

The Use of Song Lyrics to Analyze Figurative Language Style

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Abstract. *The purpose of this research is to describe the types of figurative language found in Adele's songs in album 30. The research methodology used is literature study with a qualitative descriptive approach. The results show that there are several types of figurative language in the lyrics of these songs, including symbolic (36%), personification (9%), metaphor (4.5%), simile (18%), hyperbole (4.5%), and allegory (28%). Thus, it can be concluded that the most used figurative language in the album is the symbolic type.*

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Song Lyrics, Symbolic Type, Adele Songs, Language Style*

1. INTRODUCTION

What is meant by figurative language style is a form of comparison or simile in a use of language. In broader usage, allusions can usually only be applied in literary works that take the form of song lyrics. Language style has a very broad meaning, where a writer makes his work in order to influence the reader or listener. By using an appropriate language style, all ideas, thoughts, or experiences can be conveyed well. The characteristics of a language style will change when interpreted into various literatures, one of which is through songs. One of the easiest ways to convey ideas that are not easy to understand due to their invisibility is by using figurative language. Although figurative language does not provide a literal explanation, it can be made to provide a comparison between one idea and another, making the idea easy to visualize. In addition, figurative language can also be used to combine two ideas that aim to influence the reader or listener even though one of them is not present.

Writers of prose and poetry use figurative language to evoke emotion, help readers form mental images, and draw readers into the work, which is often associated with literature and poetry in particular. However, in fact, whether they realize it or not, people use figurative language every day in their writing and conversations. Using figurative meaning in writing is one way to convey meaning in a fresh and unexpected way. Figurative language is not meant to be interpreted literally, but is intended to provide a new way of looking at the world. Figurative language always compares two different things so that their similarities are shown to be interesting, unique, or surprising. One of the works of art in literature is song. The song has a set of imaginative lyrics in the form of words and expressions conveyed to the listener. The lyrics in the song are usually related to someone's expression that they have experienced. Song lyrics will be more interesting if they contain figurative language used by the songwriter. In relation to figurative language, according to Peter (2002), figurative language is language

that has figurative meaning and combines the speaker's desire to touch emotion and be persuasive. This means that the use of figurative language aims to unite other people's thoughts and feelings, or in other words, it is like inserting someone's feelings, ideas or thoughts into the listener's mind.

The author decided to analyze the language style in Adele's song lyrics in album 30 because there are many language styles used on the album, apart from that the author wants to know which language style is dominant. For example, when the author analyzed one of the lyrics on album 30, the author discovered the simile language style found in the lyrics *I feel like a ghost*, where the sentence contains the meaning that the singer feels that he is like a ghost, and the ghost here is a scary thing. Thus, the singer felt that he was as scary as a ghost. The simile style of language is a parable of characteristics or attitudes between two different things. Based on the background above, the author decided to research the discussion of linguistic style in more depth in songs that carry themes of betrayal and conflict in love.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research methodology used in this research is a qualitative descriptive method, where the author will describe the data obtained comprehensively. According to Moleong (2011:11), in the qualitative descriptive approach there are no arithmetic or statistical calculations related to the object being studied. The qualitative descriptive method approach only focuses on the results of data findings. In this research, the author observed song lyrics from Adele's 30th album, of which there are 12 songs, namely: *Strangers By Nature*, *Easy On Me*, *My Little Love*, *Cry Your Heart Out*, *Oh My God*, *Can I Get It*, *I Drink Wine*, *All Night Parking*, *Women Like Me*, *Hold On*, *To Be Loved*, *Love Is A Game*. According to Creswell (2012:236), "Analyzing qualitative data requires understanding how to make sense of text and image, so that you can form answers to your research questions"

There are two things that are the focus of research:

- a. 12 songs in Adele's album 30, namely: *Strangers By Nature*, *Easy On Me*, *My Little Love*, *Cry Your Heart Out*, *Oh My God*, *Can I Get It*, *I Drink Wine*, *All Night Parking*, *Women Like Me*, *Hold On*, *To Be Loved*, *Love Is A Game*.
- b. The use of comparative figures of speech or figurative language, which includes personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, symbolic and allegory
- c. The author also carried out cross-observations to ensure the validity of the data obtained, by comparing the lyrics obtained from the internet with listening directly to all the songs on Adele's album 30. This was done to check whether the data presented or the written lyrics were the same as the lyrics heard.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Theoretical Basis

