

Figurative Language Analysis in Avicii's Song Lyrics Entitled *Without You*, *The Nights*, and *Addicted to You*.

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Abstract

This research contains figurative language elements in which are used in three of Avicii's song lyrics entitled *Without You*, *The Nights*, and *Addicted to You*. The purpose of this research is to identify the types of figurative language found in three Avicii's song lyrics and to analyze the meaning of those figurative languages found in three Avicii's song lyrics. To analyze his research, the thesis writer uses figurative language theory by Leech and uses descriptive qualitative research design. In this research, twenty three figurative languages are found and six types of figurative language are found, those are personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, and metonymy. The most dominant types of figurative language are personification with eight evidences and hyperbole with eight evidences.

Keywords: Semantics, Figurative Language

A. INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the important things in human life. People use language is not only to interact or to communicate but also to build a relationship with each other. To express their feelings, imaginations, emotions, and ideas, people use language too. It can be either spoken or written. McArthur (1992:571) explains that 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. Harmer (2007:13) also explains 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 a language is a tool of communication and a primary necessity in human life.

A study of language is called linguistics. One of the branches of linguistics that studies about the meaning of language is semantics. According to Yule (2010:112), semantics is the study of the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences. Griffiths (2006:1) also states that semantics is the study of the "toolkit" for meaning: knowledge encoded in the vocabulary of the language and in its patterns for building more elaborate meanings, up to the level of sentence meanings.

Another part of semantics is figurative language. Figurative language can be said as a way to say something different from the literal meaning. Figurative language is a literary device used to create a special effect or feeling by making some type of interesting or creative comparison (Wiradana, 2018:1). Figurative language is used not only in daily conversation but also in literary works. For examples like poems, novels, song lyrics, articles in the newspaper, advertisements on the internet, etc. In his book *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry* (1969), Leech categorizes into eight categories of figurative language. They are hyperbole, irony, litotes, metaphor,

metonymy, oxymoron, personification, and simile.

Nowadays, the songs cannot be separated from human life. Since childhood, people have listened to the songs such as lullabies or kids songs. From the wedding party to the funeral, people can still listen to songs. It means that song can represent people's feelings, both in joy and sorrow. Song also has many genres and each country in this world has its own genre of song. For example such as Indonesia has Dangdut, South Korea has K-pop, the US has Country, Jamaica has Reggae, and many more. The genre of the song also comes from a race. For examples like black people who have Jazz and Hip-hop, and white people who have Country. Even though there are many genres of song, the purpose people listen to their favorite song genre is to enjoy it. In a song, there is figurative language in it. It is because the song writers add figurative language in certain parts of their song lyrics. So, figurative language makes the song more interesting either to listen to or to study.

A famous songwriter or musician who deals with figurative language in his song lyrics is Avicii. Tim Bergling, who is known by his stage name Avicii, was born on 8 September 1989 in Stockholm, Sweden. He was a Swedish DJ, songwriter, musician, remixer, and record producer. In 2011, he became famous because his single *Levels* was exploded at that time and it was been nominated for Grammy Award in 2013. His other song, *Wake Me Up*, was also exploded and it became the highest charting dance track of the decade in 2013 by DJ Magazine. Sadly, Avicii retired from his DJ touring around the world because of his health problems in 2016.

In this research, the thesis writer chooses three of Avicii's songs, they are *Without You*, *The Nights*, and *Addicted to You*. *Without You*, one of Avicii's songs in his mini-album *Av̄ici (01)*, was released in 2017. To create this song, he collaborated with Swedish singer, Sandro Cavanza. No longer after the song was released, it was being the number one at weekly chart music in Sweden, New Zealand, Finland, Czech Republic, and Belgium. This song also has got Platinum Certification seven times in Sweden, three times in Italy, and once in Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, and Germany. *The Nights* is a song from extended play or mini-album *The Days / Nights* that was released in 2014. To make this song, Avicii collaborated with an American singer-Nicholas Furlong. This song had reached at number one UK Dance Chart. *The Night* was also used by the game company, EA Sport as part of their football game's theme songs, *FIFA 15*. This song has got Platinum Certification twice in Italy and once in Denmark, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States. *Addicted to You* is a song from the album *True* that was released in 2013. To make this song, Avicii collaborated with an American folk-rock singer Audra Mae. From 2013 to 2014, this song peaked at the number one weekly chart music in the United States, Slovenia, Poland, Hungary, Germany, and the Czech Republic. This song also has got Platinum Certification three times in Australia and Sweden, and once in Italy and Norway.

Beside the thesis writer is a fan of Avicii, he has an interest to analyze three of Avicii's songs above because these songs have got many achievements from various countries in the world and these songs have never been researched by other researchers since this study is conducted and finished by the thesis writer. Moreover, these songs also contain of figurative language in which the aim of this research itself is to find figurative language in them.

Based on the explanation above, the thesis writer focuses to analyze the types and meaning of figurative language found in three Avicii's song lyrics, these are *Without You*, *The Nights*, and *Addicted to You*.

B. RESERACH METHOD

To analyze the data, the thesis writer applied descriptive qualitative research design because the research was not related to number and table. In this research, the thesis writer used three song lyrics of Avicii. To conduct the analysis, the thesis writer described the data based on the definition of every type of figurative language.

C. ANALYSIS

a. Song Lyrics: *Without You*

Data 1

Without you I feel lost at sea

(Verse 1, Line 2)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **metaphor** because it compares two different things, those are the man's feeling when he is left by his lovely partner and the feeling like lost at the sea.

Data 2

Like the wind we'd be wild and free

(Verse 1, Line 4)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **simile** because it is about comparing two things, those are "wind" and "we", and it is proved by the connector "like" in which it is a characteristic of simile.

