

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN THE GREATEST SHOWMAN SOUNDTRACK LYRICS

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ABSTRACT

*This study is entitled *Figurative Language Used In The Greatest Showman Soundtrack Lyrics*. This study aims to analyze figurative language or figurative language in four songs which are the soundtrack of the film *The Greatest Showman*, in which the four songs are titled, *Never Enough*, *This Is Me*, and *A million Dream*. The benefits of this research are divided into two, namely: theoretically this research aims to help become a reference for other researchers, and the second is the benefits for students, namely to increase students' understanding of language style and to help improve students' literacy skills. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with literature study techniques. The results of the research are that there are five styles of language in the song above, namely: personification (1.2%), metaphor (1.2%), hyperbole (2.4%), imagery (0.2%), and repetitive (1.4%).*

Keywords: *Music, Song Lyrics, Soundtrack, Figurative Language.*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini berjudul bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam lirik soundtrack *The Greatest Showman*. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis bahasa kiasan atau bahasa kiasan pada keempat lagu yang menjadi soundtrack film *The Greatest Showman*, dimana keempat lagu tersebut berjudul, *Never Enough*, *This Is Me*, dan *One Million Dreams*. Manfaat penelitian ini terbagi menjadi dua, yaitu: secara teoritis penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membantu menjadi referensi bagi peneliti lain, dan yang kedua adalah manfaat bagi siswa yaitu untuk meningkatkan pemahaman bahasa siswa. gaya dan untuk membantu meningkatkan keterampilan literasi siswa. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dengan teknik studi pustaka. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah terdapat lima gaya bahasa pada lagu di atas, yaitu: personifikasi (1,2%), metafora (1,2%), hiperbola (2,4%), pencitraan (0,2%), dan repetisi (1,4%).

Kata Kunci: *Musik, Lirik Lagu, Soundtrack, Bahasa Figuratif.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Today music has become a necessity for man. For the creator of music or the creator of songs, music is an emotional flood of the soul, where the feelings of the music creator are conveyed. For music enthusiasts, listening to appropriate music makes for a much better sense of relaxation.

Music is a form of sound artwork in the form of a song or a composition of

music that expresses its creator's thoughts and feelings through the melody elements, harmony, forms and structure of the song and expression as one entity (Jamalus, 1988:1-2). Lyric is a soul of the song. It could present what the song purpose. The lyric mode exist in literature when the author induces the reader to know, from within, the virtual experience of a more or less particularized consciousness. When this

aim constitutes the predominant organizing principal of a poem, we say that the poem is a lyric. (Williams, 1984).

In a song, song lyrics usually have different meanings and description of the song writer's real life. However, some people miss understanding the song lyrics because they only focus on the conceptual definition, not what the singer meant. In linguistics, it is also called the study of the abstract meaning of words semantic. Semantic is a systematic study of meaning (Lyons, 1977), and linguistic semantic is a study of how language organizes and expresses sense (Kreidler, 1998). There are two kinds of meanings, namely literal meaning and figurative language.

There have been many studies that have observed figurative language in songs, one of which is Ibrahim, et al (2019) research with the title: The Analysis of Figurative Language in "Endless Love" Song Lyric. The method used to investigate the lyric song is a descriptive method with a pure structuralism approach. Researchers get results as follows, repetition 36%, hyperbole 32%, metaphor 12%, pleonasm 8%, personification 4%, dispersonification 4%, and onomatopoeia 4%, accompanied by connotative and denotative meaning (Ibrahim et al., 2019, p. 130).

For music enthusiasts or listeners, the content of a song or the lyrics of a song has a great impact. Sometimes a lot of people misunderstand the meaning of a song lyric because of the language. That's because not all humans have the same thinking ability, but that's the importance of learning *majas* in schools. Because it is one of the language creations associated with the literacy ability of songwriters or poems, because *majas* are not used only in music.

Through the background described above, researchers formulated the problem that will be discussed in the

study what types of figurative languages are found in soundtrack lyrics The Greatest Woman? What is the message of the figures of speech found in these songs? How many types of figurative language in these songs?

Based on these questions, the purpose of this research is to determine which types of speech are found in these songs, to understand the linguistic message found in these songs, to find out how many different types of speech are used in these songs.

Theoretical benefits, conducting this research, the research hopes that the analysis of the resulting linguistic style may be reduced to more description of other interested.

Enlarging or adding students' understanding of a figurative meaning or style of language. Increases student creativity in literacy, because language is part of literacy.

