

AN INTERPRETING ANALYSIS OF SHINee's HIT SINGLES

Cynantia Rachmijati

IKIP Siliwangi

cynantiarachmijati@ikipsiliwangi.ac.id

Abstract

With the development of music, one of music industry that recently has been well-known all over the world is K-Pop or Korean pop. Music from the South Korean also invaded many souls in their process and make it Korean musician and stars are now famous faces. One of the famous names from the K-Pop industry is SHINee, a boyband consists of 4 members. This paper entitled "An interpreting analysis of SHINee's hit singles" is an interpreting analysis of 10 SHINee's hit singles taken from the album "SHINee World" and "Lucifer" aimed to see what linguistic factors that makes them hit. This research used a qualitative method. This research concluded that SHINee songs makes it hit because of numerous factors such as: the music, the instrument, the singing style and the lyric with figurative languages. In academic environments, teachers may teach the students how to analyze song lyric because it is useful. Not only to teach vocabulary, idiom but also elements of poetry.

Keywords: *Analysis, Interpreting, Music, SHINee*

INTRODUCTION

Human beings love pretty and beautiful things. Therefore they preserve them and show them in form of arts. In painting forms, we have "Mona Lisa" painted by Leonardo Da Vinci or "Sunflowers" painted by Van Gogh. In literature world, we have "Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens or nowadays people recognize "Twilight" by Stephanie Meyer. In the music world, people have loved The Beatles or the classic side by Bach and Beethoven. By portraying and presenting these arts of forms, human have fulfilled their needs of artistic and creativity side of their nature. Ever since the beginning of time, music has been part of human life. It used to be in instrumental forms. Then they invent lyrics and melody and that way song are born. But after they put lyrics on it, human now understand that they can also pour their feelings into it and can deliver their emotions and messages on it. Song lyric and poem are two different things with one root. It is the creativity of human being.

Nowadays in the music world, people not only familiar with Western music. They also have Chinese pop, J-Pop (Japan Pop) and K-Pop (Korean Pop). South Korean nowadays has recently grown more fans and popularities ever since they introduced their culture in year of 2001. These fever also known as "Korean wave" or "Hallyu".

Hallyu, according to Wikipedia, is a collective term used to refer to the phenomenal growth of Korean popular culture encompassing everything from music, movies, drama to online games and the Korean cuisine. Many people now are falling and craving for anything about Korea. And one thing that has been growing at large, even to United States of America is music from Korean artists. Or simply known as "K-Pop". (<http://www.wikipedia.com>). One of K-Pop artist that is currently stepping on the famous ladder is SHINee. SHINee is a boyband that consist of four persons and debuted in the year of 2008 and their songs mostly have hidden meanings that are not easy to decipher. From many rumors such as being a copycat, replacement act to anti-Christ, SHINee's hit singles has been both addictive and questioned at the same time by the

society. Therefore the writer purpose 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 Shinee's hit singles
- c. As an individual research

Based on the consideration in the background, the writer formulates the problems of the research is mentioned bellows:

- a. What are the meanings of SHINee's hit single?
- b. What linguistic factors that influence those songs to be a hit?

The limitation of this research will only analyze SHINee's hit singles between 2008-2010, and they are:

- a. "Noona nomu yepuh" ("Older sister you're so pretty")
- b. "Juliette"
- c. "Amigo"
- d. "Love like oxygen"
- e. "Lucifer"
- f. "Obsession"
- g. "Hello"
- h. "Ring ding dong"
- i. "Stand by me"
- j. "In my room"

METHOD

Wayne.C.Booth and Gregory G.Colomb in their book "The Craft of research"(1995) states that :

"Research is hard work, but like any challenging job well done, both the process and the results bring immense personal satisfaction. But research and its reporting are also social acts that require you to think steadily about how your work relates to your readers, about the responsibility you have not just toward your subject and yourself, but toward them as well, especially when you believe that you have something to say that is important enough to cause readers to change their lives by changing what and how they think"

