

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN THE SONG LYRIC OF ELLIE GOULDING ALBUM “BRIGHTEST BLUE”

Aloysius Andelo Mete¹, I Gusti Ayu Vina Widiadnya Putri², I Wayan Juniarth³

Corresponding Author: miss.vina@unmas.ac.id

Universitas Mahasaraswati, Bali, Indonesia

Article Info

Keywords:

Figurative language,
Song Lyrics,
Meaning

ABSTRACT

The objectives of the study are to identify the types of figurative language and analyzed the meaning of the figurative language used in Ellie Goulding's song lyrics. The data were analyzed based on the theory from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963). Used to identify the types of figurative language and theory proposed by Leech (1974). The method used in collecting the data was observation method. The result show there are 5 types of figurative language used in the song lyrics of Ellie Goulding's album "Brightest Blue". They are; simile, metaphor, Personification, Synecdoche and Hyperbole. There were found 19 sentences identified using those seven types of figurative language such as: 10 of simile (47,61%), 1 of metaphor (4,76%), 1 metaphor (4,76%), 1 personification (4,76%), 3 of Synecdoche (14,28%), 1 of Metonymy (4,76%), 4 of Hyperbole (19,047%) 1 of Allusion (4,76). The result show there are two types of meaning used in the song lyrics of Ellie Goulding's album "Brightest Blue", such are; connotative meaning, conceptual meaning and affective meaning It can be in dictated that the dominant type of figurative language in the song lyrics is hyperbole. The meaning of figurative language is also stated clearly.

This is an open access article under the [CC BY-NC-SA](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/) license.



Corresponding Author:

I Gusti Ayu Vina Widiadnya Putri
Universitas Mahasaraswati
miss.vina@unmas.ac.id

1. INTRODUCTION

Semantic is a subfield micro linguistics which is committed to the study of meaning. It can be thought as the philosophical of meaning in language that was focused on the relationship between word, phrases, signs, and symbols. Semantics is the scientific study of meaning and there are two types of meaning, namely literal meaning and non-literal meaning. cThe Literal meanings are based on actual wordsor actual meanings, they do not use figurative or symbolic language. When the speaker speaks literally, he has no hidden meaning in his words. Literal meaning occurs when the speaker's meaning is different from what the real meaning of the words or sentences. The speaker speaks utterances, which imply the different meanings from its real meaning. The speakers have hidden meanings and non literal meaning. One subject of study that explain broadly about non-literal meaning is figurative language.

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367) figurative language is sometimes called metaphorical languageor simply metaphor because it Is Greek ancestor "Metaphereien" means to carry meaning beyond it's literal. Regardless of the type of figure of speech observed, it is basic function is always to carry meaning from the literal to the figurative level. It is associated with lyrics of the song uses figurative language. There are many types of figurative language such us: metaphor, simile, hyperbole, irony, etc.

Song lyric is an expression of the song writer's feelings about something feeling, and experienced. In expressing feelings the song writer uses imaginative figurative language in the lyrics of the song to create distinctiveness and appeal. Figurative language used in song lyrics can help listeners understand the songwriter's ideas. In factmost people listen to songs because they are motivated by a singer's voice, rhythm, and singer's personality. However, there is something very

important in the song, it is knowing and understanding the literal meaning in the song lyrics. The goal is that listeners can interpret the purpose of the song that is being created and sung by the singer. One of the singers who is very famous for his songs that contain a lot of literal meaning is Ellie Goulding.

The first thesis entitled "an analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics by Maher Zain" by Ain (2013). The aims of the research from the thesis are: To find out the types of figurative language are used in Maher Zain's songs, and to find out the most dominant figurative language in Maher Zain's songs. The second thesis entitled: an analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics of map of the soul: 7 ALBUM by Nainggolan & Elfrida (2021). This study aims to find the types and the meanings of figurative language used in the lyrics of BTS songs on the album Map of the Soul.

The Article "an analysis of figurative language Ariana Grande's album "thank u, next" by Hulu et al. (2021). This study aims to determine the most dominant type of figurative language and then to identify the themes of the twelve songs in the song lyrics of Ariana Grande's album "thank U Next." From the results of the analysis, the research found that there were 73 data using figurative.

Based on the background of the study, this study is very interesting because some people sometimes found difficulties in understanding the types of figurative language and its meaning used in song lyrics. The research was conducted since it was motivated by curiosity about the type of figurative language used in the song lyrics of Ellie Goulding Album "Brightest Blue" so that this research was carried out because it was motivated by curiosity about something that was not yet known. Ellie Goulding also used figurative language in his songs so that the songs are more interesting, imaginative, memorable, inspiring, and aesthetic. This study was analysed figurative language used in the song lyric of Ellie Goulding Album "BRIGHTEST BLUE".

