

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN MALAY SONG LYRICS

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ABSTRACT

This objectives of the study were aimed to find out the types and the literal meaning of figurative language in Malay song lyrics. By using descriptive qualitative method, the writer analyzed the selected Malay songs from different album, the data were *Makan Sirih, Kuala Deli, Hitam Manis, Tanjung Katung* and *Sri Taman*. Therefore each of figurative language filtered by using the collective method that from the five songs which were analyzed one by one to gain the results directly. The writer found 44 data that emerged in those selected Malay songs. 11 out of 13 types available from the theory, which were Simile with 1 (2,5%), Metaphor with 2 (5%), Personification 13 (29,5%), Hyperbole 3 (6%), Metonymy 1 (2,5%), Synecdoche 4 (9%), Symbol 1 (2,5%), Apostrophe 1 (2,5%), Irony 12 (27%), Paradox 5 (11%), and Pleonasm 1 (2,5%). From the data, Personification was the most dominant types of figurative language used in the 5 Malay song lyrics, by knowing the circumstances of the Personification itself was the imagery that representing love, woman, life, etc.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Malay, Song Lyrics*

INTRODUCTION

Language is an ability that humans have to communicate with other humans using signs, such as word and movement. As we know, language consists of words or a collection of words. When we speak or write, the words we say or we write are not arranged accordingly, but follow the rules. Bloomfield (1933) adds that Language plays a great part in human life. Distinguishing man from animal absolutely can be seen from the language.

Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) state that a part of language used knowledge and abilities in language to deliver communication with each other, ideas, hypotheses, emotions, desires, and all the other things that need to be expressed. Furthermore, these knowledge systems are studied in scientific way, it is called linguistics.

In linguistics, the study about meaning is called semantics. Semantics is one of linguistics branches, which explains about language meaning, or it can be said that meaning the most important thing in studying semantics term. The most widely accepted theory of semantics by Lyons (1981) explains meanings studies are all about ideas or

concepts, that can be transferred from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the hearer by embodying them, as it were, in the form of one language or another.

In which the semantic studies are all about literal and non-literal meaning. The literal meaning is contrary of non-literal meaning. When a speaker says something that has natural meaning or no other meaning, it can be defined as literal meaning. When it has something who has different or hidden meaning it can be said as non-literal meaning. These studies of meaning occurs in music, whether it's modern and traditional music.

In understanding the music, meaning has evolved in different ways. The interesting issues in this industry are always social and political issues in simplest ways. Especially in traditional music pattern that slowly changed by the modern music. Thompson & Russo (2004) say that songs involve a strong and complex connection between melody and lyrics, melody and lyrics are often coordinated for overall emotional meaning, points of stress, grouping, expectancy and closure, in some cases prosodic patterns associated with speech influence compositional choices that are made in creating the melodic and rhythmic aspects of a song. This recent issue also happening in Malay music.

Syahrial (2017) concludes that music in Malay culture expresses togetherness and unity in speech community. Some of them show similar identities like rhyme, beat, dance, lyric patterns etc. These indicate that Malay music begins and evolves in the east coast of Sumatera, Borneo, and Malay Peninsula. The music and dance itself usually performed in traditional events or parties, welcoming guests of honor, and in religious activities.

The understanding of the meaning from Malay music, the study of figurative language plays important role in certain sectors. Harya (2016) states that figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Figurative language can be used in any form of communication, such as in daily conversation rarely, articles in newspaper, advertisements, novels, poems, etc. Fitria (2018) adds that figurative language is language that uses figures of speech. Figurative language or usually called figure of speech is a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the word.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

1. Language

Language is a tool of communication that pulls or stretches the social boundaries in society. The definition itself has many forms and sectors, from social, culture, history, technology, even music. Amberg & Vause (2010) believe that language is foremost a means of communication, and communication almost always takes place within some sort of social context. This is why effective communication requires an understanding and recognition of the connections between a language and the people who use it. Wardaugh (2013) defines language is considered to contain special powers which be able to cure

sickness, keep away evils, bring good to oneself and harm to an enemy. This belief that words control objects, people and spirits influences human activities through human history since ancient time. Such language usually has to be used with great care, and meticulous attention is paid to pronunciation and wording. People even tend to avoid mentioning them. When people have to talk about those things, they are talked about in very roundabout ways.

