

ANALYSIS OF STUDENT'S ABILITY IN IDENTIFYING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN MARIAH CAREY'S SONGS

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Abstract

Figurative language is one way of conveying words other than the normal way. This helps song writers compose and produce beautiful songs. Figurative language is part of semantics. Semantic is the study of meaning that is used to understand human expression through language. With semantic we can know the true or actual meaning in a song. This study aims to find student's ability in identifying kinds of figurative language and their meanings in lyrics of Mariah Carey selected song. Descriptive qualitative method is the method used in this study. The instrument for collecting the data was test questions which consisted of 12 questions. In this research, the subject was 11th grade class of SMA Swasta GKPI Padang Bulan which consisted of 28 students. The result of data analysis shows that the students mean score is 76,7 the highest score is 92, while the lowest score is 50. There were 4 student, (14,3%), belonged to the very good level and 21 students (75 %), belonged to the good level and there were 3 students, (10,7%), belonged to sufficient level. Kind of figurative language was found in Mariah Carey songs lyric are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and personification. The dominant types of figurative language found in Mariah Carey song lyrics is metaphor. From an analysis, the researcher concluded that most of the students of the second grade class of SMA Swasta GKPI Padang Bulan Medan got difficulties to different between metaphors and personifications in identifying figurative language in mariah carey's songs lyrics.

Keywords: Analysis; Figurative Language; song lyrics

1. INTRODUCTION

Our system of communication before anything else is language.

Humans cannot survive without language, because language has a very important role into all aspects of human condition, for instance economics, technology, politics, education, art, sciences, and so on. Every day, humans use language to communicate, argue, learn, negotiate, and legislate, elaborate, etc. Furthermore, in order to make the communication goes well, there must be a good understanding between the two speakers in catching the meaning that existed behind the utterances uttered by these speakers by using their own language.

We must understand the intended meaning first in order to receive information correctly. In fact, people do not only face difficulty in interpreting the meaning, but also in expressing their thought, in which it makes miscommunication occurs in a conversation. Those conditions then make literature born. Literature is a medium of human being to express their ideas, feelings, and emotions. Poem, drama, poetry, short story, and novel are formed product of literature work which most of those used figure of speech.

In English, "it means being is composes exact and figurative sense". Literal language means exactly what it says. For example: "it's hot in here." The literal, denotation meaning is simply a comment on the temperature. Conversely, figurative language means that the word that used don't have a literal meaning, but instead are meant to be imaginative, evocative and vivid. The example is "This weekend was a rollercoaster." The weekend wasn't actually roller-coaster, but it felt as chaotic as a rollercoaster can make one feel.

One way that can help students understand figurative language through

song lyrics. As we know figurative language is very useful for making song lyric of a song more beautiful and give energy to a lyric that we are using in the song. Many song writers create the song which is inspired from poetry. This is because in creating a beautiful song, a song writer tends to use figurative language to cover or convey the literal meaning by using different way. For everyone, listening to a song is very fun activity, but listeners cannot get pleasure if they do not understand the figurative language that commonly found in song.

Due to interest in the study of figurative language, the writer will be choosing Mariah Cary's songs to be analyzed. From many singers, Mariah Carey is chosen because we found most of her lyrics contain figurative language, they are meaningful, simple and romantic. Mariah Carey is an American singer and also song writer, she was born on March 27, 1970. She is one of the most successful artists in the world, she was selling over 200 million records worldwide. She is noted for her vocal strength, miasmatic type ,five-octave, and signature use of the whistle register.

There are some of study which have done by previous researchers. First, Listiani (2015) entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language Found on the Song Lyric by Taylor Swift's song "Speak Now" Album". The second review related to this study is "Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Songs", which Arifah (2016), the student of Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang.

The third review related to this study is "An Analysis of Students Ability and Difficulties in Writing Descriptive Texts" which has been researched by

Juanita Siahaan (2013), on the basis of English Learning Study Program of Indonesia University of Education. The search showed that the students representing the middle and high achievers had a good control about the schematic structure of descriptive text. They also were able to use appropriate linguistic features. On the other hand, it was also revealed that the low achievers were still confused in identifying the schematic structure of descriptive text.

The fourth review related to this study is An Analysis of semiotic Riffaterre in Walt Whitman selected Poem. This has been researched by Sipahutar & Arianto (2019) on the Journal Basis of English Department Putera Batam University. The method that used in this research was descriptive qualitative method. That means the method of data collection by analyzing and interpreting also described to understand the theories contained in the poem. In this qualitative research, researcher used the Semiotic theory by Michael Riffaterre in his book Semiotic of poetry as a basic concept and framework of thinking. Arianto (2018) in analyzing Walt Whitman Poem by using romanticism approach also explained that the representation of romantic ideas originating from Western Europe of the 18th century has penetrated into the 19th century America in that poem.

