

Journal on Language Teaching and Learning, **Linguistics and Literature**



Copyright © 2025 The Author

Issued by English study program of IAIN Palopo

IDEAS is licensed under CC-BY-SA 4.0 License

ISSN 2338-4778 (Print) ISSN 2548-4192 (Online)

Volume 13, Number 2, December 2025 pp. 6907 - 6914

An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Sing 2 Movie

Ersyaluna Salsabila Irawan 1, Nasrullah Nasrullah 2, Elsa Rosalina³ 1,2,3 Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, FKIP Universitas Lambung Mangkurat Corresponding E-Mail: neraklemensia@student.untan.ac.id

Received: 2024-05-21 Accepted: 2025-11-30

DOI: 10.24256/ideas.v13i2.5080

Abstract

This study aims to describe the figurative language found in the Sing 2 Movie, find the meaning of each utterance, and the relationship between figurative language used in Sing 2 movie and EFL students. This type of research is descriptive qualitative research. The subject of this research is the Sing 2 movie and the figurative language are the objects. The findings of this research show that there are nine types of figurative language found in the Sing 2 Movie. They are personification, hyperbole, simile, metaphor, synecdoche, metonymy, paradox, litotes, and irony. The personification appears 6 times. The hyperbole appears 28 times. The simile appears 6 times. The metaphor appears 18 times. The synecdoche appears 2 times. The metonymy appears 1 time. The paradox appears 2 times. The litotes appears 2 times. The irony appears 3 times. The meaning of each utterance has been interpreted based on the conditions when the utterance is mentioned. This research also has benefits in fulfilling the curriculum found in schools in Indonesia. All the data were determined by the context of the situation in the movie.

Keywords: Analysis, Figurative Language, Movie

Introduction

Language plays an important role in the communication process. Language is used to create a common understanding between one individual and another. To understand what the speaker means, the listener should interpret what the speaker's utterance is. In the linguistic aspects, there are two important parts of the study that talk about meaning. Those are semantic and pragmatic. This study will focus on pragmatic. Pragmatics is the study of 'hidden' meaning, or how people understand meaning even when it is not communicated explicitly. For that to happen, speakers (or writers) must be able to rely on many shared assumptions and expectations when they try to communicate (Yule, 2020). Pragmatics is about how we communicate and understand each other. Clark (2021) explained that

pragmatics is central to understanding the language and communication, which thoughts from pragmatics are important and valuable in a wide range of contexts, including daily interactions and many types of professional and mediated communication. Based on the statements above, pragmatic has an important part to study, that is figurative language. Figurative language is one part of pragmatics. Figurative language is a language or expression that is used verbally to describe and find out one intention, idea, or message from one speaker. Forgács (2022) argues that figurative language is an important part of communication pragmatics, and has been recognized for its ability to influence communication.

But in daily life, students rarely speak using figurative language. This is one of the causes of students experiencing difficulties when learning figurative language. Besides, the use of figurative language is useful for the students to create literature works, such as books, novels, poetry, song lyrics, rhymes, and a movie. Figurative language will make the work more beautiful and attractive. However, due to the students' limited knowledge about figurative language, students rarely use it. To overcome this problem, students need to be given special learning about figurative language. Figurative language can be found in many types of literature. One of the media used to find figurative language is a movie.

A movie is a moving animation that displays images/videos that aim to tell a story, perceptions, and feelings to the audience through a screen or television. Jogezai (2020) stated that movie is a series of moving pictures and stories with audio projected onto a cinema screen. This method can be used to attract the attention of eight grade junior high school students, so the students are interested in learning figurative language. In this case, teachers also need to know the content of a movie before giving it to students. Of course, in obtaining the figurative language, students need to be facilitated with examples of sentences that the students can see to make it easier for the students to learn about figurative language. One of the best media to learn figurative language is by watching Sing 2 movie.