Research in simple terms, refers to a search for knowledge. Thus, research is an original addition to the available knowledge, which contributes to its further advancement. It is an attempt to pursue 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. There are different types of research and one of them is "descriptive analytical". Descriptive analysis refers to investigation which utilizes already existing data and focuses on the description of a specific constituent in order to get the clear explanation about the research object. While interpreting means an explanation or conceptualization by a critic of a work of literature, painting, music, or other art form; an exegesis. The writer used descriptive method for research. It means that the writer analyzes and interprets SHINee's song lyrics in order to describe the lyrics to find the meaning

underneath it. The population of research is taking the SHINee's both albums, which are "SHINee WORLD" and "LUCIFER". The samples of this research are 10 songs which taken on both of their album.

Steps that writer will be doing in order to gather the data:

1. Listening

The writer will listening to SHINee's song and try to categorized the music genre in order to make it easier to analyze.

2. Observation

The next step is observation, the writer will listening the song while reading the lyrics. And figure out whether they sing it with emotion or less emotion.

3. Document analysis

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.

4. Analyzing

The writer will try to analyze parts of the songs, such as : the way the singer sings it, the instrument, the melody.

5. Interpreting

The writer will try to interpret the songs; on this stage the writer will try to decipher the song lyrics from its verse one by one.

The data analysis was presented through the following procedures:

1. Listing

Through online research, the writer put a list of SHINee's hit singles and so far they have 10 hits.

2. Analyzing and Interpreting

In this case the writer tried to analyze and interpret SHINee's hit singles by using the descriptive method analyzing the songs 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 singers sing it? And how is the instrumentation of the music?

3. Concluding

Discussing is the final process. In this section, the writer will have a clear description about the result.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Steps to analysis SHINee's songs

The writer will analysis through these components to analyze SHINee's songs, they are:

- a. The first step of this research is to 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 is 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 singers sing the song and the instrumentation of the music
- c. Analyzing through the elements of poetry – voice, imagery, figurative language, symbolism.
- d. Analyzing through strategies – to see whether it is text based interpretation, reader based or context based through reading the lyric.

“Noona nomu yepuh” song analysis

“Noona” is a Korean term for male to address older woman. SHINee was debut with this song back in 2008. Translate as “Older sister you’re so pretty”.

-Music

The music start with a rhythm electro drum beat. The tempo of the music is mediocre and may categorized into R n B (rhythm and blue).

-Singing style

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

-Poetry elements

The use if figurative languages are shown, they are:

- a. *Her heart’s shaking*
- b. *It’s the heart speaking*
- c. *Memories scratch at my heart*
- d. *My heart is yelling*
- e. *Make up, shake up, break up*

”Juliette” song analysis

-Music

The music start with techno beat drum, a whistle and Key said,” Song for my Juliette!”. The tempo of the music is fast and may categorize into dance tune. The instrumentation which has techno and electro drum beat works together with the singing. None is more dominant.

-Singing style

The singers sing 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 tone of the song lyric indicates an attitude of Romeo in love – which is joy. The tone also very gender male related – about Romeo pursuing his love for Juliette. Jonghyun wrote this lyric after he watched “Romeo and Juliet” the movie – therefore the whole “package” of the song is influenced by William Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”.

The use of figurative language are shown, they are:

- a. *The moonlight that’s about to spill is definitely dark*
- b. *I need to learn ways to shine to her*
- c. *You seem like a playful fox*
- d. *I’ll give you my soul*
- e. *Whispering my serenade*
- f. *The sweet, intoxicating, burning up temptation*
- g. *I’m the knight who will protect you*
- h. *The love that’s confined to the glass bottle is a red signal*
- i. *My love is the sun of passion*

“Amigo” song analysis

-Music

The tempo of the music is fast and may categorize into dance tune. The techno music sound is more dominant than the singing.