The theoretical basis that will be explained is things related to denotative and connotative meaning, language style, and comparative figures of speech.

a. Denotative and Connotative Meaning

In linguistic terms, the terms denotative and connotative are terms that are often encountered. Specifically, to understand figures of speech and their use, we also indirectly have to understand the meaning of denotative and connotative. Quoting from an article written by Muhammad Jazuli regarding denotative meaning and connotative meaning, it is explained that: denotative meaning is an explicit natural meaning. This natural meaning is the meaning that is. Denotative is an objective meaning that a word contains. Often also denotative meaning is called conceptual meaning. The word eat, for example, means putting something into the mouth, chewing, and swallowing. The meaning of the word eat like this is a denotative meaning. Connotative meaning is associative meaning, meaning that arises as a result of social attitudes, personal attitudes, and additional criteria imposed on a conceptual meaning. Connotative meanings are more professional and operational than denotative meanings. Denotative meaning is a general meaning. In other words, connotative meaning is the meaning associated with a particular condition and situation. Connotative and denotative meanings are closely related to the needs of language use. The denotative meaning is the literal meaning of a word without any accompanying meaning, while the connotative meaning is the meaning of a word that has a mental link and a role that gives rise to certain values.

In other words, denotative meaning is a general meaning, while connotative meaning is more specific. kompas.com explains the meaning of these two terms, as follows:

- a. The characteristics of words or sentences that have denotative meaning are what they are. The meaning of the word corresponds to the results of observation, which shows directly the meaning of the basic reference.
- b. Connotative meanings vary from era to era and are not fixed. The word restroom refers to a small room (denotative), but in its development, restroom can mean WC or toilet (connotative).

b. Language Style

Aminuddin (2011), states that the word style is taken from the term style which comes from the Latin stylus and contains the lexical meaning "tool for writing". Aminuddin also explained that in literary works, the term style means the way an author conveys his ideas using language that is beautiful and harmonious and is able to convey meaning and can touch the

reader's emotions. In line with this understanding, Scharbach's opinion in Aminuddin (2011:72), mentions style as decoration, something that is holy and beautiful and graceful, and also as a depiction of humans themselves. Language style is an author's way of expressing his thoughts in scientific discourse by composing or creating literary works. Thus, style will provide differences even if two authors start from the same thought.

According to Pradopo (1995: 161), style in this case of course refers to the use or use of language in literary works. Before there was stylistics, the language of literary works already had a beautiful style. Pradopo (1995:162), says that every literary work is just a selection of several parts of a particular language. The relationship between language and literature is often dialectical. Literature often influences language, but literature cannot be isolated from social and intellectual influences. Language style and figure of speech are two things that cannot be separated. Figures of speech are often referred to as a synonym for language style, but actually figure of speech is included in language style.

According to Dale & Warriner (in Pradopo, 1985: 104), figure of speech is figurative language that is used to increase and multiply effects by comparing an object with other things or things that are more general. Figures of speech are a unique way of expressing writing, involving feelings and thoughts, with word choices in the form of paragraphs or rhetorical sentences. Figures of speech, in other words, are used to influence and convince readers or listeners through words. Etymologically, rhetor comes from the Greek word rhetor or orator. Rhetoric is an important part (of course this is not just the author's opinion). The ancient Greeks were famous for their works of art, both applied arts and literature. Based on the opinions above, style can be concluded in an order that is clear, straightforward and avoids elements of linguistic style that contain connotative meaning. In fact, authors in literary works use more word choices that contain dense, reflective, associative and connotative meanings. Apart from that, the sentence structure also shows variation and harmony, so that it can convey beauty and not just certain nuances. Therefore, the meaning of style in literature is also closely related to the meaning of style in the language itself.

c. Comparative Figures of Speech

Comparative figures of speech in English learning are also often used. Comparative figures of speech or figurative language have the same meaning as concepts in Indonesian language literature. Edited from Masterclass.com, Figurative language is phrasing that goes beyond the literal meaning of words to get a message or point across. This definition dates back to the mid-nineteenth century and comes from the Old French word "figurative," meaning "metaphorical." In line with several definitions of figures of speech in the previous discussion,

figurative language implies figurative meaning, not actual meaning. The types of comparative figures of speech in this research are personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, symbolic and allegory.

