COMPARATIVE FIGU RATIVE LANGUAGE IN JUSTIN BIEBER'S SONG LYRICS

Yeftasedek Silalahi[1] Heri Heryono[2]
[1]Universitas Widyatama: silalahi.yeftasedek@widyatama.ac.id
[2]Universitas Widyatama: heri.heryono@widyatama.ac.id
WA: 087741759412

Artikel Info	Abstract

People use figurative language in order to express themselves. There are many types of figurative language, one of which is comparative figurative language. The objectives of this research are to find out the classification and the types of comparative figurative language found in Justin Bieber's song lyrics and look for non-literal meanings in them. This research uses a qualitative method to find the types of comparative figurative language and the meaning in the song lyrics. The main data for this research were taken from the lyrics of Justin Bieber's song containing figurative language, which focused on the classification of comparative figurative language. Since the data analysis was done by collecting, analysing, classifying the data and presenting the results of data analysis, the descriptive research approach was employed in this study. From the analysed data, this research found a total of 42 lyrics that contained comparative figurative language. Personification dominates with the highest total number of 19 (45%), followed by simile with a total number of 16 (38%), and the researcher also found metaphor with a total number of 7 (17%). There are 1 living personification, 8 non-living personifications, 10 abstract personifications, 4 open similes, 12 closed similes, 1 anthropomorphic metaphor, and 6 concrete to abstract metaphors.

Kata Kunci: *comparative figurative language, simile, metaphor, personification, non-literal meaning*

A. INTRODUCTION

Figurative language is one of the tools that human use to communicate with each other. To produce and employ figurative language, language is undoubtedly necessary. People would never be able to communicate with each other if language did not exist. Humans needs language in order to connect, communicate, and receive information from others. Moreover, humans

can express their ideas, thoughts, and feelings through language. It plays an important role in everyone's ability to create relationships with others (Puspitorini & Hamdani, 2021).

People use various ways to express themselves through language. One of them is by using figurative language. The ultimate purpose of figurative language is to evoke creative elements in listeners and readers, both in written and spoken communication (Hambali, 2020). One of the most often used literary forms that employs figurative language is song (Benny et al., 2022). The use of figurative language in song lyrics can add a unique element to the music or it may create a certain atmosphere (Priyono, 2022).

Moreover, it is an important tool to give a clear interesting picture of the situation the writer wants to describe, to please the audience through the use of creative literary aspects in song lyrics, and can stimulate the listener's imagination.

There are many types of figurative language, one of them is comparative figurative language. It is a way to express feelings or ideas by comparing two different things, simulating one object with another that has no resemblance at all, or treating inanimate objects as if they were living things (Vega et al., 2018). Tarigan, as quoted by Wulandari, says that comparative imagery consists of metaphor, personification, and simile (Wulandari & Yosiana, 2022).

The researcher discusses the comparative figurative language used in the lyrics of this song by Justin Bieber. Then, the researcher will find out the non-literal meaning of the figurative language. The researcher chose this topic because he wanted to explore the comparative figurative languages and their meanings in Justin Bieber's songs, besides that this topic is in accordance with the researcher's major.

From the various reasons above, the researcher will specifically analyze the comparative figurative language, because Justin Bieber's song lyrics contain many comparative figurative languages. Furthermore, to find out what non-literal meaning is contained in the lyrics.

In order to understand the meaning of word and sentence, we need to discuss semantics. The study of word and sentence meaning is known as semantics (Simatupang & Gita Adzani, 2019). The fundamental goal of semantics to be demonstrating how individuals convey meaning through language fragments. A more precise definition could be the examination of the connection between language structure and meaning (Kroeger, 2022). Semantics is used in order to looking into how individuals interpret meaning. A specific subset of the more universal human capacity for sign-making is linguistic meaning. Semantics also discusses both of the words and sentences meaning (Saeed, 2016). Moreover, the study of meaning as it is conveyed by the speaker and understood by the listener is known as semantics (Rahmadany & Husein, 2021). Based on some of the above definitions, it can be concluded that semantics is a science that studies the meaning of words, the meaning of sentences, and is a tool for developing deeper meaning so that it may be transmitted in a language by learning about a language's vocabulary and structure.

