

An Analysis of Personification Found in Calum Scott Song Lyrics

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Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to analyze the personification and the meaning found in Calum Scott's song lyrics limited on: Not Dark Yet and Won't Let You Down. The researcher used Perrine (1997) theory to find type of personification and the theory of the meaning by Lyons (1977). This study used is a qualitative method. There are two song lyrics by Calum Scott in this thesis. Based on the analysis the thesis writer finds that there are five personification types in Calum Scott's song lyrics.

Keywords: Figurative Language, Personification, Song Lyrics, Semantic

A. Introduction

According to Kreidler (1998:19), Language uses symbols, which can be words, sounds, or written characters, to represent specific meanings. These symbols are arbitrary and only hold meaning due to the agreement of the speakers of a particular language. From the above quotation, it can be said that language is a very important communication tool for humans. With language someone can interact with each other, provide information to each other and can even exchange opinions. Humans need language to be able to interact with each other. Language is an essential part of our life and language also used to communicate each other around the world.

Semantics is a branch of linguistics that deals with meaning. Every word, sentence or phrase has a certain meaning in a literary work such as song lyrics, poetry, novels, etc. Semantics is a branch of linguistics that discusses meaning, so to know the meaning of words in song lyrics we have to study semantics more deeply.

In a song consists of lyric where the lyrics are an expression of a person's feelings, seen and heard, both from his own experience and from the world around him, which is poured in the form of writing which then becomes lyrics that are used as songs to be sung, and of course, the two components between the lyrics of the song lyrics and the song itself cannot be separated.

Figurative language is language that has figurative meaning and incorporates the speaker's desire to touch emotion (Petter 2002). Figurative language is the use of a very broad language where the words are meant to convey expressions that cannot be expressed in ordinary words because they have meanings that go beyond their literal meaning which is to create an effect that seems more lively, imaginative and more arousing to the audience reader. Figurative language is often used in literature, poetry, speeches, song lyrics and everyday conversations to convey ideas and emotions in more interesting and impactful ways.

Sometimes a person cannot describe his feelings just by expressing the usual words, for that sometimes writers use figurative language to describe feelings, emotions, ideas or something that he feels and wants to express in a more interesting way. Perrine (1977:28) Figurative language is language that uses figures of speech that cannot be interpreted literally. The meaning of this quote is that figurative language is adds layers of meaning, emotion, and image to communication. It can engage readers and listeners by appealing to their senses, emotions and intelligence. Writers and speakers often use these tools to create memorable and impactful expressions, thereby making their writings or speeches more engaging and evocative. Figurative language also is an expression that someone uses indirectly by describing a deeper and clearer meaning with a description that cannot be written in words.

One type of figurative language is personification. According to Perrine (1977) Personification is a figure of speech that uses imaginative impressions in the form of depictions of inanimate objects depicted as if they have human-like characteristics. Actually, personification is a figure of speech that transfers human characteristics to an animal, object or something, this makes these animals, objects and things appear to be like humans. Example: "You have to listen to your heart" here the heart is described as being able to speak, even though the heart does not have the ability to communicate.

There is of researcher have done studies about figurative language: Based on the article entitled "*Figurative Language Analysis in Celine Dion's Song Lyrics Falling into You Album*", written by Ardhayanti (2020) Universitas Ikip Siliwangi. She analyzed the Figurative Language in Celine Dion's song, she analyzed two songs, namely *Fly* and *Falling into You*. Figurative language that found in this research are metaphors, symbols, simile and personification.

The song analyzed in this study is included in Calum Scott's first album entitled "Only Human". Album "Only Human" is the first album from Calum Scott and also every song on this album is based on Calum Scott's personal experience and many songs on this album relate to the experiences of many people. Calum Scott is a singer

and songwriter from England who started to attract public attention after he appeared as a contestant on the television show Britain's Got Talent in 2015 and he is one of the singers who often uses figures of speech in his song lyrics to embellish song lyrics and wants to convey feelings that are not enough to convey only with words alone. The aim of this research is to find out the personification type and the meaning in Calum Scott Song Lyrics.