Sing 2 is a musical animated comedy movie produced by Illuminations on January 7, 2022. According to IMDb website, this American movie is a continuation of the Sing movie released in 2016. Mukti et al. (2022) stated that this movie has several figurative languages that can be analyzed. The language used in this movie is also easy to understand and make the audience used critical thinking. This movie can provide fun learning material to learn about literature. The study of figurative language in literary works has been analyzed in several previous studies. The first research was conducted by Putra et al. (2016), with the title The Figurative Language In "Twilight" Movie Script. This study describes the figurative languages that are delivered in the Twilight Movie. The researchers found there are eight types of figurative language found, namely simile, personification, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, paradox, dead metaphor, and allusion.

Based on previous research, other researchers mostly only focus on finding the types and meanings of figurative language in the movie. In fact, the explanations about the involvement between the research and the education field is not explained clearly. This research focused on finding the types and meanings in the movie and discussing its relation to the educational environment, especially for EFL learners at FKIP, Universitas Tanjungpura, Pontianak to improve the quality of EFL students' literary works. This research also can be used as teaching material to help the lecturers teach figurative language to EFL students.

Method

In this research, the researchers used descriptive qualitative research. This research has described, discussed, and analyzed the research problem. Qualitative research itself aims to answer questions related to developing an understanding of the meaning and dimensions of the experience of human life and the social world. A qualitative research method is research that related to the scientific method used to create an understanding of human experience and action, including social progress (Mackey & Gass, 2022).

Sources of data in this study in the form of movie transcripts and the movie itself. The data was processed in the form of dialogues and phrases. The transcript was useful for researchers to know exactly what words or sentences are spoken in the movie. The writer used content analysis to find out figurative language that appears in the movie script. Content analysis was a technique to collect data from documents. The researchers followed the following steps:

- 1. Searching for various information related to figurative language
- 2. Reading and making a note about all types of figurative language with examples
- 3. Downloading the movie and the transcript
- 4. Watching the Sing 2 movie
- 5. Understanding the content of the movie, especially about figurative language
- 6. Making notes about the types of figurative language and its meaning that appear in the movie
- 7. Writing the data.

The data has been collected using a document. The document in this research was in the form of a transcript of the movie. The transcript was the tool for the researchers to analyze the movie deeply.

Table 1: Data collection table

No	Utterance	Time/Scene	Type of figurative language	Indicator	Meaning

Table 2: The table of Figurative Language Indicator

Num	Figurative	Indicator
Nulli	Language	mulcator
1	Personification	Personification is one type of figurative language technique in which an object or idea is given human characteristics or qualities. Melion and Ramakers (2016) stated that personification is a rhetorical figure of speech in which something that is not human is given a human identity or 'face'. Example: My new house is a real beauty
2	Hyperbole	Hyperbole is a type of figurative language that includes exaggerated statements of quality, size, and personality by emphasizing the senses and enhancing the impression and the effect exceeds the original. hyperbole is a figure of speech that exaggerates and emphasizes arguments rather than facts (Burgers et al., 2016). Example: Her skin is whiter than cotton.
3	Simile	The simile is an expression where something is compared to something else using a function word, such as like or as. According to Hussain (2014), simile means "to resemble and likeness" which means to compare two objects that have similarities. Example: She is like a cat.
4	Metaphor	A metaphor is a form of speech that compares without a term (like, as, then) and implies that one thing is another. Padillah et al. (2016) explained that metaphor is one type of figurative language as a comparison between things that are not conveyed clearly. Example: Time is money
5	Synecdoche	Synecdoche is a type of figure of speech that gives the part represents the whole. While Dancygier and Sweetser (2014) stated that synecdoche refers to all part-to-whole and whole-to-part relations. Example: They need more hand
6	Metonymy	Metonymy buys the name of something that