In this study, the writer presents an analysis of student's ability in identifying figurative language in Mariah Carrey's song lyrics. The writer focuses on denotative and connotative meaning of figurative language in Mariah Carey songs because the song uses many figurative languages that can be analyzed by the students. In actually, many

students don't really understand figurative language, how to categorize and explain the denotative meaning of each figurative meaning.

Based on the reasons mentioned above, the author decides to conduct research about figurative language, entitled : "Analysis of Student's Ability in identifying Figurative Language in Mariah Carrey's Songs". The researcher hopes that the problem can be easily identified by the existence of this research, so that this research has a good influence in teaching English.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1. Semantic

Knowing the meaning of each word is important for us. Semantic is the important branches of linguistics ,and deals with interpretation and meaning of words, sentence structure and symbols. Semantic is the study of meaning that is used to understand human expression through language.

According to Griffiths (2006), semantic is the study of the sentence meaning coded in the overall sentence based on the elementary meaning of the sentence units. Pragmatics, in ordered side is about the interaction of semantic knowledge with our knowledge of the world, taking into account context of use. It is incorrect to say that semantic sees meaning of a sentence without including the context, whereas pragmatics takes context into consideration.

2.2. Figurative language

Figurative language is a word or phrase that departs from every literal language which is very difficult to be understood by people even students because it has differentiation from its

context and reality in meaning, in order to know that figurative language formed based on comparison and similarity

.Keraf (2009) in “*Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa*”. From the definition above , it can be concluded that is to compare one thing with other things, means try to discover the features which showed the comparison and similarity of both. It must need fully understanding for people about figurative language when translating the content in its meaning that can be found from communication or writing products that conveyed by the people. The aim of understanding the figurative language in writing is human beings are able to cultivate and color the words beautifully in the content of writing. For communication, it has a function for avoiding bad assumption or misunderstanding in a conversation’s content on what people said exactly.

Figurative language is language that uses word or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation (actual word used) ,often to described something by comparing it to something else or to create mental pictures with words. This research will be conduct to classify what kinds figurative language used in Mariah Carey song. Furthermore to interpret the meaning of figurative language in the song.

Sharndama & Sulaiman (2013) states that figurative language are employed in performing are art as a medium expressing thought, feelings and idea implicitly later than acplicitly. Figurative language is used in any form of communication, such as in daily conversation, article in newspaper, advertisement, novel, poem and song.

Lazar (2003) declared that “figurative language can provide a useful

spring board for integrated skills work and to stimulate reading, speaking, and writing skills”. It also includes activities which are designed to improve the students” overall language awareness and to encourage them to use English more confidently and imaginatively. The most important thing in using figurative language is that the students have an essential aesthetic purpose to widening and deepening the range of perception and response to the word of objects and ideas to be discussed. In other words, figurative language serves to convey thoughts, feelings, and perceptions that cannot be adequately expressed in in literal language. It is declared also by

Keraf (2009) that figure of speech has function to explain, strengthen, a live, stimulate, decorate an object. It gave beneficial for the teachers and students for focusing on figurative language in the classroom which provide a way of exposing students to use it in leaning writing literary terms.

2.3. Types of Figurative Language

Keraf (2009) declared that “figurative language consists of 16 kinds, they are : simile, metaphor, allegory, personification, allusion, eponym, epithet, synecdoche, metonymy, antonomasia, hipflask, irony, satire, innuendo, antiphraisis, and paronomasia”.

Simile is a figure of speech that indirectly compares by employing the words “like”, “as”, or “than”. Example: Her heart is like gold. Metaphor is a phrase describing something as something it is not un reality. Example: Love is a battlefield. Allegory is a form extended metaphor in which objects, persons, and actions are made to represent something outside the story itself.

Example: Personification is when someone gives human characteristics that are not human. Example: He was late today because traffic was crawling due to an accident. An allusion is a figure of speech that makes a reference to people, place, events, or literary works directly or by implying them. Example: He is a real Romeo with the ladies. An eponym is a person, place, or thing which something takes its name. Example: Thomas Addison-Addison's disease. Epithet is a descriptive adjective or phrase used to characterize someone or something. Example: The ocean, the wine dark sea. Synecdoche is a type of figure of speech which is used very commonly in the English language. It is most simply described as replacing a whole with a part when referring to something such as an item, situation or place, amongst other things. Example: He is a grey beard.