Data 3

You said you'd follow me anywhere

But your eyes tell me you won't be there

(Verse 2, Line 1-2)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **irony** because in this sentence what the girl has said with her body language that reflected by her eyes is contradictive.

Data 4

But your eyes tell me you won't be there

(Verse 2, Line 2)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **personification** because in this sentence the woman's eyes can speak like human being even though in real life eyes cannot speak like a human.

Data 5

I've gotta carry my cross without you

(Verse 3, Line 2)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **metonymy**. Cross, in this sentence, is not the literary meaning. It is an idiom word used to substitute words "someone's burden life".

Data 6

I'm gonna to tear this city down without you

(Verse 3, Line 7)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **hyperbole** because this sentence shows something much exaggerated. It is impossible for an ordinary man to demolish a city by his own power in real life.

Data 7

I'm goin' Bonnie and Clyde without you

(Verse 3, Line 8)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **metonymy**. "Bonnie and Clyde" were known as an American couple who robbed many banks in 1930s. In this case, Bonnie and Clyde are words that substitute words "couple in crime".

b. Song Lyrics: *The Nights*

Data 1

The animals inside came out to play (Hey)

(Verse 1, Line 4)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **personification** because in this sentence the animals are like human being who can do human activity that is playing.

Data 2

Hey, went face to face with all our fears

(Verse 1, Line 5)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **personification**. In this case, fears are represented as humans by the writer as if we can see or face them. In fact, we cannot know how fear looks like because it is not like a human or a thing.

Data 3

Your wild heart will live for younger days

(Verse 2, Line 5)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **personification** because the writer gives the heart human characteristic as if heart can live. In fact, heart is not human being that can live even though heart is a part of human organs.

Data 4

These are the nights that never die

(Verse 3, Line 4)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **personification**. In this sentence, night is represented as a human being that can pass away. In fact, the night does not pass away like human being but it is switched by the day when the dawn comes.

Data 5

When thunderclouds start pouring down

Light a fire they can't put out

(Verse 5, Line 1-2)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **is personification**. In this case, the writer gives the thunderclouds an ability like a human being as if they can shut the fire down.

Data 6

Carve your name into those shining stars

(Verse 5, Line 3)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **hyperbole**. The sentence above shows something much exaggerated. Carving something else into stars is impossible because stars themselves are far away from earth and stars are not like a rock, a wood, or an ice cube that can easily to be carved.

Data 7

I'll guide you home no matter where you are

(Verse 5, Line 6)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **hyperbole**. This sentence above shows something much exaggerated because it is impossible for an ordinary man guides someone to the way home from every single places in this world.

c. Song Lyrics: *Addicted to You*

Data 1

You came into my crazy world like a cool and cleansing rain

(Verse 2, Line 1)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **simile** because this sentence is about comparing two different objects those are “you”, and “a cool and cleaning rain”. ”like” is also used in simile as a connector between two different objects in this

sentence.

Data 2

...my crazy world

(Verse 2, Line 1)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **personification**. In this phrase, the world is given a human characteristic by the writer as if the world is truly like a human who can be crazy.

Data 3

...you were flowing through my veins

(Verse 2, Line 2)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **hyperbole**. In this phrase, a man is represented as the blood that can flow to someone's veins. In real life, it is impossible for a man can go inside someone's vein.

Data 4

I'm addicted to you, hooked on your love

Like a powerful drug I can't get enough of

(Verse 3, Line 1-2)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **simile**. It is proved by "like" as the connector between "you" and "a powerful drug". Connectors such as "like" and "as" are the characteristic of simile.

Data 5

Lost in your eyes, drowning in blue

(Verse 3, Line 3)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **hyperbole**. This sentence shows something much exaggerated because eyes are not like places in this world that can make someone lost, and blue, which a representation of sadness, is not like a lake, or an ocean that can make someone drown.

Data 6

I'm addicted to you

(Verse 3, Line 5)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **hyperbole**. The sentence above shows something much exaggerated because the man that she loves is not like drugs or alcoholic beverages that make someone addicted to them.

Data 7

Midnight blows in through the window, dances 'round the room

(Verse 3, Line 1)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **personification**. In this sentence, the midnight is given a human ability by the writer as if it can blow and dance.

Data 8

...I'm getting high on the perfume

(Verse 4, Line 2)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **hyperbole**. The phrase above shows something much exaggerated because it is impossible the effect of smelling perfume makes some one high like the effect of using drugs or drinking an alcohol beverage.

Data 9

I couldn't live without you now, oh, I know I'd go insane

(Verse 4, Line 3)

Description:

The quotation above is indicated as **hyperbole**. This sentence shows something much exaggerated because the woman will be still alive, she will not be crazy and, she will do her normal life if her boyfriend has to leave her alone.

D. CONCLUSION

In this study, six types of figurative language are found. Those are personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, and metonymy. The types of figurative language that are very common to be found are personification, hyperbole, and simile. The most dominant types of figurative language are personification and hyperbole. Personification is used to make a

nonhuman entity have a human characteristic or human ability as if it is like a human, on the other hand, hyperbole is used to dramatize an ordinary word or sentence being an extraordinary word or sentence. Both of them are used in literature work not only to attract the reader's interest but also to force the reader's imaginations to have a deeper understanding of the hidden meaning of the texts in literature work. Furthermore, in daily conversation, personification and hyperbole are commonly used. Thus, the use of either personification or hyperbole can transfer ideas in literary work to real-life. The thesis writer also deduces that, the meaning of *Without You* is losing someone that you love is painful and trying relearn to do everything without someone that you love is hard, *The Nights* tells about the positive energies from parents' advice, and *Addicted to You* tells about the ecstasy of loving someone that you love.

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