

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE ANALYSIS IN THE BEATLES' SONG LYRICS

SOMETHING, WHILE MY GUITAR GENTLY WEEPS, AND HERE COMES THE SUN

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This research contains figurative language elements which are used in three of The Beatles' song lyrics entitled *Something, While My Guitar Gently Weeps, and Here Comes The Sun*. The purpose of this research is to identify the types of figurative language found in three of The Beatles' song lyrics and to analyze the meaning of those figurative languages found in three of The Beatles' song lyrics. To conduct the research, the thesis writer applies figurative language theory by Leech and uses descriptive qualitative research design. In this research, nineteen figurative language are found and six types of figurative language are found, they are simile, hyperbole, metaphor, oxymoron, personification, and metonymy. the most dominant types of figurative language are hyperbole with five proofs and metaphor with five proofs.

Keywords: Semantics, Figurative Language

A. INTRODUCTION

Language can be defined as a system of communication used by human life. To express their feelings, creative impulses, emotions, and concepts, individuals use language as well. It can be either talked or written. Language is a human system of communication that uses structured vocal sounds and can be embodied in other media such as writing, print, and physical signs. McArthur (1992:571). Another expert also defines that language is used widely for communication between people who do not share the same first (or even second) language. It can be explained that Language is a tool for communication as well as a basic requirement in human life. Harmer (2007:13).

Language has the main function it is to communicate with people. According to Jakobson (1960:353-359), The six functions of language are referential, emotive, conative, phatic, metalingual, and poetic. The conative function, for example, is solely concerned with human behavior and has its own set of characteristics. The language itself is divided into two categories: written and spoken. The majority of people believe that a language is mostly written.

Written language is taught to students in school. In schools such as high school and universities, spoken language takes second place, except in lower grades such as junior high schools and primary schools.

As human beings, language has an important role and cannot divide us from social communication which means we cannot live without language. Man's feelings and activities are intimately connected through language. It is linked to nationality, religion, and self-identity. Everyone, beggar or banker, savage or civilized, uses it for work, workshops, and play. Lado (1964:11).

The study which concerned with meaning is called semantics. It is one of the linguistics branches. Semantics studies about meaning. As states by Katz (1972:1), "The study of linguistic meaning is known as semantics. It is not a list of syntactic parts or pronunciations, but rather a way of expressing something as a text object or in another linguistics context.." Figurative language is a language that uses an expression with a meaning. Reaske (1966:33) said "Figurative language is defined as language that employs a variety of speech patterns across languages, as opposed to language that is traditionally and literally used to describe people or things." When someone says something like "love is blind," the listeners already know it is figurative language that cannot be taken literally because there is no love with eyes in real life, so it cannot be blind. It is the sole means of expressing love. Perrine (1983:565) confirms that "Figurative language is any language that cannot or should not be taken literally and that says or means something different than the usual way of saying it."

Song today is part of human's life. They cannot be separated from our daily life. In school, the workplace, traveling we sing a song. The song is a poem sung by a singer or a band. Hornby (1995) defines "a song composed of a short poem or a series of lines set to music and intended to be interpreted or sung." By that definition, a song lyric is also a poem in itself.

The thesis writer would like to analyze the figurative language of The Beatles' song. The Beatles were an English rock band, was formed in Liverpool in 1960. They became the most important and influential band of the rock era with members John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr. Their massive popularity was first known as "Beatlemania" in the early 1960s, a term used to describe the British group's fan craze. The Beatles have been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1988, and Lennon (1994), McCartney (1999), Harrison (2004), and Starr (2015) have been additionally inducted as individuals. In September 2009, mainly packaged digitally remastered variations of the Beatles' whole catalog and a Beatles model of the famous digital track sport Rock Band have been launched simultaneously. After it become said in February 2010 that the financially

bothered EMI become soliciting consumers for its Abbey Road Studios, wherein the Beatles made the notable majority in their recordings, the British Department for Culture, Media, and Sport declared the recording complicated a anciental landmark. EMI sooner or later introduced that it might keep possession of the enduring studio at the same time as searching for outdoor funding to enhance its facilities. www.britanica.com (2020)

