Figurative language in songs for English Learning

Elvara Artamevya Raharjo Putri¹, Taufiq Effendi¹, Syarifah Azharina Syafrudin¹
¹Universitas Gunadarma, Jawa Barat, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

Background: Songs have long been popular literary works for learning English. One way is by paying attention to figurative language used in songs popular among EFL learners.

Purpose: This study was aimed at identifying the types of figurative language used in songs recently popular among Indonesian youth.

Design and methods: The data were purposively collected from a sample of three songs of a famous album. The data were qualitatively analysed by using Gorys Keraf’s theory.

Results: Finally, it is recommended that types of figurative language need to be taught to and learned by EFL learners to help enhance their comprehension when dealing with popular literary works like songs.

Keywords: teaching English through songs, figurative language for learning English

Introduction

Finding ways to create fun and encouraging English learning in Indonesia is crucial. Indonesia is a country that has been delivering English instruction in public schools for several decades since its colonial era (Effendi & Suyudi, 2016). Yet, improving the English proficiency of its school graduates remains a challenge (Effendi et al., 2021; Effendi, 2021). This is caused by many factors involving a nationwide scale language policy to classroom practices. Nevertheless, constant initiatives have been conducted by not only the government, institutions but also individual teachers. To help contribute to such initiatives, classroom practices also play significant roles in improving the English competence of Indonesian students. One way of this role is by using songs for learning English. Understanding what non-literal or figurative languages used in songs mean helps improve students’ mastery of English especially when dealing with English literary works like songs.

Songs have long been popular literary works for English learning. Studies have been conducted to generate understanding of how songs can contribute to the development of English proficiency to a range of learners with different levels of proficiency, different levels of education, and different cultural contexts. For instance, Paquette and Rieg (2008) discovered that learning English through songs allowed English learners to experience linguistic, affective and cognitive improvements. It enabled them to experience automaticity required for fluency enhancement and also provided ample opportunities for spontaneous interactions that simulates real life conversations. Besides, other studies showed how songs fasten information retrieval critical for not only academic achievement but also oral communications where learners can improve their oral competence through information
well as personal comments and opinions exchanges (Salcedo, 2010; Davis & Fan, 2016). This was all indicated by the most significant benefit of songs for vocabulary improvement and language acquisition (Cooper, 2010; Trinick, 2011; Schön et al. 2008; Mashayekh and Hashemi, 2011). This signifies the importance of songs as authentic linguistic resources in both forms of literal and figurative language which requires deeper meanings and therefore requires higher competence for comprehension.

Studies have been conducted to investigate the types of figurative language in songs. Siallagan, Manurung and Sinaga (2017), for instance, looked at songs released in 1989 and discovered eight types of figurative language with Personification being the most common type and allusion and metonymy being the least ones used in their data. On the other hand, Hulu, Sembiring and Tarigan (2021) discovered seven types of figurative language were present in their data with metaphor being the most dominant. In contrast, Setiawati and Maryani (2018) found only six types of figurative language in their data with Hyperbole being the most frequent. These studies demonstrate that relatively six to eight types of figurative language are used in songs. Different from these findings, a study by Bram and Avillanova (2019) found only four types of figurative language were present in songs in an English textbook. This may suggest school textbooks tend to introduce fewer types of figurative language possibly for the sake of a better mastery. Yet, songs not intended for classroom learning tend to use more complex types. This therefore highlights the urgency of using common songs for learning more figurative language for more exposure and higher mastery. All these studies, however, investigated songs that are not popular today. Whereas, it is interesting for learners to learn from songs that are trending today. For this reason, this study sought to look at songs currently famous among Indonesian learners.

Songs recently famous among Indonesian youth are from Solipsism album by Pamungkas, a well-known singer in Indonesia. There are eleven songs all together in one album which he created by himself based on his personal experiences. He has more than two million regular listeners accessing his songs through Spotify, a mobile application on smartphones. He has held music tours throughout Indonesia and outside Indonesia. He is trying to reach a higher career in this industry by going international. This achievement led the researchers to study this album to learn figurative languages that may be used in the songs.