This research was conducted because of curiosity and curiosity about something that is not yet known, especially about the types of figurative language and the meaning of each type of figurative language used in the lyrics of the song Ellie Goulding Album "Brightest Blue" so this research was conducted. It is necessary to analyze the song lyrics to understand the meaning and message the songwriter wants to convey to readers. we can analyze figurative language of the song lyrics using tools such as dictionaries, figurative language, image, rhymes and rhythms, etc.

2. METHODS

The method for gathering the data was qualitative method. Note taking was used as a technique of collecting the data which were taken from a film by paying attention to data collection steps. There are several steps followed, namely; downloading the movie by using VIU application, watching Pretty Little Liars Indonesia Series, taking note the scene that appears in some dialogues which contain code-mixing. The collected data were classified based on theory. Then, the data were analyzed qualitatively based on the theoretical framework, describing the different of types and reasons of code-mixing in the dialogue. In this study the findings were presented by using formal and informal method. The formal method was used in tabular form to show the occurrence and percentage the types and the reasons of code-mixing. While in informal method, the sentence was used to describe the analysis of the types of code-mixing and the reasons of code-mixing found in Pretty Little Liars Indonesia Series.

The data of this study was taken from "Brightest Blue" album by Ellie Goulding. The researcher was focused on analyzing song lyrics of Ellie Goulding album namely "Brightest Blue", released on July 17, 2020 via Polydor records. Album title, release date, and album cover revealed via Twitter on 27 May 2020. Goulding released "Worry About Me", a collaboration with blackbear, as the first single from the album. On May 21, 2020, "Power" was released as the album's second single. Two and a half weeks before the album was released, Ellie released "Slow Grenade", featuring Lauv. The song was taken from the online music playlist. The song was taken from the online music playlist resource www.spotify.com. Then the song lyrics from www.genius.com. There are many songs by Ellie Goulding but the author will use 18 selected songs such as: "start", "power", "how deep is to deep", "cyan", "love I'm given", "new heights", "ode to my self", "woman", "tides", "wine

drunk”, “bleach”, “flux”, “brightest blue”, “overture”, “worry about me”, “slow grenade”, “close to me”, and “hate me”. They are selected data source because Ellie Goulding song has a lot of figurative language which have implicit meaning, so the writer wants to analyze the types of figurative language in Ellie Goulding song lyrics.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

From the data of Pretty Little Liars Indonesia Series, there are three types of code mixing found, such as; intra sentential code-mixing, intra lexical code-mixing, and involving a change of pronunciation. Based on the data there were found the occurrence of each type of code mixing, such as; intra-sentential (92.11%), intra-lexical (5.26%), and involving a change of pronunciation (2.63%). The analysis of reason of code-mixing shows that talking about particular topic occurred with (84.21%), interjection with (13.16%) occurrence, clarifying the speech content for the interlocutor with (2.63%) occurrence.

Based on the analysis form the figurative language in the data, this study displayed the result of study. Those are identified based on the “Knickerbocker and Reninger” theory about the types of figurative language (1974) as well the theory of meaning proposed by “Leech” (1974). The research applied the formulation below to find percentages of every figurative language used in the song lyric of Ellie Goulding album “Brightest Blue”.

Table 4. 1 List of Figurative language used in the song lyric by Ellie Goulding album “Brightest Blue”

| NO. | Type of Figurative Language | Amount of data | Percentage |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------------|------------|
| 1 | Simile | 2 | 28,57% |
| 3 | Metaphor | 1 | 14,28% |
| 3 | Synecdoche | 2 | 28,57% |
| 4 | Hyperbole | 1 | 14,28% |
| 5 | Allusion | 1 | 14,28% |
| 6 | Total | 7 | 100% |

From the table tabulation data above, its how that are 7 data of figurative language found in Ellie Goulding song lyrics. The occurrence and percentages types of figurative language used in the song lyric of Ellie Goulding album “Brightest Blue” are 2 of simile (28,57%), 1 of metaphor (14,28 %), 1 of synecdoche (14,28 %), 1 of hyperbole (14,28 %) 1 of allusion (14,28 %). Dominant figurative language that is used in Ellie Goulding’s song lyric in album Brightest Blue is Simile and Synecdoche with a total of number 2 or (28,57%) items while the least figurative language that used in Ellie Goulding’s song lyric are metaphor, allusion and hyperbole with the total of number 1 or (14,28 %). While from the total of 21 occurrence of the types of meaning found proposed by Leech (1974) are; conceptual meaning, connotative meaning and affective meaning.

a. *Simile*

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) simile is stated comparison, introduced by like or as. The data that belong to simile based in the song lyric by Ellie Goulding.

