Figurative Language in White Swan's Song Lyrics

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Abstract: The title of this research is Figurative Language in 'White Swan's Song Lyrics.' This research aimed to discuss and solve the problems. The problems were conducted into two scopes of discussion. Therefore, the research discussed types of figurative language and the function of figurative language. The data were collected by listening and watching the music video on YouTube. Based on the theory Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry by Perrine (1987), the findings were implied. After analyzing the data, the finding was 62 frequency of figurative language that has been shown. In terms of the types, they were 7 findings of simile, 31 findings of metaphor, 5 findings of personification, 4 findings of apostrophe, 1 finding of synecdoche, 3 findings of metonymy, 6 findings of symbolism, 1 finding of paradox, 4 findings of hyperbole.

Keywords: figurative, language, function

INTRODUCTION

Listening music is one activity that has a lot of benefit. People love music because sometimes it represents their feeling and emotion. Moreover, by listening music and reading song lyrics, people can get both enjoyment as well as moral lesson. A songwriter writes a song to convey the meaning or message it wants to convey. The lyricist typically uses figurative language to create original and beautiful lyrics.

Figurative language can hide the actual meaning of the lyrics to attract the listener to think more about it. It is more narrowly define as a way of saying one thing and meaning another. In his work "What Is Figurative Language?" According to Peter Betjeman, figurative language conveys meaning by challenging the reader or listener to comprehend a "vehicle" in light of a "tenor"—another item, action, or image. Figurative language also gives imagination and interpretation of meaning in context rather than literal language.

This research focused on figurative language found in White Swan's song Lyrics. However, the problems in this research are limited to the following questions: what types of figurative language are found in White Swan's song lyrics? and what is the function of each figurative language found in White Swan's song lyrics?

RESEARCH METODOLOGY

Method of research is essential for analyzing types and function of figurative language found in White Swan's song lyrics. The method of research gives some clue to understand the object of this research. This research uses a qualitative method theory by Creswell. Creswell contends that the basis of qualitative

research is interpretation. It entails describing a person or environment, searching the data for themes or categories, and then providing an interpretation or reaching a conclusion regarding its significance (Creswell, 2014). In collecting the data, there are several steps to follow. The first step is listening and watching the music video on YouTube. Second, the song lyrics were read repeatedly to comprehend the song. Third, figurative languages in the song lyrics were determined in the utterances. Fourth, the types of figurative language found in White Swan's song lyrics were classified. This research analyzed the data based to the problems by applying the theory concerned. There are two steps in data analysis. First, the data have been collected based on the types of twelve figurative language were analyzed based on the theory concerned. Second, the data that have been collected based on function of each types of figurative language found in the song lyrics were analysed. The data source in this research is White Swan's selected song lyrics. White Swan is one of famous rock bands from Bali that has a lot of popular songs with deep meaning.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter presents the findings from a data analysis that describes the figurative language used in the lyrics of a White Swan song. The discussion focuses on figurative language and the meaning of White Swan songs from their albums Brain Teaser, Cygnus, Overheat and Behind The Door. All the data from White Swan's album and song lyrics were classified based on the problem discussed. The data analysis of figurative meanings focuses on the theories that were presented in previous chapter.

Types of Figurative Language Found in White Swan's Song Lyrics

Table 3.1 Figurative language in White Swan's song lyrics

Figurative language	Frequency	Percentage
Simile	7	11.29%
Metaphor	31	50 %
Personification	5	8.05%
Apostrophe	4	6.45%
Synecdoche	1	1.61%
Metonymy	3	4.82%
Symbolism	6	9.67%
Paradox	1	1.61%
Hyperbole	4	6.45%
Total	62	100%

After reading the song lyrics thoroughly, it can be concluded that the finding types of figurative language are shown that 62 data contained figurative language. The researcher found 9 kinds of figurative meaning: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbolism, paradox, and hyperbole. Therefore, the researcher concludes that there are 7 or 11.29% of similes, 31 or 50% of metaphors, 5 or 8.05% of personifications, 4 or 6.45% of apostrophes, 1 or 1.61% of synecdoche, 3 or 4.82% of metonymy, 6 or 9.67% of symbolism, 1 or 1.61% of paradox and 4 or 6.45% of hyperbole.

