

The Semantic Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Calum Scott's Song Lyrics.

Octavia Noer Maribad
Maribad.oktavia@gmail.com
Dr. Dra. Ni Nyoman Sarmi, M.Hum.
ni.nyoman@unitomo.ac.id

Abstract

This study consists of figurative language elements which are used in two songs by Calum Scott entitled "Only You" and "You Are The Reason". The objectives of the study are to analyze the type of figurative languages that are found in two songs by Calum Scott and to analyze the meaning of the chosen figurative languages in two songs by Calum Scott. The writer did qualitative research in this study. Based on the data analysis it is found there are four types of figurative language in Calum Scott songs are personification, hyperbole, metaphor, and irony. Based on the data analysis it is found there are four types of meaning was found in Calum Scott songs are reflected, thematic, social, and affective.

A. INTRODUCTION

Language can be defined as a means communication of human life. The main function of language is used to conduct communication and interaction. People need language to communicate, interact, understand and get information from other people. Language is also used to express someone's feeling or emotion and also to express one's ideas, imaginations or thought.

According to Kreidler (1998:19) language is a system of symbols through which people communicate. The examples of symbols were spoken, written, or sign with the hands. Human being is a social and an individual person and always communicates with each other. Harmer (2007) said that language is used widely for communication between people who do not share the same first (or even second) language. It means that language can be a primary necessity in human life. It has a big role for every people in making good relationship with others.

Language cannot be separated from human being because it is so important in every aspect of human life, such as: technology, education, sciences, politics, economics, and art . The use of language to convey ideas and feeling in the field of art can be seen in song lyrics. Song is the act or art of singing. Song a piece of music with words that are sung has a

function to express the thoughts and feeling. Song has two elements, namely lyrics and music.

Listening to song is fun activity, but the listeners cannot get pleasure fully if they do not understand the figurative language that commonly found in song. There are some similarities between a song and a poem, a song has to be rhythmic and so does a poem. Rhythm is one of the important elements in both songs and poetry. In fact, there is even a form of poetry which is made into music called a lyric poem. They can be used in songs to express the thoughts and feeling of the author.

One of the ways that can help listeners to understand figurative language is through song lyrics. The songs are chosen as the main object because it is closest to human life. Besides that, songs are often heard in formal and informal situations even in people spare time. The survey revealed that half of teens often or sometimes watch TV (51%), use social networking (50%), text (60%) and listen to music (76%) while doing homework.” (Diebel, 2015: November 3)

In order to understand figurative language well, people need to understand the meaning. In linguistics, the study related to meaning is called semantics. Semantics is one of linguistics branches which studies about language meaning, or it can be said that meaning as the main study in semantics term. According to what has long been the most widely accepted theory of semantics, meanings are ideas or concepts, that can be transferred from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the nearer by embodying them, as it were, in the form of one language or another. (Lyons, 1995: 136)

Literal and non-literal meanings are part of semantic studies. Literal meaning is the opposite of non-literal meaning. Literal meaning is when the speaker says something that has natural meaning or does not have other meaning. While, non-literal meaning is when the speaker says something that has different meaning of what is his/her words or has hidden meaning.

Figurative language is language that uses word or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Figurative language is used in any form of communication, such as in daily conversation, newspaper, article, novel, poem, and advertisement. Figurative language usually uses words that go beyond their ordinary meaning. It requires the readers to use his/her imagination to figure out the author’s meaning.

It makes figurative meaning difficult to understand because we cannot find the meaning of the figurative language in dictionary just like the other vocabulary words that we usually use in our daily conversation. To know the meaning of figurative we need to use our imagination what the words are said or what the words refer to (Kennedy, 1983:479).

Basically, figurative language is part of semantics. Semantics can be used to analyze meaning in a song. When people listen to a song, they may not focus on the lyrics used in the song, especially if the song contains a figurative element. Usually they just like the song because the music is good, or even because they like the singer. Knowing the meaning of a lyric is important because people will know the meaning and the message in the song. One of the famous singers is Calum Scott.

Calum Scott is one of singers who uses figurative language on his song lyrics. The figurative language is used to make his song lyrics more interesting and beautiful. And also can attract the listeners more to listen to his song. By using figurative language Calum can express his feeling or emotion in his song lyrics using his own language.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The thesis writer uses descriptive qualitative analysis approach as the main method in this research because the writer explains by the words not numbers. The data are taken from the song lyrics by Calum Scott entitled *Only You*, and *You Are The Reason*.

