?
- b. What is the lyric about?
- c. What is the mood of the lyric or how does it make you feel?
- d. What is the message or theme of the lyric?
- e. How the singer sings it? And how is the instrumentation of the music?

Then, discussing is the final process, in this section, the writer have a clear description about the result.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Steps to analysis IU's songs

The writer analyzed through these components required to analyze IU's songs adopted from (Rachmijati, 2018) they are:

- a. Listening to the songs and determined whether the songs has slow or upbeat tempo. Therefore, one factor that can be influenced in the interpreting process in the instrument of the song. (<http://www.understandmedia.com/media-theory/109-how-to-analyze-a-song>)
- b. Analyzing the singing style – how does the singer sing the song and the instrumentation of the music.

- c. Analyzing through the elements of poetry-voice, imagery, figurative language, and symbolism.
- d. Analyzing through strategies to see whether it is text based interpretation, reader based or context based through reading the lyric.

“You and I” song analysis

-Music

The tempo of the music is fast, the song is fun, light, upbeat and ever so slightly whimsical, because of the very prominent string section.

-Singing style

The singer sings the song in happy, cheerful mood. The way she sings it, match with the instrumentation. Nothing is more dominant.

-Poetry elements

The use of figurative languages are shown, they are:

- a. *The whispered secrets as I look at the clock*
- b. *I'm afraid my heart will be revealed in between my hands.*
- c. *My heart is overwhelmed*
- d. *I want to push on the clock*
- e. *I really like your image that shines in between my hands.*
- f. *Hey clock hand, please run*
- g. *Turn a little bit, faster*

“Friday” song analysis

-Music

The song making feel all sort of emotions electronic dance beats, is all jaunty jazz, a shooting mixture of bass, acoustic guitar, piano and percussion. The bass is driven up so that the entire thing sounds rich without being overwhelming. The guitar also go at a nice tempo and they stay relatively low.

-Singing style

The singer sings the song in a soft, gentle and soothing mood.

-Poetry elements

The use of figurative languages are shown, they are:

- a. *I want to rush the clock*
- b. *All day, My heart rides on that clock hand*
- c. *Getting closer to you with each tick*
- d. *Take all of my heart on that day*

“Léon” song analysis

Inspired by ‘Léon’: The Professional’, a popular movie back in 1994, IU portrayed ‘Mathilda’, a young girl who was trained by ‘Léon’, a professional hitman in his trade.

-Music

The music is jazzy, fun and unique with rapping, that make the song has a strong characteristic of two actors; Léon and Mathilda.

-Singing style

The singers singing the song in a powerful way, emphasized on each syllable. The singers are somehow singing the song in fiery mood. There is also rapping part to add the whole powerful tune.

-Poetry elements

The use of figurative languages are shown, they are:

- a. *Tikta, along with the rhythm, spin guitar riff*
- b. *The theme is sting's songs of my heart*
- c. *Myheart used to be quietly asleep*
- d. *But why did you throw a stone, making me wanna dance?*

"Through the night" song analysis

-Music

The song has the instrumental delves into acoustic, but it also sounds like there is a folk tone in the way the guitar is strummed.

-Singing style

This song is a ballad that sounds perfect with IU's trademark husky vocals, with somewhat gloomy mood.

-Poetry elements

The use of figurative languages are shown, they are:

- a. *Just like letters on the sand, where waves were*
- b. *I feel you'll disappear, to a far off place*
- c. *I'll send the glow of a firefly*
- d. *To somewhere near your window*

"BBIBBI" song analysis

-Music

The instrumental of music is similarly playful, filled with shifting percussive patterns and oddball sound effects that recall the twisting of a wind-up doll's handle. *BBIBBI*'s bridge offers a fascinating blend of harmonics, hinting at what could have been a much more experimental song.

-Singing style

The singer sings the song in a soft, fun, gentle and almost angry mood.

-Poetry elements

The use of figurative languages are shown, they are:

- a. *Your eyes getting busy, check-checking*
- b. *Like playing spot the difference, oh hash tagging*
- c. *The searching light scanner, scanner*
- d. *What's my score today?*

"Love poem" song analysis

-Music

The bass on this quite heavy, the drums and guitar on this track are incredible. There is a particular guitar note that stays constant throughout the entire song.

-Singing style

The singer sings the song in a powerful way but in somewhat gloomy mood.