The objectives of this research are to find out what types of figurative language are used in the songs of Solipsism album by Pamungkas, and to find out the most common type used in the songs. Theoretically, this study contributes to the development of related theory on the presence and use of figurative language in songs as literary works. Practically, this study provides a list of figurative languages used in songs currently popular among Indonesian youth. This allows readers to see concrete examples of figurative languages in popular songs. Pedagogically, the findings allow classroom practitioners to use the songs and the findings for classroom learning materials to create fun and engaging learning.

**Methods**

Qualitative method is the method that used in this research. The writer chooses this method to analyze the data of this research, due to the data are from the text and the lyrics of ‘Queen of the hearts’, ‘Riding the wave’, and ‘Intentions’ in Solipsism album which contain figurative language. According to (Edmonds & Kennedy, 2017, p. xviii) Qualitative research is the method provides the theoretical, philosophical, and data analytic stance. Research for the qualitative method is non-experimental. The perspective is the first step to creating structure to the design, and it details the theoretical perspective (or lens) of how the
recommender(s) will approach the study. The design is the actual structure that indicates (a) if one case, one group, or multiple groups will be associated with the process and (b) when the data will be analyzed.

Finally, it may be concluded that the qualitative method contains theoretical review and to describe a fact and accurately. This research aims to analyze and classify the kinds of figurative language and the figurative language that dominant used in the three song lyrics of *Solipsism* album by Pamungkas.

Finally, it may be concluded that the qualitative method contains theoretical review and to describe a fact and accurately. This research aims to analyze and classify the kinds of figurative language and the figurative language that dominant used in the three song lyrics of *Solipsism* album by Pamungkas.

The source of data of this research were collected from the *Solipsism* album by Pamungkas that released on June 26th 2020. There are 11 songs in *Solipsism* album, they are; Queen of The Hearts, Intentions, Be My Friend, Live Forever, Deeper, Be Okay Again Today, Higher Than Ever, Riding the Wave, Still Can’t Call Your Name, I Don’t Wanna Be Alone, and Closure. However, the writer only chooses 3 songs out of 11 songs from *Solipsism* album, ‘Queen of the Hearts’, ‘Riding the Wave’, and ‘Intentions’.

Furthermore, the data of this research is the lyrics which contained of figurative language meaning that the writer had found in Solipsism album by Pamungkas. The writer chooses the song lyrics that are taken from musixmatch.

The data are collected through the following steps: 1) Taking the song lyrics entitled ‘Queen of the Hearts’, ‘Riding the Wave’ and ‘Intentions’ of *Solipsism* album by Pamungkas from musixmatch.com; 2) Reading the three song lyrics in order to find out the figurative language; 3) Highlighting the lyrics that contained figurative language; and 4) Writing down the figurative language into data sheet followed by data classification.

After collecting data, the writer analyzed with some steps: 1) Classifying the data based on each Gorys Keraf’s theory of figurative language in three songs of Solipsism album by Pamungkas. 2) Analyzing the data by using Gorys Keraf’s theory of figurative language; and 4) Drawing a conclusion.

Findings & Discussion

**Findings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Figurative Language</th>
<th>Song Title</th>
<th>QOTH</th>
<th>RTW</th>
<th>INTEN</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simile</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metaphor</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allegory</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personification</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allusion</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eponym</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epithet</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synecdoche</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metonymy</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonomasia</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hipalase</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irony</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satire</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innuendo</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antiphrasis</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paranomasia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Based on the table 1 above, there are 7 types of figurative language used in the three songs lyric of *Solipsism* album by Pamungkas with total 30 data that the writer found. The figurative language used in the three songs lyric of Solipsism album by Pamungkas, they are personification (9 data of 30 data), metaphor (7 data of 30 data), synecdoche (4 data of 30 data), paranomasia (4 data of 30 data), simile (3 data of 30 data), metonymy (1 data of 30 data), and eponym (2 data of 30 data). The writer found that personification is the most used type of figurative language in the three song lyrics of *Solipsism* album by Pamungkas.

