



The analysis of figurative language in *Bohemian Rhapsody's* lyric by Queen

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ABSTRACT

Background: Throughout the lyric, -from music- there must be emblazoning with the meaning within it.

Purpose: This study is coincided in seeking out the use of figurative language's content in *Bohemian Rhapsody's* lyric by Queen.

Design and methods: Whereupon, the qualitative approach with design of content analysis is used in this study. The researcher acts as the main instrument since analyzing it. The focus on this study shows twenty figurative languages usage in it. The entire data is analyzed through three stages; 1). Data reduction, 2). Data representation, 3). Conclusion.

Results: The result of this study shows there are 20 kinds of figurative languages; they are; Alliteration (3 lines), assonance and consonance (1 line), Hyperbole (1 line), Imagery (2 lines), Internal rhyme (1 line), Irony (1 line), metaphor (2 lines), and Onomatopoeia (1 line) Personification (1 line), Repetition (1 line), Simile (1 line), and symbolism (two lines). The researcher concludes, the figurative language used by this lyric is to bring the meaning coming up with beautiful language.

Keywords: figurative language; lyric; bohemian rhapsody

Introduction

Hitherto, it is common to be stated as the human being or mankind needs to talk, interaction and speak each other. Certainly, it needs a language as the 'bridge' to be providing the communication. The communication, of course, tends to be understood and clearly between the first speaker and the second speaker or interlocutor. On the other side, that could be impossible to be talked unclearly, thence it is going to be stated the missed-communication.

As the aforementioned topic has been discussed that, it is told, the crux of the meaning of communication delivered is going to be clearly conveyed to the hearer. It is said important to get the meaning or the point being talked. By having this, there will be no misunderstanding or repeating the word or utterance over and over again.

Prior to the previous statement, which regards to the context of meaning, absolutely, the meaning is able to be found out through the scientific study. Shortly, it is called the Linguistics. While one thing related to this matter is declared to be the Semantics. Simply stated, the scientific discussion is called Linguistic and Semantics is the branch of Linguistics dealing with the understanding of a particular meaning.

As the purport of meaning in Semantic, it is known that, there are two kinds of that thing. Specifically, there are two kinds referring to literal meaning and non-literal meaning. Both, certainly, have a slight difference. For the side of literal meaning, it based on the real or actual word, then, for the non-literal meaning, it says otherwise; it is not from the real word. Afresh, literal meaning means that words exactly according to the conventionally accepted meanings or denotation; whereas non-literal meaning uses words in a way that deviates from the

conventionally accepted definitions to convey a more complicated meaning or enhanced effect.

Thus, if the first person or source person speaks by using the non-literal meaning to the second person or targeted person, perhaps, that might be difficult to understand, or at least, that person needs to think twice, or even thrice or more, then finally, the topic is understood. It is different for saying to be using the meaning of literal which seems to be easy and it has no complicated action to be listened or paid attention to.

There are a plenty of ways in revealing or unveiling about a certain subject as the part of semantic convention. Some of them are looking for meaning by involving the figurative language; which means the language expression. The meaning, exactly, is really different from the literal meaning one. It needs to found out by seeing the other point of view or analysis. Of course, the aim of usage is to convey a message through the variant of words or sentences in the topic of meaning. It is stated to add the beauty in the language, as well.

For the definition of figurative language, in general, it refers to the use of words in a way that deviates from the conventional order and meaning in order to convey an intricate meaning, scintillating writing, clarity, or evocative comparison. In addition, it uses an ordinary sentence to refer to something without directly stating it.

To find the sense of figurative language, the writer has dealt by selecting a lyric from a well-known British rock band, it is called Queen. The lyric, as being stated by (Brester, 2008), it tells “The concentrated expression of individual emotion.”. It truly comes from the way of thinking of the writer itself. The other perception, (Saputra, 2015) that tells something that every person has, his or her own specific opinion about.

Different people have different senses, and miscellaneous types of music have many approaches to leaving repercussions on someone. The impact can be relaxing, angering, soothing, energizing, and many more. Here, are so many types of lyrics within-the-music out there today.

