AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN A THOUSAND YEARS SONG LYRICS BY CRISTINA PERRI

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Abstract

The tittle of this research is "An Analysis of Figurative Language in A Thousand Years Song Lyrics By Cristina Perri". The purpose of this research is to know the types of figurative language and the contextual meanings of figurative language used in "A Thousand Years" song. The method was descriptive quatilative research. The song lyrics took from lyricfind.com. The results showed that there were five figurative languages in that song: rhetoric, hyperbole, paradox, repetition, and personification. Hyperbole and repetition were the dominant form used. Both forms were dominantly used to convince and emphasize that the woman was really waiting for the man and her love was very sincere to him. Thus, he did not need to doubt her love because she loved him before and would continue to love him for a long time.

Keywords: Figurative Language, Types of Figurative Language, Song Lyrics

INTRODUCTION

Language has important role in life. It is an arbitrary system of sounds or sequences of speech sounds which is used for interpersonal communication (Susanto, Dias, Walik, 2017 as cited in Pratiwi et al., 2019). Without language, interaction between two or more people is impossible to do. In addition, language is used by people to receive and give an information. The language used can be oral, body language or written language depending on the communication agreed upon. Language also can be a medium for someone to express their feeling, thought and idea. There are several ways in the language to express feeling, thought and ideas such as through songs, poetry, drama, novel, short stories, dance, and photograph.

As one of the media in language, song is an effective ways to deliver the writers' feeling to the listener. It is part of music that is formed through words that aims to be sung (Griffee, 2001 as cited in Setiawati & Maryani, 2018). Songs can express the things that happen in life. The writer usually writes songs based on personal experience by adding figurative language to give a sense of beauty on his work. Listeners usually listen the songs related to their current conditions. Thus, the listener's feeling is represented by the song lyrics created by the writer. There are several themes in songs, such as friendship, love and hate, happiness and sadness, life stories and other (Syahrina, 2019). Song is a part of literature (Siallagan, Manurung, Sinaga, 2017 as cited in (Sari et al., 2019). It has some structure such as intro, verse, chorus of refrain, break, bridge, outro of coda. It also has language features, such as lyrics, rhyming words, and alliteration. Some songs use amusing word play and slang language. It also uses poetic devices such as figurative language.

Almost everyone likes the song, but sometime listeners have difficulty understanding the meaning of song because some songs use figurative language that they rarely hear. Semantic is a branch of linguistics that studies about meaning. Semantic is the part of linguistics that is

concerned with meaning (Sebastian as cited in (Sholihah & Pratiwi, 2018). For a language researcher, semantics can help to analyze the language being studied.

This research aims to find out the figurative languages used in the song lyric of "A Thousand Years" by Cristina Perri. "A Thousand Years" is one of the couple's favorite song because this song has a theme of love and has a very deep meaning. In line with the aim of the research, the research question are:
1. What types of figurative language are used in "A Thousand Years"by Cristina Perri?
2. What are the contextual meanings of figurative language used in the song lyric of "A Thousand Years" by Cristina Perri?

Definition of Figurative Language

One part of semantic is figurative language. It is related with the meaning behind the sentence. Figurative language is a method used to express ideas of thought through a language (Keraf, 2007 as cited in (Sari et al., 2019). Figurative language has its own meaning and can build listener's imagination. The listener requires to think in order to understand the implicit meaning behind the song. Figurative language is thought of as being one aspect of what gives a text-in particular, a poetic text-special esthetic value (Dancygier and Sweetser, 2014:1 as cited in (Yastanti et al., 2019). It means that figurative language is used by song writer to show their creativity and gives a sense of beauty by giving changes to the words used. Figurative language is usually used in several literary works such as novels, short stories, fairytales, poetry and song lyrics.

Types of Figurative Language

Several types of figurative language have been categorized by some experts. McMahan in Ardhyanti & Supriyatiningsih (2020) states that figurative language can be distinguished into four types: metaphor, simile, personification, allusion. Besides, Merriam-Webster's encyclopedia of Literature (1995 as cited in Ismail et al., 2020) mentions that figurative language or figures of speech are generally classified in five major categories. They are :

1) Figures of resemblance or relationship (e.g. simile, metaphor, kenning, conceit, parallelism, personification, metonymy, synecdoche, and euphemism).
2) Figures of emphasis or understatement (e.g. hyperbole, litotes, rhetorical question, antithesis, climax, bathos, paradox, oxymoron, and irony).
3) Figures of sound (e.g. alliteration, repetition, anaphora, and onomatopoeia).
4) Verbal games and gymnastics (e.g. pun and anagram).
5) Errors (e.g. malapropism, periphrasis, and spoonerism).

Several types of figurative languages related to this research are:
1) Rhetoric is a figurative language in the form of question whose answers are contained in the question, so it does not need to be answered.
   e.g : Who does not want to live well and prosperously ?
2) Hyperbole is a figurative language which contains exaggerated statements to get listener's attention.
   e.g : I will always wait you until the earth stops spinning.
3) Paradox is a figurative language which states a conflict between two things but it has a real meaning.
   e.g : Even though the weather is hot, the mind must stay cold.

4) Repetition is a figurative language that contains repetition as an emphasis on words or sentences that are considered important.
   e.g : If you want to be a class star, you must study hard, study hard, and study hard.
5) Personification is a figurative language describing animals, plants and other inanimate objects behaves like humans.
   e.g : Every morning the alarm sings to wake me up.
6) Metaphor is a figurative language used to compare two things between the lines (describing something else).
   e.g : Ganjar is a class star.
7) Simile is a comparison that compare one thing with other by using conjunction or comparative words such as like, as, than.
   e.g : Our friendship is like a cocoon.
8) Metonymy is a figurative language that uses brand of a product as a figure of speech.
   e.g : My mother told me to buy sunlight.
9) Synecdoche is a figurative language used for one thing that represents all parts of it or vice versa.
   e.g : The singer's appearance stole the viewer's eyes.

