

## **Figurative Language as Used in the Selected Song Lyrics of Those Shocking Shaking Days V/A Album**

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### **Abstract**

Literature consists of things such as song lyrics, narrative words, poetry, etc. Those things are reflected into figure of speech and figurative language to create for huge interpretation by audiences. Meanwhile, in this present study the researcher uses a various artist album in Those Shocking Shaking Days released by Now Again Record home based in Los Angeles, California. This paper presents a descriptive qualitative as method in obtain the data of figurative language in the selected songs of Those Shocking Shaking Days V/A album. The paper concludes about variety of figurative language in the selected song lyrics and the most frequently figure of speech used.

Keywords: figurative language, song lyrics, Those Shocking Shaking Days

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

Learning English as second language is one of fundamental things that people usually use in their daily international trading. As the common international language to communicate and do a lot of trading, and such specific activity, people have to learn English not only for active skills, but also passive skills. Moreover, those skills such as speaking, listening, writing, and reading have to be mastered by young learners, also for researchers who would to take part in learning, communicating, and doing research using English. Another function of English than to communicate, is to create meaning explicitly or implicitly that usually found in the poem, song lyrics, news, turn-taking activity, and literature. According to Arifah (2016 : 13) stated that people used language as a system of conventional to communicate each other and to obtain the information. The statement above means that every language, especially English has no barriers to improve someone's knowledge based on the fact or fiction and literature, it has to be number one for people in their life.

Meanwhile, language has special place in the parts of literature called song lyric. Then, another functions of English in literature are used to make meaning or create for the figurative sides in order to give a soul on itself. In line to Meyer (1997: 1) stated that the terminology of literature used to describe spoken or written text that indicates about features of language such as metaphors, phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, and alliteration that sound aesthetically made by the author. Those elements in the terminology above lead to the thing namely song lyric. Song lyric is the ultimate part of song that given soul and meaning as a body of its song. Regarding to Ayu (2012) stated that without words, music is only the rhythm and it is only general sense. Based on the statement above, the root parts of song are poem and it becomes song lyric, then the rhythm will be added into them and later they all

become a song. Moreover, Kennedy and Gioia (2005: 18) said that the speaker could express for feeling and thought which relate to the song lyric. The implicit meaning in the song lyric have figurative speech such as metaphors, hyperbole, allegory, personification, and kinds of another figure of speech that support the words in order to produce the figurative language.

Another theory comes from Bradford (in Arifah, 2016) stated that figurative language seems like metaphorical or symbolic of language and it speaks directly about the subject that not high enough. Then, according to Iswara (2020: 117) stated that the sense of art that given by God to the musician and it brings a strategy when the musician knows about what the audiences want to hear and sing, they would give of attention the see the cover of song, the song lyrics, and they would do an analysis from ST and the meaning of song lyrics. Based on the theories above, the importance of figurative language could be understood that figurative in language is not only as the way to deliver speech in a sweet way through parts of rhyme and melody but also the importance of figurative language in the song lyrics is to promote the musician's songs and it can be a gate of bucks also absorbed for the new groupies of the musician.

Meanwhile, another functions of figurative language in the song lyric is stated by Budidharma (2001) that the full range of implicit meaning in word as an instance of song lyrics terminology. The theory above could be understood if the sense of figurative language within words would make the meaning more greater than ST. In this occasion, the researcher would be conveyed the figurative language as used in the selected song lyrics from Those Shocking Shaking Days V/A and to find out the most frequent figurative language used in the song lyrics such as Bad News by The Rollies, Evil War by Sharkmove, Hear me by Golden Wing, Do What You Like by AKA, Hai by Panbers, Candle Light by Lizard, and the last is That Shocking Shaking Day by Ivo's Group. The reason of choosing those song lyrics from 20 song lyrics because there are much of figurative language that implemented and emerged in those song lyrics rather than the rest of unchosen song lyrics. Those song lyrics were composed in the reign when all of information whether it was at online or offline media, there were not published to the public. Based on the chaos situation in that era, the bands that have mentioned above were created for song lyrics as a way of saying freedom and to show that they could broke the gate of freedom of the reign in order to fire up the spirit of Indonesian.

Another reason of Those Shocking Shaking Days is chosen because the rhyme and melody also the song lyrics in this album have different than the other popular musician at that time. The various artists and musicians in this album are interested with psychedelic, funk, and progressive area. In addition, one thing which makes this album seems so spectacular is about the raritiesness of getting that physical record. The raritiesness arises because the limited information and publishing this album is not massive and patchy. In conclusion, the researcher would like to analysis about the reason of using certain figurative language and how many figurative language as worked in the selected song lyrics of Those Shocking and Shaking Days.