**Song Lyric as Literary Works**

Song according to (Kimball, 2006, p. 1) In an art song, a composer blends music and poetry in such a way that it is impossible to think them apart. We do not hear poetry set to music—we hear a song. Lyric according to (Abrams, 1999, p. 146). A lyric is any fairly short poem, consisting of the utterance by a single speaker, who expresses a state of mind or a process of perception, thought, and feeling. (Low, 2017, p. 5) said that with song-lyrics written as such and poems later set to music, but also with other kinds of text used in various forms of singing.

In conclusion, song lyric is a mix of music and poem. It contains thoughts and feelings of the song writer. Therefore, song lyric can be categorized into literary work.

**About Pamungkas**

Rizky Ramhadian Pamungkas is the full name of Pamungkas. He used his last name to be his stage name. He is a singer, songwriter, music producers, and actor who was born in Jakarta, April 14th 1993. He also has his own label, Maspam Records. He has toured throughout Asia, and has over two million monthly listeners on Spotify. He became famous after released his single entitled “I Love You but I’m Letting Go”. His career as a soloist in Indonesia starting at the end of 2018, released an album entitled “Walk The Talk” contains 16 songs and in 2019 he released his second album “Flying Solo” contains 11 songs. In 2020 during the pandemic, he made an album entitled “Solipsis” contains 11 songs. The album “Solipsis” is about his personal experience in the music industry and he wants to express all of his feelings that he couldn’t express it properly. All of the songs in album “Solipsis” are made by himself. In 2021 he came back with “Solipsis 0.2” an album with a new arrangement from the songs in the previous album.

**Figurative Language in song lyrics**

(Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009, p. 136) stated that figurative language style is first formed based on comparison or equation. Comparing something with something else, means trying to find features that show similarities between the two things. In conclusion figurative language refers to the use of words in a way to convey complicated meaning, mostly it used in various written works. Generally, figurative language is used to make the written works more beautiful and entertain to read.

**Simile**

Simile is kind of figurative language that compare one thing to another thing. (Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009, p. 138) state that, Simile is an explicit comparison, which is meant by explicit comparison is that it directly states something in common with another thing, such as: like and as.

The example below is a simile in *Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa* by Gorys Keraf

“Her lips like a blooming flower”(Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009)

The sentence is simile because it compares two things using the word ‘like’, which is the main feature of simile is like or such as. According to the findings, there are 3 data. Simile found in datum no: 01, 02, and 03
Datum no. 01

“Taking a walk like a champ in the night”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric is considered as simile because the singer compared his walks with a champ. Based on Merriam Webster Dictionary, champ is the person who comes in first in a competition, it indicates that he walks like the winner, proud and happy. Moreover, the word ‘like’ is a main feature of simile.

Datum no. 02

“Like a valentine, darling you talk like flowers”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric contains a simile because the singer compares two different things, ‘someone’ to ‘a valentine’. Yet, there is a main feature of simile ‘like’. The actual meaning of this lyric is that the singer tells how lovely and sweet his partner is.

Datum no. 03

“Like a valentine, darling you talk like flowers”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric contains simile because the singer compared two different things, ‘you’ with ‘flowers’, also there is a main feature of simile ‘like’. Based on Cambridge Dictionary, flower is the part of a plant often brightly colored and looks so beautiful, in this lyric ‘you talk like flowers’ has a real meaning that ‘she’ talks like the spoken words that came out from her mouth is so beautiful.

Metaphor

Metaphor is a kind of analogy that compares two things, but in the form of short. Metaphor as a direct comparison does not use words such as: like or such as, so the first point is directly related to the second subject. Most changes in the literal meaning of words occur because of metaphors. (Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009, p. 139)

The example below is a metaphor in Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa by Gorys Keraf

“That man is a playboy”
(Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009)

The sentence is metaphor, since it compares that man and playboy without using like or as. According to the findings, there are 7 data. Metaphor found in datum no: 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, and 07

Datum no. 01

“Having a talk with you in my mind tonight”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric is considered as metaphor, ‘having a talk’ and ‘in my mind’ is two different things. Moreover, the singer tells that he has a talk with someone in his mind, but the literal meaning isn’t like that since definitely he cannot talk with a person in his mind, the actual meaning is that he imagined or thinking about someone.

