



A FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ANALYSIS ON A SONG LYRICS FOUND IN THE *NIGHT VISIONS (DELUXE VERSION)* ALBUM BY IMAGINE DRAGONS

Jihan Zahira¹, Diyah Fitri Wulandari^{2*}

English Literature Department, Universitas Islam Sultan Agung, Indonesia

*Corresponding Author

Email: diyahfitri@unissula.ac.id

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Abstract: *Night Visions* is Imagine Dragons's debut album released on 4th September 2012. The aims of this study are to identify and analyze the figurative language and the contextual meaning found in the songs lyrics in *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* album by Imagine Dragons. The method applied in this study is qualitative research method. The data for this study was gathered by carefully reading the song lyrics and listening to the tracks from Imagine Dragons album *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)*. Grouping data and eliminating data are two further steps in data collection. Following the study, it was discovered that the lyrics of the song in *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* album by Imagine Dragons contain a total of seven types of figurative language as well as the meaning of the figurative language. Personification, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Idiomatic Expression, Simile, Metonymy and Irony. Also by utilizing the generalized meaning for each song lyrics in *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* album by Imagine Dragons, the album expresses about the struggle of the musician to build and maintain his career as a ordinary people who has recently made his musical debut. How the musician has struggled in life, and also reveals a part of himself that is rarely seen by others. Also the musicians struggle to keep his relationship with his loved ones.

Keywords: Figurative Language, Lyrics, Imagine Dragons, *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)*

INTRODUCTION

Language is an important aspect in the process of a communication. By using a good and understandable language, we can communicate very well and making ourselves clear about what we are communicate. Language can be used to deliver someone's sentiments or emotions, as well as their ideas, thoughts and fantasies. In addition, it is can be delivered through verbally or through writing. The novel, newspaper, poem, and magazine all use written language. While spoken language can be found in songs, speeches, and another forms of expression as Harya also added that "Language can be used to express someone's feelings or emotion and expressing their ideas, their thoughts and their imaginations, that can be speaking or writting. Written language



can be found in the novel, newspaper, poem, and magazine. While, spoken language can be found in the song, speech, and conversation.” (Harya 45)

As language used as media to deliver someone’s emotions, spoken language such as songs used by musicians to deliver their emotions through lyrics as the media. Musicians frequently choose words or sentences to use as lyrics in their songs that are difficult to understand in general because musicians applying figurative language, thus what musicians express through the lyrics must be studied first to see what the true meaning of the lyrics is.

In order to clarify and to gain understanding in studying the meaning of literary works, in literature there is study called semantics. According to Dr. Abdurrahman, semantics is “the study of the meaning of words, phrases and sentences. In Linguistic semantics deals with the conventional meaning conveyed by the use of words and sentences of a language.” (Dr. Abdurrahman 2019) In semantics, there are several sorts of meaning that are explored, one of which is figurative language.

Figurative language is the style of language used to express messages in an imaginative way. According to Heller, “Figurative language and speech refers to words, and groups of words, that exaggerate or alter the usual meanings of the component words. Figurative language may involve analogy to similar concepts or other contexts, and may involve exaggerations.” (Heller 62-63). By evaluating figurative language using contextual meaning, the researcher can better comprehend the meaning of the figurative language in the context of the phrase, ensuring that the meaning of the phrase is not confusing and that it makes sense to understand.

For example, the uses of seven figurative language that have found in albums of the songs lyrics from famous musicians. Such as one of Americans famous band named Imagine Dragons in their album called *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* which will be the object of the study. The usage of the seven types of figurative language that have found, which: (1) Personification, (2) Metaphor, (3) Hyperbole, (4) Idiomatic Expression, (5) Simile, (6) Metonymy, and (7) Irony. With the contextual meaning that makes the meaning of the figurative language become more clear to understand. By the reason shown in the explanation, this research focused on studying the figurative language and the contextual meaning used or discover the meaning in Imagine Dragons’s song album called *Night Vision (Deluxe Version)*.

