

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SONG LYRICS BY RIHANNA AND KATY PERRY

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ABSTRACT

Song is expression of the composer poured into the word or lyric and accompanied by music arrangement. The combination between lyric and music are important to get good responses from the listener. The aims of this study are to identify and to analyse the figurative language and significance concept in four song lyrics of Rihanna and Katy Perry. The songs are Roar (2013), E.T. (2010) by Katy Perry and Diamond (2012), Only Girl (In The World) (2011) by Rihanna. This is a qualitative research by the use of documentation method, such as record and taking a note in each song lyrics. Knickerbocker and Reningger theory (1963) is used to identify the data in this study. This study shows that six types of figurative language were found, namely hyperbole, simile and metaphor in Rihanna song lyrics and hyperbole, simile, paradox, metaphor, personification and irony in Katy Perry song. The use of figurative language as standard significance has an important rule to express feeling of the composer and singer even listener.

Keywords: figurative language, significance, song lyrics

ABSTRAK

Lagu adalah ekspresi komposer yang dituangkan ke dalam kata atau lirik dan disertai pengaturan musik. Kombinasi antara lirik dan musik penting untuk mendapat tanggapan baik dari pendengar. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi dan menganalisis konsep figuratif dan konsep signifikansi dalam lirik four song dari lagu Rihanna dan Katy Perry. Lagu Roar (2013), E.T. (2010) oleh Katy Perry dan Diamond (2012), Only Girl (In The World) (2011) oleh Rihanna. Ini adalah penelitian kualitatif dengan menggunakan metode dokumentasi, seperti merekam dan mencatat dalam setiap lirik lagu. Teori Knickerbocker dan Reningger (1963) digunakan untuk mengidentifikasi data dalam penelitian ini. Studi ini menunjukkan bahwa enam jenis bahasa kiasan ditemukan, yaitu hiperbola, simile dan metafora dalam lirik lagu Rihanna dan hiperbola, simile, paradoks, metafora, personifikasi dan ironi dalam lagu Katy Perry. Penggunaan bahasa kiasan sebagai standar penting memiliki aturan penting untuk mengungkapkan perasaan komposer dan penyanyi bahkan pendengar.

Kata kunci: bahasa kiasan, signifikansi, lirik lagu

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

Song is expression of the composer which poured into the word or lyrics and accompanied by music arrangement. Song will look great if combination of music and the words is beautiful to hear by the listener.

Nowadays, song could be used by the listener for their purpose. Beside for the relaxation, it could use for deliver a message of their feeling. Sometimes the listener will use a song which represents their feeling to deliver message to others. They will choose a song which has right lyrics as their feeling.

So, the composers have to pay attention with the words that they use. However, create a song lyrics is not easy because a composer has to combine imagination with the language and they should think more about the language which unique, interesting, beautiful even though the language look ambiguous. The language which can build the imagination of the listener, usually called figurative language.

Figurative language is language which use words with different meaning from the real meaning till can produce poetic and aesthetic moment or imaginative which is fun and enjoyable. Figurative language is seen more effective to transfer the meaning of the writer because, the first, figurative language affords readers imaginative pleasure of literary works; the second, it is a way of bringing additional imagery into verse, making the abstract concrete, making literary works more sensuous; the third, figurative is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and conveying attitudes along with information and the last, it is a way of saying much in brief compass (Perrine 1995:83 in Kristian, 2014). Therefore, figurative language has important role in creating aesthetic effect in the song. In general, figurative language can be divided into several types namely simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, etc and on each type has a specific characteristic for analyze the meaning in the song lyric.

Based on the explanation, the writer would like to analysis figurative language found in the song lyric. Figurative language in a song lyric is interesting to be discussed because it is better understand the meaning of lyrics in a song than just singing. The data were taken from two singers; they are Rihanna and Katy Perry. The writer choose the song from them because they are famous singers in the world who has released a lot of single songs even album. The writer thinks that many people

are confused with the meaning of their song lyrics because figurative expression is also presented in each song. Besides figurative language, the writer also analysis the significance concept expressed in their song lyrics.

1.2 Problems of study

What are types of the figurative language and significance concept expressed in Rihanna's and Katy Perry's song?

1.3 Aims of Study

To give the information for the listener and to find out the types of figurative language and the significance concept in Rihanna's and Katy Perry's song.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

The main theory used in this study is the theory of figurative language proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963). Based on theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367-368) figurative language can be divided into 10 types, namely: simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, paradox, dead metaphor and allusion.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The method of this study uses qualitative method. This study describes the data found and then analyze them. The research method in this study consists of data source; method and technique of collecting data (how to collect the data); method and technique of analyzing the data (how to analyze the data).

2.1 Data Source

The data were taken from each song by Rihanna and Katy Perry. Those song are Roar (2013), E.T. (2010) by Katy Perry and Diamond (2012), Only Girl (In The World) (2010) by Rihanna.

2.2 Method and Technique of Collecting Data

The Techniques of collecting data has done by record on each lyrics of Rihanna and Katy Perry song. After that, the writer take a note on each lyrics which is related to the figurative language. Finally, the researcher find out the significance concept contained in the song.