To the populace, the study has helped people to understand the meaning of the soundtrack lyrics the greatest showman. Giving people insight into the notion of that figurative meaning or that figure of speech has become widely used in pop songs. To teachers, provides a distinct satisfaction as student language or literacy skills improve.

2. RESEARCH METHODE

Research design is a strategy carried out by researchers to link each element of research systematically so that analyzing and determining research focus becomes more effective and efficient. With a research design, research objectives can be achieved more easily. Against the background of the problems examined in this study, namely finding the style of language in song lyrics, the researcher chose a descriptive qualitative research method, because data is analyzed through words or sentences. The problem in a research will determine what type of approach is suitable to be chosen.

Qualitative descriptive research can be used to conduct research that aims to fully and in-depth describe social reality and various phenomena that occur in society with the aim that the research object can be presented in detail and the characteristics, characteristics and models can be known comprehensively.

Data is a collection of information obtained from an observation, can be in the form of numbers, symbols or characteristics. Data can also be defined as a collection of information or values obtained from the observation of an object. Good data is data that can be trusted (reliable), timely and covers a broad scope or can provide an overview of a problem as a whole, is relevant data.

As for what is meant by data sources are research subjects where the data is attached. Arikunto (2006: 129) says the source of data in research is the subject from which a data is obtained. In collecting data, data sources can use primary and secondary data sources. Primary sources are data sources that directly provide data to collectors, and secondary sources are sources that indirectly provide data to data collectors, for example through other people or documents (Sugiyono, 2017:225).

The sources of data in this study are secondary data sources and primary data sources. The main data sources in qualitative research are words and actions, the rest is additional data such as documentation and others (Moleong, 2014; 157). The subjects of this study were the four songs on the soundtrack of The Greatest Showman, the four songs being Never Enough, Million Dreams, This Is Me and Rewrite the Stars.

There are several types of data collection methods in qualitative research, each of which has differences. So to collect the data there are also several techniques:

- a. Literature Study Techniques
- b. In-Depth Interview Techniques
- c. Observation Techniques

- d. Focus Group Discussion Techniques
- e. Questionnaire/questionnaire technique

In this study, the data collection process used the Literature Study Technique. This technique focuses on written sources such as literature, documents or any relics related to the research object. And to collect data in this study, the researcher carried out several stages, namely: 1) Listen to each of these songs for the first time, 2) Carefully read each line of the song lyrics, 3) Mark/underline which ones are figurative language, 4) Grouping similar language styles, 5) Create a column/table containing the name of the language style and along with the lyrics that show the style of language, 6) Count how many times each figurative language appears in the lyrics of the song to make a presentation using the Quick Count method, 7) Make a pie chart to help clarify data information, 8) Count the total number of styles that appear in each song, 9) Again the author reads the entire lyrics of each song and interprets the meaning contained in the lyrics of the song.

Data analysis is a data processing process with the aim of finding useful information that can be used as a basis for making decisions for a solution to a problem. This analysis process includes grouping data based on their characteristics, performing data cleaning, transforming data, creating data models to find important information from those data.

To further support an explanation of the meaning of the data, the researcher also looked at the background of making lyrics through relevant sources such as articles. After that, the researcher will determine the highest number of each type of figurative language used by the songwriter in the form of a percentage. After finding the highest number, the researchers concluded. According to Hulu, et al

(2021, p. 321), the way the researchers changed the number of figurative language into percent is as follows.

$$X = \frac{f}{n} \times 100\%$$

Where:

X = figurative percentage obtained language

F = Frequency of each figurative type language

N = Total number of all figures language

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

Based on the results of the data analysis above, 5 figurative languages in the songs used in the soundtrack of The Greatest Showman where the songs are titled *Never Enough*, *This Is Me*, *Rewrite The Stars*, and *A Million Dreams*.

The five language styles are Personification, Metaphor, Imagery, Repetitive and Hyperbole. With the following percentages: 1) Personification (1.2%), Metaphor (1.2%), Hyperbole (2.4%), Imagery (0.2%), Repetitive (1.4%). Based on the results of the analysis of the 4 songs.

It can be concluded that the figure of speech hyperbole has the highest percentage or in other words this figure of speech appears most often from the 4 songs. And it can also be concluded that hyperbolic figures of speech tend to be used more often in songs or poetry, especially songs with romance themes or romance themes. They will more often use this figure of speech as a way of praising their partner or expressing their feelings to their partner.

