

# Figurative Language in NCT Dream Selected Song: A Semantics Study

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## **Abstract**

People use language to communicate, to build connections with others, and to maintain their social relationship. The researcher focuses her analyzing in types of figurative language and semantics meaning in NCT Dream's selected songs. There are 2 objectives of the study intended to be achieved in this thesis, they are to find out the types of figurative language and to identify the types of meaning reflected by figurative language found in NCT Dream's selected song. Library research is conducted by the researcher in the book and lyrics to get the data as the object of this research. The researcher concludes that several types of figurative language in selected song, they are; hyperbole, symbol, personification.

Keywords: Figurative Language, NCT Dream, Song Lyric.

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

Language is a fundamental thing in society. People use language to communicate, to build connections with others, and to maintain their social relationship. According to Jakobson in Noth (1990), language has several types of functions such as referential, poetic, emotive, conative, phatic, metalinguistic (p.185). Each type of the functions is showing that language is not only being used in communication of social interaction but also to convey someone's ideas, thoughts, feelings, emotions, opinions, or in other word is to express themselves. Shaumyan said that, "language is a complicated phenomenon that can be studied from many points of view" (1987, p.1), therefore there is scientific study of language called linguistics that involves an analysis of language form, language meaning, and language in context. According to Yule, the field of linguistics known as semantics analyzes the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences(2017, p.320).

Semantic can be used in every form of language, either it is spoken or written. People can apply semantics in written form like in literature, journalism, and nonfiction work. On the other hand, spoken form could be found in movies, radio, song, or even in real life conversation. By employing semantics, people can interpret someone's message in literal meaning and non-literal meaning supposing they understand the nature of language and human language

abilities (Goddard, 2011, p.1). Song is one of the ways for someone to use in order to reveal something that might be hard for them to tell literally. Divided into two elements, namely the lyrics and the music itself (Kennedy, 2007, p.74), thus someone can use the lyrics to convey their undelivered message through the non literal meaning. The non literal meaning itself can be present in a figurative meaning.

By definition from Robert (2003), “figurative language is a term describing an organized pattern of comparison that deepen, broaden, extend, illuminate, and emphasize meaning” (p.127). Figurative language gives meaning more than its literary meaning, and that could add more philosophical messages. According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963, p.367), its Greek predecessor "Metepherein" means "to carry meaning beyond its literal meaning," hence the figurative language is also known as metaphorical language or simply metaphor. (Meta= beyond + pherein to bring –i.e., to bring beyond). The types of figurative language based on Knickerbocker and Reninger’ theory are Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Synecdoche, Metonymy, Hyperbole, Irony, Paradox, Dead Metaphor, and Allusion. All of the types of figurative language have their own meaning and as Leech (1985) classified that meaning has seven types, such as conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning (pp.9-23).

## **B. RESEARCH METHOD**

The researcher applied qualitative research design in analyzing the topic. It is stated in Neuman’s book entitled *Social Research Methods* (2007:89) that

Qualitative researchers use a language of cases and contexts, examine social processes and case in their social context, and look at interpretations or the creations 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 behavior, studying written documents, or examining visual images.

Based on Neumann’s explanation, the researcher assumes that qualitative research makes use of language, in this case sentences to describe life experiences and give them meaning. Qualitative research aims to understand the social reality of individuals, groups and cultures as nearly as possible as its participants feel it or live it.

Thus, individuals, people or groups, are studied in their natural setting by making use of certain theory as an underlying theory.

The researcher tries to interpret the experiences undergone by individuals, people, or groups based on the context. The researcher's interpretation is presented in the form of description by using sentences. It means that the researcher does not use numbers or statistical measurement in describing the interpretation.

The researcher tries to understand what an individual wants to say in song lyrics. Another characteristic of qualitative research as it is explained by Neuman above is that the qualitative data are the result of observation or experience. It means that the data are not the result of calculation. The forms of qualitative data are the results of interview, direct observation of visual materials or personal experience as well as analysis of artifacts and documents. It means that the data are not numbers and tables to analyze, but the emphasis is based on experiences expressed from documenting real occasion, recording with words, gestures, and tones, observing particular behavior and studying written document. The researcher intends to study written documents in this case the song lyrics of EXO's selected song entitled *Rose, Turn Off the Alarm, and For Live*.