## **2. Previous Study**

In the field of research especially in the side of figurative language, the research has dealt with such previous studies which have done with this theme before. As an opening of previous study here, there is a research from Arifah (2016) discuss about figurative language in five John Legend's song. This research plays an element of literature called figure to catch the data. The objective of research are to identify about the types of figurative language found and to analyze and describe the contextual meaning used in those songs. Moreover, descriptive qualitative is employed in this research in order to be the main way in interpreting

the lyrics. The result stated that there are figures found in those songs such as personification, hyperbole, metaphor, and paradox. The dominant figure is hyperbole just because this figure could make stronger to be delivered.

In the other hand, a study of figurative language comes from Fajarwati (2016) discussed about the existence of figurative language in Katy Pery's selected songs. The aims were to know about the types of figurative language in Katy Pery's songs and to know the most popular kind of figurative language found in the songs. The result stated that there were figurative language found in the songs such as simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbol, idiom, understatement, rhetoric, repetition, onomatopoeia, and metonymy the most popular kind of figurative language fall in idiom.

The other research conducted by Iswara (2016) who analyzed about figure of speech as used in the song lyrics of Keane. The approach in obtaining data has dealt with qualitative descriptive and using song lyrics as the primary data in that research. Anyhow, there are found figures of speech in Keane's song lyrics such as metaphor, simile, allegory, paradox, symbol, personification, and hyperbole. The most figures of speech that frequently used in the song lyrics is metaphor. The result shows that metaphor is an easiest way to persuade the readers and listeners to trap in the song situation. Based on the previous studies above, the researcher wants to find out about the types of figurative language used and the most frequently used of figurative things in selected song lyrics by Those Shocking Shaking Days V/A. Music reviewer told that this album has a great dealing in choosing diction because in that time there were young generation who had conveyed about their idealism which contrast to their culture.

## **THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK**

### **1. Figurative Language**

Literature has much practical knowledge to offer people who interested with part of it for instance poetry, poem, movies, song, etc. Those things are identical as called with figurative language. According to Arifah (22: 2016) this language offers an implicit meaning in words as a speaker's idea or thought to the listeners. Wellek and Warren (2014: 3) stated that creative things in the art work are called literature. In line to those theories above, Huda (2013) stated that figurative language is a way of using words exceed the literal meaning of its word. Then, Risdianto (2011: 33) stated that figurative language is gathered form of sentences that contains about dislike and like using figures of speech. In other words, it can be concluded that figurative language as a tool in saying or writing words through explicit meaning.

Moreover, as a way in healing someone's feeling, create and do some literature is needed just because when the mouth does not work to speak up, the words could do it. According to Kennedy and Gioia (2005: 33) stated that an art will lead you to heal your sensitive feeling through language, both on yourself or the others. Hence, there is unique fact of poetry, poem, and song in terms of literature itself. Poem is the arrangement of words that contains of figurative speech also musical elements such as melody then it becomes into chords and it could be epic, narrative, also musical. On another side, poetry was born in long time ago also well-known as a poetic drama, lyrical, and prose poetry.

Meanwhile, Kennedy and Gioia (2005) stated that there is no discipline so closely replicates to the central frequently asked question in the study of legal thinking ; called a text. The text in someone's mind seems so distinctive to the other just because based on experience, background of life, or something like that. Lately, musicians, artists, and people who walk in the line of freedom have a belief of speak up in order to make their selves more

alive. Anyhow, speak up in the public space let's say, offline or online media, those thing sometimes falls very strange and sounds a bit bad if the speaker could not has a red line to the another speakers. To leap over the wall of self, literature has its position to make everyone feels safe to convey the positiveness or vice versa. However, the writers also speakers who used figurative language, they should use kinds of its element in order to create an emotional side implicitly. However, there are elements of figurative language that can be pushed based on the definition above.

#### a. Allegory

According to Arifah (24: 2015) stated that an allegory is sentence that represents to the specific object produce in narrative style. In line with Arifah, allegory here is like a representative of someone's feeling through symbol of words which could not say in the literal meaning. Here is the example of allegory in a piece of song lyrics by Keane below:

Oh **crystal ball**, crystal ball,  
Save us all  
Tell me life is beautiful  
**Mirror-mirror** on the wall.

(Keane, Under the Iron Sea album, 2006)

The interpretation of "Crystal ball" above is as a symbolic of beautifulness. We all know that crystal ball's reflection is very beautiful to seen by anyone who see that. This interpretation sounds stronger followed by the word "Tell me life is beautiful" in the song lyric above.

