AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE SONG LYRICS BY SAIF ADAM

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to identify the types of figurative language used in the lyric of Saif Adam songs and the dominant types of figurative language found in the lyric of Saif Adam songs. The method used in this study is a descriptive qualitative method. This research used the theory of Perrine. The researcher found 8 types of figurative language used in Saif Adam's song lyrics such as hyperbole, irony, metaphor, personification, simile, litotes, metonymy, and paradox. The data were collected by reading the lyrics of Saif Adam's song. There were 14 of hyperbole, 3 of Irony, 20 of metaphor, 11 of personification, 10 of simile, 5 of litotes, 10 of metonymy, and 7 of paradox. This study found that the most dominant type of figurative language was metaphor with the percentage of 25%. It was followed by hyperbole with the percentage of 17.5%. Then, it was followed by personification with percentage 13.75%,. simile and metonymy with the percentage of 11.3%. And also, it was followed by paradox and litotes with the proportion of 7.9% and 5.6%. Irony was the least dominant one with the percentage of only 3.4%.

Key words: Semantics, Figurative language, Song, Religious Song, Lyric.

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is a system of communication which consist of a set of sound and written symbols which are used by the people of a particular country or region for talking or writing. The ability to communicate the thoughts, emotions, and opinions to others is truly a remarkable ability. Language is one of the important thing for the people to communicate to one another in the world. By the language, people can communicate, interact and also can share the information each other. Harmer (2007) states that language is used widely for communication between people who do not share the same first (or even second) language. It means that language is the

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crucial thing for human being's life. It has a big role for every people in making good relationship with others.

There are many ways people do to deliver their ideas to others so that people can understand and catch the meaning of that. One of the ways is by song. There are so many people figure out their feeling through the songs. It can be feeling sad, happy, angry, etc. A song is a short piece of music, usually with words. In song, there are many messages delivered on it. It usually contains about how someone feelings and the ideas of something. Song is a part of literature. Sometimes, the lyrics of the songs is not the same between what the conventionally says with what the composer intends to express. A composer usually put the meaning implicitly, so not all people understand the actual meaning of the song. In the attempt to understand the meaning of what composer means in the song, a further knowledge is needed. The song usually consists of figurative language.

There are some studies thas has been done related to the figurative language such as novel (Harya, 2016, Habibi, 2016), poem (Sofransyah, 2018, Wulandari 2015), song (Arifah, 2016., Ismail, Nuraeni, and Kareviati, 2020), and advertisement (Zakiyah, 2015., Defisyani, Hamzah, and Fitrawati, 2018.,). However, those studies focus only on the types of figurative language, the contextual meaning of the figurative language used, and how the figurative language used for different genders. Meanwhile, certain Figurative Language also have some functions such as to compare two things (Risdianto, 2016), to hide the real meaning (Putri et al, 2016), to exaggerate the statement (Chunqi, 2014), etc.

The researcher found many types of figurative language used in Saif Adam's song lyrics. The author intends to analyze and learn about the types of figurative language used in Saif Adam's song lyric. The researcher only focused on the types of figurative language and the predominte types of figurative language in Saif Adam's song lyric based on Perrine's theory.

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B. RESEARCH METHOD

This study belongs to descriptive qualitative research that related on the instruments used in the research. This research was conducted by using a qualitative approach because the results of the data are analyzed in descriptive phenomena such as words, phrases, and utterances. Bath (2019) said that Descriptive research is defined as a research method that describes the characteristics of the population or phenomenon that is being studied. This methodology focuses more on the "what" of the research subject rather than the "why" of the research subject. In other words, descriptive research primarily focuses on describing the nature of a demographic segment, without focusing on "why" a certain phenomenon occurs. In other words, it "describes" the subject of the research, without covering "why" it happens

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Finding

This research analyzed the data based on theory of Perrine (1983). The data were taken from the song lyrics by Saif Adam. This data contains 13 songs from the album "Heart". There are 8 types of figurative language found in this research which are hyperbole, irony, metaphor, personification, simile, litotes, metonymy, and paradox. From those types of figurative language, the researcher found 23 of hyperbole, 3 of irony, 20 of metaphor, 10 of personification, 10 of simile, 5 of litotes, 10 of metonymy, and 7 of paradox.

