

Analysis of Figurative Language in Lana Del Rey's Song Lyrics Entitled *Summertime Sadness, Young and Beautiful and Dark Paradise*

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Abstract

This research contains figurative language elements which are used in three of Lana Del Rey's song lyrics entitled *Summertime Sadness, Young and Beautiful and Dark Paradise*. The purpose of this research is to identify the types of figurative language found in three of Lana Del Rey's song lyrics and to analyze the meaning of those figurative language found in three of Lana Del Rey's song lyrics. To conduct the research, the thesis writer applies figurative language theory by Arp&Perrine and uses descriptive qualitative research design. In this research, twenty one figurative language are found and five types of figurative language are found, they are personification, simile, hyperbole, metonymy and metaphors. The most dominant figurative language type found is simile with seven proofs, and the least dominant figurative language type found is metaphor with two proofs.

Keywords: Semantics, Figurative Language

A. INTRODUCTION

Language has become an inseparable part of human being. Human as social creature in their social life needs to interact with other human everytime. In order to make that interactions going well, human needs a medium which can be understood and accepted each other and that where is language needed.

According to Leech (1974) there are five language functions : informational, expressive, directive, aesthetic and phatic. Every time people speak, they do it with a purpose it can be telling some information, asking something, throwing a joke, expressing anger or even expressing love. In all those activities, it is the language which can make the opponent understand of what we mean.

Eventhough it seems like people have already understood a language even since they were a baby, but language can be learned scientifically. Malmkjaer in *Linguistics Encyclopedia* (2002:28) stated that linguistics is scientific study of language for its own sake. In studying linguistics, people will learn some aspects of human language including sounds (phonetics, phonology), words (morphology), sentence (syntax), and meaning (semantics).

Semantics is one of the branch of linguistics that deals with meaning. It is also considered as a study of meaning in language. According to Katz (1972:1) Semantics is the

study of linguistic meaning. It is concerned with what sentence and other linguistics object express, not with the arrangement with their syntactic parts or with their pronunciation. A single word does not always have a single meaning. There are so many words that have a different meanings depend on the context. And this also applies to a sentence. A group of words or a sentence may have a different meaning depending on the context. The meaning of a word or sentence may be different when it is written or uttered. It can be the situation around, the conversation take place or the intonation that can affect the meaning. So it can be said that within the scope of meaning are involved the relations between written and spoken. In English we know that meaning plays an important role because it will give influence to someone to understand about what other people say or write or how far is the information can be understood by the listeners or readers.

In this research, the thesis writer is interested in digging deeper into one of the aspects of human language, that is semantics and will concentrate more in figurative language. According to Keraf (2009:13) Figurative language or style is a way of showing mind through a special language that shows the soul and the characteristics of the writer (language user).

Figurative language can be found in many literary works. The writer used figurative language in order to make the literary works become more beautiful and aesthetic. On top of that, every so often the writer use figurative language to disguise the real meaning from a sentence in a literary works with the intention to give us the readers a unique experience to explore or play with our mind and imagine what the real meaning is.

Speaking about mind and imagination, humans often use songs to express their feeling and thought, either just listen to a song that already exist or made their own one. Griffiths (1992:4) stated that song speaks to us directly about our experiences; they reassure us in a moments of trouble.

There are two elements of song, they are music and lyrics. Figurative language is a common thing that we can find in song lyrics. The use of figurative language can be meant for broaden the diction, harmonize the rhyme, or refine the sentence series so that can be suit with the theme of the song. Moreover, this also give the listener a wide space to explore and express their thought and feeling. Therefore, when people listen to some music, they often feel so many various feelings starts from fiery spirit, happiness or even a sadness.