Metonymy is a figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it closely associated. Example: In Shakespeare's time, the crown was anti-Catholic. Antonomasia is a figure of speech wherein the name of a well-known person, place or event is used represents some qualities which it symbolizes. Example: King of Pop for Michael Jackson. Hipflask is a figure of speech where a specific word used to explain that word that should be concerned with another word. Example: She is lying on an anxiety pillow. Irony is when actually happens is the opposite of what is expected. Example: She has an extremely big dog named Tiny. Satire is a form of literature that uses ridicule to make events and people look foolish. Example: Saturday night live. Innuendo is a form of suggestion in which something negative,

about someone or something is insinuated rather than actually said. Example: I might say about someone who is always late „oh, she is finally on time today .What a surprise! “. Antiphrasis is used for ironic, sarcastic and humoristic effect. It usually makes fun of opposites. Example: A truly ugly painting, such a Jenny, or a very slow person *Usain* bolt. Paronomasia is the humorous use of a word in more than one sense. Example: two silk worms had a race and ended in a tie.

2.4. Song

Almost everyone enjoys listening the music. When people feel excited, bad, happy, or sad, music can be the most effective way to express our feeling. Songs are compositions of tone or sound in the order, combination, and temporal relationships (usually accompanied by musical instruments) to produce musical compositions that have unity and continuity (contain rhythm). Song lyrics are also an expression of someone about something that has been seen, heard, and even in its nature. In expressing their experiences, songwriters play word and language games to create the appeal and distinctiveness of the lyrics.

2.5. Biography of Mariah Carey

Mariah Carey was born on March 27, 1970 in Huntington, New York. Mariah Carey is a singer, songwriter, producer, and actor from the United States. Her mother Patricia Carey is Irish descent, and her father Alfred Roy Carey was of African & Venezuelan descent. Mariah Carey made her debut in June 1990 with "Mariah Carey" which entered at 73, but on August 4, 1990, it reached: According to the Recording Industry

Association of America, she is the third best-selling female singer with sales of more than 63 million albums in the United States. She is also ranked as the best-selling female singer from the US Nielsen Sound Scan era. He has the most number one singles for solo singers in the United States (eighteen singles; the second overall artist behind the Beatles). Billboard named Mariah Carey the most successful artist of the 1990s in the United States, while the World Music Awards was awarded as the best-selling recording artist in the 1990s. After parting ways with Columbia in 2000, Mariah Carey signed a record contract worth \$ 100 million with Virgin Records. The Emancipation Mimi (2005) was the second best-selling album in the world in 2005 and produced "We Belong Together", which made it the only artist at the top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart in two consecutive decades. In the art world, Mariah Carey has been awarded the Breakthrough Performance at the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Research Design

In this case, the researchers will analyze the students ability in identifying figurative language in Mariah Carey's songs. In descriptive analysis, it is described what actually happened to the procedure about the method that was useful in the study. In a descriptive qualitative approach, it does not apply statistics that contain sentences or object descriptions or detailed arithmetic calculations (Moleong, 2011). This method employs technique of seeking, collecting and analyzing data.

3.2. Location of Research

This research will be conducted at SMA Swasta GKPI Padang Bulan Medan. It is located at JL. Letjend Jamin Ginting ,komplek Pamen, Padang Bulan, Medan. There are two class of second grade and every class consist of 28 students. The reason the researcher chooses this school as research object because the researcher wanted to know how the students can analyze and understand the contextual meaning of the figurative language in Mariah Carey's song lyrics.

3.3. Data Source

Source of data is used by the researcher to make the analysis not difficult. The researcher focuses on analyzing the students ability in identifying figurative language in song lyric of Mariah Carey. There are songs that analyzed ,such as :

Still Believe

You look in my eyes and I get emotional
inside

I know it's crazy but you still can touch
my heart (Metaphor)

And after all this time you'd think that I
I wouldn't feel the same

But time melts into nothing (Metaphor)

And nothing's changed

I still believe someday you and me

Will find ourselves in love again I had a
dream Someday you and me

Will find ourselves in love again

Each day of my life

I'm filled with all the joy I could find You
know that I'm not the desperate type

If there's one spark of hope left in my grasp
(Metaphor)

I'll hold it with both hands (Metaphor) It's
worth the risk of burning To have a second

chance.

My All

I am thinking of you
In my sleepless solitude tonight

(Personification)

If it's wrong to love you
Then my heart just won't let me be right
Cause I've drowned in you (Metaphor)
And I won't pull through
Without you by my side

I'd give my all to have Just one more night with you (Hyperbole)

I'd risk my life to feel (Hyperbole)

Your body next to mine cause I can't go on
Living in the memory of our song (Metaphor)

I'd give my all for your love tonight (Metaphor)

Baby can you feel me
Imagining I'm looking in your eyes

(Metaphor)

I can see you clearly vividly emblazoned in my mind (Hyperbole) And yet you're so far, Like a distant star (Simile)

I'm wishing on tonight

3.4. Research Instrument

The source of the data is a song lyric by Mariah Carey. The instrument for collecting the data of research was the students answer about figurative language of her song. It used to know the student's ability in identifying figurative language in Mariah Carrey's song. Mariah Carrey's song content is very interesting, and unusual words of phrase. The researchers decided that the data of this research were collected with a written test or by using a test. The students will be given a test by researcher based from Mariah Carrey's songs. Example of the research: "Determine the question which of the following sentence simile, metaphor, personification and hyperbole!"