Hence, as for the lyric which is being talked and as the proprietor of that group of band, it is Bohemian Rhapsody. Withal, that lyric is written by Freddie Mercury in 1975 of A night at the Opera’s album. That consists of several parts; they are ballad segmentation, guitar solo for the ending, operatic passage, and hard rock section.

Next, (Pramudya, 2018) Bohemian can be said as the man who chooses to be living free; not being particular as to the society. Also, it despises the conventionalities generally. The word of Bohemian was originally a term with a contemptuous undertone given to Roma gypsies frequently convinced by the French to have the bohemia, Central Europe.

As for the Rhapsody, (Pramudya, 2018) it is speech; pieces of writing. It does not have a formal structure and expresses powerful feeling and enthusiasm. It is said also, it is considered as the similar fantasias; as both types of pieces, often making extreme contrast in term of tonality and mood.

Method

The method used here, certainly, uses a qualitative. The writer analyzes it several times after soliciting the found-figurative-language; gaining for the details. Henceforward, the classification of the language of figurative which underlies the experts’ reference is required for the next-current step. To interpose the chore of the data, the writer, of course, needs to make a final check to make sure whether is it correct or contrariwise.

Results & Discussion

Here, the writer is going to elaborate about the result and discussion. Both are going to be split up differently. Notwithstanding there might be other opinion from others, the writer has found for the result through this research. Thence, it will be followed by the discussion then. All of those previous matters will be broken down specifically.

Results

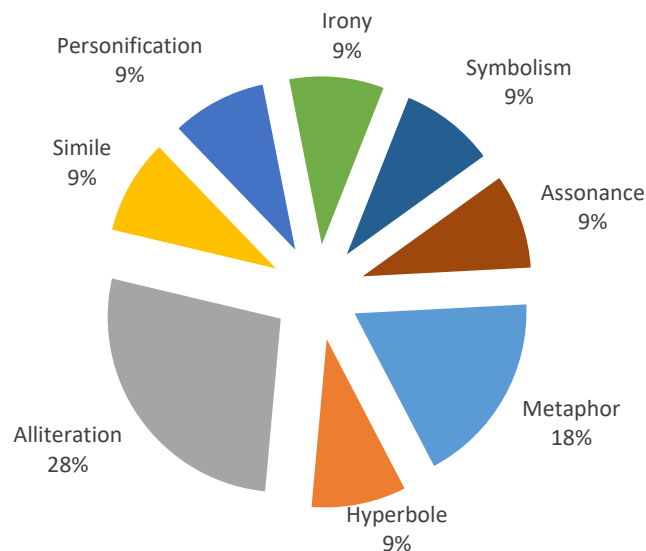


Figure 1 Findings

Discussion

It is important to be noticed, the figurative language is a word or phrase that set off from everyday literal language against comparison, emphasis, clarity, or freshness. In general, metaphor and simile are the two most commonly used figures of speech, but things like others, for instances: hyperbole, synecdoche, puns, and personification are also figure of speech.

The aforementioned statement tells that, the figurative language is used well in a certain media, such as: in poetry and literature for sure, but also in non-fiction writing and everyday speech - just about everywhere words are used and so on. In addition, it enhances the deep insight or large point of view, which can be an economical way of getting an image or a point across. Nevertheless, used mistakenly, figurative language can be confusing or earnestly silly.

On the other hand, the figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a particular meaning. It has difference from the literal interpretation. A good translator has to grasp the types of meaning that exist in the texts because it is understood that there are many types of meaning. The true meaning of words is resolving what people do with them, not what they say about them, and the context will determine them. Each language has its own idiomatic way of expressing meaning through lexical items such as idioms, secondary meaning, metaphor, and absolutely, figurative meaning.

As stated by (Conston, 2012), about figurative language which generally refers to speech where speakers mean something other than what they literally say. So, that is a part of the basic fabric of linguistic structure. And this is genuine not only for special literary language but also for everyday language; and it holds for all human language.

