

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SONG LYRIC "TAKE ME TO YOUR HEART" BY MLTR

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Abstract

The material object of this paper is one of the songs sung by a band from Denmark, namely Michael Learns to Rock entitled "Take Me to Your Heart" which was released in 2004. Many of the song lyrics use literal language and are easy to understand. But different "Take Me to Your Heart" song is full style of language, like figurative language which is interesting to analyze. Therefore, the formal object of this paper is the theory of figurative language. This research employed the qualitative model. The data showed seven types of figurative language found in the lyrics of this song: two allusions, three hyperboles, one metaphor, one personification, one repetition, one anaphora and one assonance.

Keywords: *Figurative, language, metaphor, hyperboles*

A. INTRODUCTION

Poetry is one of the fine arts. This place it in the category with painting and music. Now all the fine arts have for their distinctive object to express the beautiful. They are differentiated from one another by the means employed to reach this end. Thus : Music expresses the beautiful by means of pure sound (melody and harmony). Poetry, by means of language (Connel, 1913). We may define poetry to be the art of giving expression to the beautiful through the medium of language.

Poetry and music are closely related, so that music lyrics can touch the listener's feelings, they must be poetic and contain style of language. Likewise poetry, so that poetry has a melodious sound, typography and the final sound of each word must be considered carefully. Perhaps the difference between music and poetry is that the language of poetry is ambiguous with multiple interpretations of meaning. While the song lyrics do not contain many words that are ambiguous. Music prioritizes sound elements rather than the beauty of words because they are sung.

There are several songs that are poetic and contain interesting figurative language to research, the song entitled "Take Me to Your Heart" is a song by Danish soft rock band Michael Learns to Rock (MLTR), released as the first single from their 2004 self-titled album. The song is an adaptation of the 1993 Chinese hit

"Goodbye Kiss" ("Wen Bie") by Hong Kong singer Jacky Cheung which is the title track of the album *The Goodbye Kiss*. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Take_Me_to_Your_Heart_\(Michael_Learns_to_Rock_song\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Take_Me_to_Your_Heart_(Michael_Learns_to_Rock_song))).

The album "goodbye kiss" sold over 5 million copies in 1993 throughout Asia, including 1,360,000 copies in Taiwan alone, and the album is one of three million-selling Jacky's album there and it still holds the record as Taiwan's second-selling album. It continues to hold the record for the best-selling non-English international album there (by comparison, Malaysia's highest selling album sold more than 700,000 copies). The song "goodbye kiss" has the same tone and intonation with the song "Take Me to Your Heart" sung by MLTR. In terms of song lyrics, they are quite different, even though the ideas contained in both song lyrics have the same romance idea. For this reason, author is interested in analyzing figurative language in "Take Me to Your Heart" song.

B. METHOD

This research implied qualitative research. According to Wiersma, qualitative research relies heavily on narrative descriptions. Meanwhile, Punch defines qualitative research as empirical research where the data are not in the form of numbers. (Swarniti, 2022). The data source in this research was sentences, clauses, phrases, even words that contained on song lyric of MLTR's entitled "Take Me to Your Heart".

The approach used in this research is figurative language. Figurative language are one way of interpreting the meaning of the expression and avoiding multiple interpretations. Figurative language is a type of language used by authors or speakers who articulate something outside literal sense (Farhan dkk, 2021).

Figurative language which employs various figures of speech. Some examples are metaphor, hyperbole, allusion, alliteration, personification, repetition, anaphora. In general, figurative language is that kind of language which departs from the language employed in the traditional, literal ways of describing persons or objects. Using figurative language is making imaginative descriptions in fresh ways. It is usually immediately obvious whether a writer is using figurative or literal language. (Reaske, 1966).

The procedure began by reading the lyrics repeatedly, so that the inner element is intertwined with the text. Second, analyzing data containing figurative language in accordance with the theory presented in the discussion section. Third, to describe the meaning hidden in song lyrics that contain figurative language. Fourth, draw conclusions from the results of the analysis.

C. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Figurative language is language which employs various figures of speech. In this section, we will first explain the theory of figurative language. Then it is connected with examples of song lyrics that contain this figurative language. Here's the analysis:

1. Allusion

Allusion the process of referring to figures or events in life or in literature (Reaske, 1966). Or like a richly connotative word or a symbol, a means of suggestion far more than it says. Miller and Greenberg also state that allusions are richly suggestive for readers who are willing to take the trouble to track them down and a poem may occasionally depend on the readers understanding of an allusion. (Swarniti, 2022). In the song, there is two lyrics indicated as allusion.

*Give me your **hand** before I'm old*

The word "hand" here is ambiguous. Need to find the right reference to give the right meaning. Refers to the context of all the sentences in the lyrics of the song "take me to your heart". "hand" here means love. So the lyrics can be changed "Give me your **love** before I'm old".

*Hiding from the **rain** and **snow***

Are "rain" and "snow" literal? To understand the meaning of "rain" and "snow" you have to find the right reference. When referring to the entire lyrics of the song, rain means cleansing, relief, or rejuvenation. Snow often represents beauty, calm, or clarity. Why does looking for the meaning of a word have to refer to the context of a text? in this case the lyrics of the song. because context greatly influences the meaning of a text.