The thesis writer conducted research on the three Beatles songs entitled *Something, While My Guitar Gently Weeps, and Here Comes The Sun*, which was created by George Harrison, which analyzes the discovery of the type of figurative language, finding the most dominant figurative language, and the analysis of meaning in the three songs. While the previous research with the Beatles song examined the discovery of the type and amount of figurative language contained in the song *Instant Karma, I am the Walrus, Across the Universe, She's a Woman, Hey Jude, and Honey Pie*. and also differences and comparisons of themes in the two song lyrics composed by members of the Beatles, namely John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The thesis writer will apply a qualitative research method in his study. The use of qualitative research method is taken to obtain the data such as sentences, words, clauses in the Figurative Language Analysis in The Beatles' Song Lyrics *Something, While My Guitar Gently Weeps, and Here Comes The Sun* which are classified as figurative language. The source of data is the text lyrics of the selected The Beatles Song.

C. ANALYSIS

1. The Figurative Language of *Something* Song Lyric

Datum 1. *Attracts me like no other lover*

(Verse 1, line 2)

Description:

The quotation is indicated as simile because it tells compare with another thing this contains "like". In this case, the man compares that the woman is not same with his other lover before.

Datum 2. *That I don't need no other lover*

(Verse 3, line 2)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as hyperbole because it contains exaggerated sentence “*I don’t need no other lover*”. The man seems to need no other lover than the woman, because she attracts him too much.

Datum 3. *And all I have to do is think of her*

(Verse 6, line 2)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as hyperbole because it contains exaggeration. It tells the man seems to always think about the woman even the man only think about the woman, we can know from the sentence “*all I have to do.*”

Datum 4. *I don't want to leave her now*

You know I believe and how

(Verse 1, line 4 and 5, Verse 2, line 4 and 5, and Verse 4, line 4 and 5)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as hyperbole because it contains exaggeration from the word “*I believe and how*”. Intended to obtain a certain effect. In this case it is intended to get sympathy from a loved one.

Datum 5. *Something in the way she moves*

(Verse 1, line 1)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as metaphor. Moving here does not mean the movement of her body, but her behavior and also the nature of the woman.

2. The Figurative Language *While My Guitar Gently Weeps* Song Lyric

Datum 1. *As I'm sitting here doing nothing but aging*

(Verse 6, line 5)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as oxymoron. In this case, “*doing nothing*” contains two expressions which are semantically incompatible.

Datum 2. *While my guitar gently weeps*

(Verse 1, line 3)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as personification. The songwriter personifies his guitar which is nothing but an inanimate object to cry like a living creature.

Datum 3. *I look at you all I see the love there thats sleeping*

(Verse 1, line 1 and 2)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as personification it can see at the word “*love there that's sleeping*”. The songwriter equates love with a living being that can sleep and wake up at any time.

Datum 4. *How to unfold your love*

(Verse 2, line 2)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as metaphor by word “*To unfold your love*”. Because it directly refers to one thing by mentioning another. “*To unfold your love*” means opening up and starting to give and receive love. Like opening your heart to others.

Datum 5. *With every mistake we must surely be learning*

(Verse 3, line 3)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as metonymy. The word 'mistake' is a link to something else in its place. So, when the songwriter says mistake, he means wrong actions.

Datum 6. *They bought and should you*

(Verse 3, line 4)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as hyperbole. The words 'bought' and 'sold' of course have no real meaning. In the sense that it is a word that is exaggerated against the subject that aims to get a certain impression or effect on the interlocutor, which in this case is the awareness to be yourself.

Datum 7. *I look at the world and i notice it's turning*

(Verse 3, line 1)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as metonymy. The word 'the world' is a link to something else in its place. So, when the songwriter says the world, what he means here is 'your world' or 'your everyday life'.