Metaphor

Perrine (1969) states that comparing two objects is implied or indirect. A metaphor is a comparison between two things that are essentially unlike. It is used as a connective word to compare things. Hence, metaphor and simile are similar. In the differentiation in simile, the poet uses the connective word such as: like, as, than, similar to, resemble seems, whereas, in metaphor, the comparison is by substituting the figurative term with literal meaning. The data of the metaphor is as follows.

Data 1.

Those clouds stop the shining.

The sentence above presents the data of metaphor in which the songwriter

compares two things. Hence, a metaphor compares two objects comparable in one thing or area to another. From this line of song lyrics, the word that indicates metaphor is 'stop the shining.' The metaphor shows that the clouds no longer shine as they used to. In terms of metaphor, it is employed a literal sense which refers to one short item that is utilized without referring to something concise.

Data 2.

My shelter was full in by sin.

The data can be categorized as a metaphor. The data is implicitly comparing two things without using connective words. A metaphor expresses in was full in by sin.' In a sense, metaphor is employed in a literal sense. Therefore, a metaphor is substituted for or identified with the literal term. However, the sentence compares a place with a sin. However, the term 'my shelter' is explained by the word 'sin,' which is related to describing morals.

Data 3.

We are rainbow for the Hopeless Light

The data is considered a metaphor. Perrine (1969) states that the comparison in metaphor is implied or indirect. Therefore, the implicit comparison of metaphor expressed in 'rainbow' to 'hopeless light.' It is used as a metaphor without using connective words like 'like' or 'as.' However, we are a rainbow, but, on the other hand, we are also a hopeless light.

Simile

Simile is similar with metaphor because both of them compare two things that are absolutely different. Simile is the comparison of two things, by the use of some words or phrase such as, than, similar to, or resemble. Therefore, simile is used connective words to compare things. Simile also defines as a figurative that explains the resemblance of two things. Based on the theory, simile is comparing two things indirectly, which are unlike in their sense. The data of simile as follows.

Data 1.

Love like a painting

The sentence above belongs to a simile because it compares two things indirectly. The data explicitly compares 'love' to 'a painting.' A simile is marked with the connective word 'like.' The explicit comparison in the word 'love' and 'a painting' because 'a painting' expresses the concept of love. For this reason, those word express the same purpose. In addition, the simile compares two objects in shape, colour, and characteristic.

Data 2.

My mind chase, My eyes close it feels like living free, oh

The data is considered a simile. The simile is marked with connective words like, than, and as. Therefore, it compares to things which unlike in a sense. The use of 'like' is implied the comparison between 'my eyes' and 'living free.' The term 'living free' is considered a type of adoption of the designated lifestyle. In addition, the sentence explicitly expresses freedom through eyes closing.

Data 3.

Our life is like gambling dice

The data is presented in a simile because it compares two things indirectly. The data explicitly compare 'our life' to 'gambling dice.' A simile is marked with the connective word 'like.' The explicit comparison in the word 'our life' and 'gambling dice' because 'gambling dice' expresses the concept of life. For this reason, those word express the same purpose: life is a risky move in the hope of getting a good result. In addition, the simile compares two objects in shape, color, and characteristic.

Personification

Perrine (1969) defined personification as a literary device in which an animal, an object, or a concept is given the characteristics of people. In addition, personification describes giving human characteristics to an inanimate object or entity because of some resemblance to a person. The personification data are as

follows.

Data 1.

