



Kinds of figurative language in three songs of Disney movies original soundtrack

Wati Purnama Sari
Gunadarma University, Jawa Barat, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

Background: Figurative language are quite popular in song's lyric because we can hide our messages or what we had experienced or felt. That became a reason why we should learn more about kinds of figurative language in order to understand more about the real meanings that are conveyed in the songs.

Purpose: The aim for this research is to discover the kinds of figurative language in three songs of Disney Movies Original Soundtrack.

Design and methods: In this research, the researcher used qualitative methods. In analyzing the data, the researcher used Mezo's theory of figurative language. The source of data for this research are from Disney movies original soundtrack namely, the song entitled "Lead the way" from Raya and the last dragon movie, "Love, brave and true" from Mulan movie and "How does a moment last forever" from the Beauty and the Beast movie. The data from this research are the sentences that had figurative language.

Result: After doing an analysis, there are 21 data appeared. The researcher discovered 6 kinds of figurative language from those data namely, *Hyperbole* (6 data), *Metaphor* (5 data), *Personification* (4 data), *Litotes* (2 data), *Simile* (2 data), and *Synecdoche* (2 data).

Keywords: figurative language, kinds of figurative language, Richard E. Mezo

Introduction

Language is quite essential in our life. We communicate and express our thought and feeling with language. In fact, language is not used for talking and communicating with others only, but language is also used for expressing artworks, such as in songs. According to Kharbe (2009:3) he said that Language is the expression of human personality in words, whether written and spoken. As we can see today, many people in social media who come from different backgrounds and cultures try to expose themselves by expressing their feeling or thoughts through songs. In expressing their feelings and thoughts, we can find so many figurative languages there. Figurative language is quite popular in song's lyric because we can hide our message or what we had experienced or felt. As Colston (2015:xv) said that figurative language as a very complex way of language production which related to not only human cognitive phenomenon but also social, emotional, motivational, physical and other human and animal functioning along with establish explications of the all layers of language and their nature. From here we can see that figurative language is one of the way to express what people felt or experienced by comparing those with things or others in such a way. So, figurative language is not easy to understand. We have to dig the real meaning of figurative

CONTACT Sari ✉ wp_sari@staff.gunadarma.ac.id

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language itself, especially in songs. From this reason the researcher wants to analyze kinds of figurative language in three songs of Disney songs.

Disney is known as one of the biggest movie company that always succeed in making many great movies with many of great songs. Several movies that created a big hit in movie and music selling also are *Raya and the last dragon* (2021) with the song entitled “Lead the way” performed by Jhene Aiko, *Mulan* (2020) with the song entitled “love, brave and true” performed by Christina Aguilera, *Beauty and the Beast* (2017) with the song entitled “How does a moment last forever” performed by Celine Dion. Those songs had received many great feedback from the experts and hit an award too. The song entitled “Lead the way” performed by Jhene Aiko was translated into various country in South-East Asia and it has got 6.4 million views in Youtube. The second big hit song from Disney movie is “love, brave and true” performed by Christina Aguilera which is written as a nomination for the Soundtrack Song of 2020 at the 46th People’s Choice Award and also as a shortlisted nominees for the Academy Award 2020 for Best Original Song. Next, the song entitled “How does a moment last forever” performed by Celine Dion is also counted into a nomination in Academy Award 2017 for Best Original Song. Based on that fact, the researcher is very captivated to do a research about figurative language in those three songs above. This research will give benefits to people who wants to understand more about the song lyrics especially the song lyrics that have figurative language. So, by understanding the figurative language, they can understand clearly about the song’s message.

This kind of research has been conducted before, as we can see in these several previous researchers. The first previous researcher is Esthi Wahyu Setyasih (2019) she did a research entitled “AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE FOUND IN FROZEN MOVIE”. Her research objective is to find out kinds of figurative language existed in the movie and to find out the most used type of figurative language appeared in the movie. She used qualitative methods and theories from Mezo. The result from her research are Comparison figurative language which consists simile, metaphor, personification, analogy. Substitution figurative language consists of metonymy, synecdoche, symbol, allegory. Exaggeration figurative language consists of hyperbole, litotes. Repetition figurative language consists of rhetoric and repetition. Then, the figurative language “repetition” is the most used one.