B. Research Method

The researcher used descriptive qualitative as the main method in this research because the researcher explain the data by the words not numbers. The researcher used the theory descriptive qualitative from Creswell. (Creswell 245:4) Qualitative research is research that analyzes, describes data descriptively and systematically. Qualitative research analyzes descriptive data such as written or spoken, using qualitative methods to make it easier for writer to answer the problem formulation. The main data are taken from Calum Scott songs *Not Dark* and *Won't Let You Down*.

Researcher collected data by studying literature from song lyrics and from other sources using the documentation method from Creswell to collect the data. The following are the steps for collecting the data; the first step is the researcher searches for song lyrics through the site. Then, after searching for song lyrics, the researcher read and understand the song lyrics. The last step is the researcher identify figurative language and the meaning found in the song lyrics. This study used descriptive qualitative in analyzing the data.

The steps of analyzing the data in this research are firstly the researcher will identify the data by reading and listening to the song lyrics which are analyzed carefully and repeatedly to find and identify the type of personification in the song lyrics. The second step is researcher identifying and finds the type of personification in the lyrics of the song. Then, after discovering the type of personification in the song, the researcher describes the meaning of the personification found in Calum Scott's lyrics based on Semantic theory from Lyons (1977). And the last step is the researcher will make a conclusion based on the results that have been analyzed.

C. Result and Discussion

1. Result

Table 1. Data Finding of Personification in Calum Scott Song Lyrics

Song Lyrics	No	Data of Personification	Stanza, Line
Not Dark Yet	1.	<i>“Shadows are falling, and I’ve been here all day”</i>	Stanza 1, Line 1
	2.	<i>“It’s too hot to sleep, and time is running away”</i>	Stanza 1, Line 2
	3.	<i>“I’ve still got the scars, that the sun didn’t let me heal”</i>	Stanza 1, Line 4
	4.	<i>“Every nerve in my body, is so naked and numb”</i>	Stanza 7, Line 3
Won’t Let You Down	5.	<i>“Tears have spoken”</i>	Stanza 7, Line 2

2. Discussion

In this research the researcher found five of personification in these two song by Calum Scott.

a. Type of Personification Found in Calum Scott Song Lyrics

1) *Not Dark Yet*

Data 1 *“Shadows are falling, and I’ve been here all day”* (Stanza 1, Line 1)

This lyric is type of the personification type because in the phrase "the falling shadow" a figure of speech is used called personification, in which human characteristics or the speaker's abstract concepts are given human-like characteristics or actions. In this sentence "shadow" is personified like a human who can fall. The actual shadow is a result of light being covered by an object which physically does not have the ability to fall like a human. However "the falling shadow here gives an idea of a change in lighting which means the time will change and the day will end.

Data 2 “*It's too hot to sleep, and time is running away*” (Stanza 1, Line 2)

This is a personification. Time is an abstract concept, but here it is given human-like characteristics by suggesting that it is actively moving or escaping from the speaker. In this sentence, "time" is personified as having human-like characteristics, namely "running away", which actually means that time does not have the physical ability like humans to "running away". "Time is running away" here gives an idea of the time that continues to pass so fast.

Data 3 “*I've still got the scars, that the sun didn't let me heal*” (Stanza 1, Line 4)

These lyric included type of personification because the sun is given human nature in a way of "not allowing" a person to heal. The fact is that the sun is only a natural object that cannot affect a person's healing. The implication of personification occurs because the sun is considered to have the power to hinder the healing process. This can refer to various factors such as adversity, pressure, or environmental conditions that prevent the healing process.

Data 4 “*Every nerve in my body, is so naked and numb*” (Stanza 7, Line 3)

These lyric included type of personification because nerve are given human-like qualities by being described as "naked and numb". The nerves here are not in a physical context, but rather refer to sensations or feelings that are felt in the mind and body.

