

A STYLISTIC ANALYSIS USED IN SAM SMITH'S *IN THE LONELY HOUR* ALBUM

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Abstract

This research aims at analyzing the types and functions of figurative language in the song lyrics of Sam Smith's *In the Lonely Hour*. To do so, this research adopts stylistics approach, particularly the theories of Figurative Language.

This research employed qualitative method. The data were in the forms of words, phrases, and sentences taken from the song lyrics of Sam Smith's *In the Lonely Hour*. After collecting the data, the researcher deployed Perrine's (1993) theory to classify types and functions of figurative language. The main instrument of this research was the data sheet from the transcript of the lyrics. Furthermore, the researcher used investigator triangulation and supervisor as an expert for to gain trustworthiness.

The findings show that there are eight types of figurative language found in Sam smith's *In the Lonely Hour*. They are metaphor, simile, personifications, apostrophe, synecdoche, paradox, irony, and hyperbole. On the other hand, metonymy, symbol, litotes, and allegory are not found. The functions that are found are to give imaginative pleasure, to give additional imagery, to add emotional intensity, and to say much in brief compass emerge. Accordingly, these findings demonstrate that Smith's *In the Lonely Hour* is highly in demand because Sam Smith deploys figurative language to convey meaning in an extraordinary way which then results in aesthetic effect in the songs.

Keywords: *figurative language, stylistics, Sam Smith*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis jenis dan fungsi kiasan dalam lirik lagu Sam Smith *In the Lonely Hour*. Oleh karena itu, penelitian ini mengadopsi pendekatan stilistika, khususnya teori-teori bahasa kiasan.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Data yang diperoleh dalam bentuk kata-kata, frasa dan kalimat-kalimat yang diambil dari lirik lagu Sam Smith *In the Lonely Hour*. Setelah pengumpulan data, peneliti menggunakan teori Perrine's (1993) untuk mengklasifikasikan jenis dan fungsi kiasan. Instrumen utama dari penelitian ini adalah data dari transkrip lirik. Selanjutnya, peneliti menggunakan metode triangulasi dan pembimbing sebagai ahli untuk mendapatkan keabsahan data.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada delapan jenis kiasan yang ditemukan di Sam smith *In the Lonely Hour*. Tersebut adalah metafora, simile, personifikasi, apostrop, synekdok, paradok, ironi, dan hiperbola. Di sisi lain, metonymy, simbol, litotes, dan alegori tidak ditemukan. Fungsi yang ditemukan di untuk memberikan kesenangan imajinatif, untuk memberikan citra tambahan, untuk menambah intensitas emosional, dan mengatakan sesuatu dengan kata yang lebih ringkas. Dengan demikian, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa dalam lirik lagu Smith *In the Lonely Hour* sangat diminati karena Sam Smith menggunakan bahasa kiasan untuk menyampaikan sebuah makna dengan cara yang luar biasa yang kemudian memberikan efek estetika dalam lagu-lagu tersebut

Kata Kunci: *Bahasa Kiasan, Stilistika. Sam Smits*

INTRODUCTION

Stylistics is a study dealing with technique of creativity and invention in a language (Simpson, 2004: 2). Simpson adds that stylistics is a method of textual interpretation in language in which language is crucial since it consists of the various form, pattern, and levels (2004: 2). Consequently, the use of language style regarding the authors' or speakers' creativeness reveals various meanings that depend on its functions. For instance, when someone says "she watched *Indonesian Idol* last night," the speaker uses the words *Indonesian Idol* in explaining a particular thing the television show instead of television in order to make the clearer meaning.

In accordance with the explanation, the language style related to particular words chosen by the speaker in communicating with others can be analyzed under sub-field of stylistics such as figurative language. According to Perrine, figurative language is the unusual way in uttering something which can be referred to another meaning rather than the literal meaning (1987:49). In other words, figurative language concern with the uniqueness of words or expressions used in communication to convey the intended meaning. By employing figurative language, the meaning of an utterance is usually different from the literal interpretation.

Furthermore, every communication using words to attract people may consist of figurative language. One of which is a communication through a song lyric created by an author or a singer due to deliver a message or to transfer an information to the listeners as the addressee. A song lyric is a term which refers to words uttered along with music in a song. A song lyric, then, is a set of creative and expressive words which can describe an experience or an imagination of a song writer related to the fact or ideal reality in social life. At some point, the words applied in a song lyric are not common to be used in daily conversation since the words chosen depend on the purpose of the song writer. As a consequent, the intended meanings of a song lyrics are hard to be understood by the listeners in general. Besides, the unique or creative words selected as the application of figurative language, in some cases, is utilized in order to magnetize the listener or to make the lyric itself powerful and extraordinary.

Song lyrics that consist of particular words used in a unique way are found in *In Lonely Hour* album created by Sam Smith. *In Lonely Hour* is the second best-selling album of 2014 in the United Kingdom, and the third best-selling of 2014 in the United States. It is nominated for Album of the Year at the 57th Annual Grammy Awards.

