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## Analysis of Figurative Language in the Lyrics of the Song Anaheim by Niki Zefanya

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**Abstract.** This study aims to analyze and determine the types of figurative language in the lyrics of Anaheim by Niki Zefanya using a descriptive qualitative approach by presenting the object of analysis and explaining it. In this study, the author will analyze the types of figurative language used in the lyrics of Anaheim by Niki Zefanya and explain the meaning conveyed by the lyrics. The analysis results show that the use of figurative language in the song Anaheim is dominated by metaphors and hyperbole. The use of metaphors and hyperbole in this song conveys emotions, sadness, and feelings of guilt, which are successfully conveyed through the use of figurative language. Thus, figurative language enriches and beautifies language and provides creative expression for songwriters or other creators.

**Keywords:** Figurative Language, Song Lyrics, Anaheim, Niki Zefanya

### 1. BACKGROUND

Song is a musical work of art that has lyrics and serves as a medium for conveying messages through singing. Songs can be considered a medium of self-expression that can be seen through their meaning. According to (Abdullah & Rahmawati, 2018), songs are closely related to human life because humans use songs as a medium to express their emotions, both positive and negative. In a song, there are lyrics, which are a series of words, and these lyrics serve to convey the message the song intends to convey. Therefore, figurative language is often found in song lyrics to create a deeper impression. According to (Sandy, Natsir, & Asanti, 2021), figurative language cannot be interpreted literally, as this would result in a misinterpretation of the meaning. Figurative language must be interpreted by examining the relationship between words to produce the correct meaning.

Nicole Zefanya, also known as NIKI, is an Indonesian musician with many songs containing figurative language, one of which is her song titled “Anaheim.” Through the use of figurative language, NIKI successfully conveys deep emotions to her listeners. The use of figurative language in the song “Anaheim” makes it interesting to study further in terms of the meaning of the figurative language contained in the song.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the use of figurative language in the lyrics of NIKI's song "Anaheim," the types of figurative language used in the song, and to find the meaning in the figurative language, as well as the message that NIKI wants to convey.

## **2. THEORETICAL STUDY**

### **2.1 Definition of Figurative Language**

Figurative language is language that cannot be interpreted literally, because the meaning intended in figurative language is not the same as the literal meaning. Figurative language is not only intended to beautify language but also to provide a deeper understanding of meaning. According to (Dancygier & Sweetser, 2014), figurative language is often found or used in everyday life. According to (Layalia & Al Anshory, 2023), figurative language serves the function of helping writers convey messages using language that is both attention grabbing and easy to understand.

### **2.2 Types of Figurative Language**

Figurative language can be divided into several types. Each type is not only useful for embellishing sentences, but also for conveying meanings, feelings, and emotional nuances that are difficult to express literally.

#### **a) Metaphor**

According to (Sandy, Natsir, & Asanti, 2021), a metaphor is a form of language that makes a direct comparison without using connecting words like "like" and "as." According to (Abrams, 2009), a metaphor is an expression that has a different meaning from its original meaning without using a direct comparison.

#### **b) Simile**

Unlike metaphors, similes compare two different things using the connecting words "like" and "as." This type of figurative language is often used in everyday life when comparing one thing to another.

#### **c) Hyperbole**

Hyperbole is a type of figurative language that uses exaggerated statements to give a more vivid impression in a sentence. According to (Ramadhan, 2024), hyperbole is often used unconsciously when someone is speaking, as humans tend to exaggerate things to convey feelings, impressions, or intentions in a broader and more creative way.

**d) Personification**

According to (Sutrisno & Putri, 2017), personification is a subtype of metaphor because it conveys the implied meaning of the figurative language term. Personification is a type of figurative language that attributes human characteristics to inanimate objects. Its purpose is to make the sentence more vivid and easier for readers to understand.

**e) Onomatopoeia**

According to (Gunawan, 2025), onomatopoeia is a type of figurative language that can imitate the natural sounds of an object, such as the sound of water, so that readers can feel or hear it as if they were hearing it directly.

**f) Irony**

According to (Zahria & Wibowo, 2024), irony is an expression that has a satirical meaning. What is conveyed has a meaning that is contrary to the actual meaning.

**3. RESEARCH METHOD**

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method, as this method is appropriate for the objectives of the study. The objectives are to analyze the figurative language found in Niki's song "Anaheim," classify it based on type, and explain the meaning conveyed by the song.

The research object analyzed is the entire lyrics of the song "Anaheim" by Niki. The researcher will present sentences or phrases containing figurative language in the song, then determine the type of figurative language, and convey the meaning intended by the song in tabular form.

In the data collection process, this research will use the complete lyrics from official sources and music platforms such as Spotify. To support the analysis process in this research, several relevant literature studies will be used. Additionally, the analysis guidelines are based on figurative theory from experts, such as (Abrams, 2009). In the data collection process for this research, the complete lyrics from official sources and music platforms such as Spotify will be used. To support the analysis process in this research, several relevant literature studies will be used.