-Singing style

The singers sing the song in a powerful way and almost like rapping. The singers sing it in a fiery but sensual mood.

-Poetry elements

The title of the song is “Amigo” which has double meaning. (<http://www.yesasia.com>) In Spanish, amigo means friend. And in Korean, it is actually a shortened version of *areumdaun minyeoruljoahmayeon gosaenghanda* (*ah-mi-go*) which translated that “you’ll suffer if you love a beautiful woman”. The tone of the song lyric indicates desire. The tone of the song lyric also very gender male related, portraying a bitter sweet feeling about a male who pursuing a sexy female.

The use of figurative language are shown, they are:

- a. *The ice princess has arrived*
- b. *Challenges are always fun, but the world isn't as easy as it seems*
- c. *I lose my mind when I see her*
- d. *I'm unable to grasp her by this hand*
- e. *I pitch up, I toss away my pride*
- f. *I toss away my pride*
- g. *A man who seems lacking from the outside*
- h. *All guys are beasts and wolves*
- i. *My frozen legs become weak in your eyes*

”Love’s like oxygen” song analysis

This song is Korean version from “Show the world” by Martin Hoberg Hedegaard.

-Music

The music starts with a rhythmic electro drum beat and the intro of the voice of Jonghyun singing in a powerful way. The tempo of the song is mediocre and may fall into R n B (rhythm and blues) category. The instrument of the music, which is dominant by the electro drum beat works together with the singing. None is dominant.

-Singing style

The singers sing the song in a powerful way but in somewhat gloomy mood.

-Poetry elements

The singers sing it as their own “voice”. The tone of the song lyric indicate pain and suffering but not male gender related. There’s no imagery found but many metaphor, hyperbole and personification are used to displaying the pain and sadness.

The use of figurative language are shown, they are:

- a. *My old scars that have frozen white and stuck fast*
- b. *When I'm about to hold you, the flakes of chrome that gnaw away their sting*
- c. *You're like oxygen, when I drink you in I can't breathe you out*
- d. *Cold to the point of freezing*
- e. *I'm dry of thirst for your love*
- f. *Love like ice, the anguish that was sweet*
- g. *Jealousy like ice, the tears that were sweet*
- h. *Beautifully, it takes my by death*
- i. *My suffering, this poisonous sadness*
- j. *Inside this intense agony, can't you see I'm dying away like this*

”Lucifer” song analysis

-Music

The instrumentation is the electro drum beat and somewhat keyboard electro beat. The whole package is techno dance beat. The tempo of the song is fast and may categorize into both dance and rock. The instrumentation is more dominant than the singing.

-Singing style

The singers sing the song in a powerful way, almost like in angry mood.

-Poetry elements

The singers sing it as their own “voice”. The tone of the song lyric indicates anger and frustration and very male gender related. There’s a few visual imagery to describe the feeling of “being tied up”. The use of metaphor also shown to describe the hardships of the relationship.

The use of figurative language are shown, they are:

- a. *I’m trapped by you who I can’t even deny*
- b. *Her whisper is the Lucifer*
- c. *If you tie me down and trap me, then the love is also tied down*
- d. *Freely empty yourself, I’ll fill you only*
- e. *Your undeniable spell is the Lucifer, your undeniable magic is the Lucifer*
- f. *You make my heart burn out when you’re not here*
- g. *Loverholic, robotronic*
- h. *The love I know left my side one by one*
- i. *I feel like I’ve become a clown trapped in a glass castle*
- j. *I dance for you who will never be satisfied*
- k. *You look into me openly touching my brain*
- l. *That kind of stare is a burden*
- m. *I’ve been cut a lot, my heart is bleeding*
- n. *Your stare captures me*
- o. *When it’s about time for me to pass out, she comes to me like an angel*

”Obsession” song analysis

-Music

The music starts with the electro drum beat and keyboard melody. The tempo is mediocre and may categorize into slow rock. The instrumentation is dominant with the keyboard melody but works well with the singing. None is dominant.