The sun was did was a mistake

The data above belongs to personification. Based on the theory, personification occurs when an inanimate is given a human attribute. According to the data, personification is marked in 'the sun,' categorized as inanimate. The sun is conveyed as if it could do something human-like. Therefore, 'did a mistake' is a human characteristic. The sun cannot do something instead of rotating. The 'sun' is only mentioned as if it can do something.

Data 2.

When the pain comes

As can be seen, the data above is categorized as personification. Personification is a thing or object that is inanimate and given a human characteristic because of some similarity between a thing and a person. The personification is marked in 'the pain' and then 'comes.' Pain is a feeling of suffering from illness. However, the sentence is conveyed that the pain acts like a human. The pain can be interpreted that the pain may be moved.

Data 3.

The strongest water

The data above belongs to personification. Based on the theory, personification occurs when an inanimate is given a human attribute. According to the data, personification is marked in 'the strongest water,' categorized as inanimate. The water is conveyed that it has an ability like human energy to be strong. Water is categorized as inanimate. The 'strongest water' is related to being powerful and moving.

Apostrophe

Perrine (1969) states that an apostrophe refers to anything absent or non-human and addresses it as if it were alive or present and might repeat what is being said. A rhetorical device known as an apostrophe enables the speaker to address a dead or absent person, an idea, or an inanimate object. In contrast to personification, which only lends something or someone human characteristics, invoking someone or something dead or otherwise absent involves speaking to them. Data are listed below.

Data 1.

God this crowds still looking down

The data above belongs to the apostrophe. The apostrophe is a speaker who can call someone who is absent or something non-human. As can be seen, the data shows that the songwriter calls God, which is categorized as something non-human. It is interpreted that the speaker is utilizing it like it was speaking to God for something that the crowds are still looking down.

Data 2.

Oh you know the name

As can be seen, the data is categorized as an apostrophe. The apostrophe is a speaker who can call someone absent or non-human. The data shows that the apostrophe is marked in 'oh.' It is interpreted that the speaker is expressing it like speaking to someone. Hence, the apostrophe allows calling someone in their absence as the speaker may hear and reply.

Data 3.

Oh god I'm not a man who keeps their faith

The data above is presented in an apostrophe. The apostrophe is a speaker who can call someone absent or non-human. As can be seen, the data shows that the songwriter calls God, which is categorized as something non-human. It is analysed that the speaker is utilizing it like he was speaking to God about something a man could not handle.

Synecdoche

According to Perrine (1969), synecdoche is rhetorical trope similar to metonymy that uses a term that denotes one thing refer to the needs of the related thing. Synecdoche is also considered as subclass metonymy. Therefore, the use of synecdoche is a part of the whole. The data

can be seen as follows.

Data 1.

Too many mouth I must pay by my own

The data above belongs to the synecdoche. The synecdoche is a statement that includes a part of something to show the entire thing. As can be seen, the data shows that there are 'too many mouth.'It is interpreted that the speaker is utilizing 'too many mouth' as a part of a whole because it refers to someone.

Metonymy

According to Perrine (1969), metonymy is the use of anything connected to the intended meaning. It is possible to use an association with something to say that a metonymy names it. A metaphor is when one term is used in place of another closely linked word. In this figure of speech, the name of one item is changed to the name of another closely related (Kennedy, 1979). Metonymy is a close connection in which the name of a thing, person, or characteristic represents the real thing. Following are some metonymy statistics.

Data 1.

Green's our last hope, The earth give save for us

As can be seen, the data is categorized as a metonymy. Metonymy is a literary technique that adds connotations to a word's literal meaning to amplify its significance. The data shows that the metonymy is marked in 'green.' It is interpreted that greens are identified for renewal. Hence, green can be meant as rebirth or renewal. The renewal of hope that earth has given.

Data 2.

 Just left without a word and former The data is categorized as a metonymy. Metonymy is the use of a word closely related to another word in place of that word. The data shows the metonymy is marked in a word and former.' It is delivered that a word and former are being used as the substitution for expressing it is

all done without any word.

Data 3.