2.3 Method and technique of Analyzing Data

The data analyzed based on the Knickerbocker and Reningger theory (1963) who classified figurative language into nine types. The writer clasified the data found into each types based on that theory. After it is done, the writer reads carefully again and start to analyze the understanding on each lyrics. Finally, the writer identified the keyword to find out the significance which has given in each song lyric of Rihanna and Katy Perry.

III. RESEARCH FINDING AND ANALYSIS

3.1 The Types of Figurative Found in the Song Lyrics by Rihanna and Katy Perry.

The types of figurative language found in the song lyrics by Rihanna and Katy Perry as below:

No.	Data Source	Figurative found
1.	Diamonds by Rihanna	Hyperbole, Metaphor and Simile
2.	Only Girl (In the World) by Rihanna	Hyperbole and Simile
3.	Roar by Katy Perry	Hyperbole, Metaphor, Paradoxs, Personification and Simile
4.	E.T. by Katy Perry	Irony, Hyperbole, Metaphor and Simile

3.2 Discussion

Based on the table, there are three types of figurative language in Rihanna's song are presented, namely:

1. Hyperbole in Diamonds → You're shooting star I see (7)

This lyric shows simile by the use of word like to compare the love that she wants like a hot pie. Pie which is still hot would be delicious to eat it, the same as love that singer wants to say, it should make someone feeling happy. The song tells that the singer wants the love like hot pie which is delicious so the love that she wants, it has to beautiful and nice

2. Metaphor in Diamonds → A vision of ecstasy (8)

It shows metaphor because the word vision is compared as ecstasy. As we know ecstasy is one kind of drugs which gives an effect like fly to the users. Therefore, ecstasy is the same as vision which could give someone fly and free as they have a vision in their life.

3. Simile in Only Girl in the World → I want you to love me like I'm hot pie (5)

The lyric shows hyperbole in the words shooting star. In general, of course we cannot see someone shooting a star. Star is too big to shot by someone. Star in the sky is beautiful object which can be seen on the night. Star is also signs of the good fortune. So, the song tells about a girl sees her boyfriend has good fortune.

On the other hand, Katy Perry song has six types of figurative language that found, namely:

1. Hyperbole in Roar → I got the eye of the tiger, (14)

It can be seen there is exaggerated lyric used. It is impossible for human could get the eye of the tiger. When we want to approach the tiger, probably our eyes are taken by it. However, I got the eye of the tiger it could be meant that someone has fighter eyes (feel brave and confidence) who is strong enough to fightback that she has been through. The song tells that the girl could be very brave as a tiger if she gets her confidence in herself.

2. Paradox in Roar → I went from zero to my own hero (9)

This lyrics shows the use of paradox in the words zero and hero. The words zero and hero is declared a comparison which is contrast but link to each other. The word zero means empty, nothing or no one; however, hero is a person who has nobility, strength and exceptional courage. The song tells about a girl who was being nothing in the past and afraid to face the problem and turned to be a girl who has strength and courage to overcome all the pain that she has been through.

3. Personification in Roar → Like thunder gonna shake the ground (10)

It shows personification form in word thunder which shake the ground. There is characteristic of human that shake as human ability instead given to an object thunder. It means that thunder is strong object which could represent a strong girl, nevertheless, shake the ground represent a girl could face a problem. So, the song wants to show that a girl is strong like thunder which shakes the ground could not afraid to face her problem.

4. Metaphor in E.T. → You're so hypnotizing (1)

The lyric hypnotizing is seen as metaphor because that word compares, a boy which can hypnotize a girl. The literal meaning of the hypnotizing is a psychology studies which can influence the suggestion on human mind. So, the girl considers that boy can make her feel affected.

5. Irony in E.T. → Boy, you're so alien (22)

It shows the use of irony because a girl says that is an alien, in other word, alien is identical with thing which comes from the other world or planet. So, it could be concluded that song tells about a man who meets with her is very different from others.

6. Simile in E.T. → Feels like I'm floating (5)

The word like show simile and that word compare the girl feeling which is floating. Float is feeling like fly, flowery and happy. So, the song tells that a girl feels happy when she is close with a boy. She also feels like can forget anything.

3.3 Significance concept in Rihanna's and Katy Perry's Song Lyrics.

The significance concept of Rihanna's and Katy Perry's Song Lyrics are presented as follow:

a. Diamonds → the significance also shows in the title of the song, Diamonds. On this song Diamonds is symbolize of her boyfriend and the significance is try to control ourself, so we can get good fortune as sparkle of diamonds.

b. Only Girl (in the World) → Only Girl (in the world) is a song about a girl who said that she can be the only girl in the world. The significance in this song, try to be the best to your love, so that he will think that you are important to him.

c. Roar → Roar tells about the anger of a girl to her boyfriend. The significance in this song is, do not try the patience of people because every people has limit of patience and if it exploded, it cannot fix it again.

d. E.T → E.T is a song about love of a girl to the foreigner which symbolize into an alien man. The significance of the song, we have to know the right person who you love. So, he will not look as stranger to other.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

After analyzing the two songs of Rihanna and Katy Perry, the first problem, it solved by found three types of figurative language in Rihanna song namely hyperbole, metaphor and simile and there are six types of figurative language in Katy Perry song. the second problem solves by found the significance concept which explained by the

special meaning which show in each lyrics and could give the special effect to the listener.

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