Discussion

Data analysis shows that there are several figurative languages in the title song *Never Enough*, *This Is Me*, *Rewrite The Stars*, *A Million Dreams*. Below are several tables to analyze the figurative language in each song lyric

Table Analysis of Figurative Language in The Title Song *Never Enough*

NO	LYRIC	KINDS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
1	I'm trying to hold my breath	Hyperbole
2	You set off a dream in me	Hyperbole
3	Can you hear it enchoing	Imagery
4	All the shine of a thousand spotlights	Hyperbole,metaphor
5	All the stars we steal from the night sky	Hyperbole,metaphor
6	Never be enough,never be enough	Repetitive
7	Towers of gold are still too little	Hyperbole,metaphor
8	These hands could hold the world but it'll	Hyperbole
9	For me, for me	Repetitive

There are 4 types of figurative language in this song, namely: hyperbole, repetitive, metaphor, and imagery. With the frequency of the appearance of hyperbolic figurative language in this song as much as 6 times, imagery appears 1 time, repetitive appears 2 times, and metaphor appears 2 times. 3 times.

Table Analysis of Figurative Language in The Title Song *a Million Dreams*

No	Lyric	Kinds of figurative Language
1	The world that's waiting up for me	Personification
2	Through the dark, through the door	Repetitive
3	They can say, they can say it all sounds crazy	Repetitive
4	They can say, they can say I've lost my mind	Repetitive
5	The brightest colours fill my head	Personification
6	A million dreams are keeping me awake	Personification
7	Runaway to a world that we design	Hyperbole

8	Share your dreams with me	Hyperbole	3	I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown 'em out	Hyperbola
			4	Reaching for the sun (we are warriors)	Hyperbola
			5	I am brave, I am bruised	Repetitive

There are 3 types of figurative language that appear in this song, namely hyperbole, personification and repetitive. With the frequency of appearance of hyperbole figurative language 2 times, repetitive 3 times, personification figurative language appearing 3 time.

Table Analysis of Figurative Language in The Title Song Rewrite the Stars

NO	Lyric	Kinds of Figurative Language
1	And fate is pulling you miles away	Personification
2	But you're hearing my heart	Personification
3	What if we rewrite the stars?	Hiperbole, methapor
4	But there are mountains (But there are mountains)	Methapor
5	And there are doors that we can't walk through	Methapor
6	It's up to you and it's up to me	Repetitive
7	All I want is to fly with you All I wants is to fly with you	Repetitive

There are 4 types of figurative language that appear in this song, namely hyperbola, metaphor, personification, and repetitive. And each has a different frequency, hyperbolic figurative language 1 time, metaphor 2 times, personification 2 times and repetitive 2 times.

Table Analysis of Figurative Language in The Title Song This Is Me

NO	Liryc	Kinds of figurative language
1	But I won't let them break me down to dust	Hyperbola
2	When the sharpest words wanna cut me down	Personification

There are 3 types of figurative language in this song, namely personification, hyperbole, and repetitive. And each has a different frequency, personification appears 1 time, hyperbole appears 3 times, and repetitive appears 1 time.

Based on the findings or analysis above, various kinds of language styles were found in the four songs, including hyperbole, personification, irony, repetition, metaphor, irony and imagery. And at this discussion stage the author will explain in detail about the use of the figure of speech.

a. Analysis of The Meaning/Message of The Song and Majas Analysis in The Lyrics of The Title Song "Never Enough"

In the song Never Enough itself, there are 4 styles of language, namely imagery, hyperbole, repetitive and metaphor.

1) Figurative Language Hyperbole

Hyperbolic figurative language appears several times in this song, first in the lyrics *I'm trying to hold my breath*, why is this sentence called using hyperbolic figurative language because in this sentence it uses an exaggerated meaning, namely hold my breath, and if we interpret it literally excessive because how can humans hold their breath, while humans have to breathe all the time. And that's just a figurative language that means he/the songwriter is trying to survive in a situation. For the second time this figurative language appears with the lyrics *you set off a dream in me* because if taken literally it has a very excessive meaning, how

could a dream be designed within a human being, this is figurative language which means that through someone we can make it happen is our dream because that someone has become our encouragement in realizing that dream. For the third time this figurative language appears again in the lyrics of *All the shine of a thousand spotlights*, here it uses hyperbolic figurative language as well because if taken literally it means a thousand spotlights and this is really too much, how is it possible to stage a stage using thousands of spotlights.