There are so many song authors that infuse a figurative language into their song and one of them is Lana Del Rey. Lana Del Rey is a stage name for Elizabeth Woolridge Grant

She was born in New York City, June 21, 1985. She was raised Roman Catholic and is of Scottish descent. The reason why she went into the music industry is because she wanted to be a part of high-class scene of musicians. It was half-inspired because she didn't have many friends, and she was hoping that she would meet people and fall in love and start a community around her, the way they used to do in the '60s.

In this research, the thesis writer chooses three songs of Lana Del Rey, entitled *Summertime Sadness*, *Young and Beautiful* and *Dark Paradise*. Both *Summertime Sadness* and *Dark Paradise* are in the *Born to Die* album in the year of 2012. Billboard said that the melody of *Dark Paradise* recalls late '80s Madonna, while the *Summertime Sadness* won the Grammy Award for best non classical remixed record in 2012. *Young and Beautiful* is a song by Lana Del Rey featured on the soundtrack of the movie adapted from a famous novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Great Gatsby*. This song was released as a single in 2013.

This research will focus on analyzing figurative language used in selected Lana Del Rey song, entitled *Summertime Sadness*, *Young and Beautiful* and *Dark Paradise*. This research will apply the figurative language by Perrine to answer the statement of the problems.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher conducts a qualitative research in which the research does not give priority to number and tables. The Source of data is the lyrics of the song entitled *Summertime Sadness*, *Young and Beautiful* and *Dark Paradise* by Lana Del Rey.

C. ANALYSIS

These are types of figurative language found in the Lana Del Rey's song lyrics: *Summertime Sadness*, *Young and Beautiful*, and *Dark Paradise*

a. Song lyrics of Summertime Sadness

1) Dancin' in the dark, in the pale moonlight (line 6)

Description:

The lyric above is categorized as personification. It can be seen from the phrase *pale moonlight*. The word *moonlight* is an inanimate object but then given a word *pale* which is a human appearance make this sentence belongs to personification.

2) Telephone wires above are sizzlin' like a snare (line 10)

Description:

The lyric above is categorized as simile. It can be categorized as simile because the data show a direct comparison between two things, in this case *telephone wires* and *snare* and also the usage of the word *like* which is one of the characteristic of simile.

3) *Honey, I'm on fire, I feel it everywhere* (line 11)

Description:

The lyric above is categorized as hyperbole. The sentence *Honey, I'm on fire* has an intention to exaggerate the feeling of excitement. The word *fire* here is identical with spark, passionate, and sensational.

4) *I'm feeling electric tonight* (line 20)

Description:

The lyric above is also categorized as hyperbole due to the usage of the word *electric* which has an intention to exaggerate the feeling of happiness and excitement.

5) *I know if I go, I'll die happy tonight* (line 23)

Description:

The lyric above is also categorized as hyperbole. It can be seen from the phrase *die happy* that shows exaggeration of the happiness and excitement feelings.

6) *Think I'll miss you forever*

Like the stars miss the sun in the morning sky (line 36-37)

Description:

The lyrics above are categorized as simile. As it shows a direct comparison between two ideas and also the presence of the word *like* make this data become a simile.

7) *Like the stars miss the sun in the morning sky* (line 37)

Description:

The same lyric can also be categorized as personification since it shows a humanization of a non-living object. In this case the object *the stars* have been humanized by given the word *miss* which is a verb that usually done by human.

b. Song lyrics of *Young and Beautiful*

1) *Diamonds, brilliant, in Bel-Air now* (line 2)

Description:

The lyric above is categorized as metonymy. The words *diamonds, brilliant* and *Bel-Air* have a different meaning than its literal meaning. Those words are referring to a concept about something. Those words represent wealthiness, luxury, an good life

2) *The crazy days, city lights, the way you'd play with me like a child* (line 4)

Description:

The lyric above is categorized as personification due to the word *days* which is a non-living object but has been given a word *crazy* which is a human characteristic.

3) *The crazy days, city lights, the way you'd play with me like a child* (line 4)

Description:

The lyric above is categorized as simile. As it can be seen there are two things being compared, *the way you'd play* and *child*, and also the usage word *like* as the keyword of simile.

