The Analysis of Figurative Language found in Coldplay's song lyrics

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Abstract

Figurative language is a way of beautifying a certain expression by saying one word or sentence that has a different meaning from its literal meaning. This study aims to identify and explain the types of figurative language in Coldplay's sing lyrics entitled: *Magic, Paradise, A Sky Full of Stars, Trouble, Yellow*. The researchers applied Leech's theory to identify the types of figurative language found in song lyrics mentioned above. This study was a descriptive qualitative study. The data of this study were taken from the five-song lyrics stated above. The researchers concluded that there were thirteen figurative languages found in *Magic* lyric, fourteen figurative languages found in *Paradise* lyric, fifteen figurative languages found in *A Sky Full of Stars* lyric, eight figurative languages found in *Trouble* lyric, and eighteen figurative languages found in *Yellow* lyric. In total there are sixty-eight figurative languages found in five of Coldplay's song lyrics.

A. INTRODUCTION

As a person dives deeper in studying language, he or she would then encounter the next subject which is linguistics. Linguistics as people know today has four main branches of study namely phonology, morphology, semantics, and syntax. The particular study that studies a meaning in a language is called semantics. Semantics analyzes how a language organizes and the expression of meaning (Kreidler, 1998:3). Semantics focuses on studying meaning in a language, or it can be said that meaning is the main focus in semantics. Therefore, semantics could be used as a means of finding out special messages from a certain literary product such as poem, prose, and song. To understand what something really means, a person should be able to understand what the speaker/writer really means by understanding previous points as stated above. This is where figurative language comes to center stage. Figurative language is a kind of language that uses words or other types of expression but with a meaning that is far different from its literal meaning. Figurative language usually uses words that go beyond their ordinary meaning. It can be difficult for the reader/listener/viewer to understand the meaning because the words are very much different from what they are used in daily communication. According to Perrine (1982: 61), figurative language is broadly defined as any way of saying something other than the ordinary way. Leech (1969:101) in his book entitled *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry* classifies figurative language into eight categories, those categories are as follows: hyperbole, irony, litotes, metaphor, metonymy, oxymoron, personification, simile.

The figurative language itself appears in many aspects of communication such as daily conversation, news programs, advertisements, songs, poetry, etc. According to Wren and Martin (1995: 297), a figure of speech is a departure from the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect. The figure of speech conveys a meaning that cannot be expressed exactly. In other ways, they convey a great deal in a shorter time than would otherwise be possible, and they are immediate because they embody the meaning in imagery instead of expressing it abstractly (Potter, 1967: 56-57). It means that figurative language is not intended to be interpreted in a literal sense. Appealing to the imagination, figurative language provides new ways of looking at the world. The discussion of imagination in literature brought the topic further to a specific literary product which is a song. The fact that not every listener understands the true meaning in a certain song lyric that he listens to is quite interesting to study further, this clearly indicates the importance of understanding figurative language. A lot of times, songwriters come up with a figurative language in a certain part of their song lyric, thus make it more interesting to study. Song itself has many definitions; one particular prominent definition is stated in Hornby Dictionary. Hornby (1995) defines song as a short poem or a number of verses set into music and intended to be performed or sung. By that definition, a song lyric is also a poem in itself. For one of the singers/songwriters/band that incorporates figurative languages into their work is Coldplay. This band is a British rock band formed in London in 1996 and famous for their unconventional lyrics which involved a lot of figurative language in it. This paper studies the types of figurative language found in 5 Coldplay song lyrics using Leech classification.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The researchers conducted qualitative research in which the researchers did not give priority to numbers and tables. The Sources of data were taken from 5 song lyrics written by Coldplay.

C. ANALYSIS

1. Figurative Language Found in Coldplay's Song Lyrics Entitled 'Magic'. In order to ease the researchers, the researchers gave code to each data, M_1 = data taken from Magic song lyric.