The second previous researcher is Faris Nada Makarim (2019) entitled “An Analysis of Figurative Language in Drama Entitled “WaitingFor Godot” By Samuel Beckett”. His research purposes are to look for types of figurative language used and the most dominant figurative language used in that drama. He used a qualitative methods in analyzing the data. The result of his research showed that figurative language used in the Drama are alliteration, hyperbole, metaphor, personification, simile, symbols and paradox. Then, Metaphor is the dominant figurative languages that used in the drama.

The third previous research is the research that is conducted by Tri Rohani, Safnil Arsyad, Irma Diani (2018) entitled “SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE EXPRESSIONS, IN “FEATURE” OF THE JAKARTA POST”. Their research are focused in the types of figurative lexicons and the types of meaning of figurative lexicons found in the “Feature” of THE JAKARTA POST December edition. In that research, they used descriptive qualitative content analysis. The research result showed that there are thirteen types of figurative lexicon and the most dominant type of figurative lexicon found was simile. Meanwhile, the most type of meaning of figurative lexicons found was conceptual meaning.

There are some similarities and differences with the previous researchers. The present researcher has a similarity with the previous researcher which analyze about the same theme

namely, figurative language. But, the present researcher has a different source of data with the previous researchers. In this research, the researcher focused on analyzing the data in order to discover types of figurative language used in the three songs of Disney songs. This research will give a huge benefit especially for students in literature department who wants to do a research about figurative language. Besides, the research will give a new knowledge to people who read this research about kinds of figurative language emerged in song's lyrics, so they can have a better understanding whenever they read the song lyric contains figurative language.

Methods

The descriptive-qualitative methods are used by the researcher in this research. It means the data used for this research are in words, moreover the researcher do the data collection by herself. As advocated by Cresswell (2014) he said that the primary instrument in data collection is the researcher rather than some inanimate mechanism.. the data for a qualitative study are descriptive which are in form of words...or pictures, rather than in numbers... (P.255)

The source of data for this research are sentences which contains of figurative language from three Disney songs entitled "Lead the way" performed by Jhene Aiko from Raya and the Last Dragon movie (2021), "love, brave and true" performed by Christina Aguilera from Mulan movie (2020), "How does a moment last forever" performed by Celine Dion from Beauty and the Beast movie (2017). The researcher listened the song from <https://www.youtube.com/> and read the lyric from song lyric website <https://azlyrics.com/>.

In collecting the data, first the researcher tried to listen and read the song's lyric of three Disney songs entitled "Lead the way" performed by Jhene Aiko from Raya and the Last Dragon movie (2021), "love, brave and true" performed by Christina Aguilera from Mulan movie (2020), "How does a moment last forever" performed by Celine Dion from Beauty and the Beast movie (2017). Second, the researcher read again the song lyrics and collects the sentences which have figurative language by underlining the song lyrics. Third, the researcher makes a list of the data in a note. The last, the researcher checked the data once again so all the data needed are collected.

After the collection data finished, the researcher started to analyze the data by using Mezo's theory of figurative language. In analyzing the data, the researcher categorized the data based on the types of figurative language advocated by Mezo. After that, the researcher did a conclusion.

Findings and discussion

Findings

From the three Disney Songs entitled "Lead the way" performed by Jhene Aiko from Raya and the Last Dragon movie (2021), "Love, brave and true" performed by Christina Aguilera from Mulan movie (2020), "How does a moment last forever" performed by Celine Dion from Beauty and the Beast movie (2017), the researcher found 6 figurative languages namely Hyperbole, Metaphor, Personification, Litotes, Simile, and Synecdoche. The total data found can be seen in the table 1 below:

Discussion

The data are analyzed by using Mezo's theory about figurative language. Here are the result and discussion:

Tabel 1. Data Findings

No	Figurative Language	Data
1.	Metaphor	5
2.	Simile	2
3.	Personification	4
4.	Synecdoche	2
5.	Hyperbole	6
6.	Litotes	2
Total		21

Metaphor

Metaphor is a comparison between two different things. These things must have some feature(s) in common (Mezo, 1999, p.3).

