

## The types Figurative Language in Michel Jackson song lyrics

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**Abstrak**–Dalam penelitian ini, ragam bahasa kiasan akan diidentifikasi dan dianalisis dalam lirik lagu-lagu Michel Jackson. Dalam penelitian ini, dianalisis menggunakan teori Davis (2016) untuk menentukan jenis bahasa kiasan. Penelitian ini menggunakan metodologi kualitatif. Penelitian ini mengarah pada penemuan 3 bentuk bahasa kiasan yang paling berbeda dalam lirik lagu untuk penelitian ini. Mereka terdiri dari Metafora (3), Simile (6), Hiperbola (3). Pada hasil ini ditemukan sebagian besar jenis bahasa kiasan yaitu simile. Dan penulis berharap artikel ini dapat membantu pembaca untuk memahami klasifikasi jenis bahasa kiasan.

**Kata Kunci:** Bahasa Figuratif, Penggunaan Bahasa, Lirik Lagu

*Abstract*–In this study, the varieties of figurative language will be identified and analyzed in the lyrics of Michel Jackson songs. In this study, were analyzed using Davis (2016) theory to determine the types of figurative languages. This study employed a qualitative methodology. This research led to the discovery of 3 different forms of most figurative language in song lyrics for the study. They consist of Metaphor (3), Simile (5), Hyperbole (3). In this result found most types figurative language that is simile. And the writer hope that this article could help readers to understand the classification of types figurative language.

**Keywords:** Figurative Language, Language Use, Song Lyrics

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The people in this world use language as a means of communication with someone. Many things they get when they can communicate with language. According to Algeo (2005), language is a collection of typical vocal cues that people use to communicate. Furthermore, that language is a combination of symbols that are both socially shared and constrained by norms. In addition, according to Lyons (1981), language is an institution that allows individuals to interact and communicate with one another through the use of widely accepted oral-auditory random symbols. Furthermore, language is symbolic or metaphorical, according to Croft (2000), and is not meant to be understood literally. Additionally, language has a crucial purpose for humans, serving as a means of communicating wants and emotions to others. Every language that is used for communication must have a deeper meaning, and every language also uses figurative language.

Figurative language are words or expressions that carry more than their literal meaning (Stanford, 2003: 48). Figurative language is language that's intended to create an image, association, or other effect in the mind of the listener or reader that goes beyond the literal meaning or expected use of the words involved. Therefore, the word figurative is often thought of as the opposite of literal, which refers to the strict meaning of words. For example, the literal meaning of it stinks is "it smells bad." The figurative meaning of it stinks is "it's terrible." Figurative language is also used to make words or phrases more beautiful, more interesting, and make pictures clearer. Figurative language is not only used in poetry, but also in lyrics, and screenplays or film scripts. Davis (2016) mention that the figure of speech is form of conversational implicature. The figure of speech define that the forms are differentiated by the relationship between what is said and what is implicate. Davis (2016) proposed six types of figurative language are irony, hyperbole, understatement, metonymy, metaphor, and simile. The author presented some previous research on figurative language from these and other journals, which will be discussed further below:

The first study was derived from Putri and Tustiawati (2022). In her study analysis five songs from Olivia Rodrigo's album Sour and found 13 occurrences of hyperbole. The hyperbolic figure of speech function was identified in Enough 4 U (1), in Driver License (2), Good 4 U (2), in Brutal (4), and Jealousy, jealousy, (4). In her study this types of figurative three types of meaning, namely effective meaning, conceptual meaning, and connotative meaning. In line with Putri's study, this study also discussed about hyperbole.

The second study was derived from Dewi et al. (2022). In her study found 21 types of figurative language. they consist of simile (3), hyperbole (3), metaphor (1), metonymy (2), personification (2), synecdoche (2), irony (4), paradox 1, Dead Metaphor (1), and Allusion (2). In her study this types of figurative seven types of meaning, namely conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning. In line with Dewi's study, this study also discussed about types of figurative language.

The third study was derived from Ngailo et al. (2022). In her study found 27 types of figurative language consist of simile (4), metaphor (6), personification (2), metonymy (1), synecdoche (1), and hyperbole (13). In her study this types of figurative two types of meaning, namely connotative meaning, and effective meaning. In line with Ngailo's study, this study also use song lyric as a data source.