-Poetry elements

The use of figurative languages are shown, they are:

- a. *A love poem that was silently written*
- b. *It clearly flies over to you*
- c. *In my silent heart that has lost all words*
- d. *The silently shed tears are flowing here*

“Blueming” song analysis

-Music

This song has upbeat atmosphere, the rock electro-pop instrumental had a fun vibe to it, which made the listeners instantly smile while listening to it for the first time.

-Singing style

the singer sings the song in a powerful way. The vocals arrangement is full from the very firstbeat until the song end, fill the whole part.

-Poetry elements

The use of figurative languages are shown, they are:

- a. *Our rectangular chat is bloom*
- b. *I'm taking roses blossom with my thumb*
- c. *I feel bloom*
- d. *I'm sending you one more flower*
- e. *I'm curious how you'll interpret my playful metaphors*
- f. *I'm making word balloons with my thumb*
- g. *My breath is quickening*

“Give you my heart” song analysis”

The song was released as part of the soundtrack to tvN's “Crash Landing on You” drama on 02/15/2020. Two days after the release, the song achieved the “perfect *all-kill*” status when it topped all the Korean charts: Melon, Genie, Bugs, Soribada, Flo and iChart.

-Music

The song begins with whistling, it is also accompanied by a classical guitar, orchestral strings and light piano accompaniment add to instrumentation become a good symphony.

-Singing style

The singer sings the song in a gloomy and restless mood. The vocal arrangement is full from the very first lyric until the song end; fill the whole part until fade out with whistling.

-Poetry elements

The use of figurative languages are shown, they are:

- a. *My quite greeting*
- b. *Gently contains my countless feeling*
- c. *Even on tiring days*
- d. *I've gently placed my countless longing*

Summary

To make it easier for the conclusion, the writer put a summary analysis of what have been the findings of the research.

Table 1. The summary analysis of IU's hit songs

No.	Title	Music	Singing style	Poetry elements	Meaning
1	You and I	Dance, ballad	Happy, cheerful	Female gender related	Tells a story to her future boyfriend
2	Friday	Slow, pop	Soft and gentle mood	Not gender related	About delivious excitement of a couple who just had a crush on each other
3	Léon	Mediocre, RnB	Powerful and gloomy mood	Not gender related	IU portrayed 'Mathilda', a young girl who was trained by 'Léon'
4	Through the Night	Slow, ballad	Gloomy and restless mood	Female gender related	Tells someone who is afraid that his love will dissappear
5	BBIBBI	Mediocre, dance, RnB	Powerful and gentle mood	Not gender related	Considered a memorial to IU haters
6	Love Poem	Slow, ballad	Soft, gentle and gloomy mood	Female gender related	About someone who always be there
7	Blueming	Fast, dance and rock	Powerful and fiery mood	Female gender related	The sweetness of falling in love
8	Give You My Heart	Slow, ballad	Soft, restless and gloomy mood	Female gender related	About like someone with a whole of heart

CONCLUSION

After the writer analyzed the songs, she will put forward some conclusions as follow

1. IU's hit songs that taken as sample they are : "You and I", "Friday", "Léon", "Through the Night", "BBIBBI", "Love Poem", "Blueming" and "Give You My Heart".
2. All those hit songs do not have the same basic tune – 2 of them are fast dance tune, 2 of them are mediocre RnB, and 4 of them pop ballad easy listening tune.

3. From the sample, 5 of the songs are female gender related and 3 of them not gender related.
4. All of the songs use figurative languages and need to listen to it over and over again before put it into conclusion and understand the meaning, only “Friday” song which do not using more figurative language and has a clear obvious meaning.
5. Linguistic factor seems to be not important aspects since people listening to melody and music first then they search for the lyric later – but with using figurative language in the song lyric makes the song sound more interesting and deep. From the 8 IU’s hit songs that achieve perfect *all-kill*, all of them using figurative languages.
6. In writing songs: the music, the instrument, the singing style and the lyric are cohesive factors that will make or break the songs in the listener’s ears.
7. In writing lyrics, 6 of IU songs are written by her own self.
8. In conclusion, IU songs makes it hit because the factors such as – the music, the instrument, the singing style and the lyric with figurative languages.
9. In interpreting there is no absolutism opinion, since people may see it from many point of view depends on their experience, maturity and knowledge.

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