



Figurative Language in Digital Frank Sinatra's Song Lyrics My Way

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Abstract

Interest in the meaning of song lyrics "My Way" by Frank Sinatra has made the writers do this research. This research aims to know how many types and what is the meaning of figurative language used by the song writer in this song lyrics. In this song lyrics the writers found four types of figurative language, they are: metaphor, repetition, hyperbole, and paradox. The writers took the song lyrics from genius.com/Frank-Sinatra-my-way-lyrics. The dominant types are metaphor and repetition. They are used to show and to say his/her feeling and the experienced too. The feelings and the experiences are the happy and the sad one. Actually, how to face this life it depends on the person. Finally, he/she the one who face what the life brings to his way.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Frank Sinatra, Frank Sinatra.*

Introduction

Literary work describes human characteristic and life (Taufik & B, 2017). According to Muzakki (2011), Literary work presented the actuality or reflection that logically in life (Ekaningsih, 2019). Literary works is form of media that portray of life or sometimes emotion which described words and sentences.

Human express their emotion or feeling in many ways. Those things usually can be found in communication or writing an idea. Write is also known as the attempt to the describe in human expression or experience. One of the ways to express the emotion by writing media is literature. Literature is a represent of imagination fact to express human feelings. Literature is referred to entirety of written expression and it also has artistic values in it (Klarer, 2004: 01). Literature helps us grow, both the personally and intellectually, it means that an objective based for the knowledge and understanding.

According to Krappe (1930), songs that we heard in society is a poem with melody.

Songs existence is very popular in society. Songs is very favoured by every class of people and it has been live with people long time ago, so it cannot be separated. The lyric of song is an example of someone about something that has been seen, heard, or experience. In way to express his/her experience, the poet or artist of the song do play on words and language to create attraction and distinctiveness of the lyrics or poems.

Song is a work of art that shows voice performance through singing with music instrument accompaniment. According to Hornby (1995: 1133) as cited in Triayulin (2012), song is a piece of music with words that is sung. On other thought, a song is a composition made up of lyrics and music, with the intent of the lyrics being sung, for the purpose of producing a proportionate feeling or emotion in relation to a particular matter (Guerra, 2020).

In this study, the writer focus will analysis the figurative language in selected songs from popular Indonesian band. In the writing poem, figure of speech role is to beauty and clarity to the writing. Figurative language is language that uses to express an expression that has different meaning from the literal interpretation. Figurative language refers to language that communicates ideas beyond the literal meaning of word. Figurative language is tools that used to have a communication with other people so that, it can be understood well. The general types of figurative language are five, they are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, and idiom. So, poem or lyric use figurative language in the conveying experience, ideas, expression or emotion the writer or artist, to create the figurative in minds of the listeners as well.

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Figurative language is language that communicate the idea beyond the literal meaning itself (McKenzie, 2016 as cited in Nuraeni & Peron, 2017). According to Dancygier and Swetser (2015), figurative language is a kind of aspect that gives a poetic text has aesthetic value. Figurative language could be a path of an idea or emotion to be expressed with using language and it's related to create the meaning behind a sentence (Keraf, 2007 as cited in Minda, 2021). Figurative language is talking about how the writer build the audience's imagination through the hidden meaning that covered in the language. The audience are required to think and understand in order to uncovered the hidden meaning in it.

Figurative languages that involves in this research are only 4 types of them, the writers using the definition from Mac Arthur (1992) as cited Minhatul Maula, (2013)) and Keraf (2009, as cited in Nurhaida & Leni Marlina, 2017) :

1. Hyperbole: Type of figurative languages that giving overemphasis figure of speech in order to describe the feeling to the listeners. Hyperbole is how to describe something exaggerated from reality.
e.g.: "The sun is hot as hell" (it means the sin rays is burning the skin than usual)
2. Metaphor: Figure of speech that comparing two objects into an analogy between them. Metaphor is the way to see two things differently but easy to understand (Keraf, 2009).

e.g.: "You are my sunshine" (it means this person means so important like the sunshine in our life)

3. Paradox: Figurative language that has a conflicted situation of two things but it does have an explicit meaning in real life. Paradox is how to say something in different way, means that something has a contradiction meaning with the words itself (Keraf, 2009).

e.g.: The end of beginning (He already knew he will fail, before it started)

4. Repetition: Kind of figure that repeating the word, phrase, or maybe sentences in order to create an emphasis of the idea or feeling. Repetition is how to say the words again and again to emphasize the meaning so the readers can grab the meaning of the words (Keraf, 2009)

e.g.: "I'll have a blue, blue, blue Christmas" (the word blue is a symbol of sadness, and the writer want to emphasize, that he will not be having a nice Christmas

There are several studies that have been done previously by some writers that relevant to this study.