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a focus on analyzing figurative language in the lyrics of the song “Anaheim” by Niki Zefanya. The main data consists of song lyrics taken from official sources and supported by related literature to reinforce the interpretation of meaning. The analysis was conducted in depth to identify the types of figurative language as well as their functions and roles in the song lyrics.

Lyrics	Types of Figurative Language	Meaning
“If I could, I'd <b>freeze this moment</b> , make it my home.”	Metaphor	Expressing the desire to preserve happy moments because they feel as comfortable as home.
“In a perfect world, I'd <b>kill</b> to love you the loudest.”	Hyperbole	This lyric are not meant to be taken literally as killing, but rather express the sacrifice involved in loving someone.
“But all I do <b>is live to hurt you soundless.</b> ”	Hyperbole	The lyrics are exaggerated using hyperbole, a figure of speech that shows deep guilt for hurting someone.
“ <b>This city will surely burn</b> if we keep this as it is.”	Metaphor	The lyrics do not actually state that the city will burn down, but rather describe how their relationship will be destroyed or damaged if the problem is not resolved.
“But I'd give anything to <b>stop time.</b> ”	Metaphor	Showing the sacrifices made to stop or slow down time during moments of happiness.
“Here <b>you are, a hero.</b> ”	Metaphor	Showing praise for someone, but “hero” does not mean a hero who saves the world, but rather that the person is considered important.
“Cause <b>I am lost</b> , but not in you.”	Metaphor	It depicts loneliness, loss, and feelings of confusion, but not in a physical sense.

“And I can't live with myself 'cause I know <b>you'd die for me.</b> ”	Hyperbole	It means that the person is willing to sacrifice for love. It depicts loneliness, loss, and feelings of confusion, but not physically.
“ <b>Against your truth and lose sight of every divide</b> threatening to <b>undo this story.</b> ”	Metaphor	Describes problems that can occur in a relationship and damage it.

From the table above, it can be seen that metaphors and hyperbole are the most dominant types of figurative language in the lyrics of “Anaheim.” Metaphors are used to describe feelings and situations symbolically, such as in the lyrics “If I could, I'd freeze this moment, make it my home,” which conveys the desire to preserve a happy moment that feels as comfortable as home. Hyperbole, as in the lyric “In a perfect world, I'd kill to love you the loudest,” serves to express sacrifice and the intensity of love in an exaggerated manner, not literally.

The use of figurative language plays a crucial role in depicting emotional conflicts and the complex dynamics of relationships. For example, the lyric “But all I do is live to hurt you soundless” uses hyperbole to express deep guilt, while the metaphor in “This city will surely burn if we keep this as it is” depicts the potential destruction of the relationship if issues are not resolved. This demonstrates how figurative language reinforces themes of confusion, regret, and emotional expression in the song.

Additionally, metaphors like “Here you are, a hero” offer figurative praise, signifying the importance of someone who can save their relationship, not a literal hero. The lyric “Cause I am lost, but not in you” also uses metaphor to describe confusion and loneliness unrelated to the loved one, showcasing the depth of complex emotions.

The hyperbole in the lyrics “And I can't live with myself 'cause I know you'd die for me” emphasizes the willingness to sacrifice and the strong loyalty for love, reinforcing the intensity of the emotional connection depicted in the song. Meanwhile, the metaphor “Against your truth and lose sight of every divide threatening to undo this story” describes the potential issues that could damage the relationship, adding a dimension of conflict to the song's narrative.

These findings align with figurative language theory, which states that metaphors and hyperboles are effective in conveying deeper meanings and building emotional resonance. Understanding the function of figurative language can help songwriters and musicians create more expressive and emotional works, while also serving as an effective teaching tool in language and literature education through the medium of music.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion, it can be concluded that the figurative language used by Niki Zefanya in the lyrics of the song “Anaheim” is dominated by metaphors and hyperbole. The use of figurative language is not only useful for making the lyrics more creative and poetic, but also useful for conveying feelings, problems, and emotional conditions in a broader and deeper way.

Metaphors are used to convey figurative meanings, that is, to express the feelings and issues occurring in the relationship of the lyrical character without mentioning them directly. Meanwhile, hyperbole is used to exaggerate feelings in order to create a broader and more vivid emotional impact. Personification is also found in the lyrics, where a city is given human characteristics, allowing the issues at hand to be imagined in a more concrete and human way.

The use of figurative language is not merely a linguistic embellishment but also an important aspect that supports the meaning, nuance, and theme of the lyrics. Through figurative language, Niki Zefanya can convey feelings, issues, and hopes in a creative, poetic, and universal manner, enabling listeners to more easily feel and understand what is being conveyed.

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