		resembles or alludes to it. The writer uses
		metonymy to emphasize important details, so it can
		imply something that has a literal meaning.
		According to Dancygier and Sweetser (2014),
		metonymy is about relationships of correlation.
		Example: The pen is mightier than the sword
		The paradox is defined as containing seemingly
		contradictory properties and phrases. According to
7	Paradox	Zaimar (2002), a paradox is an opinion or
		argument that is contrary to public opinion.
		Example: You can save money by spending it.
	Litotes	Litotes is a figure of speech that uses disparaging
		statements by using double negatives or, in other
		words, positive statements are expressed by
		negating the opposite expression. Zaimar (2002)
8		said that litotes is used to express thoughts that
		weaken the value of the speaker, so to display the
		idea of something strong or great with expressions
		that have weak values, with the aim of being polite.
		Example: That dress is not too bad.
		Irony in figurative language refers to the use of
	Irony	words or expressions to convey a meaning that is
		opposite to their literal interpretation or to create
		a situation where there is a stark contrast between
		appearance and reality. Dancygier and Sweetser
_		(2014) stated that irony does not reside in the fact
9		that a person is saying something blatantly not
		true, but in the perception of the nature of the
		contrast between the actual utterance and the
		intended meaning.
		Example: I love it when I drop my phone, how
		wonderful.
		wonderful.

The writer examined the data through the following process:

- 1. Watching the movie
- 2. Analyzing the dialogues in the movie
- 3. Making notes about the types of figurative languages found and their sentences
- 4. Classifying the sentences based on their types
- 5. Explaining the data
- 6. Making the conclusion

Results

Based on research that has been conducted, there are 9 types of figurative language used in Sing 2 movie. They are personification, hyperbole, simile, metaphors, synecdoche, metonymy, paradox, litotes, and irony. The researchers found 68 utterances of figurative language in Sing 2 movie. The personification appears 6 times. The hyperbole appears 28 times. The simile appears 6 times. The metaphor appears 18 times. The synecdoche appears 2 times. The metonymy appears 1 time. The paradox appears 2 times. The litotes appears 2 times. The irony appears 3 times. Based on the data that have been conducted, this research shows that every utterance has a different meaning.

The meaning of each utterance has been interpreted based on the types of figurative languages and the conditions when the utterance is mentioned. The meaning is also interpreted based on the sentences before and after the utterance to understand the situation and condition in the scene. This research also has benefits in fulfilling the curriculum found in schools in Indonesia. Figurative language has a relationship with the current curriculum because the curriculum contains a variety of materials about the types of texts that contain figurative language that researchers research.

For example, for middle and high school students who are learning narrative text and descriptive text. The students can use figurative language to add an expressive dimension and depth to the story in narrative texts and provide emotional nuances and richer images in narratives. Figurative language can also enrich and clarify the description of an object, place or situation. It can help the reader or listener to better understand and feel what is described in the descriptive text.

This movie provides many benefits for the education world, especially in literature. Many songs in this movie make this movie have many figurative languages that can be learned by EFL students. EFL students can use this film to broaden their knowledge of figurative language interestingly. By learning figurative language through movies, understanding idioms will be more effective because, with movies, EFL students can directly find sentences that contain figurative language. As has been emphasized by Asri and Rochmawati (2017) that English idioms are part of the language arts component that must be mastered by EFL students.

In the English language education study program, EFL students are given courses on literary work that discuss figurative language. This course aims to provide knowledge to EFL students about figurative language so that EFL students can use this knowledge to develop literary works such as poetry, song lyrics, rhymes, stories, etcetera.

Discussion

From the research on the analysis of figurative language in Sing 2 Movie, several main points were found based on the two questions in this study. The first

was the types of figurative language used in Sing 2 movie, the second was the meaning of each figurative language sentence used in Sing 2 movie, and the third was the relationship between figurative language used in Sing 2 movie and EFL students. The Sing 2 movie contains many figurative languages. This movie was a good medium for learning idioms and improving the quality of literary works. This research proves that Sing 2 movie is suitable for learning literature.

This is because figurative language is one of the elements that make up literary works. Figurative language is able to improve the quality and deepen the meaning implied in literary works. This can be utilized by EFL students to develop their works. As explained by Giora and Filik (2018) that figurative language is an art that gives beauty and emphasis to literary work.