-Singing style

The singers sing the song in a gloomy and restless mood. The vocals arrangement is full from the very first beat until the song end; fill the whole part until fade out.

-Poetry element

The title of the song is “Obsession”, which may refer to the multiple personality disorders.

The singers sing it but not as their own “voice”. The tone of the song lyric indicates a deep agony. And not male gender related. There’s no imagery found but many metaphor, hyperbole and personification are used to displaying the pain and sadness.

The use of figurative language are shown, they are:

- a. *Have fun noises left me?*
- b. *More excessive love would strangle you*
- c. *Those days when I was torn from my wounded heart*
- d. *A love that lost its way, I fill up with tears*
- e. *I still only bring out sad hellos*
- f. *You’ll catch on that I’m a different you*
- g. *I won’t forget my pain of being thrown away*
- h. *Even the reason I love became a sin*

- i. *The deep wounds slowly burnt up and turned to ash*
- j. *As I kill my breath*

”Hello” song analysis

-Music

The music starts with an electro drum beat and follow by a happy “clapping” tune. The tempo of the song is slow and fall into “easy listening” category. The singing is more dominant than the music.

-Singing style

The singers sing the song in a soft, gentle and soothing mood.

-Poetry elements

The singer sings it as their own”voice” and the tone of the song lyric indicate joy and a little puzzlement of someone who is in love. The song lyric is clear and obvious, therefore there are none imagery and figurative language are used. The song lyric is not male gender related.

”Ring ding dong” song analysis

-Music

The tempo of the music is fast and may categorize into dance tune. The instrumentation which has techno and electro drum beat is more dominant than the singing.

-Singing style

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

-Poetry elements

Each singer has each line and somehow match the personality into the lyric that they singing and make it sound as their own “voice”. The tone of the lyric is very gender male related – displaying a male who is pursuing a female. There’s no irony found but a clear imagery is found and obvious.

The title itself is “Ring ding dong” which is a personification of a sound of a bell. A bell at school may sign the school is going to start, and in this song the bell referring to the early stage of falling in love.

The use of figurative language are shown, they are:

- a. *You’re like a butterfly*
- b. *Eyes flashing, hair swishing*
- c. *The bell rang ding dong*
- d. *I can’t breathe , you’re too pretty*
- e. *So fantastic, so elastic*

”Stand by me” song analysis

-Music

The music starts with a soft piano melody. The tempo is slow and may categorize into pop. The instrumentation is dominant with melody of piano and keyboard to complete the whole cheerful pop tune. The singing and the instrumentation works well together. None is dominant.

-Singing style

The singers sing the song in a soft and gentle mood.

-Poetry elements

The singers sing it as their own “voice”. The tone of the song lyric indicates joy. And male gender related. Because the title is “Stand by me” and one lyric about “I want to buy a rose”

which is something that a male typically would do and supposed to do in society. There's no imagery found, but some personification are found to describe the restless and doubtless.

- a. *The use of figurative language are shown, they are :*
- b. *My feelings get brighter as I look at you*
- c. *The side of myself is so new*
- d. *As my heart becomes closer to you, the world becomes beautiful*
- e. *Forever making you smile, filled with your bright smile*
- f. *The more I know you, my heart quivers*

”In my room” song analysis

-Music

The music start with the sound of soft guitar rhythm and end in fade out. The tempo is slow and may categorize as “ballad”. The instrument is dominant with the drum beat and soft guitar melody works well with the singing. None is dominant.

-Singing style

The singers sing it in a soft, gentle and gloomy mood.

-Poetry elements

The singers sing it as their own “voice”. The tone of the song lyric indicates sadness and loss. Visual imagery is shown as the lyric is describing the things in the room. The tone of the song lyric is also not male gender related but may applicable to female also. Symbolism also found in the lyric, to describing the person point of view.