Datum no. 02

“You won me over”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric contains a metaphor. Based on Merriam Webster Dictionary ‘Won’ is to achieve victory (as in a contest). Because the singer is human not a contest so the actual meaning is someone got the singer’s support, affection, or appreciation not an award or a medal.

Datum no. 03

“Your poetic mind, I can listen to you for hours”
This lyric is considered as metaphor. Based on Collins Dictionary ‘poetic’ is something that is very beautiful and expresses emotions in a sensitive or moving way, while ‘mind’ is the part of a person responsible for thought, feelings, and intention. Furthermore, the actual meaning of this song lyric is that the singer wanted to tell that someone has a beautiful thought and expresses her emotions sensitively like see the romantic and melancholy side of things.

Datum no. 04
“You caught me off my guard”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric is considered as metaphor because the phrase ‘caught me off’, based on Collins Dictionary is to surprise someone by doing something that we do not expect it. The actual meaning is the singer wants to tell that she made him surprise with what her did.

Datum no. 05
“And you see all my cards”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric contains a metaphor because there is a use of phrase ‘all my cards’ in it. The word ‘cards’ is used to replace the word ‘traits’. The actual meaning of this lyric is that she can see all his trait accidentally. Supported by the previous lyric ‘You caught me off my guard’.

Datum no. 06
“I’m riding the wave”
(Riding the wave)

This lyric is considered as metaphor. A ‘wave’ generally symbolize as an obstacle in our life, because wave itself can’t be controlled and looks so big and creepy. Also ‘riding’ is controlling the movement of something by yourself. Furthermore, the actual meaning of this lyric that the singer wants to tell is ‘he’ can control the wave, he passed all the obstacle in his life.

Datum no. 07
“Swim into your pallete”
(Intentions)

This lyric indicates a metaphor since the word ‘pallete’ has a meaning a thin board that artists usually use to mix the paints color, and clearly we cannot swim through ‘pallete’. The actual meaning of this lyric is that the singer wants to know deeper about his partner because the word ‘pallete’ can symbolize as her soul who has many colour, and colour itself we can interpret as her personality.

Personification

Personification is a figure of speech that non-human inanimate object is given human attributes or feelings is acted of as if it were human. According to (Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009, p. 140), personification is a kind of figurative language that describes inanimate objects or inanimate objects as if they have human traits.

The example below is a personification in Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa by Gorys Keraf

“The wind howling in the middle of the dark night seemed to increase our fear”

(Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009)

The sentence is personification, since wind is impossible to howling like a living creature. According to the findings, there are 9 data. Personification found in datum no: 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, and 09
Datum no. 01

“But somewhat, I am short on words”
(Solipsism – Riding the wave)

This lyric is considered as personification because the word ‘words’ paired with the word ‘short’. The word ‘short’ itself is a human trait while the word ‘words’ is an inanimate object. The actual meaning of this lyric is that the singer wants to tell that he couldn’t talk anymore.

Datum no. 02

“I’m hiding ‘cause feelings keep drifting apart”
(Solipsism – Riding the wave)

This lyric is considered as personification because ‘drifting apart’ is to lose interest with someone or become less friendly which ‘feelings’ itself cannot do. The actual meaning of this lyric is the singer’s feeling is messy, losing interest with everything he does.

Datum no. 03

“I get out, the air gets too lonely to breathe, oh”
(Solipsism – Riding the wave)

This lyric is considered as personification because the words ‘lonely’ and ‘breathe’ is a human characteristic and human activity. Based on Cambridge Dictionary ‘lonely’ is feeling sad because we are not with other people while ‘breathe’ is to have some air into and out of the lungs. Moreover, the actual meaning of this lyric is the singer wants to get out to find someone to become his partner to help him.