The fourth review study from Sarumaha et al. (2022). In her study found 43 types of figurative language. they consist of metaphor (14), simile (11), hyperbole (10), personification (4), metonymy (2), synecdoche (1), and symbol (1). In line with Sarumaha's study, this study also discussed types of figurative language and her study same with this study not explain types of meaning.

The fifth study was derived from Hasanah et al. (2022), In her study found 88 types of figurative language consist of simile (14), personification (5), hyperbole (36), metaphor (5), symbols (15), paradox (2), antithesis (2), alliteration (9). In line with Hasanah's study, this study also use song lyric as a data source and her study same with this study not explain types of meaning.

## 2. METODOLOGY

### 2.1 Methodology

The data for this study were taken from several song lyrics by Michel Jackson in Dangerous album. The songs were chosen because they provide sufficient data for research and contain various figurative language used in the song lyrics. The author also uses the YouTube app to listen to music. The observation approach combined with recording methods was utilized to define different figurative language forms and their meanings during data collection. This study use a qualitative descriptive approach to figurative language of Michel Jackson's album. The steps in analyzing data are classified as figurative language, then analyzed and explained using the theory put forward by Davis (2016). There are two ways that this research is presented: formally and informally. The formal method employs tables to convey song lyrics data by using data and determining data based on forms of figurative language, which helps to organize the structure and improve understanding. The Michel Jackson song's lyrics are described and analyzed utilizing descriptive paragraphs in the informal method.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Result

This study applied theory of figurative language proposed by Davis (2016). After analyzing the data in the Michel Jackson, the researcher found 12 data on the types of figurative language. The following table present all of the findings including their types and in which part of the song lyric the data was presented:

**Table 1.** Types of Figurative Language

Types	Frequencies
Metaphor	3
Simile	6
Hyperbole	3
Total	12

Based on the table, the types of figurative language found are 3 types such as metaphor, simile, and hyperbole. Metaphor found 3 data, simile found 5 data and hyperbole found 3 data. This analysis was found in Michel Jackson's album entitled Dangerous.

### **3.2 Discussion**

To support the meaning analysis, the data found were classified into types using Davis (2016) theory of figurative languages. There are 3 types of figurative languages in the theory proposed by Davis (2016) is provided below:

#### **Metaphor**

A metaphor is comparisons of unlike objects. Metaphors is comparison two thing directly that cannot use word 'like', or 'as'.

#### **Data 1**

##### **she's a scene**

This song lyrics is derived from one of Michel Jackson song entitled "She drives Me Wild". This song is telling about a man who met a girl. In this song lyrics the girl is represent to be a fine and gorgeous appearance. In The above lyrics, is containing the comparison that using the word "scene and "she". The "scene" means is an object or place regarded as having a particular impression. It also define as specific area of activity or interest (Oxford, 2006 : 798). In this song lyrics the singer admired with a girl appearance who was beautiful and impress himself. Because the man gives highly value to the girls who was attractive and looking good while doing anything. His interest to the girls cause him to be having a particular excited (especially sexually that drive him wild. Thus, the singer compare "she is scene", that present his interest to her like looking at beautiful place or scene. That impress him with the attractiveness.

#### **Data 2**

##### **Love is a woman**

This song lyrics is derived from one of Michel Jackson song entitled "give in to me". This song is telling about a man who fall in love and asking for a real love from a girl. the girl is made him being obsessed. Oxford (2006: 528) is define as intense feeling of deep affection and great interest to someone. In this song lyrics the sentence is comparing the two things between love and woman. The reason of this comparison represent from the way a man being deeply feeling in love and obsessed to the girl. In this lyric the singer also emphasize that hi love is feeling, that he wish to get from a girl who being obsessed. His intense feeling made him perceived that it's only given by a woman. Hence, the above lyric is classified as simile in which the comparison exist between two different thing (love and woman) is used for asking bssessed love and great affection.

#### **Simile**

Simile is kind of metaphor using a comparative sentence. Simile is direct comparisons in which one thing is like another different thing. The indication of simile is the usage of the word like or as.