METHOD

The types of this research are in qualitative. As the data is provided descriptively. Zohrabi as quoted in Mohajan stated about the definition of qualitative research, “Qualitative research is a form of social action that stresses on the way of people interpret, and make sense of their experiences to understand the social reality of



individuals. It makes the use of interviews, diaries, journals, classroom observations and immersions; and open-ended questionnaires to obtain, analyze, and interpret the data content analysis of visual and textual materials, and oral history.” (Mohajan 2). In summary, qualitative research indicate that the method is designed to assist the reader in properly understanding the study in personal and social contexts, and the research forms are descriptive data by elaborating on the sentences. As previously stated, this is not a statistical research approach.

To organize this data, this study used four steps, such as: 1) Reading the lyrics, 2) Identifying the data, 3) Classifying the data, 4) Reducing the data. Firstly the most important step to fully comprehend the object is reading the lyrics. After fully comprehend it, the next process the researcher must identify the data to determine the data that was concerned with the topic. Classifying the data is needed in order to categorised the data for the reseracher to answer the problem relatively efficient. Lastly reducing the data, which the become the last process of reducing the data that has no relation to the study's aim.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher discuss the results of a more in-depth analysis of figurative language and the contextual meaning found in the lyrics of the song on the album *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* by Imagine Dragons. The following are the findings and discussion of the analysis

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE AND CONTEXTUAL MEANING

1. Personification

Personification simply defined as a figurative language that compares human and inanimate objects. The language is written in a way that makes the thing appear to be human. Lakoff and Johnson in Harmastuty stated that personification is “where the physical object is further specified as being a person.” (Harmastuty 19). The following example found in the lyrics from the song album from *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* by Imagine Dragons:

“All systems go, *sun hasn't died*

Deep in my bones, straight from inside” (Radioactive, Line 33-34)

Personification compare human and inanimate objects. Died is characteristic of how all human's life will be ended, while sun were created to be rise and set. Using the personification figurative language, the sun become specified as



being a person by giving the characteristics of human which is died. With the meaning that depicts how the singer would always struggle for himself till the end of the world, when the sun will no longer shine on the world, according to the lyrics. With the spirit he drew from within his own body.

2. Metaphor

Metaphors are comparisons between two object that are unlike but have similar characteristics. According to Jay as cited in Harmastuty, “metaphor is an implicit comparison between two concepts.” (Harmastuty 13). Jay also added that “metaphor is used to compare similarities, to provoke thought, to clarify, and add interest” (Harmastuty 14). The following example found in the lyrics from the song album from *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* by Imagine Dragons:

“I’ve had the highest mountains

I’ve had the deepest rivers” (On Top of The World, Line 7-8)

The singer giving the metaphor of success and happiness using the highest mountains as a portrayal of how he reach the top of mountain. While the sadness and the failure he portrayed using the deepest rivers as he ever deep in it. According to the lyrics, the contextual meaning is that the singer wants to show us how it feels to be pleased when he succeeds, as well as how it feels to be at the bottom when he fails or experiences misery.

3. Hyperbole

The act of expressing something in such a way that it appears redundant. Hyperbole is a figurative language phrase employed when comparing anything to something that doesn’t make sense to compare in the first place. As cited in Harmastuty, Jay explains that “hyperbole refers to exaggeration; it aims to make an emotional statement.” (Harmastuty 15). Jay also added that hyperbole is not thruthful. “it depends on the words used and how much they depart from truth.” (Harmastuty 15). The following example found in the lyrics from the song album from *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* by Imagine Dragons:

“This is it, the apocalypse” (Radioactive, Line 7)

Apocalypse is a huge event where the world will be broke and all the living creature will be extinct. How apocalypse become hyperbole is because the event have not happened yet. The contextual meaning based from the lyrics is something unusual will occur, according to the word employed.