So the implied meaning of this lyric is, the songwriter describes a man who avoids the pleasures of love. A man who does not expect the happiness of love. for in his opinion, the sweetness of love must be obtained through suffering. This is relevant to the other verse of the song take me to your heart which is "bring me war away". Supposedly if someone wants to be happy because of love, he should say "bring me closer", not far away.

2. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a figure of speech which employs exaggeration. Hyperbole differs from exaggeration in that it is extreme or excessive. Hyperbole can produce a very dramatic effect (Reaske, 1966). In the song, there are some lyrics indicated as hyperbole.

first, listening to my own heart beat.

The above statement is very exaggerated and makes no sense. In fact, no one can listen to their own heartbeat. the meaning of the expression is that a person can know what he wants. This hyperbola style describes the situation to be more dramatic.

Second, tell me where do I find someone like you girl.

The idea of "where do I find someone like you girl" is of course an exaggeration or hyperbole expression, because so many girls all around the world. But why focus to one girls? Its such useless. These lyrics describe the man loves so deeply that he only focuses on one girl so he doesn't care about other girls.

Third, *take me to your heart, take me to your soul*.

This is an expression of excessive love. It is possible for a person to enter into heart that is smaller than a human? love is a matter of the heart. then it is impossible to logic. but it is a narrative in a poetic manner which must be poetic. Although it must be expressed in an unusual way. The connotation meaning of this expression is that a man wants to have the love and affection from the woman.

3. Metaphor

Metaphor the figure of speech which compares one thing to another without using the word "like" or "as" or comparing it directly. The comparisons made by metaphors are thus usually more subtle than those made by similes (Reaske, 1966). There is one lyrics show metaphor.

Be my guiding star.

The star has become a metaphor of the music's love. When the poet uses metaphor, he transfers the qualities and associations of one object to another in order to make the latter more vivid in our mind (Reaske, 1966). The nature of the stars is to illuminate the world when it is dark. The songwriter likens the star's character to that of the woman he loves.

Metaphor consists of two main elements. i.e. the comparison and the being compared. If the element is mentioned both, it is classified as an explicit metaphor. But if it only mentions one of its elements, it is called an implicit metaphor (Burhan, 2017). The example above is an implicit metaphor, namely removing the word compared to "girl" and clearly mentioning "star" as a comparison.

4. Personification

Personification is the process of assigning human characteristics to nonhuman objects, abstractions or ideas (Reaske, 1966). There is one word in this song indicated as personification.

Be my guiding star.

Stars as solar system objects are given human characteristics is "guiding". So, star is considered like woman, referring to her beauty. Or it means a girl can give guidance and instructions life's her beloved.

5. Repetition

Take me to your heart, take me to your soul

There is a form repetition of the word "take me" in one song lyric. So that it creates a sound similarity and creates an aesthetic effect in terms of sound. The use of the form of repetition is to emphasize and explain importance something being said. In this case the songwriter describes that the lover really wants to stay in the heart of the beloved.

6. Anaphora

Anaphora is a type of syntactical structure manipulation based on the form of repetition. In anaphora the form of repetition is at the beginning of the syntactic structure or the beginning of the lines in the poem (Burhan, 2017). There is two lyrics show anaphora.

Show me what love is, haven't got a clue

Show me what wonders can be true.

The two lines of the song lyrics above have anaphora or repetition at the beginning of the sentence "show me". So that the song will evoke rhythmic, rhetorical, and therefore aesthetically valuable structures. (Burhan, 2017)

So, the successive narratives at the same time show a parallelism style. The content of meaning contained by the structure is also parallel, balanced, that is, that which informs a man's desire for a woman he loves.

7. Assonance

Assonance is the repetition of the same or similar vowel sounds within words, phrases, or sentences. The word is derived from the Latin phrase *assonated*, meaning to answer with the same sound (literaryterms.net/assonance/). Assonance is sometimes called "vowel rhyme" because its effect on a reader is similar to that of a rhyme. And sometimes assonance creates outright rhymes (grammarly.com/blog/assonance/). The following is a simple example of assonance from "Take me to Your Heart" song:

Show me what love is, haven't got a clue

Show me what wonders can be true.

The two lines of the song above are dominated by vowels. As the letters and words that the author has underlined and bolded. The "o", "e", "a", "i", "ue" sound is repeated to make a catchy phrase, and it happens to rhyme. But assonance is also a way for author to create rhythm and repetition without rhyming.

D. CONCLUSION

"Take Me to Your Heart" is a song by the band Michael Learns to Rock (MLTR) that contains various examples of figurative language. Figurative language is a literary device that adds depth and imagery to a text by using words in a non-literal way. In this song, the lyrics employ similes, metaphors, and personification to convey the singer's emotions and experiences.

Overall, "Take Me to Your Heart" by MLTR is a song that showcases the use of figurative language to enhance its lyrical content. The similes, metaphors, and personification used in the song contribute to creating vivid imagery and conveying the singer's emotions and experiences in a powerful way. By incorporating these literary devices, the song becomes more than just a collection of words, but a heartfelt expression of love and longing.

E. REFERENCES

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