On the other hand, the interpretation of "Mirror-mirror" here would say that mirror is a thing which can reflects for an original object. This interpretation means that mirror symbolizes about good or bad of life.

#### b. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is kind of figure of speech that contains about a thing which over stated. According to Iswara (2016), hyperbole is an exaggeration of word which tends to create an over statement produced by someone. Here, hyperbole is created just because this figure of speech contains a funny things inside that cannot happen in human being life. The example of hyperbole can be stated in the song lyric below:

Tell me what you like  
**It's burnin' in your eyes**

(French Affair, Do What You Like)

Based on French Affair's lyric above, diction "it's burnin' in your eyes" tends to reveal for someone which has the thing she or he wants the most. That thing is represented through his or her eyes. Anyhow, the diction above feels exaggerate because the writer has chosen "burnin' in your eyes" as his goal to create a huge atmosphere in the song lyric.

#### c. Metaphor

According to Kennedy and Gioia (2005: 121) metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else which in literal sense it is not. In line with the theory above, Glucksberg (2001: 3) stated that a figure of speech in which a name or descriptive word or phrase is transferred to an object or action different from, but analogous too, that to which it is literally applicable; an instance of this a metaphorical expression.

A Metaphor is the substitution of a word for a meaning is a close to the original word. It is a potential or implied simile. In a simile both sides of comparison are stated, and the other side is not. For example, "violence is the cancer for modern society." Here, cancer used figuratively. Pay attention for more instance, "*Jane's ego is very fragile, the man is a shark, my love is a rose, love is madness, love is magic, love is war, etc.*" Based on the examples above are metaphor because the world is not literally a true meaning that speaker says.

#### **d. Personification**

This thing is the most common used in poetry than prose. The use of this figure arise from the inborn tendency of man to invest inanimate things with activities, design, and passion similar to his own, and to describe them in terms expression of such attributes. Moreover, Kennedy and Gioia (2005: 128) stand about personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal or an abstract term (truth, nature) is made human. This figure sometimes called a personal metaphor, because it speaks of inanimate objects as if they were alive. Personification is representing a thing, quality, or ideas as a person. Look at these following examples: *“the book just begged to be screamed its fury. Fear lived with us in Vietnam.”*

#### **e. Irony**

According to Bradford (2002: 22) stated that irony is an omnipresent part of human life. Irony is expressing meaning directly contrary to that suggested by the words. It may also be a situation that may end up in quite a different way than what is generally anticipated. In simple words, it is a different between the appearance and the reality. By this type the writer and speaker says that the opposite of what he means. But doesn't intend or expect to his words to be taken literally. For instance, *“He's handsome if you like rodents.”* Based on the example, like another figures of speech, irony brings about some added meanings to a situation. Irony makes a work of literature develop the readers to use their imagination and comprehend the underlying meanings of the texts. Moreover real life is full of ironical expressions and situations. Therefore, the use of irony brings a work of literature closer to the life.

#### **f. Oxymoron**

Oxymoron is one of figures of speech in literature. Dennis (in Khadijah, 2016: 31) stated that this figure of speech is an expression of contradiction. Khadijah (2016) also stated that oxymoron is the form expression that contains of a contrast in its meaning. Here is the example of oxymoron in sentence:

There is no lower also there is no higher in angels' eyes.  
(Dennis, 1996: 66)

In line to the explanation and theories above, it can be realized that oxymoron is showing its contrast based on the context produced by someone.

#### **g. Simile**

According to Fitria (2018) stated that simile is figure of speech as a combination of two concepts imaginatively and descriptively. Simile is detected by words “as” or “like”.

For instance:  
You'll probably never love someone **like** I do  
(Lukas Graham, Love Someone)

The word “like” in the lyric above tends to simile because it reflects to simple comparison between natural world or object of familiar domestic. The word in yellow above tells that she/he cannot feels the same like the last love of his/her. The purest love arises in the first sight, and sometimes it comes to the rest of chance.

#### **h. Symbol**

According to Iswara (2016), symbol is one of figures of speech that represents about another meaning from an object. Let us see the example of symbol below:

Am I your **ghost**?

The word “ghost” in the statement above represent about someone who distracts someone else's life. Here, it can be concluded that symbol is a figure of speech that stands for something related to the specific situation.