4) *I've seen the world, lit it up as my stage now* (line 9)

Description:

The lyric above is categorized as simile due to the direct comparison between two things, *the world* and *stage*. Also there is a word *as* which is one of the other keyword for simile.

5) *And all the ways I got to know, your pretty face and electric soul* (line 12)

Description:

The lyric above is categorized as metaphor. The phrase *electric soul* here implied a hidden meaning that is the soul that full of joyful and excitement.

6) *Dear Lord, when I get to heaven, please let me bring my man* (line 17)

Description:

The lyric above is categorized as metonymy. The word *heaven* here does not mean as its literal meaning but is referring to the concept of the word itself. In this case, the word *heaven* refers to death.

7) *He's my sun, he makes me shine like a diamonds* (line 20)

Description:

The lyric above is categorized as metaphor due to the comparison between things and makes a hidden meaning.

8) *He's my sun, he makes me shine like a diamonds* (line 20)

Description:

The lyric above is categorized as simile. Since it shows a comparison between two ideas and is also containing the word *like* make this sentence belongs to simile.

c. Song lyrics of *Dark Paradise*

1) *I'm lying on the ocean, singing your song.* (line 2)

Description:

The lyric above belongs to metonymy because the sentence does not mean as its literal meaning, but more like show us about the concept of the ocean that is wide, deserted and quite.

2) *And there's no remedy or memory, your face is like a melody* (line 9)

Description:

The lyric above belongs to simile due to the comparison between two things, they are *face* and *melody* and also being connected by the word *like* which is the keyword for simile.

3) *Your soul is haunting me and telling me that everything is fine* (line 11)

Description:

The lyric above belongs to personification because the noun *soul* has been given a word *haunting* and *telling* which are the verb that normally can be done by human.

4) *Every time I close my eyes, it's like a dark paradise* (line 13)

Description:

The lyric above belongs to simile because it shows a comparison between two ideas. In this case it compares the time when Lana close her eyes and the dark paradise. And the presence of the word *like* as well, make this sentence belong to simile.

5) *There's no relief, I see you in my sleep* (line 37)

Description:

The lyric above belongs to hyperbole. This sentence shows something exaggerated because the fact that when people sleep, people close their eyes and it is impossible to see someone while sleeping.

6) *Theres's no release, I feel you in my dream* (line 39)

Description:

The lyric above belongs to hyperbole. This sentence shows something exaggerated because the fact that when people dream, it is just something not real happen in their mind and it is impossible to fell someone while dreaming.

D. CONCLUSION

After the analysis has already finished, it can be concluded that there are many types of figurative language found in Lana Del Rey' song lyrics entitled *Summertime Sadness*, *Young and Beautiful* and *Dark Paradise*. The thesis writer has taken figurative language to analyze and song lyrics as the object. In this research, there are two objectives of the study. The first is to identify the types of figurative languages found in Lana Del Rey's song lyrics entitled *Summertime Sadness*, *Young and Beautiful* and *Dark Paradise*, and the last one in to analyze the meaning of figurative language found in Lana Del Rey's song lyrics entitled *Summertime Sadness*, *Young and Beautiful* and *Dark Paradise*.

In relation with the first objective of the study, the thesis writer conclude that simile and hyperbole are figurative language that very common to be found. Simile is a direct

comparison between two ideas using the word “like” or “as”. People use simile to spark an interesting imagination in the reader’s or listener’s mind. Simile can make literary works become more vivid and powerful. In everyday speech, it can be used to convey meaning quickly, as many commonly idioms are simile. On the other hand, Hyperbole is a figure of speech which an author or speaker exaggerating something. It is used for emphasizing the idea or making a description more creative or even humorous. Both of them are used in literary work not only to beautify the literary works itself but also to lure the people’s attraction and give the opportunity to have deeper understanding of the hidden meaning in the literary works.

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