Hence, (Alice Deignan, Jeanette Littlemore, 2013) also suppose that the figurative language is often used in speaking and writing to express ideas and emotion, and to affect the views and attitude of others. Thus, the language generally refers to speech mean something other than what they literally say. Also, it is well known that figurative language is often used in speaking and writing to express ideas and emotions, and to affect the views and attitude of others.

Types of Figurative Language

a. Metaphor

Ritchie (2013) states that the word metaphor is defined as seeing, experiencing, or talking about something in terms of something else. It is an imaginative manner of delineating something by referring to something else which is the same in a distinctive way. For instance, if you desire to express that somebody is very timid and terrified of things, you might state that they are a mouse.

Lyric found:

Caught in a landslide

It is stated, clearly, as a metaphor, which has the meaning of a figure of speech that a term or phrase is utilized to something which is not clearly adjustable to express a similarity. The singer, he is Freddie, he does not mean that he is literally or clearly caught in a landslide. It, actually, compares two unlike things, 'caught in a landslide', which directs to be comparing the 'landslide' to many events that happens.

Gotta leave you all behind and face the truth.

It has no other of imprecise figurative language beside declaring as metaphor. That person literally, while enunciating that line, cannot face the truth face to face. So, upon the word and as saying to be asserted, the point of figurative language here reflects to how someone deals with the problem inside of life.

b. Hyperbole

It uses the sense of an exaggeration of a certain object (Heitman, 2007). Shortly, it tends to be a way of speaking or writing that makes someone or something sound bigger, better, more, etc. than they are actually in.

Lyric found:

So, you think you can love me and leave me to die?

It tells about hyperbole. The statement is about an extravagant statement or figure of speech not intended to be taken literally. Actually, it is telling the exaggerated matter. Simply stated, leaving a person will not kill the other person. Thence, in fact, he will not die because that person leaves him.

c. Alliteration

As getting from (Myers, 2016a), it is said: "Alliteration is the repetition of the same sound as the beginning of words in series." It is stated a stylistic device in which a number of words, also it has the same first consonant sound; occurring close together in a series. On the other hand, the use of it, especially in poetry, of the same sound or sounds, especially consonants, at the beginning of several words that are close together.

Lyric found:

(Galileo) Galileo.

(Galileo) Galileo,

Galileo Figaro

Magnifico-o-o-o-o...

From those several lines, that belongs to the figurative language of alliteration as it is looked distinctly here. Here, predominantly, it is about the phenomenon of the same letter or sound at the beginning of the adjacent one. On the other word, it is closely connected words of practically repeating the word by humming for this line of this current lyric.

*Goodbye, everybody, I've got to go,
Gotta leave you all behind and face the truth.*

Taking from the effusion of that singer of saying that particular line as the adieu, it definitely refers to the alliteration. It is all about the repetition of a certain word. It shows the laconic explanation of the figurative language. The singer repeats 'g' sound in a close phrase as the cursory glance.

Little high, little low,

It belongs to the alliteration. The meaning can be stated of the use, especially in poetry, lyric, song, and *etc.*, of having the same sound or sounds, especially consonants, at the beginning of several words that are close together. As the definition of alliteration, it is about the initial consonant sound. That explains about the use of the repetitions of the 'L' sound.

d. Simile

For the topic of Simile, it has a little different with the metaphor (Kopka, 2016). It will be made engrossing and illustrative of the writing. A simile uses the word of like or as to compare the particular thing. A simile is a figure of speech whilst two substantially distinct objects or concepts are expressly opposed to one another by the use of the term "like" or "as". The simile is used as a literary means to emphasize resemblance with the help of the word "like" or "as", which are language concepts that form equivalency.

Lyric found:

Carry on, carry on as if nothing really matters.

It defines as the simile. A figure of speech that implicates the comparison of a matter to another in order to cause the conception more assertive or clear. Shortly stated, it deals with the comparison. The point is, it is comparing 'them moving on' and 'them moving on' as if nothing matters. In addition, it uses the word 'as' which indicates the kind of metaphor of the figurative language.

e. Personification

(Nickelsen, 2001) "It is a figure of speech in which the idea, object, or animal is given qualities of a person." Figurative language appoint to the use of words in a way that diverges from the regular order and meaning to express an intricate meaning, evocative writing, clarity, or arouse comparison. It makes use of a regular sentence to refer to something without straightly declaring it.