## METHODOLOGY

According to Iswara (2016) stated that qualitative descriptive is quite simple method to analyze the source of data that served in the sentences and words. In line to the researchers' theory above, qualitative descriptive is truly worked in every research which contains of words and sentences as the source of data. Hence, after compiling and choosing the figurative language in the song lyrics, the researcher selects qualitative descriptive as a tool in describing, interpreting, and elaborating the selected lyrics of Shocking Shaking Days V/A album.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Figurative language is an essential element in every kinds of literature, especially in the song lyric. This thing is very important to be applied in the song lyric because it can make the song more alive. Risdianto (2011: 33) stated that figurative language is the way to create an explicit comparison between unlike or like things using figures of speech. Moreover, Fitria (2018) argued that figurative language or usually called figure of speech is a way of saying something message that could not delivered in the literal meaning.

Hence, figurative language has a mission to represent a thing with an implicit word rather than in literal meaning. There are many types of figurative language such as allegory, hyperbole, metaphor, personification, irony, oxymoron, simile, and symbol. In a unique fact, the researcher did not find figurative language such as metaphor, personification, and irony in this present study. Those figures were not applied by the singer because mostly the songs in Those Shocking Shaking Days were using direct words in order to speak up with literal meaning.

After analyzing the data, the researcher found and grouping the figurative language based on the interpreting of selected song lyrics in Those Shocking Shaking days V/A album. The researcher has been done in analyzing selected song lyrics such as Bad News by The Rollies, Evil War by Sharkmove, Hear me by Golden Wing, Do What You Like by AKA, Hai by Panbers, Candle Light by Lizard, and the last is That Shocking Shaking Day by Ivo's Group. Here is the result of analyzing data.

### 1. Allegory

Allegory is one of figures in language as an expression of someone through a simple narrative. Meanwhile, the researcher found figurative language indicate as allegory in selected song lyrics such as Hear Me by Golden Wing, and Candle Light by Lizard. Let us see the analysis of those songs below:

#### a. Figurative Language in Song Hear Me by Golden Wing.

*Hear me girl, give me the light  
I want you girl, to hold me tight  
I am lonely now, all day and all night*

Based on the song lyric Hear Me by Golden Wing above tends to a figure of speech called allegory. It can be seen from the lyrics that tells about a man who has a problem with his girlfriend. The man is lost in his own world just because there is nobody wants to guide him on the right path except the woman he means. His sadness is quite to be understood clearly based on the narrative above.

#### b. Figurative Language in Song Candle Light by Lizard.

*They will bring candle light  
From the mountain to sea  
Go mold up all sin the world*

*Try enough the time with candle light*

The song lyric above refers to figure of speech called allegory. Meanwhile, as a narrative story, that song lyric has a deep meaning that tells about someone who is chosen as a role model of human being and people around him called him as a holy man to against the sin that people have made in this world.

## 2. Hyperbole

This figure of speech is an exaggeration way in language that aims to create the strong effect. Hyperbole here is the figure of speech that mostly seen in daily communication. In Those Shocking Shaking Days, the researcher has found two songs which have such element of figure of speech called hyperbole. The analysis will be described below:

- a. Figurative Language in Song Evil War by Sharkmove.

*Evil war is come again and soon be there.*

In the sentence “Evil war is come again and soon be there” has implicit meaning because in the reality, there is no war between human and evil. The diction “Evil war” here means that there are people who have different sides and they cannot accept each other in term of attitude, behavior, sides of politics, and also sides of life. They always bring an unfriendly person in every situation. However, “Evil war” sounds a bit exaggerate in represented the situation of human being.

- b. Figurative Language in Song Candle Light by Lizard.

*Go mold up all sin the world.*

The diction “Go mold up all sin the world” by Lizard sounds a bit strange. As we know that there is nobody wants to create for sin consciously. However, people around the world are trying to show their deed to the exist or instinct things in this world in their own version. The diction “Go mold up all sin the world” here has written in order to produce for strong effect to the readers or listeners.

## 3. Oxymoron

Oxymoron is an expression of contradiction stated by someone to someone else. This figure aims to added dramatic sides of words to the readers or listeners. In the selected song lyrics of Those Shocking Shaking Days V/A, the researcher only found single oxymoron. This figures found in the song lyric Do What You Like by AKA (Apotek Kaliasin Band). Here is the analysis below:

*When we cannot happy, that's a dream for me.*

The words above are like a contrast thing in life. People around the world, animals around the world are always wishing and dreaming a happy side in every second of life. The literal meaning of the words above is like a man who has pessimism in his life and it symbolized in the words “cannot happy” and “dream for me”. That man could do everything in order to create a sad situation to the ones. Based on the analysis above, the words “when we cannot happy, that's a dream for me” is categorized as oxymoron.