2) *Won't Let You Down*

Data 5 “*Tears have spoken*” (Stanza 7, Line 2)

These lyric included the type of personification because of tears by being given ability to speak like human. Literally tears do not have the ability to speak or make a sound. However, in this lyric, tears are given

human-like attributes to describe the feelings of the writer that cannot be expressed directly.

b. The Meaning of type Personification Found in Calum Scott Song Lyrics

1) *Not Dark Yet*

Data 1 “*Shadows are falling, and I’ve been here all day*” (Stanza 1, Line 1)

This lyric has a meaning about the passage of time and about feeling tired of waiting. “Shadows are falling” here describes how shadows usually appear when there is a sunset which shows towards the evening or the end of the day. So here the speaker tells about the atmosphere of a long day coming to an end and he is tired of waiting. Overall, these lyrics describe the atmosphere at dusk or evening, where shadows begin to form due to the decreasing sunlight. “I’ve been here all day” also highlighted the length of time the speaker had spent at the venue. This sentence can describe feelings of peace, reflection, or being with that place throughout the day from the speaker.

Data 2 “*It’s too hot to sleep, and time is running away*” (Stanza 1, Line 2)

This lyric has a meaning about the anxiety or anxiety that is experienced by the writer because he does not have enough time to do something he wants to do. “Time is running away” here emphasizes the time that passes quickly and uncontrollably. The speaker describes how someone who feels difficult or may feel they don’t have enough time to pursue something they want to achieve. All of these lyrics describe the situation of hot weather disturbing sleep, and also contain the feeling that time is passing quickly, this statement can create an image of an uncomfortable situation or time passing so quickly.

Data 3 “*I’ve still got the scars, that the sun didn’t let me heal*” (Stanza 1, Line 4)

This lyric has the meaning of conveying the emotional feeling of not being completely healed from the past, the feeling that it is difficult to fully recover from experiences that happened in the past, often with time passing. The sun as a symbol of time that has passed and its influence on healing abilities. The sun here represents a time of experience that did not allow the wounds to heal completely. The author tries to describe his feelings about him who may still feel the emotional impact of a difficult experience and has not been able to fully heal from these wounds.

Data 4 “*Every nerve in my body, is so naked and numb*” (Stanza 7, Line 3)

The meaning of the these lyric is a description of the feelings experienced by the speaker in an emotionally complex manner. It was as if all emotions were exposed for the world to see. However, at the same time, they may be overwhelmed to the point of emotional detachment, feeling numb to external stimuli or emotional responses.

2) *Won't Let You Down*

Data 5 “*Tears have spoken*” (Stanza 7, Line 2)

The meaning of these lyrics is a description of the speaker's feelings as a form of communication, has revealed the emotions or feelings that the speaker may find difficult to put into words. These lyrics could be interpreted that someone has shown their feelings or emotional expression through crying, or perhaps that the feelings in someone's heart are reflected in the tears they shed. The author tries to give an emotional and dramatic picture of unspoken communication through the expression of tears, although literally the tears themselves do not have the ability to speak.

D. Conclusion

Based on the analysis that has been done by the researcher, the researcher found five types of personification in these two song by Calum Scott.

The songwriter described his feelings by how he animates inanimate objects as if they have human-like characteristics. This is one of the songwriter's

strategies to create the beauty of the message to be conveyed through song lyrics. The way song writer uses figurative language in song lyrics helps create a more memorable and engaging work. Figurative language plays an important role in engaging listeners, expressing emotions, and presenting stories in unique and artistic ways. Figurative language in song lyrics make it more interesting, emotional, and deep more beautiful and enriches the meaning, message that the author wants to convey by the song writer. The use of figurative language is also used to make the listener understand more about the meaning conveyed by the author in the song lyrics.

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