Fitria (2018) simplify the meaning of language by says language as a means of communication. Language is one of essential parts of our life. It is apparently needed. Language is the one of tool to communicate with others. Language is a way to communicate with others; it cannot be replaced by anything. In this world, especially in our daily life, we need communication with others because we are as a social being. We need communication also to fulfill the necessities of our life. Beside language as a means of communication, language also works in some parts of our life, for example language works in literature. When learning language, Crystal (1988) says that it will be more understandable for people to learn the meaning of language or called semantic. Briefly, semantics is the study of the way in which words and sentence convey meaning.

2. Semantic

Fromkin, et. al (2014) state that semantics is the study of linguistic meaning of morphemes, words, phrases, and sentences. Semantics does not only analyze the meaning of one single morphemes or words or phrases or sentences, but also the relationships of meaning which are constructed among them, and the subfield that analyzes this relationship meanings is called lexical semantics.

Exact meanings of words and phrases, and remove confusion, which might lead the readers or hearers to believe a word has many possible meanings. It makes a relationship between a word and the sentence through their meanings. Besides, semantics enable the readers to explore a sense of the meaning because, if we remove or change the place of a single word from the sentence, it will change the entire meaning, or else the sentence will become anomalous. Hence, the sense relation inside a sentence is very important, as a single word does not carry any sense or meaning.

In our practical language sometimes people find that sentence or phrases could have meaning. If people want to make the definition clear, it is, therefore, necessary for them to redefine semantics into more specific definition, the one that limit semantics into the study of more specific types of meaning only. For the sake clarity, perhaps, people could redefine semantics into more specific definition such as semantics is study of meaning in language, or simply semantics in the study of linguistic meaning.

A part of the complete scope of semantics, which divided the literal and non-literal language or can be say figurative language. So, the figurative language analyzed in this study has been shaped the to determine the context of figurative language.

3. Figurative Language

A figurative language contains images. The writer or speaker describes something through the use of unusual comparisons, for effect, interest, and to make things

clearer. Maclin (1992) states that figurative languages are language that explain or suggest by using words and ideas differently from literal meaning.

Maftuhah (2018) adds that figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. The authors used figurative language to produce images in readers minds and to express ideas in fresh, vivid, and imaginative ways.

In traditional analysis, words in literal expressions denote what they mean according to common or dictionary usage, while the words in figurative expression connote they add layers of meaning. To convert an utterance into meaning, the human mind requires a cognitive framework, made up of memories of all the possible meanings that might be available to apply to the particular words in their context. This set of memories will give prominence to the most common or literal meanings, but also suggest reasons for attributing different meaning like the reader understand that the author intended it to mean something deferent. Figures or speech contains images. The writer or speaker describes something through the use of unusual comparisons, for effect, interest, and to make things clearer

Risdianto (2011) states that figurative language is wording that makes explicit comparisons between unlike things using figures of speech. Maclin (1992) classifies the figurative language by thirteen types, there are many types of figurative language such as Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Hyperbole, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Symbol, Apostrophe, Irony, Paradox, Litotes, Pleonasm, and Allegory or Parable.

a. Simile

Simile is a comparison that often uses the words *like* or *as*. The reader can see a similar connection with the verbs resemble, compare and like. Simile allow an author to emphasized a certain characteristic of an object by comparing that object an unrelated object that is an example of that characteristic

b. Metaphor

Metaphor is a type of figures of speech in which a statement is made that says that one thing is something else but, literally, it is not. In connecting one object, event, or place, to another a metaphor can uncover new and intriguing qualities of the original thing that can normally notice or even consider important.

c. Personification

Personification is a figure of speech when something that is not human given human characteristics. By giving human characteristics to things that do not have them, it makes these object and their actions easier to visualize for a reader. Personification is a literary device in which human attributes and qualities are given to non-human or inanimate objects.

d. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is figure of speech that is glossy exaggerated description or statement. In literature, such exaggeration is used for emphasis or vivid descriptions. In drama, hyperbole is quite common, especially in heroic drama.

e. Metonymy

Metonymy is figure of speech which substitutes one terms with another that is being associated with the term. A name transfer takes place to demonstrate an association of a whole to a part or how two things are associated in some way.

f.Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure of speech that using part of an object to stand for whole thing. Synecdoche is a word or phrase in which a part of something is used to represent a whole, or a whole is used to represent a part of something.

g. Symbol

Symbol occurs when a word os object which has meaning in itself is used to represent something entirely different. The word or object can be seen with the eye or not visible. Symbol is the practice or art of using an object or a word to represent an abstract idea.