## 4. Simile

Simile is a figure that contains about two explicit comparison with “like” or “as” inside the sentence. In the selected song lyrics of Those Shocking Shaking Days V/A, the researcher only found single figure called simile. This figure of speech found in song Candle Light by Lizard. Let us see the analysis below:

*Just as same as you and me.*

The lyric above contains an element in simile and it proved by the word “as”. Moreover, an interpretation about that lyric is like about a similar condition between 1<sup>st</sup> person to the others and there is no specific distinctive situation about their life.

## 5. Symbol

In literature, symbols are often settings, characters, images, or something implicitly directed by people. There are five figures called symbol in the selected song lyrics Those Shocking Shaking Days V/A entitled Evil War by Sharkmove, Those Shocking Shaking Days by Ivo's Group, Here Me by Golden Wing, and Candle Light by Lizard. Well, the analysis is stated below:

- a. Figurative Language on Song Evil War by Sharkmove  
*Evil come, evil go.*

That statement above is directed to the dislike ones. The song writer symbolized a person who has a bad habit or bad character or bad attitude as an evil. Well, that is why the statement "evil come, evil go" belongs to the figure of speech called symbol.

- b. Figurative Language on Song Those Shocking Shaking Days by Ivo's Group  
*It just black world.*

People know that a symbol of negativity belongs to black color. The song writer tells to listener and also to the reader that he wants to convey for bad thing described or symbolized into black color.

- c. Figurative language on Song Here Me by Golden Wing  
*Hear me girl, give me the light.*

Based on the lyric above, we now that the word "the light" is a symbol of kindness. "me" as subject here asked the girl to be his soulmate. He thinks that girl brings kindness things in his life.

- d. Figurative Language on Song Candle Light by Lizard  
*1. Now they came about of angel to choose a holy man.*

A figurative language above means that "a holy man" is a man who borders and minimalizes his life to the negativity. The song writer would tell to the readers and listeners that the holy man is always save and might be the role model to the others.

- 2. Can't you see the bottom of flame?*

Another figures on Song lyric Candle Light by Lizard is stated with the statement "can't you see the bottom flame?". Well, the bottom flame here is a symbol of hell. This symbol is related to the theme of song that tell about a holly man (a man who avoids negativity) and what's the effect after doing negativity. The hell is a gift to the human who could not produce for kindness in the whole of life.

Based on the analysis above, the researcher found five kinds of figurative language such as allegory, hyperbole, oxymoron, simile, and symbol. Those figures of speech above divided into such song lyrics such as Evil War by Sharkmove, Those Shocking Shaking Days by Ivo's Group, Here Me by Golden Wing, and Candle Light by Lizard. Well. The distribution of figures deals into a couple of allegory on song lyrics Hear Me by Golden Wing and Candle Light by Lizard, two figures of hyperbole on song lyrics Evil War by Sharkmove and Candle Light by Lizard, a simile found on song lyric Candle Light by Lizard, five figures found of symbol on song lyrics Evil War by Sharkmove, That Shocking Shaking Day by Ivo's Group, Hear Me by Golden Wing, and the last is two figures on song Candle Light.

## CONCLUSION

This present study has answered the research question such as what types of figurative language found and what is the most frequently used of figurative language in the selected song lyrics Those Shocking Shaking Days V/A. Meanwhile, on the whole of song lyrics in



this album have no words that tend to figures of speech such as metaphor, personification, and irony. The bands would create songs and produce it with implicit also explicit way in order to catch a red line between lyrics and common situation at that time.

According to Fitria (2018) stated that figurative language is an essential element in song lyrics as the varieties of language that represents someone else's feeling. In line with the theory from Fitria, the researcher would conclude that a figure of speech is a big deal for song writers or may be for someone who love to create literature product such as poetry, story, song lyrics. This thing would bring a big impact if it engages with some types of figurative language.

Anyhow, the analysis above shows that ten figures found in the selected song lyrics of Those Shocking Shaking Days V/A are representing the music compilation's purpose in delivering their ideas to public. The most frequently figures of speech found in this album is symbol and the lowest figures found here are simile and oxymoron. Figure of speech called symbol as the highest figure just because the bands here would tell to the audience implicitly. This way aims to create for huge attention of audience in interpreting their songs. The lowest figures of speech happen because the bands would not produce a long intermezzo like a fully narrative in delivering the meaning of songs.

## **SUGGESTION**

Based on this present study, the researcher knows there are many subjects in analyzing figurative language and also hope to the future researcher would analyze more deep about this topic. However, the next researcher not only does a research in song lyrics but also could find out the figurative language on policies maker speech, newspaper, politics sides and etc. Then, the researcher do hope that this research would be a reference or guidance for any researcher to expand this topic, and it becomes benefit for student in English Department at Universities which have an English Department.

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