Example:

1. Love is a bridge
2. Trust is a gift

In the first sentence, *Love* is understood as a tool that can unite people who are in war and the community that are in anger. *Love* is believed as a thing that can solve the problems. Through this we can see that *Love* has a same feature with *bridge* where it can connect between two things.

In the second sentence, *Trust* can be understood as the most precious thing that can be given by people to others and when people give a *Trust*, it means they are very special. *Trust* has a related meaning with *gift* which gift is also given for someone to others who are very special. see table 2.

Table 2. Metaphor

No	Figurative Language	Discussion
1.	Love is a bridge	The meaning of <i>Love</i> in this sentence is a tool to unite people who are in war and the community that are in anger. The meaning of <i>Love</i> is related to the meaning of <i>a bridge</i> that connects two things.
2.	Trust is a gift	<i>Trust</i> can be understood as the most precious thing that can be given by people to others. It has the similarity with <i>a gift</i> meaning which it is given to person who are special or in a very special occasion.
3.	I am a tiger's fool	In this sentence, the subject is depicted as strong as the tiger but as human the subject acted fool. We can see there is some similarity between the subject and human. So, it is counted into metaphor.
4.	Cold is the morning	Cold is explained as same as the situation in the morning. Through this we can see that cold and morning has same feature here.
5.	Warm is the dream	The dream is explained as warm which is a temperature that makes our body and heart calm and happy. It has the similarity with the dream that is something make us happy.

Simile

Simile is a comparison between two different things using the word “like” or “as”. (Mezo, 1999, p.3)

Example:

1. I see you as myself

In the sentence above, we can see that there is a comparison between *I and you* which are different in person and has a different characteristic too. But, in this sentence I and you compares with using the word “as” as if the both people are alike. So, it can be counted into simile. see table 3.

Table 3. Simile

No	Figurative Language	Discussion
1.	I see you as myself	There is a comparison between <i>I and you</i> which are different in person. Besides, the use of the word “as” in comparing both people can be categorized into Simile.
2.	It flows like a river through the soul	In this sentence, <i>It</i> referred to <i>love</i> , which is an abstract noun. In the other hand, <i>Love</i> compared to a different thing <i>river</i> which is a concrete noun. Moreover, the word <i>Like</i> that used in comparing two things is the characteristic of figurative language, Simile.

Personification

Personification is a comparison of something not human to a human being. (Mezo, 1999, p.3)

Example:

1. Chasing the answers
2. How can a story never die?

In the first sentence, we can see that *answers*, which are things, are considered as a human. In the sentences above, *the answers are being chased*. Chasing is an activity of human. So, we can see clearly in here that figurative language personification is used.

In the second sentence, it is written that *a story never die*. We can see that in here *a story* which is a thing is considered as human who also experienced death. See table 4.

Synecdoche

Synecdoche is the use of the part for the whole (or vice versa). (Mezo, 1999, p.4)

Example:

1. Who am I without my armor?
2. Standing in my father's shoes

In the first sentence, we can see the word *armor* is represented the whole body of a person. It is counted into Synecdoche.

In the second sentence, the word *father's shoes* is represented the whole father's figure who has a big responsible to protect their family. Through this, we can see that the second sentence is also counted into synecdoche. See table 5

Table 4. Personification

No	Figurative Language	Discussion
1.	Chasing the answers	<i>Answers</i> are considered as a human, in the sentence we can conclude that <i>the answers are being chased</i> . Meanwhile, chasing is human activity. So, we can see in here figurative language personification is used.
2.	How can a story never die?	We can see that in here, <i>a story</i> which is a thing is considered as human who also experienced death.
3.	It is love we must hold onto	In this sentence, <i>Love</i> which is a thing is also considered as Human. We can hold on to <i>Love</i> as we can hold on to human's hand.
4.	Then when the shadows overtake us	Shadow which is a thing is thought as human. We can see in that sentence; shadows also have a feeling or a desire to overtake something like human do. So, it is clear that it is a personification.