A study was written by Erin Diniati and Fitrawati (2017) entitled "*Comparison of Figurative Language between Pop-Punk Songs Lyric by "Paramore and Blink 182"*". The writers analysed songs by Paramore entitled *Monster, Ain't it fun, and Decode*. The songs that use by the writers from Blink 182 are *I miss you, When I was young, and Boxing day*. Th results of this study shows that: First, the writers found out thirteen figurative languages from Paramore songs lyric. They are: Metaphor with total (10), Simile with total (1), Personification with total (1), and Hyperbole with total (1). Meanwhile, the types of figurative language that found in Blink 182 songs lyric are eighteen types. They are: Metaphor with total (13), Simile with total (3), Personification with total (2).

Ibrahim, Muhaiminah Akib, Ruslan Hasyim (2019) entitled "*The Analysis of Figurative Language in "Endless Love" Song Lyric*".

The result of the study shows that: The figurative languages were found on each stanza of the song lyric. There are: repetition with percentage 36%, hyperbole with percentage 32%, metaphor with percentage 12%, pleonasm with percentage 8%, personification with percentage 4%, dispersonification 4%, and onomatopoeia 4%. Also, the figurative language that dominated in this song lyric is repetition.

Method

This research will be conducted with descriptive qualitative method. The data are in form of lyric text and contain a lot of language figure that used in *Peradaban* song by .feast. According to Nassaji (2015), descriptive method purpose is to draw an occurrence and its characteristics. In this research, descriptive qualitative will be a tool to define the meaning behind the figurative languages that appeared in the song. The writer will be using the types of figure of speech from Merriam-Webster's encyclopedia of literature (1995 as cited Astriani & Bhuana, (2021)) to identify and classified the type of figurative language.

Results

The data of this finding is "My Way" lyric text by Frank Sinatra in *Genius.com*. The classification of figurative language in the finding is presented in table below:

Lyric	Stanza	Figurative Language

"So I face the final curtain"	2 (Verse 1)	Metaphor
"I will state my case, of which I'm certain"	4 (Verse 1)	Metaphor
"And more, much more than this"	7 (Verse 1) & 7 (Verse 2)	Repetition & Hyperbole
"I did it my way"	8 (Verse 1), 8 (Verse 2) & 8 (Verse 3)	Repetition
"And did it my way"	6 (Chorus 1) & 6 (Chorus 2)	Repetition
"Each and every highway"	6 (Verse 1)	Repetition
"When I bit off more than I could chew"	2 (Chorus 1)	Paradox
"I ate it up and spit it up"	4 (Chorus 1)	Paradox
"I took blows"	5 (Chorus 2)	Paradox

Discussion

1. Metaphor

The lyric:

"So, I face the final curtain"

This sentence is located in stanza 2, verse 1. This sentence means the end of his journey, the writer has been going in a journey for a long time and it's time for him to stop from his journey.

"I will state my case, of which I'm certain"

The sentence is located in stanza 6, verse 1. This sentence means the writer ensure the listener that he has done with his journey and will start his day off from his journey

2. Hyperbole

The lyric:

"And more, much more than this"

These sentences are located in stanza, in verse 1 & 2. These sentences want to emphasize that the journey he has been going through is made by his way.

3. Repetition

The lyric:

"I did it my way" and "And did it my way"

These sentences are located in stanza 6 chorus 1 & 2. This sentence is repeated in some stanza in different verse, because the sentence is the affirmation of the whole song. The writer wants to tell the listener his succession was done by his struggle and he proud for it.

"Each and every highway"

This sentence is located in stanza 6 verse 1. This sentence means to tell listeners that he has experience many things and everywhere he has travelled.

4. Paradox

Lyric:

"When I bit off more than I could chew"

This sentence means the time in his journey become success, it describes the time when he took a lot of risky chance that he could take, he seizes the moment even he knew his limit.

"I ate it up and spit it out"

This sentence refers the time when he was struggling, he took a lot of lesson and spit out the bad things in order to achieve his success.

"I took blows"

This sentence means the record of the writer's music become greatest hit in world of music. It becomes the trophy of his success career

Conclusion

In this research the writers analyzed the figurative language used in “My Way” song lyrics by Frank Sinatra. The writers found four types of figurative language; they are metaphor, repetition, hyperbole, and paradox. Metaphor and repetition are the dominant form used. Both forms are used to describe a person’s life journey and all the stories he/she has gone through. It’s both a happy story and a sad one. But in the end, it all comes down to oneself as a person who lives it his/her own way.

Suggestion

In this research the writers only focus on one song lyrics, for the further research is expected to analyze more than one song lyrics. It will make the data collected more varied and enrich knowledge of the results of the analysis along with pre-existing theories.

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