

# The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Adele's Song Lyrics

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## Abstract

The purpose of this research is to analyse the figurative language and the meaning used in Adele's songs entitled "Remedy" and "Love In The Dark". The objectives of the research are to analyse the type of figurative language and the type of meaning implied in Adele's songs. This research used a descriptive qualitative method. The research completed by analysing the lyrics of Adele's songs. This research found that there are seven types of figurative language in Adele's songs, they are hyperbole, metonymy, personification, metaphor, paradox, symbol and simile. This research found that there are three types of meaning in Adele's song lyrics, they are affective meaning, reflected meaning and thematic meaning.

## A.INTRODUCTION

Humans need to communicate with each other in everyday life. Language defined as a means of communication in the life of humans. Conducting communication and interaction are the main function of language. Language is a tool to convey messages, both with oral and written messages. Kreidler (1998) states that language is a symbols' system which people use to communicate with each other. The symbol contains messages which are trying to be shared through spoken and written way. Messages in spoken language are given and received through conversation, while messages in written language are given and received through the use of form. Language is widely used for communication between people who do not give the same first (or second) language (Harmer, 2006).

Language is something which cannot be separated from humans life since language is important in every aspects, such as education, technology, politics, science, art and economics. In the aspect of art, the use of language can be seen in the song lyrics. According to Hornby (1987), language is a humanised and non-intensive method of expressing thoughts, ideas, feelings and emotions through a system of sounds and sound symbols. Song lyrics is a piece of art which can be the way of people share their feelings and thoughts. Mujiono (2020) says that a person can make claims, express facts of understanding, clarify, or even report something using the language. Through song lyrics, people can interact to each other who want to share their life's experience.

Analysing the song is the fun activity to do, but if the listeners will not understand the figurative language which found in the song lyrics, they cannot get the messages of the song. In this case, there are some similarities between song and poem, a song has a rhythmic as a poem. Poetry and song have a rhythm as their element. In fact, a poetry's form has interpreted into music, it is called a lyric poem and it is used as a way to express the feelings of the speaker.

In the purpose of understanding the figurative language, people should understand the message of the sentence which consist of figurative language. In a major of linguistics, semantics is the study which is related to the meaning. Leech (1981) states that semantics sometimes appear confusing, because there are many different approaches to semantics, and the ways in which they relate are rarely clear, even in writings on the subject. It means that we should understand what the meaning of a sentence through the concept of that sentence.

Figurative language uses word that has a different meaning with a literal meaning. Figurative language is used in any forms. It can be used in a poem, article, newspaper, article, or even a daily conversation. Figurative language usually uses word with a beyond meaning. It makes the readers or listeners use their imagination to figure out the speaker's meaning.

Basically, figurative language is a part of semantics. To analyse meaning in a song lyrics, the study of semantic can be used as a way of analysing. When people are listening to the song, they might not just focus on the song lyrics itself, especially if the lyrics are using figurative language. In usual, they maybe just love the song because of their sense of music. Understanding the meaning of the song lyrics is the important thing, because people can understand the messages of the song.

Adele is the singer who gets many awards since her career in 2018. She uses figurative language on her song lyrics. She uses it in order to make her song get more beautiful, and it also can make the listeners to get more listen to her songs. By using figurative language, Adele can express her thoughts and her emotions on her song lyrics.

## **B.RESEARCH METHOD**

In this research, the thesis writer applies a qualitative research. Based on Newman's book (2007 : 89), it is stated that

Qualitative researchers use a language of cases and contexts, examine social processes and case in their social context, and look at interpretation or the creation of meaning in specific settings. Instead of trying to convert into variables or numbers, qualitative researches borrow ideas from the people the study and place them within the context qualitative data are empirical. They involve documenting

real events, recording what people say (with words, gestures, and tones), observing specific behaviour, studying written documents, examining visual images.

It means that qualitative research do not focus on table or the numerical data. This research borrows ideas from the people the study and place them within the context qualitative data are empirical.

## C.FINDINGS ANCD DISCUSSION

### 1.Figurative Language in Adele’s *Remedy*

**Table 1**

No	Line	Lyric	Type of Fig. Language	Type of Meaning
1	1	I remember all of the things that I thought I wanted to be	Hyperbole	Thematic
2	2	So desperate to find a way out of my world and finally breathe	Metonymy	Reflected
3	6	When the pain cuts you deep	Personification	Thematic
4	9	That I will be your remedy	Metaphor	Reflected

According to the table of finding above, there are four figurative language that are found in Adele’s song *Remedy*.

#### A.Hyperbole

I remember all of the things that I thought I wanted to be (Line 1)

The underlined phrase above belongs to hyperbole because the singer did an exaggeration. Here, the singer wanted to say that she still remember the important things on her relationship. Sometimes, people will be forgotten one or two thing in life. The capacity of mind is not that powerful. It is non sense if a person can ”remember all of the things,” but the singer used it in a figurative way. This mean that the singer still remember the things which were the singer wanted to be even she does not remember the exact all the things.

This lyric indicates a thematic meaning. She organized her sentence in terms of emphasizing. She convinced her lover that she can remember all of the things that she wanted to be. This mean that it makes her lover feel better.

## **B. Metonymy**

So desperate to find a way out of my world and finally breathe. (Line 2)

The underlined word above belongs to metonymy. The term “world” is not literally mean a world which contains a lot of building, islands or continents. Generally, people know that the world is a place for all people to live. But, the term “world” in this case defined something which has closely related to the person’s life. So, the singer used the term “world” to defines her life’s condition.