Lyric found:

Sends shivers down my spine,

It aims to the personification. Hereafter, it is about the attribution of a personal nature or human features to something non-human, or the delegation of an abstract quality in human form. It has nothing sent shivers down his spine. However, it is just about the feeling he feels, which thinks how his time has come. The shiver itself does not really go down his spine.

f. (Internal) Rhyme

(Walch, 2005) "It happens when a vowel and consonant sound are repeated at the end of words." Thus, a rhyme is created by two or more words in the same line of verse. Whereas,

it is a rhyme between a word in a line and another either at the end of the same line or in another line.

Lyric found:

Thunderbolt and lightning very, very frightening me.

It is the internal rhyme. A rhyme might involve a word in the middle of a line, while others might at the end of the line or in the middle of the next. It is distinctly seen or stated as the involvement of the word of *lightning* and *frightening* offhand.

g. Irony

(Mar, 1842) “It is defined as a figure in which we speak directly contrary to what we mean.” It is the use of words to express something other than and especially the opposite of the literal meaning.

Lyric found:

*Mama, just killed a man,
Put a gun against his head,
Pulled my trigger, now he's dead.*

This is irony. It is called the utterance of one's meaning using language that ordinarily indicates the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect. He just ended another man's life and by doing that matter, he ends his own life, not yet in physical state.

h. Symbolism

Regarding to the figurative language, (Balla, 2012) said, “Symbol is derived from the Greek (*symbolon*) that means: emblem, sign, token, or mark.” (2012:19) It is assumed that that kind of figurative language is defined as a thing that stands for something else to be more abstract. In addition, symbol is defined as something that stands for or suggests something else. It also can be said for further explanation by reason of relationship, association, convention, or accidental resemblance: especially, a visible sign of something invisible.

Lyric found:

If I'm not back again this time tomorrow,

It tells about the symbolism. Its artistic and poetic motion uses illustrative images and indirect recommendation to express mystical ideas, emotions, and states of mind. It is assumed, he may die and if he does then they will have to move on knowing, he will not be with them anymore.

Bismillah! No, we will not let you go. (Let him go!)

It refers to the symbolism which can be found throughout this lyric. It possibly occurs when one thing stands for or represents something else. It is slightly interpreted and it is ascertained that, it symbolizes the hell and the angel of heaven fighting over his soul and suchlike.

i. Consonance and Assonance

Witthome, in 2014 argues that assonance is the repetition of vowel sounds within words that different consonant. As for the consonance has identical consonants but different vowels. Assonance is a figurative term used to describe the repetition of vowel sounds in nearby words of a line of text. This is ordinarily noticeable when the words are found close to one another.

Consonance refers to the repetition of consonant sounds within a word, but may also include the repetition of consonants either at the beginning or end of the word. Consonance is definitely the most apparent in tongue twisters, such as how ‘Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.

Lyric found:

But I'm just a poor boy, nobody loves me.

He's just a poor boy from a poor family

As for this line, it contains the repetition of the vowel 'o'. Then, it is clearly to be stated as the usage of Assonance for the figurative language. The assonance and consonance are two poetic devices that are often used in literature.

Conclusion

After presenting of finding data and discussion to answer the question of the research the writer draws conclusion. First, the figurative languages pervade in lyric of Bohemian Rhapsody, they are 20 kinds of them. They are as follows: Alliteration (3 lines), Assonance and Consonance (1 line), Hyperbole (1 line), Imagery (2 lines), Internal rhyme (1 line), Irony (1 line), Metaphor (2 lines), and Onomatopoeia (1 line) Personification (1 line), Repetition (1 line), Simile (1 line), and Symbolism (two lines). The figurative language in the lyric is dominated by alliteration. This means, that the author wants to emphasize and to make strong the meaning. In addition, the feeling of the author in the lyric and every word and/or line that has figurative languages in it. Apparently, Freddie Mercury has a knack for delivering the lyric. Therein, it gives the esthetic values and colors to the meaning of it.

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