(wikipedia.org/wiki/InTheLonelyHour, 2014). Thus, the songs in the album are successfully attract the listeners. The accomplishment of this album is affected by several elements; one of them is the song lyric containing linguistic features. The song writer seems to deploy certain words which are used in uncommon way as well as constructing the style of language of the song writer in order to make the album remarkable. Hence, the researcher investigates the use of certain words which are the application of figurative language in the song lyrics in Sam Smith's *In Lonely Hour* as well as the object of the study.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research used a qualitative method. According to Vanderstop and Johnston (2009:7), the result of qualitative research is narrative or textual description of the phenomena under the study which the researcher focused on. In addition, the researcher analyzed the types and function of figurative language in Sam Smith's *In the Lonely Hour* Album under the study of stylistics.

In conducting the research, the researcher analyzed the types and function of figurative language in Sam Smith's *In the Lonely Hour* Album. The context of the data was the lyrics of song that employs figurative language. The source of the data were the whole

transcript of the lyrics from the internet.

In conducting the research, the researcher employed some steps during the data collecting: listening the music, finding the lyrics, making the data sheet, and categorizing of the data. According to Vanderstop and Johnston (2009:189), there are some steps of the technique to collecting of the data in qualitative research, such as interviewing, observing and analyzing the document.

In addition, the researcher used the lyrics by Sam Smith's *In the Lonely Hour* Album by using note-taking as the data collecting techniques. According to Hartley via Boch and Poilat (2005:102), note taking is an effective tool to transmit the data to give information.

In relation to the objectives of the study, the following section discusses about the types and function used in Sam Smith's *In the Lonely Hour* Album.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

There are eight types figurative language namely metaphor, personification, hyperbole, apostrophe, paradox, simile, and irony are emerged in this analysis. Moreover, the table also displayed that there are four functions applied in each types of figurative language such as to give imaginative pleasure, to bring emotional intensity, to increase additional imagery, and to say much in brief compass. However, there are five types of figurative language could not be found in the song lyrics i.e.

metonymy, synecdoche, symbol, allegory, and litotes.

Providing that, the researcher draws the reason of five nonappearance types in figurative language. First, metonymy cannot be found because metonymy is the exchange of the name of an object or an attribute for the object. Consequently, there is an intention with the use of hyperbole which has exaggerations for the sake of emphasizing the meaning.

There are some relevant example are also provided to explain the use of particular types and functions.

In relation to the objectives of the study, the following section discusses about the types. The first example from the types of figurative language are :

Types of Figurative Language

1. By Comparison

Metaphor

Metaphor is an imaginative way in describing object or concept. Metaphor is also a comparison between two things which is essentially different

[1] Cause I'm not *a puppet*,
I will work against your strings
[Datum 1]

The word *a puppet* shows metaphorical expressions. The lyric of the song tells about the persona's feeling that he is not *a puppet*. He described about situation in his life with his girlfriend control in everyday life. The persona's put metaphor marked by the word *a puppet*. In fact, the

persona and puppet are different object. The sentence has a hidden comparison since it compares the persona with a puppet. Puppet is an object which often resembling with human life. It control by human rods or strings. The comparison describes the situation of the persona's feeling toward his life since the persona has stated that he is not a puppet, living his life unhappily because his girlfriend does not treat him well.

2. By Association

Synecdoche

Synecdoche is an odd word for what is simply part of word to represent the whole. It means that synecdoche uses words for the overall meaning. Synecdoche mentions apart from replacing object in whole part. It helps a speaker, persona or narrator to connect with the readers or listeners to achieve the purpose.

[14] *For months* on end I've had my
doubts. Denying every tear.
[Datum 56]

The phrase shows synecdoche. It shows that the persona knows about the uncertain feeling for *a long time* of their relationship. *For months* describe the persona spends his time in incredulity of love. The persona uses words *For months* to express the range time of his disappointment.

3. By Contrast

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is simply exaggeration but it is the exaggeration of the truth. In other

words, hyperbole involves an exaggeration words or idea. It is extravagant statements or ideas. A hyperbole or an overstatement is often called as extravagance in saying something.

[21] *The moon and the stars
are nothing without you*
[Datum 31]

The sentence *The moon and the stars are nothing without you* expresses that the woman is very important for the persona. The persona comparing *You* with *the moon and star* shows a hyperbole in order to expresses extravagant words which is explain someone shining like a moon and star in the night.

Functions of Figurative Language

The second section elaborates the functions of figurative language applied in Sam Smith's *In the Lonely Hour* album. All of the functions of figurative language defined by Perrine (1993) occurred in the album. However, there are four functions of figurative language, i.e. to give imaginative pleasure, to bring emotional intensity, to increasing additional imagery, and to say much in brief compass emerged in this album. For additional understanding of the function of figurative language, the discussion is extended by the researcher to be presented as follows.