Oh no friend, the poor just watching that game

The data above belongs to a metonymy. Metonymy is a literary technique that adds connotations to a word's literal meaning to amplify its significance. The data shows that the metonymy is marked as 'poor.' It is conveyed that people lacking money are identified with people. Hence, people experiencing poverty can be meant to lack money to live. The data is substituted that people just watching that game.

Symbolism

Perrine (1969) states that a sign denotes more than just what it actually is. It means a sign has only one meaning and uses a word or phrase that is well-known in society. It could be easiest to interpret the symbol as an implicit metaphor. A symbol is a person, item, action, place, or thing that stands in for another thing. The symbol represents a particular objective reality. A symbol combines a literal and sensual character with an abstract suggestive feature in the literal sense. Following are some symbolic statistics.

Data 1.

I see the purple sky, where not destined for this

As can be seen, the data is categorized as a symbol. A symbol is a character, an action, or something representing something else to communicate a meaningful message. The data shows that the symbol is marked in 'purple sky.' It is interpreted that purple skies are associated with magic. Hence, the purple sky represents spirituality, magic, and pride. It describes that the magic was seen but is unfortunately not destined.

Data 2.

The big man, have other plan

The data is categorized as a symbol. A symbol is a person, an event, or something else that stands in for another object to convey a significant message. The

data shows that the symbol is marked as 'big man.' It is represented that the big man is interpreted as a leader. Hence, the big man has another in hand; it tells that the leader has another plan.

Data 3.

Darkness haunts around me

The data above belongs to a symbol. A symbol is a person, an event, or something else that stands in for another object to convey a significant message. The data shows that the symbol is marked as 'darkness.' It is represented that the darkness is interpreted as a sense of sadness. Hence, the sentence describes that sadness haunts the character

Paradox

According to Perrine (1969), a paradox occurs when two facts appear at odds with one another but are true. You might utilize a situation or a statement. A paradox is a claim that, although containing truth, appears to contradict itself or be at odds with what is generally accepted as accurate. Put another way; a paradox occurs when the fact is incongruent. A paradox is an apparent contradiction in an accurate statement. It might be a predicament or a declaration. One of the phrases is often used symbolically or in more than one sense in a paradoxical statement, which causes the contradiction. The paradox data is listed below.

Data 1.

I wanna be your friend, I can't be your friend

The data above is categorized as a paradox. The paradox drew the reader in by its apparent impossibility, highlighting the reality of what is being said by emphasizing one facet of its apparent absurdity. The data shows that the paradox is marked as 'I wanna be' and then become 'I cannot be.' It is represented that 'wanna' and 'cannot' contradicts each other. Hence, the sentence describes that it may be impossible to be your friend. However, it makes sense. The songwriter needs clarification on saying 'want to be' and then changing it to 'cannot

be.'

Hyperbole

According to Perrine (1969), overstatement, sometimes known as hyperbole, is merely an exaggeration but one that is employed to advance the truth. Like other figures of speech, overstatement can be employed to accomplish various objectives. It could be humorous or serious, creative or restrained, and persuasive. Hyperbole is defined as an exaggeration that goes beyond the truth. The phrasing is inflated and can catch the reader's eye. The evidence for hyperbole is listed below.

Data 1.

For your biggest day

The data above is categorized as a hyperbole. Hyperbole is a form of exaggerated figurative language that can be utilized for various purposes, including humour, seriousness, imagination, restraint, and persuasive or unpersuasiveness. The data shows that the hyperbole is marked as the 'biggest day.' It is represented that the most significant day contains an exaggeration. Hence, the exaggeration of the most significant day represents something big when it means an important day.

Data 2.

From the ground into the greatest sky

The data above belongs to hyperbole. Hyperbole is exaggeration more than the fact. The language can make attention to the reader and it is an exaggeration of object. Hyperbole is an exaggeration more than the fact. The language can make attention to the reader and it is an exaggeration of object. The data shows that the hyperbole is marked as the 'greatest sky.' It is represented that greatest sky contains an exaggeration. Hence, the exaggeration of the greatest sky utilizes a place where people go when they die.