Data 1

That made me feel like,
I faced my fears 'til I made it here
(Ellie Goulding: Women)

The lyrics of the song above are categorized as Simile because the lyrics of this song compare two things, such as “feel” and “faced my fears”. The word “feel” can be interpreted as someone who bad feeling “faced my fears” can interpreted someone is having problems. the word “that made me feel like, I faced my fears 'til I made it here” means the songwriter feels she is facing difficulties. The conjunction used to distinguish the two above is “like”

The lyrics of the song above have a connotative meaning because the meaning in this sentence is beyond its literal meaning. Literally, “that made me feel like, i faced my fears 'til i made it here” means the songwriter tells her experiences when she still young on process to get success she has gone through many challenges. Connotatively, “that made me feel like, i faced my fears 'til i made it here” means songwriter describe the journey of her life that has experienced many difficulties.

Data 2

I tried to be just like those other girls accepting situations (Ellie Goulding: New heights)

The lyrics of the song above are categorized as simile because the lyrics of this song compare two things, they are “I tried” and “other girls”. The word “I tried” can be interpreted as an effort made by someone, and “other girls “can be interpreted as someone's who broken heart. The conjunction used to distinguish the two things above is “like.”

The lyrics of the song above have an affective meaning because the meaning. In this sentence reflects the speaker’s personal feelings, including his attitude towards the listener (Leech, 1981). The lyrics of the song describe someone who is experienced heartbroken because the person she loves is left behind however is trying to become accepting the situations. It is like I tried to be just like those other girls accepting situations which as represents the feelings of the songwriter who has been heartbroken.

b. Allusion

Allegory is a figure of speech is a reference to some well-known place, event, or person. Not a comparison in the true sense, but a figure in a sense that contains more meaning than its narrow meaning (Knickerbocker and Renninger, 1963:367). Example: “No! I'm the prince of Halmet, nor was it meant to be”. This sentence is called a figure of speech because this example gives a reference that no one is a prince and one is always called prince halmet honestly admitting that he was not a prince.

Data 3

you cast me in your thriller just to cut the scene out
(Ellie Goulding: How deep is too deep)

The song lyrics above contains the meaning of allusion because in the word "thriller" it is means a movie or television show that has means subtypes in it. The song lyrics have a connotative meaning because the meaning is beyond literal meaning. Literally, “you cast me in your thriller just to cut the scene out “means the songwriter tells her experience that someone who feels like thriller. Connotatively, “you cast me in your thriller just to cut the scene out” means the songwriter describe about someone who does not given attention to his lover

c. Metaphor

According to (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963). A metaphor is an implied comparison in which the words “like” or “as” are omitted. This metaphor is used instead of the parable “life is like a walking shadow”. In the sentence above, the writer wants to tell the reader about the similarities of two things. The author does not use the word “like” or “as” like simile, this is compared implicitly.

Data 4

Once upon a time, you were my sunshine
 Everything about you got me God damn wired
 Started as a fleeting thing now
 You're all that I can stomach
 (Ellie Goulding: Bleach)

This data is categorized as a metaphor because the songwriter compares two things such as "you" and "sunshine". The word "you" can be characteristic with other term like people, and the word "sunshine" can be interpreted as someone who romans in lover. The word "you were my sunshine" can be interpreted as someone who romans in love relationship.

Based on the theory of Leech (1974), this data is included in the connotative meaning because the sentence goes beyond the literal meaning. Literal meaning "Once upon a time, you were my sunshine" means that her love was the light of sun. In connotative meaning, the lyrics "Once upon a time, you were my sunshine" describe as someone who romans in love relationship because considering her girlfriend the sun in her life like the sentence you were my sunshine. it's like when your romans in relationship with your partner by using the sentence special you were my sunshine means you really love your partner.

d. Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure of speech that shows the use of part for the whole. Synecdoche substitutes some important detail or aspect of the experience for the experience itself (Knickerbocker and Renninger, 1963:367). Simply put, Synecdoche is a figure of speech that mentions a part of something to suggest.

Data 5

The nights with you were so disarming
 (Ellie Goulding: New heights)

The song writer wrote the lyric above using type of synecdoche because it uses a part for a whole. In this song lyric, "the night "as a part represented as a whole time when the writer takes a rest. The writer used "the night "because usually the people have a sleep at that time.