Table C.1

Data	Data Code	Line	Lyric	Figurative Language
1.	M_1	Line 3-4	Call it magic	Metaphor

No.	Code	Line	Lyric	Type
			When I'm with you	
2.	M₂	Line 5-6	And I just got broken **Broken into two**	Hyperbole
3.	M₃	Line 7-8	Still I call it magic **When I'm with you**	Metaphor
4.	M₄	Line 12	I don't, no, I don't, no, **I don't, no, I don't want anybody else but you**	Hyperbole
5.	M₅	Line 16	I don't, no, I don't, no, **I don't, no, I don't want anybody else but you**	Hyperbole
6.	M₆	Line 18-19	Call it magic **Cut me into two**	Hyperbole
7.	M₇	Line 20-21	And with all your magic **I disappear from view**	Hyperbole
8.	M₈	Line 22-23	And I can't get over **Can't get over you**	Hyperbole
9.	M₉	Line 25	**You're such a precious jewel**	Metaphor
10.	M₁₀	Line 29	I don't, no, I don't, no, I don't, no, **I don't want anybody else but you**	Hyperbole
11.	M₁₁	Line 33	I don't, no, I don't, no, I don't, no, **I don't want anybody else but you**	Hyperbole
12.	M₁₂	Line 34-35	Wanna fall **I fall so far**	Hyperbole
13.	M₁₃	Line 36-37	Wanna fall **I fall so hard**	Hyperbole

2. Figurative Language Found in Coldplay's Song Lyrics Entitled 'Paradise'. In order to ease the researcher, the researcher gives code to each data $P_{1=}$ data taken from 'Paradise' song lyric.

Table C.2

Data	Data Code	Line	Lyric	Figurative Language
1.	P₁	Line 1-3	**When she was just a girl** **She expected the world** **But it flew away from her** **reach**	Irony
2.	P₂	Line 4	**So she ran away in her sleep**	Metaphor
3.	P₃	Line 5-9	**And dreamed of** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise**	Hyperbole
4.	P₄	Line 10-12	**When she was just a girl** **She expected the world** **But it flew away from her** **reach**	Irony
5.	P₅	Line 14	Life goes on **it gets so heavy**	Hyperbole
6.	P₆	Line 16	**Every tear a waterfall**	Metaphor
7.	P₇	Line 17	In the night, **the stormy night,** **away she'd fly**	Hyperbole
8.	P₈	Line 29	And so **lying underneath** **those stormy skies**	Hyperbole
9.	P₉	Line 31-33	**This could be** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise**	Metaphor
10.	P₁₀	Line 34-36	**This could be** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise**	Metaphor
11.	P₁₁	Line 37-39	**This could be** **Para-para-paradise**	Metaphor

			Para-para-paradise	
			Para-para-paradise	
12.	P_{12}	Line 40-42	**This could be** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise**	Metaphor
13.	P_{13}	Line 44-45	**This could be** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise**	Metaphor
14.	P_{14}	Line 46-48	**This could be** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise** **Para-para-paradise**	Metaphor

3. The figurative language found in Coldplay's song lyric entitled "A Sky Full of Stars". In order to ease the researchers, the researchers gave code to each data $A_{1=}$ data taken from A Sky Full of Stars song lyric.

Table C.3

Data	Data Code	Line	Lyric	Figurative Language
1.	A_1	Line 1	**Cause you're a sky, 'cause you're a sky full of stars**	Metaphor
2.	A_2	Line 2	**I'm gonna give you my heart**	Hyperbole
3.	A_3	Line 3	**Cause you're a sky, 'cause you're a sky full of stars**	Metaphor
4.	A_4	Line 4	**Cause you light up the path**	Hyperbole
5.	A_5	Line 5-6	I don't care, **go on and tear me apart**	Hyperbole