Research Findings

Table 1 presents data on comparative figures of speech findings on Adele's songs on the album 30. There were 22 comparative language styles found, where symbolic was the figure of speech that appeared most often, 8 times (36%).

Table 1. Comparative Figures of Speech findings data

No	figure of speech	Total	percentage
1.	Personification	2	9%
2.	Metaphor	1	4.5%
3.	Simile	4	18%
4.	Hyperbole	1	4.5%
5.	Symbolic	8	36%
6.	Allegory	6	28%
Total		22	100%

From table 1 it can be seen that the results of research on the types of comparative language styles are personification amounting to 2 or 14%, metaphor amounting to 1 or 4.5%, simile amounting to 4 or 18%, hyperbole amounted to 1 or 4.5%, symbolic amounted to 8 or 36%, and allegory amounted to 6 or 28%.

The formula for calculating the percentage of language styles contained in the lyrics of Adele's album 30 based on the diagram above can be explained as follows:

1. $\frac{\text{personification style}}{\text{jumlah data}} = \frac{2}{22} \times 100\% = 9\%$
2. $\frac{\text{metaphorical language}}{\text{jumlah data}} = \frac{1}{22} \times 100\% = 4,5\%$
3. $\frac{\text{simile style}}{\text{jumlah data}} = \frac{4}{22} \times 100\% = 18\%$
4. $\frac{\text{hyperbolic language}}{\text{jumlah data}} = \frac{1}{22} \times 100\% = 4.5\%$
5. $\frac{\text{symbolic style}}{\text{jumlah data}} = \frac{8}{22} \times 100\% = 36\%$
6. $\frac{\text{allegorical style}}{\text{jumlah data}} = \frac{6}{22} \times 100\% = 28\%$

Based on the diagram data that has been presented, it can be concluded that the symbolic language style is more dominant with a total of 8 data or 36%, followed by an allegorical language style with 6 data or 28%.

Table 2. Personification

No.	Song Title	Lyric	Comparative Figures of Speech
1.	Can I get it	I will be the melody, the rhythm and your rhyme	I will be the melody, the rhythm and your rhyme
2.	I drink wine	But you can't fight fire with fire	But you can't fight fire with fire

Table 3 Metaphorical Figures of Speech

No.	Song Title	Lyric	Comparative Figures of Speech
1.	Cry your heart out	My skin's paper thin, I can't stop wavering	My skin's paper thin, I can't stop wavering

Tabel 4. Majas Simile

No.	Song Title	Lyric	Comparative Figures of Speech
1.	My little love	I see your eyes widen like an ocean	I see your eyes widen like an ocean
2.	Cry your heart out	I feel like a ghost (ooh-ooh,ooh)	I feel like a ghost (ooh- ooh,ooh)
3.	Can I get it	Because my heart can pound like thunder (water)	Because my heart can pound like thunder (water)
4.	Hold on	I don't want to live in chaos Its like a ride that I want to get off	I don't want to live in chaos Its like a ride that I want to get off

Table 5. Hyperbolic figure of speech

No	Song Title	Lyric	Comparative Figures of Speech
1.	My little love	I love you a million percent	I love you a million percent

Table 6. Symbolic figure of speech

No.	Song Title	Lyric	Comparative Figures of Speech
1.	Easy on me	When I am drowning in this silence	When I am drowning in this silence
2.	Cry your heart out	Cry your heart out It'll clean your face	Cry your heart out It'll clean your face
3.	Cry your heart out	I created this storm	I created this storm
4.	Cry your heart out	Stop drowning in wait	Stop drowning in wait
5.	Oh my god	Wish that I would let you break my walls	Wish that I would let you break my walls
6.	Can I get it	If I can make it, if I can make your heart my home	If I can make it, if I can make your heart my home
7.	Hold on	Let time be patient	Let time be patient
8.	Love is a game	My heart speaks in puzzle and codes	My heart speaks in puzzle and codes

Table 7. Allegorical figure of speech

No.	Song Title	Lyric	Comparative Figures of Speech
1.	Cry your heart out	Im hanging by a thread	Im hanging by a thread
2.	Oh my god	Teetering on the edge of heaven and hell	Teetering on the edge of heaven and hell
3.	I drink wine	Every single thing could blow my mind	Every single thing could blow my mind
4.	Hold on	When Im stumbling in the dark for a hand	When Im stumbling in the dark for a hand
5.	To be loved	Painting walls with all my secret tears	Painting walls with all my secret tears
6.	To be loved	Feeling rooms with all my hopes and fears	Feeling rooms with all my hopes and fears

The following is an explanation of the table of comparative figures of speech findings in the previous sub-chapter.