#### **Data 3**

##### **Love me like a mother**

This song lyrics is derived from one of Michel Jackson song entitled "Will You Be There". The song is telling about someone's who needs to be loved and accompanied. The singer's tend to express his feeling of asking for companion. In this sentence the function is to compare the word "love" and "mother". Oxford (2006 : 577) defined mother is a person who provides the care and affection. Oxford (2006 : 528) defined love as intense feeling and deep affection. Based on the song lyrics, the singer as present in the song lyrics, the singer ask for someone to always be on his side and

love him. Therefore, the meaning is related to the comparison of love and mother. Love him like a mother giving care, affection and always be on the side of their children. Thus, the song lyrics is categorized as simile since it present the comparison when someone need to be loved like mother love their children with generous and unconditionally.

#### **Data 4**

##### **Carry me Like you are my brother**

This song lyrics is derived from one of michel Jackson song entitled “will you be there”. The song is telling about asking someone to be always guide and helped him durin the tough times. The man hope to loved and caried always. In this lyrics, the song writer beg to be loved like brother. Oxford ( 2006 : 13) define “carry” as support someone, have one’s person and embarace. The support is one giving help,assistance endure to someone, in particulary relationship such as friend and family. Brother is a man in relation of family to be a fellow child of parents ( oxford, 2006 ; 112). Commonly, therelationship with brother is very close relation of having comparison. In this song lyrics the man asked to the girl to be loved and carry(support and embarace) like brother (family relationship). The song writer also stated that “ im only human” in which every human always need help, cre, love and affection, especially when they arefalling in love. You’ll need someon you loved on your side who canlove and carry you unconditionally. Hence, the above lyrics is compare two thing of carrying and brother which is a two different thing, therefore it classified into simile type.

#### **Data 5**

##### **Like a rainbow fading in the twinkle of an eye**

This song lyrics is derived from one of michel jackson’s song entitled gone too soon. This is telling about sadness looking someone. The song writer present about his/her felling in figurative sentence as poetic expression. The lyric tend to usecompare something that dissapering too soon. One of the lyrics expressed is “like a rainbow fading in the twinkle or an eye”. Oxford (2006 : 133), rainbow is a wide range or variety of related and typically colorful thing by sun’s light dispersion after rain, that formed in the sky. It is a temporary natural phenomena, therefore the rainbow would be disappear gradually in a twinkle. In this song lyric, the song writer compared something that sheor he got is disappear too soon like a rainbow fading gradually in the twinkle of an eye. Thus, the above song lyrics is classified into “simile” where there is comparison of two thing occurred.

#### **Data 6**

##### **You got me lookin’ like buckwheat**

The song lyrics is derived from one of michel Jackson’s song entitled “she drives me wild”. This song is telling about a man who met a girl. In this song lyrics the girl is represent with attractive and gorgeous look. Based on the lyric about there is a comparison when the girl look at him as buckwheat. According to Meriam-webster.com, buckwheat is the seed that used as a cereal grain. Thus, what are being compared is between a man and the seed of cereal grain. Oxford (2006 : 390), grain define as the smallest possiblequantity or amount of a quality. In this song thecomparison occurred when the man is perceived as cereal grain since the girl made him looks so trivial such as small grain with less of quality with little value and worth less for her. Hence this sentence is classified as simile, since there is a comparison between how the girl look at the man and grain of buckwheat.

### **Data 7**

#### **“Her inner spirit and words were as sharp as a two-edge sword”**

This song lyric is derived from one of Michel Jackson's song entitled "dangerous". This song is telling about a man who falls in love with an attractive woman since their first sight. In this song, the songwriter expresses his admiration to a girl that he illustrated as something different. In addition, in this lyric there is a comparison of the girl's inner spirit between two-edge sword. Oxford (2006 : 920) defines that sword is a weapon with a long metal blade and a hilt with a hand guard used for thrusting and striking. With the long metal shape of blade there are two sharp edges, useful when using a sword. Spirit is defined as part of emotion and character of surviving (Oxford, 2006 : 872). In this song lyric, the songwriter feels about the girl's spirit so strong and firm, then he compares it with the two-edge sword which means powerful and sturdy. This comparison exists, since the songwriter also feels her kiss smoothly but another feeling also rises unphysically as her inner spirit. Hence, this lyric is classified as simile, due to the comparison of invisible power and two-edge sword which obviously are the two different things.