The researcher also applies intrinsic and extrinsic approaches to analyze the research topic. In a book entitled *Theory of Literature*, Wellek and Warren (1949: 65) explain that, The most widespread and flourishing methods of studying literature concern themselves with its setting, its environment, its external causes. These extrinsic methods are not limited to a study of the past but are equally applicable to present-day literature.

It means that extrinsic approach to literature is a means of studying, criticizing, analyzing, or interpreting literary work by relating the literary works to other aspects outside the literary work itself. The extrinsic approach makes the critic to give more importance to the context of a text. It means that the critic is mainly interested in the background, history, social conditions, biography of the author, and other elements related to the studies beyond literary works. The extrinsic approach the thesis writer use is semantics. Dealing with the intrinsic approach the thesis writer applies in conducting this research, Robert Eaglestones (2009: 40), in his book entitled *Doing English: A guide for literature students*, explains that the intrinsic approach or attitude is often called 'formalism' because it is concerned, above all else, with the *form* of the text, its structure and language. It assumes that there is something special and uniquely 'literary' in the way literary texts use language.

Based on Eagleton's statement, intrinsic approach is also called formalism as the critic's basic interest is in the form of the text. It means that in intrinsic approach, the analysis and interpretation of literary work are mainly concerned with the elements of literature in literary work such as theme, character, symbols, images, structure and development of plot. Eagleton in using intrinsic approach also emphasizes on studying of literature as something special in the way literary work uses language. In conducting this research, the thesis writer focuses her attention to the figurative language used in the song lyrics of EXO's selected songs

### C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher would like to analyze the song lyric entitled fireflies from NCT Dream.

No	Song Title	Stanza		Lyrics	Figurative Language
		S)	Line (L)		
A	Firefiles	S	L		
1		1	2	<i>I believe I was there too<sup>2</sup></i>	Hyperbole
2		2	7	<i>Your shimmer, your inner compass is taking you there<sup>7</sup></i>	Personification
3		3	8	<i>I'll be your beacon<sup>8</sup></i>	Personification
		7	12	<i>We can make the stars align<sup>12</sup></i>	Hyperbole
		9	26	<i>Don't gotta sing the blues<sup>26</sup></i>	Symbol

*Tell me 'bout your dreaming<sup>1</sup>*  
*I believe I was there too<sup>2</sup>*  
*I could sense your breathing<sup>3</sup>*  
*Lying in a different room<sup>4</sup>*

That stanza is the first stanza from lyric song entitled *Fireflies*. The lyric ***I believe I was there too***<sup>2</sup> is literary means that the speaker believe he was on her dream. Since from the context of the stanza, the speaker is talking to a person he loves very much. This line contain hyperbole.

*Coz laws of the universe*<sup>5</sup>  
*Always there to observe*<sup>6</sup>  
*Your shimmer, your inner compass is taking you there*<sup>7</sup>

That stanza is the second stanza from lyric song entitled *Fireflies*. The lyric *Your shimmer, your inner compass is taking you there*<sup>7</sup> literary means that his lover has natural compass that always bring her to his side. This line contain personification.

***I'll be your beacon***<sup>8</sup>  
*Illuminate while you're on your way*<sup>9</sup>  
*I know it's hard sometimes to see the light*  
***We can make the stars align***<sup>12</sup>

That stanza is the third stanza from lyric song entitled *Fireflies*. The lyric ***I'll be your beacon***<sup>8</sup> consider as personification since using *beacon* in its lyric. The literal meaning of its lyric is to make sure that he is the only person who can guide his lover as the function of beacon to guide ship/plane.

The line 12 consider as hyperbole because the word ***We can make the stars align***<sup>12</sup> sounds exaggerate and impossible to do by human being.

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

In this section, the researcher would like to give the conclusion the analysis of one NCT DREAM selected song; *Fireflies* which is the material of this research. The researcher also would like answer and give the proofs the statement of the problems which are stated in chapter I.

After presenting the research design and conducting data analysis, the reseacher wants to make conclusion of her analysis. The researcher found out that there are 3 kinds of figurative language that used in the song lyric *Fireflies* from NCT Dream. There is hyperbole that found two times in line 2 and line 12. There is personification that found two times in line 7 and line 8. There is symbol that found once in line 26.

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