Datum no. 04

“I get out, the bed is too lonely to sleep”
(Solipsism – Riding the wave)

This lyric is considered as personification because the words ‘lonely’ and ‘sleep’ is human characteristic and human activity. Based on Oxford Dictionary ‘lonely’ is feeling sad because one has no friends or company while ‘sleep’ is a condition where human body and mind is rest for several hours. So the actual meaning of this lyric is the singer wants to get out to find someone to become his partner and help him. This meaning is the same as the previous lyric ‘I get out, the air is too lonely to breathe’ the singer just used another analogy to make it the lyric looks more aesthetic.

Datum no. 05

“All my feeling speaks”
(Solipsism – Intentions)

This lyric contains a personification because ‘speaks’ is having a conversation or statement with someone which is ‘feelings’ cannot do. The actual meaning of this lyric is that the singer knows how he feels now.

Datum no. 06

“Words are out of reach”
(Solipsism – Intentions)

This lyric is considered as personification because ‘out of reach’ is something cannot be touched or not able to achieved, while ‘words’ is an inanimate object which is ‘words’ cannot have that characteristic. The actual meaning of this lyric is the singer cannot speak anymore.

Datum no. 07

“Then there comes the silence”
(Solipsism – Intentions)

This lyric is considered as personification. Because ‘silence’ is no sound or no voice at all which is an inanimate object and ‘comes’ is to approach someone so silence can’t do that. The actual meaning of this lyric is that there is a silence between the singer and his partner.
because the singer doesn’t know what to talk about. Supported by the next lyric ‘it gets in the way between us’.

Datum no. 08

“It gets in the way between us”
(Solipsism – Intentions)

This lyric is considered as personification because the word ‘it’ refers to ‘silence’ so silence is no sound at all which mean is an inanimate object, while ‘gets in the way’ means is to interfere or to block something/someone, that means silence not be able to that. The actual meaning of this lyric is the singer and his partner are stop talking to each other so there’s a silence between them.

Datum no. 09

“I’m pretty sure you see it in my eyes”
(Solipsism – Intentions)

This lyric is considered as personification because ‘sure’ is a certain or without any doubt which is an inanimate object who cannot have a human characteristic such as ‘pretty’. The actual meaning of this lyric is that the singer believe that his partner definitely can see it in his eyes.

**Eponym**

Eponym is a style in which someone whose name is so often associated with a particular trait, so that the name is used to express that trait. (Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009, p. 141)

The example below is an eponym in Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa by Gorys Keraf

“Hercules”
(Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009)

“Hercules” used to described as a strength.

According to the findings, there are 2 data. Eponym found in datum no: 01 and 02

Datum no. 01

“Like a valentine, darling you talk like flowers”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

According to Merriam Webster, darling is a person you love very much, and the word ‘darling’ used in this lyric makes this lyric called as an eponym. The singer used darling because he used it to call the woman she loved.

Datum no. 02

“Baby I don’t know why”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric is considered as eponym because there is a word ‘baby’ in it. According to Merriam Webster Dictionary, ‘baby’ is a slang word often used to call someone you loved. The singer replaced someone’s name to ‘baby’ to call her.

**Synecdoche**

(Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009, p. 142) stated that, synecdoche is a kind of figurative language that uses part of something to express the whole (pars pro toto) or uses the whole to state a part (totum pro tarte).

The example below is a (pars pro toto) in Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa by Gorys Keraf

“Each head must pay a donation of one thousand rupiah”
(Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009)

In the sentence, the word “each” refers to all of the people or the whole person, that means everyone must pay a donation of one thousand rupiah.
The example below is a (totum pro tarte) in Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa by Gorys Keraf

“In a soccer match between Indonesia and Malaysia at the main stadium of Senayan, the hosts suffered defeat 3-4” (Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009)

In this sentence, the word “hosts” used to refers the soccer team from Indonesia not the whole Indonesia, which means the soccer team from Indonesia was defeated by the soccer team from Malaysia. According to the findings, there are 4 data. Synecdoche found in datum no: 01, 02, 03, and 04

Datum no. 01

“Queen of the hearts”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric is considered as synecdoche pars pro toto because the phrase ‘the hearts’ represents the singer while using a part of human organ. The actual meaning of this lyric is the ‘Queen’ can make the singer fall in love with her.