Therefore, meaning plays an important role in communication. The communication between the speaker and the listener is successful when the listener understands the speaker's notion and can interpret it. There are many definitions of meaning, the interaction between language and the outside world determines meaning in the first place. Second, the users' agreement allows for the determination of relationships. Third, information can be communicated in a way

that both parties can understand by using meaning and authority (Yunira et al., 2020). Meaning has many variations that can be found in everyday life (B.B. Nimanuho, 2019). Meaning can be divided into two types, namely literal meaning and non-literal meaning (Saeed, 2016).

Literal meaning is the definition of a term that it created for itself and kept in the lexicon. Literal meaning and figurative language are frequently contrasted in the sense that anything non-literal is figurative (Weiland et al., 2014). It doesn't employ metaphors or symbols and is based on the actual words (Hutabarat, 2018). In other words, when someone speaks literally, there is no hidden meaning in what they are saying.
Examples:
"She eats rice.", "They sit on the chair.", "Joni goes to college."

All of the above sentences are easy to understand as long as the speaker interprets what he says lexically. Literally, there is no misunderstanding or misinterpretation between the speaker and the listener.

Non literal meaning has the opposite meaning to the literal meaning. It is the words or sentences which, in addition to their lexical meaning, are pronounced by the speaker and have hidden meaning (Yanthi Sihombing et al., 2015). This meaning is often referred to as figurative language. Many writers use a lot of non-literal language to help readers have a better understanding of something or get a more detailed picture in their minds (Nduru, 2021). Non-literal meaning is also often found in everyday life. It is aspect of language, such as metaphors, idioms, and other forms of figurative language (Vulchanova et al., 2019).
Example:
"John is a night owl.", "My heart is drowning."

Both sentences above are non-literal, in other words, they have no real meaning. In the first sentence, "night owl" here does not refer to an animal, but as a figure of speech meaning John is "awake and active at night". Furthermore, in the second example sentence, the word "drowning" does not mean "drowning" but refers to the word "tired."
tired."

People communicate in many ways, including through literary works like poetry, novels, and song lyrics, which often imply inferred meanings or employ figurative language to convey the words' true meaning (Fajrin & Parmawati, 2021). Song can be used as a medium to communicate ideas, emotions, or desires (Rahayu, 2018). It is one of the media that can be used to spread the literature material easily and interestingly (Muthalib et al., 2021). Lyrics in songs may have figurative or non-literal interpretations (M. Edwards, 2022).

Figurative language is often defined as a word that has more than one meaning resulting from different interpretations (Dani Nuriadin, 2017). Figurative language is divided into several types, namely the figurative language of comparative, repetitive, contrast, and interpretation. (Wulandari & Yosiana, 2022).

However, this research focuses specifically on comparative figurative language which include simile, metaphor, and personification. It is used to compare two objects by using figurative words that require comprehension to understand its meaning. The following are the definitions of the 3 types of comparative figurative language:

Firstly, simile is frequently employed in writing to describe an individual, place, concept, or object by drawing comparisons between them using the terms "like" or "as" (Syarifah et al., 2020). Similes can be closed or open. A closed simile compares something by mentioning its characteristics explicitly

and an open simile compares something whose similar characteristics are expressed implicitly (Qadir et al., 2016).

