

Analyzing the Meaning of Idiomatic Expressions in Adele's 21 Album

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Abstract

Everyone uses language to express as well as comprehend their feelings. Language is expressed through writing, such as literature. Figurative language is a type of language of literature that is frequently used in writing, especially in song lyrics. Taylor Swift, one of the best songwriters, has released numerous albums. This study aims to figure out the actual meaning of Taylor Swift lyrics by analyzing six types of figurative languages found on Swift's album "Folklore." The data was collected by documentation method, and the paper was researched through descriptive qualitative research. The findings showed that this album contains the use of personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, and metonymy. Additionally, metaphor is the most figurative term applied in the lyrics.

Keyword: figurative language, song lyric, contextual meaning

Introduction

Language is a system of conventional spoken or written symbols by means of which human beings communicate with each other (Khadijah 2016). Through language, we can easily talk to other people and understand their feelings. Sugiono (2013) as cited in Maudy and Aseptiana (2021) it is literally not enough to understand just the structure and sound of a language, understanding the meaning is also necessary. For this reason, people in today's society communicate their feelings through writing, including literature.

According to Sari, Sulastri, and Juwita (2021) "Literature is influential to human's life. It is one way of expressing feelings, thoughts, emotions, and experiences". Literature was born due to the basic urge to express ourselves, showed an interest in problems facing humanity, and showed an interest in reality that continues all time (Semi 2012). Poetry is an example of literature. Poetry is influenced by a variety of factors which enable it to become more meaningful as well as attracting to hear and read. Figurative languages, symbolism, imagery, senses, and rhyme, are all part of poetry. Another work of literature is song. Its lyrics use creative language and idioms to deliver thoughts to the listeners. A songwriter typically takes a few days, or even months, in order to create a song with interesting lyrics (Deni, Elia, Natalia 2021). A song's lyrics are an expression of the songwriter's feelings. Some lyrics are created in poetic form, which is similar to poetries in that many words are written in figurative languages.

According to Lazar and Kennedy (2003) figurative language is an expression or set of words which holds metaphorical meaning. Another study conducted by Groys (2009) defines figurative language as a way of expressing oneself using distinctive language that reflects the writer's personality and characteristics. Figurative language frequently displays hidden significance that needs to be comprehended through interpretation in order to be understood. Thus, simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, innuendo, paradox, irony, and other categories are traditionally used to classify figurative language (Hatch & Brown, 1995).

Taylor Swift is a singer and songwriter in the United States whose abilities have been recognized with awards from the Nashville Songwriters Association. Her name is included in the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Apart from that, Her name was also included in Rolling Stones magazine's list of the 100 Best Songwriters of All Time. On July 24, 2020, she released her eighth album, "folklore," which topped the

charts in several countries and earned certification as platinum or higher in Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It was Taylor Swift's seventh number-one album on the charts of Billboard 200 in the United States, where it stayed for eight weeks and became the top-selling record of 2020. This album contains 16 songs with 1 bonus track which explores the themes of escapism, empathy, nostalgia and romanticism.

Perrine and Thomas (1983:81) stated that figurative language is a conclusive language. Figurative language delivers meaning or intensifies the effect, gives the words more significance, beautifies them, and emphasizes their meaning. It is necessary to fully understand the literal meaning of each word. It is impossible to know what the word means if we have no idea about it or if it is really hard to understand. Figurative language is an effective way to convey an idea that the reader is unable to understand and otherwise, since it is complex and abstract. There are several kinds of figurative language. Abrams (1999: 90) has said figurative language has ten kinds; they are metaphor, simile, synecdoche, personification, metonymy, allegory, overstatement (hyperbole), irony, symbolism, and paradox. Moreover, Leech (1981:11) divides it into 8 types, they are: personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy and oxymoron, however, the authors of this study focused on six different types of figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, irony, hyperbole, and metonymy). Simile is a type of figurative language that compares two fundamentally dissimilar things. A simile is a clear comparison of two things with one or more characteristics and is identified by the usage of "like" and "as.". As stated in Abrams (1999) by using the words "like" or "as," a simile clearly refers to a comparison between two quite dissimilar things. For example: "The new teacher is as tall as a giraffe." Metaphor is a type of figurative language that is used to place an object that is the same as the message you want to convey in the form of an expression. Metaphor is also used to explain or describe something by referring to another thing that is considered to have similar characteristics to the thing or someone you want to convey. This statement is supported by Perrine (1963:571), metaphor is the process of comparing two dissimilar things as though they were one is known. For example: "Her eyes are the stars in the night sky." Personification gives characteristics of a human being to an animal, object, or concept. According to Abrams (1999:99) "Personification, in which either an inanimate object or an abstract concept is spoken of as though it were endowed with life or with human attributes or feelings". For example: "The snow swaddled the earth like a mother would her infant child." Irony is a figure of speech and one of the most well-known forms of literature, used to communicate strong feelings while pushing for a particular reason. As defined as the use of words to express a different meaning to what is actually said. According to Dewi and Melisa (2018), Irony is a way of writing or speaking known to express one thing while the meaning is opposite. It refers to a moment where appearance and reality diverge. It happens when a sentence or set of words conveys contrast or the opposite meaning. For example: "You have a very lovely voice when you sing, but it would be much better if you didn't." According to Potter (1967) "Hyperbole or overstatement is figurative language that contains an exaggeration element about something." Hyperbole is figurative language used to express things in an excessive, almost illogical form. For example: "I have a million things to do." Metonymy is the use of something similar for the thing actually meant Arp (2011:80). It is a figure of speech where the name of one thing is replaced by the name of something considerably similar to it. For example: "I don't have a house to lean on."