1. Our soldiers are as brave as lions (Simile)
2. That man is as tall as a house (Hyperbole)
3. The stars in teh sky blinked and winked (Personification)
4. Her smile is rainbow in the rain (Metaphor)

3.5. Data collection

Test is the instruments are attractive to researchers because they tend to have established reliability and validity, and they eliminate the need to develop and validate an instrument from scratch (Geoffrey, David & Festinger, 2005). For collect the data, the writers will run observation through these steps as follow:

1. The researchers gave the written test, the tests have 12 questions
2. The students were asked to complete the
3. Students read the lyric of Mariah Carrey's song
4. Students select the figurative language.
5. Students write down the answer
6. The researchers collected the worksheets t
7. The answer was analyzed by the researchers.

3.6. Data Analysis

There are some steps were conducted in analyzing the data as started below:

1. Checking the student's answer.
2. Scoring the student's answer.

Scoring student's answer by using Arikunto (2013) said that if the researcher just wants to know the outcome of the data analysis. It is used by researcher themself without using computer so, to calculate the

percentage of the student's ability the researcher will be use formula:

$$P = \frac{F}{N} \times 100$$

- P = Percentage
- F = Frequency total percentage score
- N = The number of students
- 100 = The high test possible score

Tabel 3.1 The Describe of Ability

NO	Quantitative Ability	Qualitative Ability
1	86-100	Very Good
2	70-85	Good
3	50-69	Sufficien t
4	35-49	Fair
5	0-34	Poor

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1. The Data

The data of the research were all the students score from a test .The test was to identifying figurative language used in Mariah Carrey's Songs Lyrics. Below is the list of the student's score:

Table 4.1 Distribution of Score

NO	Student Initial	Total Correct Answer	Converted Score
1	H.A.S	1	92
2	N.I.S	1	83
3	E.P	1	92
4	P.H.S	9	75
5	D.L	9	75
6	A.S	9	75
7	J.A.T	9	75

8	O.P.E. S	9	75
9	N.O.H	1 0	83
10	D.P.P	1 0	83
11	D.A.M	9	75
12	C.A.P	9	75
13	I.A.G. H	9	75
14	N.E.S	9	75
15	S.M	9	75
16	Y.S	1 1	92
17	A.A.S	6	50
18	D.K.L	6	50
19	A.T	9	75
20	Y.T	1 0	83
21	L.F.S	1 0	83
22	A.S	9	75
23	D.P.T	1 0	83
24	I.L.M	1 0	83
25	E.A.T	1 1	92
26	P.H.S	9	75
27	E.Z.H	9	75
28	J.N.S	6	50
Total		25 8	214 9

Based on the table above, the writer had analysis all of students answers in identifying figurative language. The highest score is 92, the medium score is 83, and the lowest score is 50.

4.2. Data Analysis

After the test was conducted, the writer classified the results of the test into their classifications, there are: very good,

good, sufficient, fair and poor.

Table 4.2 Rate Percentage of Students' Ability in Identifying Clauses in Figurative Language

No	Range	Grade	Frequency	Percentage
1	86-100	Very Good	4	14,3%
2	70-85	Good	21	75 %
3	50-69	Sufficient	3	10,7 %
4	35-49	Poor	-	-
5	0-34	Very Poor	-	-
TOTAL			28	100 %

Table 4.2 The Mean Score of Student's Ability

Total Respondent	Total of Students	Mean
28	2149	76,7

4.3. Finding

From the data analysis above, the results shown are:

1. The students of the second grade class of SMA Swasta GKPI Padang Bulan Medan got 76,7 mean score, the highest score of class is 92, and the lowest score is 50. There were 4 student, (14,3 %), belonged to the very good level and 21 students (75 %), belonged to the good level and there were 3 (10,7%), belonged to sufficient level classification.
2. There were four types of figurative language which were analyzed by students at the test.

They are hyperbole, metaphor, personification, simile. The dominant types of figurative language found in Mariah Carey song lyrics is metaphor.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the result of the data analysis :

1. The students of the second grade class of SMA Swasta GKPI Padang Bulan Medan got 76,7 mean score, the highest score of class is 92, and the lowest score is 50. There were 4 student, (14,3 %), belonged to the very good level and 21 students (75 %), belonged to the good level and there were 3 (10,7 %), belonged to sufficient level classification.
2. Most of the students of the second grade class of SMA Swasta GKPI Padang Bulan Medan got difficulties to different between metaphors and personifications in identifying figurative language in Mariah Carrey's song's lyrics
3. The dominant types of figurative language found in Mariah Carey song lyrics are metaphor.

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