Unlike similes, metaphors compare something without using the word "like" "as", metaphors use words like "is", "are", "was", "were" when comparing two things (Alfiyani, 2021). There are four types of metaphors, these types of metaphors are anthropomorphic metaphors, animal metaphors, concrete to abstract metaphors, and synesthetic metaphors (Rina et al., 2022). The following is the explanation: a) Anthropomorphic metaphor: b) type of metaphor that uses human body parts and human characteristics that are then connected to inanimate objects. c) Concrete to abstract metaphors: metaphors that arise as a consequence of the transfer of concrete experience to abstract experience. Abstract words are referring to their ability to be understood. Concrete words refer to entities that can be perceived through the senses (Borghi et al., 2011).

Lastly, personification is a figurative language that gives human characteristics to non-human objects. Personification can simply be defined as the application of human characteristics, traits, consciousness into non-human objects such as animals, inanimate objects, or abstract objects (Benny et al., 2022).

B. METHODS

The data in the study were analyzed using qualitative methods. Qualitative research is a methodical approach to study that seeks to provide a comprehensive, intricate, and linguistically representable picture of human or social events (Rijal Fadli, 2021). Researcher conducted research on the use of comparative figurative language used in Justin Bieber's song lyrics in his songs. In order to validate the data, the researcher used theoretical triangulation. It combines multiple theories to analyze a phenomenon (Anita Bans Akutey, 2021). So, the researcher needs Justin Bieber's song lyrics as the object of research to find out what types of comparative figurative language and non-literal meanings are in it. There are several steps that need to be taken. First, the song lyrics will be collected from https://www.azlyrics.com in order to collect the lyrics. Next, look for words, phrases, and sentences that contain comparative figurative language and try to understand the meaning of each type. One of the applications is the technique of taking notes with writing. Next, classifying the data of comparative figurative language contained in the lyrics of the song. The last step is to re-examine the data to be analyzed, then identify the comparative figurative language used and their non-literal meanings in the song lyrics. To analyze the data, researchers used techniques from (Wulandari & Yosiana, 2022). Lastly, the researcher will analyze the non-literal meaning from the data found.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

Based on the results of the analysis conducted on the Justin Bieber song, three figurative languages were found as shown in table 1.

Table 1: Figurative Language in Justin Bieber songs

Types of Figurative language		
Simile	Metaphor	Personification
38%	17%	45%

The researcher found a total of 42 lyrics that contained comparative figurative language. Personification dominates with the highest total number of 19 (45%), followed by simile with a total number of 16 (38%), and the researcher also found metaphor with a total number of 7 (17%). To be more specific, the

researcher found 4 closed simile data, 12 open simile data, 1 anthropomorphic metaphor, 6 concrete to abstract metaphors, 1 living thing personification, 8 inanimate object personifications, and 10 abstract personifications. The researcher did not find data containing animal metaphors and synesthetic metaphors.

Simile

Data 1: *"Some days I burn like fire"* *(Changes, verse 1, line 2, 2020)*

The data above is a comparative figurative language. It compares a person, the word "I" with the word "fire". This data is categorized as a simile, because it uses the word "like" to compare two objects. More precisely, this sentence is classified as a closed simile because it explicitly mentions the characteristics of the object "fire" with the word "burn".

The sentence above has a non-literal meaning because the sentence above is categorized into simile. Furthermore, the meaning must be interpreted by the recipient. The meaning of the word "burn" is the singer's "anger" that appears at a certain period of time. By making a comparison between the heat and intensity of the fire and his strong emotions or feelings, the speaker means that "some days I am very angry."

Data 2: *"Your love is like a roller coaster"* *(One Love, verse 6, Line 1, 2012)*

The data above is classified as a comparative figurative language, because figurative language is used to compare two items, and comprehension of the meaning is required. The sentence above is categorized as a simile, since the word "like" is used to compare the word "love" and "roller coaster". More precisely, this data is an open simile due to the implicit characteristic of the terms "roller coaster".

The sentence above carries a non-literal meaning because it is categorized as a simile and has a hidden meaning. Through the use of creative literary aspects in this lyric, the singer wanted to express his feelings that his lover's "love" was "thrilling". The speaker is trying to convey that falling in love and being on a roller coaster can result in a range of feelings, including happiness and sadness. A partnership needs boundaries to survive, just as a roller coaster has to stay on track to run smoothly.