4. Idiomatic Expression



Jay cites from Fromkin and Rodman, stated that “idioms are conventionalized expressions that have figurative meanings that cannot be derived from the literal meaning of the phrase.” (Harmastuty 16). Idiomatic expressions are unified forms of speech that cannot be deduced from the meanings of their constituent elements, both lexically and grammatically. Idioms are a statement or expression in the form of a term or phrase whose meaning can not be deduced from its literal meaning or the order in which its parts are arranged. The following example found in the lyrics from the song album from *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* by Imagine Dragons:

“Don’t wanna let you down, but i’m hell-bound” (Demons, Line 17)

Down in the lyrics does not literally mean under or below. But the sentence don’t wanna let you down expressed the singer do not want to disappoint the person. The contextual meaning is even though the singer has a tight link with hell, which is where demons normally reside, the singer does not want to disappoint his spouse simply because his partner is aware of the other side of him, which is manifested in the form of demons.

5. Simile

Jay in Harmastuty stated that “simile is an explicit comparison using *like* or *as...as*” (Harmastuty 14). Simile is a figure of speech that expresses something else by using direct comparable phrases. Simile makes explicit or direct comparisons by employing pointer conjunctions: “like” and “as”. Basically the simile phrase can be simply recognized. The following example found in the lyrics from the song album from *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* by Imagine Dragons:

“It’s time to begin, isn’t it?”

I get a little bit bigger, but then i’ll admit

“I’m just the same as I was” (It’s Time, Line 11-13)

The comparison used in the lyrics using “as” to compare the singer with the past of him. The contextual meaning from the lyrics above is that even if the artist has grown in size, whether physically or psychologically, he will always have the same attitude as he did before. He is not only not going to modify his attitude, but he is not going to change at all.

6. Metonymy

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which one thing is replaced by a word that has a close relationship to it. According to Lakoff and Johnson as cited in Jay, “metonymy is the



tactic of using a familiar or easily perceived aspect of an object or situation to stand for the things as a whole.” (Harmastuty 17). Moreover, Lakoff and Johnson in Harmastuty further explain that “it is using one entity to refer to another that is related to it.” (Harmastuty 17-18). The following example found in the lyrics from the song album from *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* by Imagine Dragons:

“Is this just an illusion

That i made *inside my head* to get me by” (America, Line 1-2)

Using a familiar or easily perceived aspect of an object or situation to stand for the things as a whole, the head in the lyrics refers to the whole inside the had such as brain to think. The contextual meaning from the lyrics above is To distract himself from the negative events, the singer began to create a fantasy in his head. Using his imagination to keep himself calm and in control.

7. Irony

Irony is kind of figurative language by using words that contradict facts. The words used appear to be a complement at first glance, but not at the finish of the phrase. Jay in Harmastuty stated that “irony is interpreted as the use of figurative language to produce the opposite meaning of the literal meaning or it is where one thing is stated but something else is intended.” (Harmastuty 18). According to Dews in Jay “irony requires the listeners to substitute a new meaning for the literal meaning.” (Harmastuty 18). The following example found in the lyrics from the song album from *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* by Imagine Dragons:

“You said yourself fantastically, *“Congratulations, you are all alone”* (Amsterdam, Line 17)

Congratulation is used for expressing happiness. But being ironic in this lyrics is because the singer said it unusual to congratulate himself for being alone all the time. Based from the lyrics above, the contextual meaning is When others achieve happiness or glory, people tend to congratulate them. And when other people suffer tragedy, they will express their sorrow. However, the lyrics utilize the word "congratulation" to convey how the singer feels about being alone all the time as he used to be.

CONCLUSION

The researcher concludes that figurative language are applied to the words of each songs in the album *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* which was released in 2012 by the



famous artist Imagine Dragons and has 18 tracks. The researcher discovered the meanings explicitly written and other meanings represented through figurative language by employing contextual meaning and also the generalized meaning of each song in the *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* album by Imagine Dragons. The researcher determines that the lyrics of each song on Imagine Dragons album *Night Visions (Deluxe Version)* contain seven types of figurative language, which: Personification, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Idiomatic Expression, Simile, Metonymy and Irony.

The researcher also conclude that the use of figurative language in the *Night Visions (Deluxe Versions)* album highlights the significance of the figurative language is as a medium for providing aesthetic value in a song lyrics. As the readers read the lyrics of a song and listen to it, figurative language aims to create a different impression.

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