C. ANALYSIS

A. Figurative Languages in Calum Scott's *Only You*

Table 1

No	Stanza	Lyric	Figurative Language	Type of Meaning
1	Line 18	While the world was busy sleeping	personification	Reflected
2	Line 9	On the inside I was screaming	Metaphor	Affective

3	Line 27	A million miles away from home	Hyperbole	Reflected
4	Line 5	The children didn't understand So they bullied me with silence	Irony	Social

Based on the table above, there are four figurative language that are found in Calum Scott's song *Only You*

1. Personification

I used to stare up at the ceiling
Wide awake all through the night
While the world was busy sleeping (line 18)
I was so caught up in my mind

The bolded sentence above is personification, because the world is considered to have human characteristic that is "sleeping and the truth is that the world is not human that can fall asleep. The speaker wants to explain that he is always awake at the night because his mind feels worry.

The sentence above indicates reflected meaning. The key word "world" suggests a reflected meaning. Here, readers need to analyze the word "world" to its implied meaning. It is not the earth but a reflection of human existence.

2. Metaphor

So I got good at keeping secrets
I used to blend in with the crowd
On the inside I was screaming (line 9)
With you I didn't have to hide

The bolded sentence above is metaphor. The speaker use the word “inside” to refer to his heart. It means that his heart is sad but he does nor show it publicly. It is only in front of his lover that he can be honest about his true feeling.

These sentence belongs to affective meaning, because the speaker shows the feeling or expression of him. He wants to tell the listener that he is not as fine as he looks like.

3. Hyperbole

When I'm all alone
A million miles away from home (line 27)
You're still with me
You'll always be
My rock and shoulder to lean on

The bold sentence above is hyperbole. It can be seen from the bolded sentence that it is an exaggeration to say “million miles away”. It means that the speaker is so far away from his friend.

The bolded sentence above shows reflected meaning because it does not only about distance, it can reflect the feeling of the speaker and his lover.

4. Irony

I remember in the school yard
The children didn't understand (line 5)
So they bullied me with silence (line 6)
Just for being who I am

The bold sentences above is irony. Because it is impossible if the children or the composer friend don't know he get bullied, i think they know but keep ignoring him or we can say they keep silence to what happen they see.

From sentences above, the bold sentence is called social meaning because it shows the situation. The composer want to explain the situation of people around him when he get bullied.

B. figurative Languages in Calum Scott's *You Are The Reason*

Table 2

No	Stanza	Lyric	Figurative Language	Type of Meaning
1	Line 1	There goes my heart beating	personification	Thematic
2	Line 5	There goes my mind racing	personification	Thematic
3	Line 9- 10	I'd climb every mountain And swim every ocean	Hyperbole	Affective

Based on the table above, there are three figurative language that are found in Calum Scott's song *You Are The Reason*

1. Personification

There goes my heart beating (line 1)

Cause you are the reason
I'm losing my sleep
Please come back now

The bolded sentence above is personification, because this song lyric assigns human characteristics to nonhuman object that is "beating" to the object "heart", and the truth is the heart cannot do such action. The speaker wants to explain that his heart seems to move quickly because of his lover.

The sentence above indicates the use of thematic meaning. Here, what is intended to be stressed is the subject of the sentence. The indication is that the speaker wants to organize the message in term of emphasizing. Here, the speaker wants to emphasize that his heart move quickly because he feels so excited.

There goes my mind racing (line 5)

And you are the reason
That I'm still breathing
I'm hopeless now

The bolded sentence above is personification, because this song lyric assigns human characteristic to nonhuman object that is “racing” to the object “mind”, and the truth is the mind cannot do that’s things. The speaker wants to explain that his mind cannot concentrate just because of his lover.

The bolded sentence above contains a Thematic Meaning. Here, what is intended to be stressed is the subject of the sentence. The indication is that the speaker wants to organize the message in term of emphasizing. Here, the speaker wants to emphasize that his mind is racing or cannot concentration with well.

2. Hyperbole

I'd climb every mountain (line 9)

And swim every ocean (line 10)

Just to be with you
And fix what I've broken
Oh, cause I need you to see
That you are the reason

The bolded sentence above is hyperbole. In this context, it is impossible for somebody to climb and swim every mountain and ocean. Accordingly, the meaning that the speaker wants to convey is that he wants to show his strong will to be with his lover.

The two sentences above shows affective meaning because they describe the feeling or expression of the speaker about how much he loves his lover.

D. CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and the analysis, the thesis writer draws research conclusion that there are 7 lines of Calum Scott’s song lyrics that use figurative language. There are four types of figurative language used in Calum Scott’s song lyrics. Those figurative languages are personification, metaphor, hyperbole, and irony.

Based on the analysis, those figurative languages are dominated by personification.. The use of those figurative languages is intended to beautify the lyrics and to enrich the meaning of the message that the speaker wants to convey. The main themes that are strengthened by the use of figurative language cover love, sadness and happiness. The use of figurative language in the song lyrics also helps the listeners to understand more about the message that the lyrics intend to convey.

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