Based on analysis above, the song lyric related to connotative meaning because it is a part of word meaning which more than dictionary meaning (Leech, 1981). In literal meaning, the phrase. Literally "The nights with you were so disarming" means the writer disarming about her lover when sleep at night. In this lyric, the word disarming has multiple literal meaning. There are remember someone by keeping her on imagining. The writer prefers to use at night to represent the time to take rest. Connotatively, "the night with you were so disarming" means the writer always remember and keeping her lover on imagining. the writer hopes her lover realize that he loved her.

Data 6

Mindles action, lead to destruction
 Beautiful lies on a Friday night
 (Ellie Goulding: Power)

The song writer wrote the lyric above using type of synecdoche because it uses a part for a whole. In this song lyric, " Friday night " as a part represented as a whole time when the writer takes a rest. The writer used "Friday night "because usually the people have a sleep at that time.

Based on analysis above, the song lyric related to connotative meaning because it is a part of word meaning which more than dictionary meaning (Leech, 1981). In literal meaning, the phrase. Literally "beautiful lies on a night " means the writer dreams about the lying man when sleep at Friday night. In this lyric, the word dreams have multiple literal meaning. There are remember

someone by keeping her on imagining. The writer prefers to use at night to represent the time to take rest. Connotatively, "Beautiful lies on a Friday night" is the writer always remember the lies man on her imagining on Friday night.

e. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an over used figure of speech that is used to evoke strong feelings or to create a strong impression. Hyperbole is not meant to be taken literally. For example: "For example: "Go and catch a shooting star"(Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963). The sentence above is a hyperbole because it is an impossible statement. Hyperbole is used in the sentence so that the sentence has a special effect to influence the reader's mind to be stronger.

Data 7

See how it could be
I tried to fix your heart
(Ellie Goulding: Bleach)

This data is categorized as hyperbole because the song lyrics exaggerated the songwriter wants to repair heart someone. As a human being, of course, repair heart someone is an impossible thing to do. In this lyric there is something clearer by defining phares "fix" and "heart. The word "fix" is the action that a by person to change lives. while "heart " is part of the organs of the human body.

This lyric categorized as a connotative meaning because the meaning goes beyond the literal meaning. Literally "I tried to fix you heart" means the song writer tried to repair her lover's heart. In this sentence we know that the heart can not to be repair by someone because the heart is in the human body. Connotatively, "I tried to fix you heart" can be interpreted as a sense of hurting someone's feelings experienced by the songwriter. In this case the songwriter wants to illustrate that the someone is feeling broken heart

4. CONCLUSION

From 19 songs, there are 18 lyrics that use figurative language. The result of this research found seven types of figurative language that proposed by Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963:367). And those are; 10 of simile, 1 of metaphor, 1 of personification, 3 of synecdoche, 1 of metonymy, 4 of hyperbole 1, allusion. The dominant figurative language that is used in Ellie Goulding's song lyrics in album Brightest Blue is simile with a total of number 10 or (47,61%) because in that sentence above the song writer always a comparing the nature or attitude of his girlfriend between two different things. Furthermore, the least figurative language that used in Ellie Goulding's song lyrics are 1 metaphor, personification, metonymy and allusion with the total of number 1 or (4,76%).

From 7 types of meaning, there are only 3 types found. Those are connotative meaning, conceptual meaning and affective meaning. The dominant meaning that used in Ellie Goulding's song lyrics in album Brightest Blue is connotative meaning with the total of number 19 because the song writer talking about the real word experience one association with an expression when one use or hear it.

Based on the data above, the writers conclude that in "Brightest Blue" song lyrics used figurative language style to conveys the messages and it means that the listener of Ellie Goulding song lyrics should have a deeper understanding to find out the meaning and messages in each song lyrics.

REFERENCES

- Hulu, D. A., Sembring, E. N., & Tarigan, N. W. (2021). *An Analysis of figurative language in Ariana Grande's Album "Thank U, Next". Linguistic, English Education and Art: LEEA*, 4(2). <https://doi.org/10.31539/leea.v4i2.1954>

- Ain, Q. (2013). An analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics by Maherzain. *Published Thesis*. Syekh Nurjati State Institute for Islamic Studies. Cirebon.
- Nainggolan, F. C., & Elfrida, R. (2021). An Analysis of figurative language in the song lyrics of Map of the soul: 7 Album. *Journal of English Linguistic and Language Teaching*, 8(2).
- Knickerboker, K. L., & Reninger, W. (1963). *Theory of Figurative Language*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winstone
- Ibrahim, I., Akib, M., & Hasyim, R. (2019). The analysis of figurative language in “endless Love” song lyric. *Jurnal Bahasa Dan Linguistik*, 8(2), 119–130.