Data 3.

I give you a thousand changes

The data above belongs to hyperbole. Hyperbole can employ to

produce several different effects. Hyperbole is an exaggeration more than a fact. Hence, the language can attract the reader's attention, and it is an exaggeration of the object. The data shows that the hyperbole is marked as the 'a thousand changes.' It is represented that 'a thousand' changes contain an exaggeration of 'a lot'. Furthermore, the exaggeration of a thousand changes utilizes a character bringing up many changes.

The Function of Figurative Language Found in White Swan's Song Lyrics

After reading the book thoroughly, the second scope of discussion in this research was conducted into four types of function which also became the focus of this research. Therefore, the four types of this research based on the theory are giving imaginative pleasure, bringing additional imagery, adding emotional intensity, and saying much in a brief compass.

Giving imaginative pleasure

According to Perrine (1969), statistics help readers create mental images. The reader conjures up the situation and events in a text. The mind creates imagination by joltingly switching from one concept to another. It's entertaining to find parallels between seemingly unrelated things because of these sudden leaps in feeling.

Data 1.

We are rainbow for the Hopeless Light

As can be seen, this sentence refers to giving imaginative pleasure. Figures of speech provide readers with the freedom to use their imagination. Reading a literary work's sentences gives readers joy. Therefore, the songwriter brings up the audience to make up their imagination. It is because the 'rainbow' symbolizes an image of love and friendship for the hopeless light which provides no hope.

Data 2.

The sun was did was a mistake

The data refers to imaginative pleasure. Imagination is the ability to make unexpected leaps from one point to another in one sense. Therefore, figures of speech are fulfilling because it allows readers to develop their imagination. The sun is a star around that the earth moves and provides light and heat. It is because the sun was making a mistake in which it did something it intended to do. For this reason, it may give readers imaginative pleasure that the sun had ever made a mistake.

Data 3.

When the pain comes

The data belongs to imaginative pleasure. Imagination is the ability to make unexpected leaps from one point to another in one sense. Pain is an illness. Therefore, figures of speech are fulfilling because it allows readers to develop their imagination. It is because the pain comes in that it does something it intended to do. For this reason, it may give readers imaginative pleasure that the pain comes from moving.

To add emotional intensity

Figures of speech, in Perrine's view (1965), give otherwise just informational words an emotional punch. Figures of speech are frequently employed to convey an abstract idea tangibly. These not only allow for creative expression but also beauty and intense feeling.

Data 4.

God this crowds still looking down

As can be seen, the data belongs to add emotional intensity. These offer beauty and strong emotions in addition to creative expression. However, emotional intensity provides attitudes along with the information. Thoughtfully, the lyricist portrays a sense of hopelessness and suffocation and how the reader could interpret it. For this reason, looking down means the crowds do not attract unwanted attention from God.

Data 5.

Darkness haunts around me

The data refers to add emotional intensity. Therefore, figures of speech are

frequently employed to convey an abstract idea tangibly. These not only allow for creative expression but also beauty and intense feelings. The songwriter expresses a feeling of sadness and suffering in others; the reader may understand it. This sentence is enough to bring the feeling of sadness that always haunts the character.

Bringing An Additional Imagery

Words or images are used to convey a concept or a situation, and literary writing uses imagery. Figurative language is a way to enhance poetry by enhancing the imagery, making the abstract concrete, and raising the level of enjoyment. The reader might then elaborate on the topic or a more extensive picture of the story using it. A new perception is created in addition to its literal meaning.

Data 6.

My shelter was full in by sin

The function of this sentence is to describe additional imagery. Therefore, the additional imagery provides the sentence offers a concrete object for the abstract idea and plays a role in the idea's visual objectivity. It can be seen that the sentence expressed an interior sensation, 'my shelter,' in the visual term' sin.'