### **Hyperbole**

Hyperbole is emphasizing a point with a statement containing exaggeration. It is used by the poet in the portrayal of objects, ideas, and others to give weight to excessive pressure to obtain intense effects. Hyperbole is also known as an overstatement. It can be humorous or grave, fanciful or restrained, convincing or unconvincing.

### **Data 8**

#### **Because you can Climb the highest mountain, Swim the deepest sea**

The song lyrics are derived from one of Michel Jackson's song entitled "keep the faith". The song is telling about being survived, never give up, to continue believe on something that is difficult to do. In this song, the songwriter presents about someone who has a dream and once he believes on something he has to keep a faith and never surrender. In addition, in this song there are some sentences designed such as advice for someone. One of the encouragement sentences is "because you can climb the highest mountain, swim the deepest sea". Oxford (2006 : 236), deep sea is the deeper parts of the ocean, those beyond the edge of continental shelf. Oxford (2006 : 578), mountain is a large natural steep hill or an area of high mountain is the highest land.

The song lyrics above are categorized as hyperbole because the songwriter exaggerates that he dives into the deepest sea. The song lyrics above are classified as hyperbole because the songwriter exaggerates diving into the deepest sea. As we know, the deepest water in the world, its depth reaches 11,000 meters. It is impossible for humans to dive to the deepest depths of water, because humans can only dive as deep as 300 meters. Humans must use a submarine if they want to dive deeper than their maximum limit. And also the songwriter exaggerates climbing the highest mountain, as we know the highest mountain is Mount Everest in which to reach the top, people need to conduct hiking and it is not easy as climbing the tree reminds that the Everest height is 8,849m. It is impossible for humans to climb the mountain in it will need more than a day. Thus, this sentence is classified as exaggeration.

### **Data 9**

#### **I know that you can Sail across the water Float across the sky high**

The song lyrics are derived from one of Michel Jackson's song entitled "keep the faith". There is the repetition of exaggerated sentences used to encourage someone for being survived and never give up. Oxford (2006 : 344) defines float as being suspended freely in liquid or gas. Sky high as if reaching the very high and great level. (Oxford, 2006 : 846).

Based on this sentence float across the sky high means flying. It is impossible for humans since the natural way of flying is having the technical equipment such as parachute or even in plane,

but in this context, the float across the sky high means as sinking freely and lightly on the air. There is an exaggeration in this lyrics across the sky high since it is impossible conducted by human except with the technical equipment. Thus, this sentence is classified as hyperbole since there is an exaggeration of meaning.

#### **Data 10**

#### **Her mouth was smoother than oil**

This song lyrics is derived from one of Michel Jackson's song entitled "Sade Drive Me Wild". The song is telling about a man who meets and falls in love with an attractive girl. In this lyric, the songwriters express the description of the girl like to other how it can drive him wild. One of the wild experiences that he ever had with her is when they both were kissing. Even though the girl was looking so wild and strong, the man feels the kiss from her lips as smoother than oil. Oxford (2006 : 854) defines smooth as a liquid with an even consistency without lumps such as oil.

This sentence certainly has an exaggeration meaning between woman's lip and oil. In this song lyrics, the songwriter expresses about dangers of adultery. The singer represents about getting kissed by a manipulated woman. Smoother than oil means about physical description and "smooth talker" to persuade the man and offering the sin of adultery. In addition, the feeling of being kissed by the woman made him express and exaggerate comparison of kissing as smooth with oil.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

In this research, 3 types of figurative languages were found, they are; simile, metaphor, in Michael Jackson's selected song lyrics. There was one type of figurative language which occurred dominantly, the most frequently occurring called simile which was found 5 occurrences throughout the analyzed songs. Simile is found to be the most dominant in the Michael Jackson songs analyzed, because the songwriter gives an idea to readers and listeners that imagination in the situation.

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