1. to give imaginative pleasure

Describing something in one sense as that faculty or ability of the mind that is proceeded by sudden leaps from point to

another.

[26] Maybe he's *a mantra keeps your mine entranced*. He could be the silence in this mayhem, but then again. He'll never love you like I can, can, can [Datum 23]

The function of giving imaginative pleasure leads the readers or listeners' mind to imagine the persona words *Maybe he's a mantra keeps your mine entranced*. They think about *a mantra* and try to collect some information about what can *mantra* do. They look for the imagination of *mantra* and the effect of this *mantra*. It can be seen through the sentence's meaning or context. The persona feels that he will lose her because she does not think about him. She only thinks of another man as *a mantra* which can entrance her mind. It makes the readers or listeners are easy to imagine the word *mantra* and the persona's disappointment.

2. to bring emotional intensity

The way of adding emotional intensity to informative statements and conveying attitudes with information and it expresses one's words to gain emotional.

[29] For *a moment I believed you loved me too* [Datum 50]
The readers or listeners can feel how sad the persona about the feeling about not easy for everyone who loses his love. The condition makes the emotion changing faster because of his mood. In addition, everyone can be happy if his or her heart and life are full of love. However,

everyone can be sad if no one cares about him or her.

3. to increasing additional imagery

The function is to create additional imagery which purposes to make the listeners or readers transform the idea by imagining concept.

[33] You know what I mean It's *like* walking in the heat all day with no water, It's *like* waiting for a friend [Datum 16]

The readers or listeners get the function of additional imagery when they listen or read the song lyric. They can feel the persona's feeling of love. They feel a kinesthetic imagery through the persona's movement in the song lyric. The readers or listeners can imagine the persona's movement in a hot day with thirsty condition.

4. to say much in brief compass

The function is to say brief but focus on the topic. In brief, the function of figurative language to say much in brief compass is intended as a way to make thing simple and easier to convey an argument or idea using less- words to deliver the meaning.

[38] *You and me, we made a vow, for better or for worse* [Datum 54]

The sentence *You and me, we made a vow, for better or for worse* truly expresses the persona's mind. The sentence delivers a message about his promise of that

relationship. He feels that the woman is cheating. He loves her, but she breaks his dream.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

This research present two part which are conclusion and suggestions. The first part deals with the conclusion of the summary of the research discussion. The conclusions present the research objectives which are to identify the types of figurative language in Sam Smith's album *In the Lonely Hour* and to reveal and explain the functions of the use of figurative language in Sam Smith's album *In the Lonely Hour*. Meanwhile, the second part deals with the suggestions for students majoring in linguistics, future researchers, and readers in general.

Dealing with the first objectives of the research which explain the types of figurative language used by Sam Smith's In the Lonely Hour Album in his lyrics of song, the data of the research are classified based on theory of figurative language by Perrine. There are eight types of figurative language in Sam Smith's album *In the Lonely Hour*, namely metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, paradox, irony and hyperbole. However, there are four types of figurative language that cannot found in Sam Smith's album *In the Lonely Hour*, namely metonymy, symbol, litotes and allegory. The absence of metonymy used to the substitution of

the name of an attribute or adjunct, it has a little possibility to find metonymy in a song lyrics. Litotes or understatement cannot be found when the Researcher describes a hyperbole. The hyperbole appears more in the song lyric than litotes. Allegory also cannot be found in the song lyric because there is no long story or verse with has two meanings. It means that one meaning is implied and the other is guessed by the readers or listeners. Besides, symbol also cannot be found because there is no term of object in the song lyric defined as an object with relation to what it is.

Concerning with the second objective which is to describe the function of figurative language, the researcher could find four function of figurative language in the object of the research. As the consequence, there are four functions of figurative language are found in Sam Smith's *In The Lonely Hour* Album. The first function is giving imaginative pleasure can be carried by metaphor, personification, hyperbole, apostrophe, paradox and irony. The second function is bringing emotional intensity found in several types of figurative language namely metaphor, personification, hyperbole, apostrophe, paradox and synecdoche. The third function is increasing additional imagery deployed by the author in six expressions such as metaphor, personification, hyperbole, paradox, simile, and irony. The last function of figurative

language is saying much in a brief compass which are found in metaphor, personification, hyperbole, and paradox and the most dominant function used in Sam Smith's *In The Lonely Hour* Album is to give imaginative pleasure which found in metaphor.

Suggestions

Based on the conclusion of the research and the lacks of the research, some suggestions are presented for the following parties. First, the researcher hopes that the research study can give a contribution to the other English department students in linguistics major who try to analyze stylistics in a song, poem/poetry, sonnet, and movie. It is interesting to discuss stylistics which relates to the literary work or linguistic work because there are many topics of discussion such as the theme, analogy or style. Hopefully the research study can be a reference to other students to analyze stylistics. Second, to the future researcher, there are a lot of topic and object of stylistic study. Thus, there are still many interesting topics and object like movie, poem, or novel under stylistics which have not been analyzed yet.

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