Data 3: *"You're pulling me like you're gravity"* *(The Feeling, Verse 1, Line 4, 2015)*

The data shown above represents a comparative figurative language. It compares a person, "You," to the word "gravity." This data is classified as a simile since it employs the word "like" to compare two objects. More specifically, this line is a closed simile since it expressly associates the attributes of the term "gravity" with the word "pulling".

The sentence above has a non-literal interpretation because it is classified as a simile. Furthermore, the meaning must be understood by the recipient. The phrase "pulling" refers to the singer's attraction to his sweetheart. Just like gravity, love draws you in. Sometimes you can sense it as if it were a tangible force. Hugs and kisses are a result of attraction.

Data 4: *"Like you a fly chick"* *(Kiss and Tell, Verse 1, Line 7, 2012)*

The information above is categorized as comparative figurative language since it compares two things using figurative language, which necessitates understanding the meaning. Since the word "like" is used to compare the terms "you" and "fly chick," the line above qualifies as a simile. More specifically, because the term "fly chick" has an implicit quality, this data is an open simile.

Since it is classified as a simile and has a concealed meaning, the sentence above has a nonliteral interpretation. This lyric's inventive linguistic devices translate the word "chick" to "girl." A fly girl is a lady who recognizes her uniqueness and doesn't measure herself against others. The singer wants his sweetheart to know how much she means to him in this line.

Metaphor
Data 1: *"My life is a movie" (Verse 1, Line 1, 2015)*

The data above is classified as comparative figurative language, because the sentence compares the word "life" with the word "movie". This data is included in the metaphorical comparison, because it is a description of things that are the same or have the same value but are actually different. In addition, this sentence does not use the word "like" or "as" to compare two objects. This sentence is also included as a concrete to abstract metaphor. Marked by the abstract word "life" compared to the concrete word "movie" that can be perceived through the sense of sight.

The sentence above has a non-literal meaning. Characterized by this sentence including metaphorical comparison that requires the imagination of the listener to guess the meaning. The meaning of the word "movie" is "monitored". Here the singer wants to say that his life is monitored and watched by many people.

Data 2*: "My heart's a vacant house when you're gone away" (No Sense, Verse 2, Line 5, 2015)*

The sentence above is classified as comparative figurative language, because the sentence compares the word "heart" with the word "house". This data is included in the metaphorical comparison, because it is a description of things that are the same or have the same value but are actually different. In addition, this sentence does not use the word "like" or "as" to compare two objects instead the sentence use the word "is". This sentence is also included as an anthropomorphic metaphor. Marked by the word "heart" as a human body part connected to inanimate objects marked by the word "house".

The sentence above has a non-literal meaning. Characterized by this sentence including metaphorical comparison that requires the imagination of the listener to guess the meaning. The meaning of the word "vacant" is "lonely". Here the singer wants to say that he is feeling lonely when his lover gone away.

Data 3: *"You're the fruit of my life." (Love You Different, Verse 5, Line 1, 2021)*

The data presented here is characterized as comparative figurative language because the statement contrasts the words "you" and "fruit". This data is included in the metaphorical comparison because it describes items that appear to be the same or have the same worth but are actually not. Furthermore, this statement uses the word "are" to compare two objects rather than the words "like" or "as". This sentence is also used as a concrete-to-abstract metaphor. The abstract term "life" stands out in contrast to the physical word "fruit," which can be sensed with the eyes.

The above statement has a nonliteral meaning. This sentence contains a metaphorical analogy that needs the listener's imagination to discern the meaning. The term "fruit" means "excitement". The singer intends to convey that his beloved is the source of joy or excitement in his life.