1. Hyperbole

    Hyperbole is exaggeration or overstatement. The exaggeration is so great that others are not able to take the statement literally.

    a. Song: Believe
       Datum 1 :

       "We pray that He'll forgive us and tears forever fall
       Looking for a happy ever after when we are gone"

       In the lyric *"We pray that He'll forgive us and tears forever fall"* has a hyperbole in it which is in the word "tears forever fall". Tears does not fall forever because it is impossible for the human to cry everyday even forever. In this lyric, "tears forever fall" means that someone's regret to the God about every mistakes that he/she had done.

2. Irony

    Irony takes place when the opposite of what a person intended to do, or expected to happen, occurs instead. It is also an incongruity in expectation and actuality. Irony can be dramatic (a play), verbal (a statement) or situational (an event).

    a. Song: Trust in Allah
       Datum 3 :
       "And when you're feeling down
       You know the way to go"

       The bold lyric above is irony because it is expected to happen. The lyric "*And when you're feeling down, You know the way to go"* means that someone who have a problem in his/her life does not know the place to run to. But actually she/he knows the way to go. That lyric is a situational that opposite of what a person expected to happen.

    b. Song: He sees me
       Datum 4 :
       "How can you reach the heavens,
       Without going through the test?"

       The lyric" *How can you reach the heavens, without going through the test?"* is also an irony. It because incongruity in

actuality. The bold lyric above means that someone who wants to reach the heavens but she/he does not go through the test. It must be impossible for someone to reach the heavens without any struggles.

3. Metaphor

Metaphors directly compare two subjects. Metaphor is a figure of speech which concisely compares two things by saying that the one is the other (McArthur: 1992).

 a. Song: After hardship comes ease
 Datum 5 :

 "Oh I will never let you go
 You're my heart my love my soul
 And the choices that we make
 We gotta make our own"

 The bold lyric above is metaphor because it's compared to three things which are "heart", "love", and "soul". In that sentence, the author tries to tell that someone in his life is everything for him. And also the author wants to tell that someone is a part of his life because he use the word "my heart", "my love", and "my soul".

 b. Song : He sees me
 Datum 6 :
 "Everyday is a lesson
 And everything you do
 Defines yourself
 Now I know we all have good intentions
 Different ways we have to cope with stress"

 The bold lyric above is also metaphor. It compares the day to the lesson which means that everything that you do will be a lesson. It can be a positive or negative lesson. Hence, this lyric is a metaphor because compares "the day "and "the lesson".

4. Personification

Personification is a statement attributes human qualities to non-human entities, such as objects or animals. Keraf (2002) explained that "Personification is the assigning of human characteristics to non-humans."

 a. Song: are you listening
 Datum 7 :
 "Having sleepless nights
 With my head and my hands
 I am here,
 And tears are falling"
 The bold lyric above is personification. The tears have characteristic like a human. In the fact, the verb "falling" is the

characteristic of human. The real meaning is someone is crying and there is tears from the eyes. It is not really falling like human does.

b. Song : Trust in Allah

Datum 8 :

"Our iman will grow
Insha Allah we will go far
There is a long way to go"

In the bold lyric above is another personification. The fact iman is not an animate and it cannot grow like animate does. Even though iman could be said alive, but Iman do not have a body like a human. Iman is alive but just in our heart and it cannot be seen with eyes. Hence, it can be said that iman is an inanimate in this case.

5. Simile

Similes are "like" or "as" comparisons between two subjects. McArthur (1992) states that simile is a figure of speech, in which a more or less fanciful or unrealistic comparison is made, using like or as.

a.   Song : The message

Datum 9 :

"As our generation unfold
Some stories are never told
I fear
The doors will always be closed"

In the bold lyric above has a simile on it because it uses the word "as" in the lyric. The characteristic of simile is the use of word "as" or "like" and compares two subjects. In that lyric, it compares between "our generation" and "the story" which mean that there are still story that have not been known.

b.   Song : Trust in Allah

Datum 10 :

"It's like this every single day
And now it's time to change"

The bold lyric above is another simile. The use of word "like" is one of the characteristics of simile. It compares something with the same situation in every single day. Today is the same with another day.