Furthermore, the use of hyperbolic figurative language in this song is found in the lyrics of *All the stars we steal from the night sky*, and this sentence uses hyperbolic figurative language because how can we possibly steal the stars, and that's true overkill. The next one the use of hyperbole in the lyrics of *These hands could hold the world but it'll*, if we take a literal analysis this sentence is redundant because how can we possibly touch the world.

2) Figurative Language Imagery

The use of imagery/imagination in this song is contained in the lyrics *Can you hear it echoing*, because in this lyric we need the sense of hearing, in accordance with the figurative language of imagination which requires the human senses.

3) Repetitive Figurative Language

The use of this figure of speech in this song is found in the lyrics of *Never be enough*

Never be enough, for me for me, because there are repetitions of words or repetition.

4) Metaphor Figurative Language

In this song, we can see the use of the metaphorical figure of speech in the lyrics of *All the shine of a thousand spotlight*, it is called using the metaphorical figure of speech because in this sentence, the author

compares shine to a form of camera glare aimed at the writer/singer. Furthermore, the use of this figurative language also appears in the lyrics *All the stars we steal from the night sky* are called using metaphorical figures of speech because the writer likens stars to the success he gets, he becomes famous and succeeds in achieving his dreams.

As for the message of this song, this song tells about a girl who really admires love. Love always amazed and amazed. Despite all the beauty and glitter that the world has to offer, none of it makes him budge. Only one thing that invites admiration is the beauty of love.

b. Analysis of Message/Meaning of The Song and Figure Language in The Title Song "A Million Dreams"

In this song there is also the use of some figurative language, namely personification, repetitive and hyperbole.

1) Figure of Personification

We can find the use of this figure of speech in the lyrics of *The world that's waiting up for me*, because if taken literally it means the world is waiting for me, so here the world acts as if it were a human being who could wait, according to the meaning of figurative language which personification in this figure of speech, it is as if inanimate objects can act like humans. We can see the appearance of personification in this song in the lyrics *The brightest colors fill my head* is called using personification figure of speech because if interpreted literally in this section, colors act as living things that can fill, as if this color can move like a human. Furthermore, the use of this figure of speech in this song can be found in the lyrics of *A million dreams are keeping me awake* called using a personification figure of speech because if we literally mean

here this dream can act as a real human being aim to keep even though the dream is inanimate objects.

2) Figurative Language Hyperbole

We can find the appearance of hyperbolic figurative language in this song in the lyrics of *Share your dreams with me*, because if you take it literally it means that a person is asked to share his dreams with others, and if we look at it literally this is very exaggerated because dreams/dreams are not something which can be divided. Furthermore, in this song the use of hyperbole appears again with the lyrics, namely *Runaway to a world that we design* and if we look at it literally it means that the world can be designed and this is something that is very exaggerated, and this is the reason why This sentence is called using the figurative meaning of hyperbole, which is something that is exaggerated.

3) Repetitive Figurative Language

The emergence of repetitive figurative language in this song is marked by the lyrics repeating the previous words, as contained in the following lyrics: 1) *They can say, they can it all sounds crazy*, 2) *They can say, they can say I 've lost my mind*, 3) *Through the dark, through the door*.

As for the message or meaning of this song, it tells about a strong ambition to change "the world". The lyrics of this song teach about tenacity, high will, and never giving up to reach our dreams. Don't care what other people say just let them "bark" just focus.

c. Analysis of The Meaning/Message of The Song and The Use of Figure Language in The Title Song "Rewrite The Stars"

In this song there is the use of several types of figurative language, namely.

1) Figure of Personification

We can see the use of figurative language in the lyrics *but you're hearing my heart*, if we take it literally the meaning here is that his heart can speak so it is said you can hear my heart and this is the use of personification figurative language, because the heart is described as if it were a human being who could speak. And then the use of personification figure of speech in this song is contained in the lyrics *and fate is pulling you miles away*, if we take it literally fate itself has pulled a human being miles away, which here destiny is described as if it could act like a human.

2) Figurative Language Hyperbole

We can see the use of this figure of speech in the lyrics of *What if we rewrite the stars?* because if we take a literal view, the meaning becomes very exaggerated, which explains that humans can write stars.

3) Metaphoric Figurative Language

We can use this figure of speech in the lyrics *What if we rewrite the stars?* In which here the author likens stars as *destiny* between two people who cannot be together. Furthermore, we can see the use of this figure of speech in this song in the lyrics *but there are mountains*, where mountains are described as a form of obstacle that is always blocking. Furthermore, this figure of speech is found again in the lyrics *and there are doors that we can't walk through*, which the author describes as a barrier to bring together and unite two people.