h. Apostrophe

Apostrophe is figure of speech in which someone absent or dead or something nonhuman is addressed as if it were alive and present and often begins with exclamation “O” or “oh”. Apostrophe used as an arrangement of words addressing a non-existent person or an abstract idea in such a way as if it were present and capable of understanding feelings.

i.Irony

Irony ia a literary term referring to how a person, situation, statement, or circumstances is not as it would actually seem. Irony using words to mean the opposite of what is said. Many time it is the exact opposite of what it appears to be. There are many types of irony, the three most common being verbal, dramatic irony, and cosmic irony.

j.Paradox

Paradox is something that at first seems to contradict itself. The effect of this is to make the reader into playing attention.

k. Litotes

Litotes is the opposite of hyperbole because it is used to humble a meaning something. Litotes also is a figure of speech, conscious understatement in which emphasis is achieved by negation.

l.Pleonasm

Pleonasm is the use of more words or parts of words than is necessary or sufficient for clear expression. Pleonasm is the use of an excessive number of words to say something, including unnecessary repetition, especially when this is done through ignorance rather than for effect.

m. Allegory or Parable

Allegory of Parable is a poem in the form of narrative or story that has a second meaning. Allegories are written in the form of fables, parables, poems, stories, and almost any other style or genre.

4. Figurative Language in Song Lyrics

People need language to communicate, to interact and to get information from other people. In this time, people can speak with other through song. Through song someone could convey his voice to many people, so that people can know his feelings. Currently a lot of songs could express our feelings, such as songs with the theme of love, social, political, and others. Songs are usually consist of figurative language since the figurative languaged is used in the lyric that is written well. The descriptive words of figurative language has a meaning in sense other than literal, even the words convey precise meaning.

5. Meaning

In linguistics, meaning is the information or concepts that a sender intends to convey, or does convey, in communication with a receiver. Meaning of the word is a field of study that discussed in semantics. While Lyons (1981) examines the meaning of a word or give the meaning of a word is to understand the word study which regard to the relationship the meaning that make it word is different from other word.

Tarigan (2019) states that meaning is idea or concept that could be transferred from the mind the speaker in the mind of the speaker in the hearer by embodying them in the form of one language or another. Meaning must be completed with context in accordance with the time and space in which an expression in applied because similar expression may have different meaning if it is used in different condition or context.

6. Malay

Malay language as one of traditional language in Indonesia is a communication tool in the society. This language is the communication tool, the tool to revealing feelings and the ethnic society wish. Malay language is the one of language used as the communication tool which has the same position with other languages in Indonesia, its proper to be maintained and fostered so it can be able to be a communication tool to the society user. Malay language is the elements of national culture.

From the song sector, figurative language can be used as tools in linguistic studies or scientific research about this tribe. Figurative or figure of speech is not only used in the language of literature, such as drama, poetry, or prose but they are also alive in linguistics study or common usage in writing lyrics on song and daily speech.

However, most people will directly consider the term figure of speech as the term of literary study because it is mostly used as stylistic devices analyzing literary work.

Traditional Malay songs are indeed synonymous in Malay culture. The Malays manifest one thousand feelings and hopes in Malay songs that have a gentle, faint rhythm and full of high creativity. Undeniable, through Malay songs this traditional, new generation today can evaluate and illustrate the patterns and backgrounds of life, thinking and also the ideology of a human being which was once called the Malay language.

7. Song Lyrics

Listening to music is one of comfortable activity. When people are feeling sad, happy or feeling bad music can be an alternative for expression your feeling. We know that music is not complete without song. In music song is a composition for voice performed by singing or alongside musical instrument. In every culture song are composed and performed for different purpose.

Tarwiyah (2008) states that lyrics are set of words that makes up a song. Lyric can be studied from an academic perspective. Lyric can also be analyzed with respect to sense of unity it has with its supporting music. Lyric is simple word of song. The lyric or song texts do not only as a complement of the song, but also as an important part of the music elements which determine the theme, character and mission of the song. It can also make sense be stable. To know the sense of the song, we can feel the rhythm and melody, harmony and voice of the singer by the singing of the song. Purnamasari (2018) adds that song is piece of music and contains lyrics to singing. Lyrics are a piece of song which contain words or sentences which contain messages to listeners.

METHODOLOGY

This research were conducted by using descriptive qualitative method. The writer analyzed each lyrics from many aspects through Maclin (1992) theory. Thus, these aspects analyzed through the words means and words from the written lyrics text. Every word of the lyrics also classified, and from that classification, each figurative language described as discussion.