			I don't care if you do, ooh	
6.	A$_6$	Line 7-8	'Cause in a sky, **'cause in a sky full of stars** **I think I saw you**	Hyperbole
7.	A$_7$	Line 9	**Cause you're a sky, 'cause you're a sky full of stars**	Metaphor
8.	A$_8$	Line 10	**I wanna die in your arms**	Hyperbole
9.	A$_9$	Line 11	**Cause you get lighter the more it gets dark**	Hyperbole
10.	A$_{10}$	Line 12	**I'm gonna give you my heart**	Hyperbole
11.	A$_{11}$	Line 13-14	I don't care, **go on and tear me apart** **I don't care if you do**, ooh	Hyperbole
12.	A$_{12}$	Line 15-16	'Cause in a sky, **'cause in a sky full of stars** **I think I see you**	Hyperbole
13.	A$_{13}$	Line 18	**Cause you're a sky, 'cause you're a sky full of stars**	Metaphor
14.	A$_{14}$	Line 19	**Such a heavenly view**	Hyperbole
15.	A$_{15}$	Line 20	**You're such a heavenly view**	Metaphor

4. The figurative language found in Coldplay's song lyric entitled "Trouble", In order to ease the researcher, the researcher gives code to each data T$_{1=}$ data taken from 'Trouble' song lyric.

Table C.4

Data	Data Code	Line	Lyric	Figurative language
1.	T_1	Line 1-2	Oh no, I see **A spider web is tangled up with me**	Hyperbole
2.	T_2	Line 3	And **I lost my head**	Hyperbole
3.	T_3	Line 4	Oh no what's this **A spider web and I'm caught in the middle**	Hyperbole
4.	T_4	Line 13-14	Oh no I see **A spider web and it's me in the middle**	Hyperbole
5.	T_5	Line 16	**But here am I in my little bubble**	Hyperbole
6.	T_6	Line 21	**They spun a web for me**	Personification
7.	T_7	Line 22	**They spun a web for me**	Personification
8.	T_8	Line 23	**They spun a web for me**	Personification

5. The figurative language found in Coldplay's song lyric entitled "Yellow". In order to ease the researchers, the researchers gave code to each data, $Y_1 =$ data taken from 'Yellow' song lyric.

Table C.5

Data	Data Code	Line	Lyric	Figurative Language
1.	Y_1	Line 1-2	Look at the stars **Look how they shine for you**	Personification
2.	Y_2	Line 3-4	**And everything you do Yeah, they were all yellow**	Metaphor
3.	Y_3	Line 5-7	**I came along I wrote a song for you**	Hyperbole

			And all the things you do	
4.	Y₄	Line 12-14	Your skin **Oh yeah your skin and bones** **Turn into something beautiful**	Metaphor
5.	Y₅	Line 17	**I swam across**	Hyperbole
6.	Y₆	Line 18	**I jumped across for you**	Hyperbole
7.	Y₇	Line 19-20	**Oh what thing to do** **Cause you were all yellow**	Metaphor
8.	Y₈	Line 21-22	I drew a line **I drew a line for you**	Hyperbole
9.	Y₉	Line 23-24	**Oh what a thing to do** **And it was all yellow**	Metaphor
10.	Y₁₀	Line 25-27	Your skin **Oh yeah your skin and bones** **Turn into something beautiful**	Metaphor
11.	Y₁₁	Line 29	**For you I'd bleed myself dry**	Hyperbole
12.	Y₁₂	Line 30	**For you I'd bleed myself dry**	Hyperbole
13.	Y₁₃	Line 32	**Look how they shine for you**	Personification
14.	Y₁₄	Line 33	**Look how they shine for you**	Personification
15.	Y₁₅	Line 34	**Look how they shine for you**	Personification
16.	Y₁₆	Line 35	**Look how they shine for you**	Personification

17.	Y$_{17}$	Line 36	**Look how they shine for you**	Personification
18.	Y$_{18}$	Line 37	Look at the stars **Look how they shine for you**	Personification

D. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and analysis of figurative language found in five of Coldplay's song lyrics entitled *'Magic', 'Paradise', 'Sky Full of Stars', 'Trouble',* and *'Yellow'*. The researchers are able to draw conclusions in relation to the research objectives mentioned in the previous sub-chapter. Four types of figurative languages were identified in five of Coldplay's song lyrics entitled *'Magic', 'Paradise', 'Sky Full of Stars', 'Trouble',* and *'Yellow'*. They were hyperbole, metaphor, personification, and irony. Furthermore, the researchers concluded that Coldplay is an active user of figurative language which is then applied to their song lyric.

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