4) Repetitive Figurative Language

We can see the use of this figure of speech in the lyrics 1) *It's up to you and it's up to me*, 2) *All I want is to fly with you, All I want is to fly with you*

As for the message/meaning of this song is Touching, telling about two people who love each other but are involved in feelings of doubt and a desire to be together.

d. Analysis of The Message/Meaning of The Song and The Use of Figure Language in The Title Song “This Is Me”

In this song, several figures of speech/figurative language are also used, namely.

1) Figurative Language Hyperbole

The use of this figure of speech in this song can be found in the lyrics of *but I won't let them break me down to dust*, because the meaning if we look at it literally is someone who will be crushed to dust, and that we can say is something that is exaggerated, because it's impossible for humans to be crushed to dust. Furthermore, we can find the use of this figure of speech in the lyrics *I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown 'em out*, because if you look at it literally, it means someone who will send a flood, and that's a excessive things or things that are impossible to do with hands.

2) Figurative Language Hyperbole

We can see the use of this figure of speech in the lyrics of *Reaching for the sun (we are warriors)* and if taken literally it means to reach for the sun, and this is too much and cannot be done by human hands.

3) Personification Figurative

We can find the use of this figure of speech in this song in the lyrics *When the sharpest words wanna cut me down*, and if we take it literally, the meaning is the sharpest words want to cut me down, and this is one of the uses of personification in which the words act as if like a knife that can cut.

4) Repetitive Figurative Language

The use of this figure of speech in this song can be found in the lyrics of

I am brave, I am bruised, because in these lyrics there are words that are repeated.

As for the message/meaning of this song, it tells about the struggle against bullying or what is familiarly called bullying, namely being ostracized by the surrounding environment because they are different.

Below is a table of the total frequency of the appearance of figurative language and the percentage of the four songs, using the coding for each figurative language, Personification (Pr), Metapora (Mt), Hyperbole (Hp), Imageer (I), and Repetitive (R).

	Pr	Mt	Hp	I	R
Total	6	6	12	1	7
Frecuency					
Percentage	1,2 %	1,2 %	2,4 %	0,2 %	1,4 %

The percentage gain is obtained by using the formula:

$$x = f/n \times 100\%$$

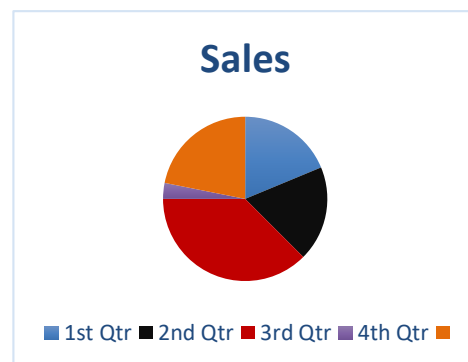
Where:

X = percentage of the obtained figurative language

F = Frequency of each type of figurative language

N = The total number of all figurative language

And to help clarify understanding the contents of the data, the researcher also included a pie chart.



With the following information:

1. Blue color = 1.2% (Personification)
2. Black = 1.2% (Metaphor)
3. Red = 2.4% (Hyperbole)
4. Green = 1.4% (Repetitive)
5. Oranges = 0.2 % (Imagery)

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the data analysis above, the researcher can conclude that there are 5 figurative languages in the songs used in the soundtrack of The Greatest Showman where the songs are titled Never Enough, This Is Me, Rewrite The Stars, and A Million Dreams.

The five language styles are Personification, Metaphor, Imagery, Repetitive and Hyperbole. With the following percentages: 1) Personification (1.2%), Metaphor (1.2%), Hyperbole (2.4%), Imagery (0.2%), Repetitive (1.4%). Based on the results of the analysis of the 4 songs, it can be concluded that the figure of speech hyperbole has the highest percentage or in other words this figure of speech appears most often from the 4 songs, and it can also we can conclude that hyperbolic figures of speech tend to be used more often in songs or poetry, especially songs with romance themes or romance themes. They will more often use this figure of speech as a way of praising their partner or expressing their feelings to their partner.

As part of linguistics, language style is very important to learn, especially language style in English songs, as a way to increase vocabulary, especially for students and hopefully this research can provide benefits or new knowledge about language style, both to readers or other researchers.

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