I. Personification

a. "I will be the melody, the rhythm, and your rhyme"

Rhythm, melody and rhyme are components of song or musical art, so humans cannot create melody, rhythm or rhyme, but humans can play or create all three. The lyrics above use a personification language style which contains figurative meaning. These lyrics contain the meaning that I will fill your life like beautiful melodies, rhythms and rhymes in music.

b. "But you can't fight fire with fire"

Fire means fire that has hot properties, capable of burning various living and inanimate objects, and fight itself means opponent. We as humans certainly cannot fight fire. These lyrics also contain personification language style with figurative words. "But you can't fight fire with fire" itself means "but you can't fight fire with fire". What we know is that fire is hot, so we won't be able to fight something if it's still "hot". If you fight fire, the embers will get bigger or it can mean that the problem you are facing will become more complicated.

II. Metaphor

1. "My skin papper thin, I can't stop wavering"

The lyrics of this song mean "my skin is as thin as paper, I can't stop shaking". The song entitled cry your heart out tells the story of the singer's anxiety about himself.

III. Simile

1. I see your eyes widen like an ocean

The meaning of these lyrics is "I see your eyes as wide as the ocean". The eye is a human sense that functions to see, with a size of approximately 24.3 mm. The ocean is a vast sea and is a mass of salt water that continuously covers the surface of the earth which is bounded by continents or vast islands, with an area of around 361 million km². Thus, the sizes of the two objects are very different. The meaning of the lyrics above is just a metaphor for his eyes as if they were as wide as the ocean.

2. I feel like a ghost

The meaning of these lyrics is "I feel like a ghost". Ghosts are scary things, so the meaning of these lyrics is that the singer feels he is as scary as a ghost.

3. I don't want to live in chaos its like a ride that I want to get off

The meaning of the lyrics of the song above is "I don't want to live in chaos, it's like a ride I want to get off". This hold on song actually wants to tell about the determination to survive in heartbreaking circumstances.

4. *Because my heart can pound like thunder*

Thunder means thunder, thunder, or roar. The lyrics of the song can I get it mean "because my heart can beat like thunder". In these lyrics, the singer compares that his heart can beat like thunder. The song Can I Get It tells the story of the desire of someone who is in a real relationship with the person they love.

IV. Hyperbole

I love you a million percent

These lyrics use a hyperbolic language style, namely a language style that contains *exaggerated* expressions or statements but the meaning of the language is very strong. Love is a person's feeling of love or liking for another person. A million percent means one million percent, or a very large amount. The meaning of the lyrics of this song is "I love you one million percent", but the meaning itself is that I love or care for you completely.

V. Symbolic

1. *When I'am drowning in this silence*

Drowning means drowning, being immersed in water which will cause problems with the respiratory system due to the body being partially or completely submerged. Silence means stillness or stillness. The meaning of this lyric is "when I sink into silence", where this sentence only has a symbolic meaning.

2. *Cry your heart out it will clean your face*

Cry means crying. Crying is a natural human response to express emotions, including sadness, loss, frustration, and joy. The meaning of these lyrics is "weep your heart and it will cleanse your face". This sentence tells about someone's anxiety about themselves.

3. *I created this storm*

Storm means storm. Hurricanes are extreme weather conditions, ranging from hail and blizzards, to sand and dust storms. This fragment of the lyrics to the song Cry Your Heart Out means "I created this storm". This song tells the story of the singer's difficult times.

4. *Stop drowning in wait*

Drowning means sinking. The lyrics of this song mean stop drowning in waiting. In other words, during difficult times the singer conveyed his anxiety to end his long wait.