This lyric indicates reflected meaning. The singer wanted the listeners to analyse the implied meaning. The singer reflected the term “world” with her life and her relationship’s condition.

## **C. Personification**

When the pain cuts you deep. (Line 6)

The underlined phrase indicates personification. The singer employed the word “pain” for doing an action by adding the action verb “cut.” The action verb “cut” should be employed by humans or animals. The phrase “cut you deep” represents the action which has an impact to someone. The singer wanted to make the listeners think when she and her lover get an unpleasant moment in their relationship.

This lyric indicates thematic meaning. The singer organized her sentence in terms of emphasizing. She wanted the listeners to imagine that something happened to the singer’s lover and made him feel the pain.

## **D. Metaphor**

That I will be your remedy. (Line 9)

The underline word indicates metaphor. The singer compared person to a remedy as she wanted to convey that she would be her lover’s protection or assistance in coping with any life’s problem.

This lyric indicates reflected meaning. The singer reflected the term “remedy” to something which could make her lovers healed from an unpleasant moment.

## 2. Figurative Language in Adele's *Love In The Dark*

**Table 2**

No	Line	Lyric	Type of Fig. Language	Type of Meaning
1	3	This is never ending, we have been here before	Hyperbole	Affective
2	8	I'm being cruel to be kind	Paradox	Affective
3	9	I can't love you in the dark	Symbol	Thematic
4	10	It feels like we're oceans apart	Simile	Reflected
5	31	It is the world to me	Metonymy	Reflected

According to the table of finding above, there are five figurative language that are found in Adele's song *Love In The Dark*.

### A. Hyperbole

This is never ending, we have been here before. (Line 3)

The underlined sentence indicates hyperbole. The singer did an exaggeration. She was trying to stop telling lies or bad moments of her relationship, but she could not make it stop and she always coming back to the moment. The relationship was unpleasant, but she could not make it stop. So, the singer did an exaggeration as if the bad moments in her relationship is coming on her way in many times.

This lyric indicates affective meaning. The singer wanted to say the lyric based on her feeling. She felt that she never got the ending of her fight with her lover. She never got the good solutions of the problem.

### B. Paradox

I'm being cruel to be kind. (Line 8)

The underlined sentence indicates paradox. It show that the term "cruel" and "kind" are the antonym or, sort of, contradictive to what is commonly held which is contain the truth. This mean that the singer wanted to cause someone's pain to make her own good. She should be

“cruel” to be “kind” for her self. She wanted to end up the relationship, which was a cruel thing to be done to her lover, but it will be “kind” for herself to get the freedom of her bad relationship.

This lyric indicates affective meaning. The singer was telling about something to show her feelings to her lover. She wanted her lover to understand her desire, which was to end up her bad relationship with her lover.

### **C.Symbol**

I can't love you in the dark. (Line 9)

The underlined word is saying a symbol. The term “dark” represents something which is having the other meaning of the dark itself. The actual meaning of “dark” suits in that line. However, the term “dark” has another suggestive meaning which can be understood in a specific way. The term “dark” in this line means no good future. The singer conveys that she can not let her relationship with someone continue as she thinks that she will not has a good future with him.

This lyric indicates thematic meaning. She organized her sentence in term of emphasizing. She emphasized that she could not have a dark relationship or, sort of, bad moments of the relationship with someone as she thought that she would not get a good moment of the relationship.

### **D.Simile**

It feels like we're oceans apart. (Line 10)

The underlined word indicates simile. It can be seen that the term “like” is used to compare something. “It” refers to the singer’s relationship which was unpleasant to her, or, which was having a dark relationship. So, she felt that she and her lover were “like oceans apart,” which was her feeling to her lover was so far away.

This lyric indicates reflected meaning. The singer wanted to reflect the phrase “oceans apart” to the figurative meaning. Oceans apart is not meant that she and her lover were far away apart from the ocean, but she wanted to reflect it as her feeling was far away from her lover. It sort of the way she convinced her lover that she did not love her lover anymore.

### **E.Metonymy**

It is the world to me. (Line 31)

The underlined word indicates metonymy. It can be seen in the lyric that the singer used the term “world” to describe the singer’s condition or her relationship. The term “world” is not actually the world which contain a lot of continents and buildings, but the term “world” defines the singer’s relationship. The singer wanted to show that her life or her relationship was so meant to her.

This lyric indicates reflected meaning. The singer wanted to reflect her relationship, which she called it as a “world.” The singer wanted to show the listeners that she has a good relationship in advance, but it has ended up because of something bad happened. Thus, it was the reason why she called her relationship as a “world.”

## **D.CONCLUSION**

According to the research findings and analysis, the thesis writer found that there are 9 lines of Adele’s song lyrics that use figurative language. Secondly, there are 7 types of figurative language in the song lyrics, they are hyperbole, metaphor, metonymy, paradox, personification, simile and symbol.

Based on the analysis, those figurative languages are dominated by hyperbole and metonymy. Those figurative languages is used to beautify Adele’s song lyrics and to enrich the meaning of the messages that the singer wants to deliver. The main themes that are giving more strength by the use of figurative language cover happiness, sadness and love. The use of figurative language in the song lyrics can help the listeners can understand more about the message conveyed by the song lyrics.

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