The use of figurative language are shown, they are:

- a. *You dance in my thought*
- b. *You were my sun, the moon*
- c. *Our hidden memories still linger*
- d. *Wandering the sea of life*

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 SHINee’s hit singles

No	Title	Music	Singing	Poetry elements	Meaning
1	Noona nomu yepuh	Mediocre, RnB	Happy, cheerful	Male gender related	Younger male who falls for older woman but not being taken care seriously by her
2	Juliette	Fast, dance	Powerful	Male gender related	Romeo’s feelings for Juliette
3	Amigo	Fast, dance	Powerful, rapping	Male gender related	Bitter sweet feelings of a male pursuing a sexy female
4	Love’s like oxygen	Mediocre, RnB	Powerful and gloomy mood	Not gender related	A person who loves someone even though its painful
5	Lucifer	Fast, Dance and rock	Powerful and angry	Male gender related	Obsessive controlling girlfriend
6	Obsession	Mediocre, slow rock	Gloomy and restless mood	Not gender related	A person with multiple personality disorders who is battling with its disorders
7	Hello	Easy listening	Soft and gentle mood	Not gender related	Someone who is in love and confused what to do
8	Ring ding dong	Fast, dance	Powerful and fiery mood	Male gender related	A male who is in love with a sweet yet fragile female
9	Stand by me	Slow, pop	Soft and gentle mood	Male gender related	A male who is in love and still shy about his feelings for her
10	In my room	Slow, ballad	Soft, gentle and gloomy mood	Not gender related	A person who hasn’t get over his/her old relationship

CONCLUSION

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

1. SHINee's hit singles that taken as sample they are : "Noona nomu yepuh", "Juliette", "Amigo", "Love's like Oxygen", "Lucifer", "Obsession", "Hello", "Ring ding dong", "Stand by me" and "In my room".
2. All those hit singles do not have the same basic tune – 4 of them are fast dance tune, 3 of them are mediocre RnB tune and 3 of them are pop ballad or either easy listening tune.
3. From the sample, 6 of the songs are male gender related and 4 of the songs not gender related.
4. Most 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 "Hello" song which do not using figurative language and has a clear obvious meaning.
5. Linguistic factor seems to be not an important aspects since people listening to the 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 10 SHINee's hit singles, 9 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 conclusion, SHINee songs makes it hit because the factors such as - the music, the instrument, the singing style and the lyric with figurative languages.
8. In interpreting there is no absolutism opinion. Since people may see it from many point of view depends on their experience, maturity and knowledge.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer would like to thank SHINee for existing. The writer also would like to show gratitude to IKIP Siliwangi especially English Education Program and its faculty members for always sharing their knowledge, experiences and some food for thoughts.

REFERENCES

- _____ (1995). *Working with Interpreters*. Australia.
- _____ (1995). *Oxford Advanced Learner's Encyclopedia Dictionary*. New York : Oxford University Press
- _____ *The Norton Introduction to Literature*, p.13-20
- Booth, Wayne. *The Craft of research* (1995). London : The University of Chicago Press
- Eugene, Nida. (1982). *The Theory And Practice of Translation*. Netherlands: United Bible Societies
- E-Journal (<http://www accurapid.com/journal/htm>)
- E-journal (<http://www classroominterpreting.org>)
- Getting into Interpreting (<http://www iti.org.uk>)
- Peck, J., Coyle, M. (1993), *Literary Terms and Criticism*, London: Macmillan
- Interpreting (<http://bls.gov.oco>)
- <http://amanwithaphd.wordpress.com/2009/05/27/music-and-creativity/>
- http://www.webexhibits.org/poetry/explore_21_song_examples.html
- <http://www.songlyricist.com/lyricorpoe.htm>
- <http://www.soundonsound.com/sos/mar01/articles/lyric.asp>

<http://www.understandmedia.com/media-theory/109-how-to-analyze-a-song>
<http://www.brighthub.com/education/k-12/articles/78602.aspx?p=2>