The writer focused on analyzing the song lyrics of Malay songs that used figurative meaning. The source of data to completing this study was taken from the song's lyrics 5 selected song's lyrics with Malay song genre which were *Makan Sirih*, *Kuala Deli*, *Hitam Manis*, *Tanjung Katung*, and *Sri Taman*. These selected song lyrics will be analyzed by

using random sampling. One of most important activities in doing research is how to get and collect the data needed; the researcher has tried to apply some appropriate research instrument. According to Arikunto (2006:149) research instrument is a device used by researcher while collecting data to make her work becomes easier and to get better result, complete, and systematic in order to make the data easy to be processed. In this research the instrument used is by reading the documentary song lyrics sheets.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

After the sources of data were collected, it was found that there were 44 formed figurative language that were indicated to figurative language theory by Maclin (1992). Out of 13 types of figurative speech, it was found that 11 types represented in the 5 songs of Malay genre. Those were Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Hyperbole, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Symbol, Apostrophe, Irony, Paradox, and Pleonasm.

After analyzing the data and describing parts of each figurative language that represented in the lyrics, finally it could be concluded that there were 11 types of figurative language found in the lyrics. they were Simile with 1 (2.5%), Metaphor with 2 (5%), Personification 13 (29.5%), Hyperbole 3 (6%), Metonymy 1 (2.5%), Synecdoche 4 (9%), Symbol 1 (2.5%), Apostrophe 1 (2.5%), Irony 12 (27%), Paradox 5 (11%), and Pleonasm 1 (2.5%).

For each song lyrics, *Makan Sirih*, with 8 figurative types were found. Followed by *Kuala Deli*, with 6 types, *Hitam Manis*, with 13 types, *Tanjung Katung* contained 9 types, and *Sri Taman* contained 8 figurative language types. Here's the table of represented figurative language that found in the chosen song lyrics of Malay song lyrics based on the figurative language category.

Figurative Language Percentage.

No.	Figurative Language	Frequency	Percentage
1	Simile	1	2.5%
2	Metaphor	2	5%
3	Personification	13	29.5%
4	Hyperbole	3	6%
5	Metonymy	1	2.5%

6	Synecdoche	4	9%
7	Symbol	1	2.5%
8	Apostrophe	1	2.5%
9	Irony	12	27%
10	Paradox	5	11%
11	Litotes	0	0%
12	Pleonasm	1	2.5%
13	Allegory or Parable	0	0%
Total			100%

As the result shown that Personification was the most used figurative speech of all. However, mostly of the selected Malay song lyrics brought up the image of Personification of things as references into real-life. With 29.5%, Personification types dominated in the 5 Malay song lyrics. Followed by Irony with 27% that matched with the reality of love life irony. Paradox, with 11%, Synecdoche with 9%, and Hyperbole with 6% and Metaphor with 5% considered as average types that occurred in the song lyrics. Meanwhile Simile, Metonymy, Symbol, Apostrophe and Pleonasm shared 2.5%, which indicated that these types were minor in the songs.

As the data findings showed the total of 100% was 44 figurative language from 5 selected songs. Meanwhile Litotes and Allegory or Parable shared blank data in those song lyrics.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

After analyzed the data completely, it can be concluded The types of figurative language found in 5 selected random Malay song lyrics were Simile with 1 (2.5%), Metaphor with 2 (4.5%), Personification 13 (29%), Hyperbole 3 (8%), Metonymy 1 (2.5%), Synecdoche 4 (10%), Symbol 1 (2.5%), Apostrophe 1 (2.5%), Irony 12 (24%), Paradox 5 (12%), and Pleonasm 1 (2.5%). Therefore each of figurative language filtered by using the collective method that from the five songs which were analyzed one by one to gain the results directly. The Personification types of figurative language was the dominant types of all that used in the 5 Malay song lyrics, which also indicated Malay songs commonly contained the personification in representing love, woman, life, etc.

There are several suggestions that the writer could offer to reader towards figurative speech, they were:

- It is suggested to the next writer who want to make wider exploration on figurative language which is important on analyzing words that came up with the ownself conclusion in the beginning until the end of the study. It is also important that data of the next study could be convert into movie script, interviews or speeches.
- For anyone who read this study, especially student, it is suggested to increase and develope because there are still many aspects that can be studied about the characteristics and theory of figurative speech. And for the sustainability for this study, it hoped that the other writers collect more articles, books, and journals about figurative speech.
- It is suggested that the others researcher can continue about this similar topic and add more complete materials, studies, and analysis, yet the writer feels this thesis is way from perfection.

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