5. *Wish that I would let you break my walls*

Break means rest. A break is a short break from an activity. However, break here can be interpreted as damaging or destroying. Walls means wall. A wall is a solid structure that limits and sometimes protects an area. Generally, walls support other structures, limit a building or space within a building into rooms, or protect and limit a space in the open air.

The meaning of the lyrics above is "hope I will let you destroy my walls".

6. *If I can make it, if I can make your heart my home*

The heart is the heart, one of the important organs in the human body which functions to pump blood throughout the body. However, contextually, in Indonesian, heart also means heart, the part of our body that regulates emotions or feelings. Home is defined as a house or place to live. Home here is defined as the atmosphere of comfort that we feel when we are at home. The meaning of the lyrics of this song is that the singer wants to make his lover's heart as comfortable as home.

7. *Let time be patient*

Time means time. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, time or time is the entire series of moments when processes, actions or circumstances occur or take place. In this case, the time scale is the interval between two circumstances/events, or it can be the length of time an event lasts. Patient is a human attitude that means patience. Patience is the ability to control oneself which is also seen as an attitude that has high value and reflects the strength of the soul. Let time be patient means "let time be patient".

8. *My heart speaks in puzzle and code*

Heart means heart, while puzzle and code means puzzle and code or password. The lyrics in the song love is a game mean "my heart speaks in riddles and codes". Love is a game does not tell a divorce story, but is more of a love song. The lyrics of this song tell about the pain and frustration that the singer experienced to love, although the singer still added lyrics that emphasized that he would do it again in a different way than before. He will be more mature in entering into a new relationship.

VI. Allegory

1. *Im hanging by a thread*

The lyrics above mean "I'm hanging on by a thread". Hanging means hanging and thread means thread. The song Cry Your Heart Out is a summary of the singer's own story about his anxiety about himself.

2. *Teetering on the edge of heaven and hell*

This snippet of the lyrics to the song Oh My God means "Towering on the edge of Heaven and Hell". The song Oh My God tells about the suffering the singer experienced when she considered dating after her divorce from Simon Konecki in 2021. The song Oh My God also tells the story of the singer's first time leaving the house after anxiety and other things began to subside.

3. *Every single thing could blow my mind*

The lyrics above have the meaning "Everything can blow my mind". Through the song I Drink Wine, the singer asks thought-provoking questions about life. Why the singer is obsessed with things he can't control and why he has to seek approval from people he doesn't even know.

4. *When im stumbling in the dark for a hand*

Stumbling means stumbling, while dark means dark, which is a condition due to the absence of light or, in a color perspective, dark means a type of color that is not bright and tends towards black. Whatever the meaning, dark tends to have a negative meaning. The lyrics of the song hold on have the meaning "when I stumble in the dark to a hand." The singer was very tired of fighting with himself without a chance to win. This song is a piece of his guilt over the divorce that occurred, where the lyrics tell how it feels to survive in a sad situation and have to accept reality.

5. *Painting walls with all my secret tears*

Painting is an activity of drawing or painting, and secret tears means secret sadness. The lyrics of the song To Be Loved have the meaning "paint the walls with all my secret tears". The meaning of the lyrics of this song is a bit similar to the main single in the song Easy On Me which tells about the turmoil that arises when breaking off a relationship that can no longer be continued.

6. *Feeling rooms with all my hopes and fears*

Rooms means room, while hopes and fears means hopes and fears. The lyrics of this song mean "filling the room with all my hopes and fears". In the song To Be Loved, the singer tries to say that he cannot live in a lie all the time. He has to make a choice about his next life, even though the only choice is that he has to leave and hope for a better future.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the data found in the research presented in the previous chapter, the author can conclude that on Adele's album 30, there is a comparative language style which is used to strengthen the meaning of the songs that are written. Comparative language style itself is a sentence or expression that has a hidden meaning that is different from the actual meaning. The comparative figures of speech that the author found were personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, symbolic and allegory. On Adele's album 30 there are 22 comparative language styles. The comparative language style that appears most often in Adele's Album 30 songs is symbolic, while the language style that is least used is hyperbole and metaphor. There are 2 personifications, 1 metaphor, 4 similes, 8 symbolic and 6 allegories on Adele's album 30.

Symbolic is a category of comparative figures of speech which contains the comparison of one thing with another using symbols, objects, symbols, animals or figures. The symbols used are usually objects or things that are generally known to the public.

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