6. Litotes

Litotes is opposite from hyperbole. It is kind of understatement where the speaker uses negative of a word ironically, to mean the opposite.

a. Song : Believe

Datum 11 :

"Looking for a happy ever after when we are gone"

This lyric is litotes because it is a kind of understatement that the author uses to mean opposite. The litotes is in the sentence *"we*

are gone". The author choosed to wrote down "we are gone" instead "die/dead". It means that the author uses one of the types of figurative language which is litotes where is a kind of understatement to mean opposite.

Datum 12:
" Do not idolize or sin
When you feel weak find a strength within
Stay clear
From those that will bring you down."

   The bold lyric above is also one of types of figurative language which is litotes. That sentence means that people who make someone surrender. The author used the word "bring you down" than "surrender". It is also a kind of understatement to mean opposite.

7.   Metonymy
   Metonymy is used in a sentence in which "the name of thing is substituted for that another closely associates with it". It can be said that metonymy uses another thing/word to represent the something else in which both of the things are closely related each other.

   a.   Song : Are you listening?
       Datum 13 :
       *"*If I can write the roads
       Would you let me a hand?
       I will make a difference *"*

       That lyric is metonymy. The phrase ***"Would you let me a hand"*** is not actually someone ask for a hand. But the phrase ***"Would you let me a hand"*** in this particular case is to define something which has closely related to a hand. From that phrase can be meant as giving a help. People usually ask for help to someone by saying give me a hand and for giving a help by saying let me a hand. So, "let me a hand" means that let me help you for something.
   b.   Song : Muhammad
       Datum 14 :
       "He's always in our hearts"

       The bold lyric above is also metonymy. In that lyric, "He" refers to the prophet. Meanwhile the lyric He's always in our hearts" actually means that the prophet who is Muhammad is not really exactly exist in the heart. In another word, it is a kind of expression of someone who uses another word to represent the something else in which both of the things are closely related each other. In this case

the author used the term "our heart" to represent someone who believes in Prophet by saying the Prophet is always in her/his heart.

8. Paradox

Paradox is an apparent contradiction that nevertheless somehow true. Siswantoro (2005) says that figure of speech paradox utters a phenomenon that contradicting, but in a fact showed the reality.

a. Song : Are you listening?
Datum 15 :
" You can write it down,
But nobody cares"

The two phrases above are contradictory. The means of paradox above is someone who could write something down but no one will notice. It shows the contradictory but also showed the reality.

Datum 31 :
"If I have nothing
I have my intention"

The two bold lyrics above is also paradox. It because those show the phenomena that contradicting each other. That lyric means someone has nothing in his/her life but beside that still have an intention in his/her life. In another word, that person does not really have nothing because in fact he/she still have the intention.

b. Song : Trust in Allah
Datum 16 :
"Allah we surrender
I'm always looking out for the sign
To honor You and make you proud"

Those lyrics above is paradox because they have contradiction each other. The first sentence *"Allah we surrender"*, it means that someone stop to fight but in the following sentence says that *"I'm always looking out for the sign to honour You and make you proud"* which means that someone still seek the way to fight. Those lyrics is clearly show the contradiction. From those lyrics can be said that someone does not really surrender because he/she still wants to find a way to make "You" (the God) proud of him/her.