Conclusion

Based on the discussion from The Analysis of Figurative Language in Sing 2 Movie, the researchers found several types of figurative language contained in this movie. The figurative language found are personification, hyperbole, simile, metaphor, synecdoche, metonymy, paradox, litotes, and irony. The meaning of each utterance has been explained at the bottom of each utterance point. This research has a close relationship with the world of education as explained in the third point in the findings and discussion section. In conclusion, the information above indicates that the Sing 2 movie has a beneficial effect. The amount of figurative language contained can help students and teachers in the teaching and learning process about figurative language. In the end, the figure of speech that has been learned can be used to beautify one's literary work and make its quality increase.

References

- Asri, A. N., & Rochmawati, D. (2017). Innovative teaching of English idiomatic expressions for EFL learners. *Journal of English Teaching Adi Buana*, *02*(01), 47–58. https://doi.org/10.36456/jet.v2.n01.2017.714
- Burgers, C., Konijn, E. A., & Steen, G. J. (2016). Figurative framing: Shaping public discourse through metaphor, hyperbole, and irony. *Communication Theory*, 26(4), 410–430. https://doi.org/10.1111/comt.12096
- Clark, B. (2021). Pragmatics: The basics. In *Pragmatics: The Basics*. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003197263
- Dancygier, B., & Sweetser, E. (2014). Figurative language. *Cambridge Textbook in Linguistics*. www.cambridge.org
- Forgács, B. (2022). The pragmatic functions of metaphorical language. In *Language, Cognition, and Mind* (Vol. 11). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-66175-5_4
- Giora, R., & Filik, R. (2018). Introduction: Defaultness, affect, and figurative language. *Metaphor and Symbol, 33*(3). https://doi.org/10.1080/10926488.2018.1481260
- Hussain, R. (2014). Metaphors and similes in literature. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention ISSN (Online, 3*(9), 2319–7722.

www.ijhssi.org

- Jogezai, F. (2020). Film theory and its application. *International Islamic University, Islamabad, November*. https://doi.org/10.7312/colm16973
- Mackey, A., & Gass, S. M. (2022). Second language research methodology and design third edition (Third ed). Routledge. https://doi.org/DOI: 10.4324/9781003188414
- Masruddin, M., Amir, F., Langaji, A., & Rusdiansyah, R. (2023). Conceptualizing linguistic politeness in light of age. International Journal of Society, Culture & Language, 11(3), 41-55.
- Masruddin, M., & Nasriandi, N. (2022). Lexical and Syntactical Errors Performed by Junior High School Student in Writing Descriptive Text. IDEAS: Journal on English Language Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature, 10(1), 1094-1100. doi:https://doi.org/10.24256/ideas.v10i1.3024
- Melion, W. S., & Ramakers, B. (2016). Personification: An introduction. In *Personification*. https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004310438_002
- Mukti, B. R., Novan, D., & Nugraha, S. (2022). Figurative language analysis in "Sing 2" movie by Garth Jennings: A semantics study. *Ethical Lingua*, 9(2), 2022. https://doi.org/10.30605/25409190.485
- Padillah, E. N., Firmawan, H., & Purwaningsih, E. (2016). Simile, Hyperbole, Personification and Metaphor used in Gayle Forman's If I Stay. *Jurnal Ilmiah Sastra*, 4(1).
- Putra, G. A. B. S., Sudana, G. P., & Maharani, S. A. I. (2016). The figurative language in "Twilight" movie script. *Jurnal Humanis*, 16(3), 100–108. https://ojs.unud.ac.id/index.php/sastra/article/view/33786
- Violita, V., & Cholsy, H. (2022). Speech Acts Equivalence of Audiovisual Translation on Enola Holmes Netflix Movie Subtitle. IDEAS: Journal on English Language Teaching and Learning, Linguistics and Literature, 10(1), 209-225. doi:https://doi.org/10.24256/ideas.v10i1.2589
- Yule, G. (2020). *The Study of Language 7th edition* (7th ed). Cambridge University Press.
- Zaimar, O. K. S. (2002). Majas dan pembentukannya. *Makara, Sosial Humaniora*, 6(2), 45–57.