Methods

The data was collected by the documentation method. In scientific research, this study has been analyzed using descriptive qualitative research. Procedures of collecting data are as follows: Reading and listening to the song's lyrics more than once in order to understand the meaning, purpose, and message of Taylor Swift's song lyrics. Then downloading the song lyrics scripts from the internet and underlining each sentence in the song lyrics in which figurative language types are found based on the theory being used. The first step in the analysis was to identify the types of figurative language that is found in the lyrics. The second step was to analyze the contextual meaning of those figurative languages. The writer analyzes several figurative language types used by Taylor Swift in her album of songs named "Folklore" based on the data analysis presented above. The songs on the list include The 1, Cardigan, The Last Great American Dynasty, Exile, My Tears Ricochet, Mirrorball, Seven, August, This Is Me Trying, Illicit Affairs, Invisible String, Mad Woman, Epiphany, Betty, Peace, and Hoax.

Result and Discussion

Song Title	Lyrics	Type of Figurative Language	Meaning
1. Cardigan	<i>"And when I felt like I was an old cardigan under someone's bed You put me on and said I was your favorite"</i>	Simile	The old cardigan describes Swift who was thrown away and no longer needed after her boyfriend found someone new
	<i>"I knew you Tried to change the ending Peter losing Wendy"</i>	Metonymy	Peter and Wendy define as Swift and her ex, he asked her to stay with him but she refused and chose to end their relationship.
2. Seven	<i>"I was too scared to jump in But I, I was high in the sky With Pennsylvania under me Are there still beautiful things?"</i>	Hyperbole	Pennsylvania is where Taylor Swift grew up, the words "I was high in the sky with Pennsylvania under me" tell that Taylor has grown up and gone elsewhere, which is the music industry
3. This Is Me Trying	<i>"So I got wasted like all my potential And my words shoot to kill when I'm mad I have a lot of regrets about that"</i>	Personification	It can infer that when Swift is upset, she speaks impulsively.
4. Mirrorball	<i>"I want you to know I'm a mirrorball I'll show you every version of yourself tonight"</i>	Metaphor	Swift portrays herself as a mirrorball, which means she always shines in any kind situation.
5. Illicit Affairs	<i>"Look at this godforsaken mess that you made me You showed me colors You know I can't see you with anyone else"</i>	Irony	The explanation of this sentence is that Swift's partner shows to her that he is already with someone new, even if Swift is blind to it.

The singer used figurative language in her lyrics to express a literal meaning of the word or language. There are various figurative languages in folklore album songs. There was simile in Cardigan's lyrics. According to Abrams (1999), A simile is a comparison that uses the words "like" or "as" to expressly emphasize two quite dissimilar things. Swift uses a simile in the lyrics "I felt like I was an old cardigan." Metonymy was also discovered in the same song. "Peter losing Wendy" is a metonymy, according to Arp (2011:80), who defined metonymy as "the use of something similar for what is actually meant." The writer discovered a hyperbole in the phrase "I was high in the sky with Pennsylvania under me" in the next song, Seven. As we all know, hyperbole is used to portray things in an exaggerated, almost unreasonable form. The words imply an excessive form, such as "high in the sky with Pennsylvania under me." Another type of figurative language may be found in the song This Is Me Trying. Personification assigns human characteristics to an animal, an object, or a concept. The object "words" is written "shoot to kill" in this lyric, which represents human behavior. The metaphor appeared in Mirrorball in the words "I'm a mirrorball," which presents Taylor as a mirrorball, a person who will do

anything to keep herself sparkling. Irony is the last type of figurative language. Irony was identified in Illicit Affairs when Swift stated, "You showed me colors, you know I can't see you with anyone else." Her ex showed himself with someone new, realizing that Swift would be hurt if she saw it.

Conclusion

Following the data analysis, it has been found that five of the sixteen tracks on Taylor Swift's album "Folklore" used figurative language. Simile, metaphor, personification, irony, hyperbole, and metonymy were used. Figurative language, on the other hand, is applied for the following purposes: beautifying the lyrics, hiding something, creating a particular feeling, convincing something in simple language, and satirizing. Figurative language employs a variety of terms to convey specific messages. A musician who uses literal language just states the truth. This study will be useful to other similar authors, anyone who is intrigued, and students looking for research sources.

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