Datum 8. *You are perverted too*

(Verse 5, line 2)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as hyperbole. The word 'perverted' is a word that is exaggerated towards the subject that aims to get a certain impression or effect on the other person, which in this case is the awareness that the other person is back to being yourself.

3. The Figurative Language *Here Comes The Sun* Song Lyric

Datum 1. *Here comes the sun*

(Verse1, line 1)

Description :

It indicates personification because it personifies the sun approaching so it is like a man approaching.

Datum 2. *Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter*

(Verse 2, line 1)

Description :

It indicates personification because in this lyric the songwriter personifies or likens "cold" like a human who feels lonely

Datum 3. *It seems like years since it's been here*

(Verse 2, line 2)

Description :

It indicates simile because the lyric "*It seems like years since it's been here*", the songwriter clearly states explicitly the word "like". Where this word is an expression of simile.

Datum 4. *Here comes the sun*

(Verse1, line 1)

Description :

Here Comes the Sun is a metaphor because it directly refers to one thing by mentioning another. The songwriter ordered to forget the dark, cold of past, and bask in the new warm sunlight.

Datum 5. *Little darling, it's been a long cold lonely winter*

(Verse2, line 1)

Description :

The quotation is indicated as metaphor. Because it directly refers to one thing by mentioning another. The songwriter uses winter as a metaphor to express the cold and sadness.

Datum 6. *Little darling*

(Verse2, verse 4, and verse 7 line 1 and 2)

Description :

The quotation above is indicated as metaphor. Little darling is not the real word. The songwriter uses 'little darling' to represent happiness.

D. CONCLUSION

After the analysis has already finished, it can be concluded that there are many types of figurative language found in The Beatles Song Lyrics *Something*, *While My Guitar Gently Weeps*, and *Here Comes The Sun*. The thesis writer has taken figurative language to analyze and song lyrics as the object. In this research, there are three objectives of the study. The first To find out the type of figurative language in *Something*, *While My Guitar Gently Weeps*, and *Here Comes The Sun* sung by The Beatles, the second to find out the most dominant figurative language found in *Something*, *While My Guitar Gently Weeps*, and *Here Comes The Sun* sung by The Beatles, and the last one is to analyze the meaning of the chosen figurative languages used in *Something*, *While My Guitar Gently Weeps*, and *Here Comes The Sun* song lyrics.

The thesis writer can say that in *Something* song lyric, there are five figurative languages found, in *While my guitar gently weeps* song lyric, there are eight figurative languages found and in *Here comes the sun* song lyric, there are six figurative languages found.

In relation with the first objective of the study, the thesis writer concludes that hyperbole and metaphor are figurative language that very common to be found. In *Something* song lyric, the thesis writer has found one simile, three hyperboles, and one metaphor. In *While My Guitar Gently Weeps* song lyric, the thesis writer has found one oxymoron, two personifications, one metaphor, two metonyms, and two hyperboles. And In *Here comes the sun* song lyric, the thesis writer has found two personifications, one simile, and three metaphors. In this study, six types of figurative language are found. Those are simile, hyperbole, metaphor, oxymoron, personification, and metonymy.

The second objectives of the study for the most dominant types of figurative language are hyperbole and metaphor. Hyperbole and metaphor are used in literary works to attract the reader's interest to give a beautiful impression and force the reader's imagination to have a deeper understanding of the hidden meaning of the texts in literary works.

While for the third objective of the study the thesis writer can conclude that the meaning of *Something* is about the songwriter's interest in his lover makes the songwriter always think about her. His attraction is due to his lover's very good personality, which makes his last lover different from other previous lovers.

While My Guitar Gently Weeps is about The songwriter was confused because he saw his band on the verge of collapse. The main cause is the change in the nature of some band members who are not the same as they used to be. And the last song *Here Comes The Sun* is about The feeling of joy because the songwriter has been released from the prison that held him and also the feeling of frustration that has haunted him for a long time.

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