Data 7.

Love like a painting

The data refers to bringing additional imagery. Imagery describes ideas or situations by bringing up imagery in words or pictures. Thus, the sentence describes that love is objectively imaginative by presenting in a painting in visual terms. A painting is visualized as filled with all colors and shades.

Data 8.

Our life is like gambling dice

The data refers to bringing additional imagery. Imagery describes ideas or situations by bringing up imagery in words or pictures. Thus, the sentence describes that our life is objectively imaginative by presenting gambling dice in visual terms. Gambling dice are visualized as filled with making potentially

unsuccessful life decisions.

Saying much in a Brief Compass

Perrine (1969) states that figures of speech are a powerful focus tool that allows you to communicate much quicker. A writer can convey his thoughts without a complicated explanation by using figures of speech. He might instead convey it concisely. Additionally, using figures of speech in a text to convey a non-literal meaning or to discuss an abstract concept is beneficial.

Data 9.

Those clouds stop the shining.

The function of this sentence contained means of concentration. Perrine (1969) states that means of concentration explain a lot of briefly. Therefore, the songwriter expressed something that can be easily understood without utilizing a dozen of words. From this sentence, it does not need to utilize a lot of words to express the dark. Instead of shine reflected the light, those clouds would become gloomy when it does not shine.

Data 20.

My mind chase, My eyes close it feels like living free, oh

The data refers to saying much in a brief compass. By saying much in a brief compass, the sentence can express the thought without making a complex explanation. The sentence above describes how my mind chases, and by closing my eyes, it feels like freedom. For this reason, it makes the abstract concrete, provides imaginative pleasure, and adds a degree of emotional intensity.

Data 21.

Oh you know the name

The data refers to saying much in a brief compass. Therefore, a songwriter expresses the thought without a complex explanation. The lyricist expresses that someone knows the name without the speaker telling it. For this reason, it how the reader could interpret it.

Data 22.

Oh god I'm not a man who keeps

their faith

The data refers to add emotional intensity. The emotional intensity provides attitudes along with the information. Thoughtfully, the lyricist portrays a sense of hopelessness and suffocation and how the reader could interpret that the man cannot keep his faith in God. For this reason, the sentence interprets that a man feels hopeless for not keeping his faith.

Data 23.

Too many mouth I must pay by my own

The mouth is a part of the body. It directly evolves a part of a whole. The data refers to saying much in a brief compass or an effective concentration means. The song lyrics convey the responsibility to feed people by saying too many mouths; I must pay alone. Thoughtfully, the lyricist portrays a sense of hopelessness and suffocation and how the reader could interpret it. For this reason, it implies everything essential to keep someone alive.

CONCLUSION

This is the last chapter that presents the conclusion based on the analysis in the previous chapter that has been discussed before. The data of this research is song lyrics of the album by White Swan. The first objective is to identify the types of figurative language in White Swan's song lyrics. By identifying the types of figurative language, the researcher can relate to the second objective. The second objective is the function of figurative language that reveals through the use of figurative language in the song lyrics by White Swan.

Regarding the first problem formulation, it can be concluded that there are only nine of twelve types of figurative language discovered in the song lyrics by White Swan i.e. simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbolism, paradox, and hyperbole. Metaphor is mostly found in the song lyrics with its total 31 times and 50%

of occurrence. Metaphor can help song writer to convey complex emotions and ideas in a more creative an engaging way.

Based on the analysis, the result of the second problem formulation there are four function of figurative language found in White Swan's song lyrics i.e. giving imaginative pleasure, bringing additional imagery, adding emotional intensity, and saying much in a brief compass. The researchers found there are ten data that belongs to giving imaginative pleasure. Imaginative pleasure is figures of speech provide readers with the freedom to use their imagination. The songwriter expresses the thought to make the readers imagine the situation and action in text. Reading a literary work's sentences gives readers joy. Therefore, the songwriter brings up the audience to make up their imagination.

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