Datum no. 02

“Your poetic mind, I can listen to you for hours”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric contains a synecdoche pars pro toto because the word ‘mind’ is used to represent someone or a person using a part of a person that enables them to think, feel emotions, and be aware of things.

Datum no. 03

“But somewhat, I am short on words”
(Solipsism – Riding the Wave)

This lyric contains a synecdoche pars pro toto, since the word ‘words’ represented the whole statement or conversation that the singer couldn’t tell. The actual meaning of this lyric is that the singer wants to tell that he couldn’t talk anymore.

Datum no. 04

“Words are out of reach”
(Solipsism – Intentions)

This lyric contains a synecdoche pars pro toto because the word ‘words’ represented the whole statement or conversation that the singer wants to say. The actual meaning of this lyric is the singer cannot speak anymore.

Metonymy

According to (Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009, p. 142), metonymy is a style of language that uses a word to express something else because it has a very close relationship.

The example below is a metonymy in Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa by Gorys Keraf

“I bought a Chevrolet” (Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009)

The sentence is metonymy, because the word “Chevrolet” is a brand name of car, so the word “Chevrolet” is used to replace a car. According to the findings, there is 1 data. Metonymy found in datum no: 01

Datum no. 01

“Penny”
(Solipsism – Riding the Wave)

This lyric is considered as metonymy because the use of word ‘penny’. Based on Cambridge Dictionary ‘penny’ is the smallest unit of money in the UK or equal to one-cent. So the singer uses the word ‘penny’ to replace the word ‘coin’.
Paranomasia (Pun)
(Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009, p. 145) stated that, paranomasia is a figurative language that uses a similar sound. It is playing words based on similarity of sounds but with a lot of differences in meaning.

The example below is a paranomasia in Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa by Gorys Keraf

“Engkau orang kaya!” “Ya, kaya monyet!”
(Keraf, Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa, 2009)

It is paranomasia, since the sentence used similar sound “kaya”.

According to the findings, there are 4 data. Paranomasia found in datum no: 01, 02, 03, and 04

Datum no. 01
“One, two, three, four, did I say I adore you before?”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric indicates paranomasia, since the word ‘four’ and ‘before’ have similar sound but have different meanings. ‘four’ is a number and before is something happens earlier than a particular date, time, or event.

Datum no. 02
“I may feel odd, just a little strange, does it tickle?”
(Solipsism – Queen of the Hearts)

This lyric contains paranomasia since there are the word ‘little’ and ‘tickle’. Those word have similar sound but have completely different meanings. Based on Merriam Webster Dictionary, ‘little’ is small in size or amount, while the word ‘tickle’ is to touch a body part lightly so it can excite the surface nerves and cause a laughter.

Datum no. 03
“Ooh, I just wanna love you right free you so you shine your lights”
(Solipsism – Intentions)

This lyric is considered as paranomasia because there’s a playing of words ‘right’ and ‘lights’. Those word have similar sound but have completely different meaning. ‘right’ means true or correct as a fact, while ‘lights’ means bright.

Datum no. 04
“Intentions, attentions, seen”
(Solipsism – Intentions)

This lyric is considered as paranomasia because the word ‘intentions’ and ‘attentions’ have similar sound but have different meaning. According to Merriam Webster Dictionary ‘intentions’ is something that one hopes to accomplish while ‘attentions’ is to have someone care or interest.

Conclusion

According to the findings in previous chapter, it can be concluded that the three songs in Solipsism album used various types of figurative languages. From 30 data, it was found that 7 types of figurative language were used by the songwriter. They are personification (9 data of 30 data), metaphor (7 data of 33 data), synecdoche (4 data of 33 data), paranomasia (4 data of 33 data), simile (3 data of 33 data), metonymy (1 data of 33 data), and eponym (2 data of 33 data). The most frequent type of figurative language in the three songs of Solipsism album by Pamungkas is personification with 9 data found. The songwriter used this type of figurative language to make the songs sound alive and to make the songs more aesthetic. The songwriter hopes that the listener can feel the emotions and knows the message that the songwriter wants to tell.
References