Table 5. Synecdoche

No	Figurative Language	Discussion
1.	Who am I without my armor	We can see the word <i>armor</i> is represented the whole body of a person. It is counted into Synecdoche
2.	Standing in my father's shoes	The word <i>father's shoes</i> is represented the whole father's figure who has a big responsible to protect their family. Through this, we can see that the second sentence is also counted into synecdoche.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an overstatement (exaggeration). (Mezo, 1999, p.4)

Example:

1. There's an energy in the water.
2. There is magic deep in our heart.

In the first sentence, we can see there is an exaggeration expression which can be seen in the word *an energy*. This word is not a literal meaning of energy which use to move people to another place, because we cannot move people with using water only. So, this sentence is sure a hyperbole.

It is also the same with the second sentence where it is said that *there is magic deep in our heart*. In this sentence the word “magic” is it not a literal meaning, there is an overstatement here. It is impossible for human to do a supernatural power. So, hyperbole is used in here.

Table 6. Hyperbole

No	Figurative Language	Discussion
1.	There's an energy in the water	We can see there's an exaggeration expression which can be seen in the word <i>an energy</i> . This word is not a literal meaning of energy which use to move people to another place, because we cannot move people with using water only. So, this sentence is sure a hyperbole.
2.	There is magic deep in our heart	In this sentence the word "magic" is it not a literal meaning, there is an overstatement here. It is impossible for human to do a supernatural power. So, hyperbole is used in here.
3.	Over my shoulder I see a clearer view	In this sentence we can see that there is an overstatement. It is not possible for people to see clearer through the shoulder. They should see with their eyes, if they want to see something. So, there is an exaggerate expression here and it is counted into hyperbole.
4.	Should I ask myself in the water	There is an overstatement happened in here. It is impossible to have twin who lives in the water. So, it is clear a hyperbole.
5.	No one to save me	This is really clear as a hyperbole. We can see in the sentence that the object thought that they are alone in this world. This is sure impossible and an overstatement.
6.	How does a moment last forever?	In this sentence, it can be understood that there is no limit time for a moment which it is not possible. So this sentence is an exaggerate expression.

Litotes

Litotes is an understatement (exaggeration). (Mezo, 1999, p.4)

Example:

1. Maybe some moments weren't so perfect
2. Maybe some memories not so sweet

In the first sentence, there is an understatement. The phrase "weren't so perfect", it does not mean that the moment was bad but it can be good and just enough.

It is the same with the second sentence, the phrase "not so sweet" is also an understatement. The memories that they had, it is not bad and bitter but it is quite good and enough.

Table 7. Litotes

No	Figurative Language	Discussion
1.	Maybe some moments weren't so perfect	There is an understatement. The phrase "weren't so perfect", it does not mean that the moment was bad but it can be good and enough.
2.	There is magic deep in our heart	The phrase "not so sweet" is also an understatement. The memories that they had, it is not bad and bitter but it is quite good and enough.

Conclusion

From the 21 data that has been analyzed, there are 6 types of Figurative languages that appeared in the three Disney Songs entitled “Lead the way” performed by Jhene Aiko from *Raya and the Last Dragon* movie (2021), “love, brave and true” performed by Christina Aguilera from *Mulan* movie (2020), “How does a moment last forever” performed by Celine Dion from *Beauty and the Beast* movie (2017). The 6 types of figurative languages are *Hyperbole* (6 data), *Metaphor* (5 data), *personification* (4 data), *Litotes* (2 data), *simile* (2 data), and *synecdoche* (2 data). By understanding figurative language, we can fully understand about the real meaning and the true message which want to be conveyed by the song’s writer.

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