METHOD

The writer used descriptive qualitative as the method in this research. Qualitative descriptive studies are the least bound studies by a pre-existing theoritical or philosophical commitment compared to other qualitative approaches (Nurmalasari & Apsari, 2019). It is a type of research that uses data analysis. Qualitative method was a research method which is based on the philosophy of post positivism. It attempts to investigate the condition of natural objects or setting (Bhuana, 2016) and the result emphasizes on meaning rather than generalization (Sugiyono, 2013 as cited in Ardhyanti & Supriyatiningsih, 2020). This method describes the circumstances, events or facts that actually occur in accordance with the data obtained in the field. Descriptive studies focus on finding facts "what is" and descriptive data (Borg, W.R. & Gall, 1989 as cited in Setiawati & Maryani, 2018). It means that this research does not use aritmethic calculation or statistics but it focuses on explaining the data descriptively. The data of this research is "A Thousand Years" song lyric. The data was taken from website lyricfind.com. The writer directly observed the data and focused on the use of figurative language. After it was found out, the writer identified and classified the figurative language used in that song. Then, the writer figured out its hidden meaning and made an interpretation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The data of this research is "A Thousand Years" song lyrics by Cristina Perri. The writer found five types of figurative language used in that song: hyperbole, rhetoric, repetition, and personification, paradox. The detail can be seen in the following table:

Lyric	Figurative language
"How can I love when I'm afraid to fall?"	Rhetoric
"I have died every day waiting for you"	Hyperbole
"I have loved you for a thousand years, I'll love you for a thousand more"	Hyperbole
"Time stands still"	Paradox

"I have loved you for a thousand years" "I'll love you for a thousand more"	Repetition
"One step closer, one step closer"	Repetition
"Time has brought your heart to me"	Personification

Discussion

The writer will discuss the meaning in songs lyric of a thousand yeras by Christina Perri. The writer found out five types of figurative language used in this song: rhetoric, hyperbole, paradox, repetition, and personification.

1. Rhetoric

Rhetoric is a figurative language in the form of question and the question actually does not require an answer because the answer is usually found in the question it self.
Rhetotic is in the lyric :

"How can I love when I'm afraid to fall?"

This sentence is in line four. This sentence is categorized as rhetoric because this is a question whose answers are contained in the question. The sentence is used to describe a woman who really loves a man but she never tells him because she is afraid of unrequited love *"afraid to fall"*.

2. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figurative language that exaggerates meaning and sometimes unrealistic to get the listener's attention. According to (Padillah et al., 2016 as cited Nursolihat & Kareviati, 2020) hyperbole is kind of figurative language that is used to make the object become bigger than real object.
Hyperbole is in the lyrics :

"I have died every day waiting for you"

This sentence is in line eight. This sentence is categorized hyperbole because it is clearly impossible in real life and clearly exaggerated. The sentence is used to describe a woman's pain who really loves a man and waits him until feel died everyday even though she does not die at all. The sentence is used to express her feeling.

"I have loved you for a thousand years, I'll love you for a thousand more"

This sentence is in line nine. This sentence is categorized as hyperbole because human cannot life until thousand years. The sentence is used to describe a woman who has long loved a man. This figurative language is used to convince him that she will continue love him for a long time so that he does not need to doubt her love.

3. Paradox

All things can be meant that are interesting because of their truth (Potter, 1967:136 as cited in Setiawati & Maryani, 2018). It means this figurative language expresses an absurd but true or reasonable thing or a contradiction between two different things in one sentence.
Paradox is in the lyric :

"Time stands still"

This sentence is in line eleven. This sentence is categorized as paradox because it is opposite of reality because in reality time is still spinning. This sentence is used to express a woman's feeling who feels quiet after expressing all her feelings to the man.

4. Repetition

Repetition is an apostle using the repetition of words as an affirmation (Perrine in Sari 2016:9 as cited in (Yastanti et al., 2019). It means this figurative language is used to emphasize something important that wants to be conveyed to the listeners.
Repetition is in the lyrics :

"I have loved you for a thousand years" "I'll love you for a thousand more"

This sentence is in line nineteen and repeated in line twenty. This sentence is categorized as repetition because there is repetition of sentence which aims to emphasizes that a woman who has long loved a man and she will continue to love him for a long time. Thus, he does not need to doubt her love.

"One step closer, one step closer"

This sentence is in line twenty four and repeated in line twenty five. This sentence is categorized repetition because there is repetition of sentence. The sentence is used to describe that a woman has getting closer to the happiness she dream of.

5. Personification

Personification is a figurative language that describes inanimate objects can behave like human. According to (Fitria, 2018) state that personification is the figurative language that apply human characteristics into an abstract quality.
Personification is in the lyric :

"Time has brought your heart to me"

This sentence is in line twenty two. This sentence is categorized as personification because it is used non life thing (time) act like human being (time has brought heart). In fact, time is non life thing, so it cannot bring anything.

CONCLUSION

This research analyzed about the figurative language used in " A Thousand Years" song lyrics by Cristina Perri. There are five figurative languages used in this song: rhetoric, hyperbole, paradox, repetition, and personification. Hyperbole and repetition are the dominant form used. Excessive and repetitive sentences are often found in love theme songs. Both forms are used to show woman's love to the man.

This research only focuses on one song, further research is expected to analyze more songs in the research, so the data that can be retrieved also varies. Besides that, there are limitations of the theory in interpreting the data. Further research is expected to add more theories to the research.

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