Personification
Data 1: "*Avalanche comin' down slow" (Life is Worth Living, verse 3, line 2, 2015)*

The data above is a comparative figurative language; it compares the word "avalanche" with other words that are stated implicitly. The sentence in the data above is classified as a personification. It can be proven that the data gives human characteristics "coming" to the object "Avalanche". More deeply, the data above belongs to the inanimate object type of personification. This is proven by the non-living object "Avalanche" being given a human-like consciousness characterized by the word "coming".

The data above has a non-literal meaning. Evidenced by this data is included in the personification and the meaning in it must be guessed by the recipient. The meaning of the word "avalanche" is a "problem" that occurs in his relationship with his girlfriend. The speaker wants to convey that the problems in his relationship with his partner are getting greater with time as a falling "avalanche" will slowly increase in size.

Data 2: *"The mistletoe can pull us closer" (Christmas eve, Verse 1 line 7, 2011)*

The lyric above is a comparative figurative language evidenced by the comparison of the word "mistletoe" with other words that are stated implicitly. The following sentence from the data above is a personification. It can be proven that the data gives human characteristics "pull" to the object "Mistletoe". To be more specific, the data above belongs to the living things personification. This is demonstrated by the object "Mistletoe" being given a human-like consciousness characterized by the word "pull".

This lyric has a non-literal meaning, because it cannot be interpreted literally and this data is also included in personification. The recipient is given a clear interesting picture of the situation the writer wants to describe. The word "mistletoe" means

"Christmas". The singer wants to tell his lover that "Christmas" is a chance for them to become closer and possibly share a romantic moment.

Data 3: *"This life can kick you around" (Born To Be Somebody, verse 4, line 1, 2011)*

The data above is a comparative figurative language because it uses figurative words that require comprehension to understand its meaning. The sentence in the data above is a personification. It can be proven that the data gives human traits "kicking" the abstract thing or idea "life". More specifically, the data above belongs to the abstract personification. This is evidenced by the object "life" which is given a human-like consciousness characterized by the word "kicking".

The lyric from the data above has a non-literal meaning. It is proven that the sentence is classified as personification and the recipient must infer the hidden meaning of the sentence. The sentence "life can kick you around" refers to the singer's intention to warn his audience to be careful in their life because life doesn't always go smoothly.

Data 4: *"I'm overboard and I need your love to pull me up" (Overboard, Verse 3, Line 1, 2010)*

The data above is a comparative figurative language because it uses figurative words that require comprehension to understand its meaning. The sentence in the data above is a personification. It can be proven that the data gives human traits "pull" the abstract thing or idea "love". More specifically, the data above belongs to the abstract personification. This is evidenced by the object "love" which is given a human-like consciousness characterized by the word "pull".

The lyric from the data above has a non-literal meaning. It is proven that the sentence is classified as personification and the recipient must infer the hidden meaning of the

sentence. The sentence "your love to pull me up" refers to the singer's intention to tell his lover that he needs his lover's love to make him happy.

D. CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings, there are 42 comparative figurative language found in Justin Bieber's song lyrics. More specifically, the researcher found 16 types of similes. 4 of them are open similes and 12 others are closed similes. Furthermore, we also found 6 concrete to abstract metaphors and 1 anthropomorphic metaphor. Finally, the researcher found a total of 19 personification tropes, 10 of which are abstract personification, 8 non-living personification, and 1 living personification. In this study, there are two types that are not found in Justin Bieber's song lyrics, namely synesthetic and animal metaphors. There are two types that are mostly found in Justin Bieber's song lyrics. These types are closed simile and abstract personification.

It can be concluded that songwriters mostly use personification and simile as a tool to help the writer paint an engaging and clear image of the situation they wish to depict, to captivate the listener with imaginative literary elements in song lyrics, and to encourage their imagination.

To future researchers who are interested in doing research in this area, they should understand more deeply the differences of each type of comparative figurative language and discover the types of each comparative figurative language more deeply if they use it as a framework in analysing the subject. It is also helpful to have background knowledge and references about literature such as songs and their characteristics.

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