Finding of the research

After analyzing collected data, the researchers found types of figurative language as follows:

Table 1 Types of figurative in Saif Adam's song lyric

No	Types of figurative language	Frequency	Percentage
1	Hyperbole	14	17.05%
2	Irony	3	3.75%
3	Metaphor	20	25.00%
4	Personification	11	13.75%
5	Simile	10	12.50%
6	Litotes	5	6.25%
7	Metonymy	10	12.50%
8	Paradox	7	8.75%
	Total	80	100.00%

From the table above, there are 8 types of figurative language found in the song lyrics by Saif Adam. The researcher found metaphor becomes the dominant types of figurative language that appear in the song lyric by Saif Adam's songs. After that, there were 14 data from hyperbole which became the second dominant types of figurative language after metaphor. Then, personification is the third dominant types of figurative language in this research. The types of simile and metonymy have the same frequency in this album from 13 songs. And then, the researcher found 7 of paradox, 5 of litotes, and 3 of irony in the lyric of Saif Adam'songs. From the datum, in this analysis metaphor is the dominant type and the irony is the less frequent that appears in the lyric by Saif Adam's songs.

2. Discussion

From the analysis, the researcher compares the study with the previous study. The writer compares this study with the similar research but different object. There are some previous study that concern in this topic:

The research has several similarities and differences with the research by Arifah (2016). This research is almost the same because it also discusses about the types of figurative language. Arifah (2016) has discussed about 5 songs meanwhile the researcher discussed about 13 songs in this research. There are several types of figurative language used which is the same in each study. Such as hyperbole, irony, metaphor, metonymy, simile, personification, etc. Another figurative language that Arifah (2016) analyzed are symbol and synecdoche. And hyperbole is also the dominant type found in the Five Jhon Legend's song.

Then, Heny Listiani (2015) anlayzed about *"An Analysis of Figurative Language Found on the Song Lyric by Taylor Swift's "Speak Now" Album"*. In this research, she identified the types of figurative language based on X.J. Kennedy theory. She also found the dominant types of figurative language used in the song lyric by Taylor Swift's "Speak Now" album is hyperbole and the least figurative language used are synecdoche and oxymoron.

In this current research also describes the same way to identify the types of figurative language in lyric song, but the object and the theory is not the same as

the previous study listed above. The researcher identified the types of figurative language in Saif Adam's song lyric from the album "Heart" which consists of 13 songs.

The researcher found 8 types of figurative language in the album "Heart" by Saif Adam, there were hyperbole, irony, metaphor, personification, simile, litotes, metonymy, and paradox. And from those types, the researcher found 14 of hyperbole, 3 of irony, 20 of metaphor, 11 of personification, 10 of simile, 5 of litotes, 10 of metonymy, and 7 of paradox.

This research analysed the types of figurative language and the dominant type that appear in the song lyric by Saif Adam. The purpose of the use of figurative language in the lyrics is to help the reader of the lyric even the listener of the song understood about the meaning of each lyric. Song is one of the media to learn about figurative language because there are many songs that use figurative language to make the song more interesting and alive. And it also can help the reader or the listener to determine the actual meaning the lyric of the song. There are still many aspects that can be studied about the types of figurative language. It is suggested the other researchers can continue about this topic. The other researchers can conduct the similar topic or expand more about literary analysis with other linguistic features and aspects.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

After analysing the data which have been discussed in previous chapter, the researcher collected 13 song lyrics by Saif Adam and found 8 types of figurative language that consist of hyperbole, irony, metaphor, personification, simile, litotes, metonymy, and paradox. The researcher found 14 of hyperbole, 3 of irony, 20 of metaphor, 11 of personification, 10 of simile, 5 of litotes, 10 of metonymy, and 7 of paradox. These types are used by the song writer in order to make each song has a deep meaning and look alive. So, using the figurative language can lead the reader to the meaning of the lyrics.

Metaphor is the dominant type that found in the song lyrics by Saif Adam. The use of metaphor is to make the lyrics of song becomes more colourful because it describes an object or action in a way that is not literally true, but helps to explain an idea or make a comparison. Metaphor compares two things or objects not because they actually are the same, but for the sake comparison or symbolism. And also metaphor compares one thing to another thing in order to show or suggest that they are similar. It can be concluded that in analyse lyrics besides find figurative language in lyrics, we can also understand the meaning of song that contain figurative language and the message of the song.

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