

Figurative Language Used In “25” Album Sung By Adele Laurie Blue Adkins

Ni Kadek Kristina¹, I Made Juliarta², Ni Nyoman Ayu Tri Hidayanti³

English Department, Bali Dwipa University.

kadekkristina5@gmail.com

Abstract

This research is aimed to answer two problems of the stud, they are: (1) To find out the types of figurative language used in the “25” album sang by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins, (2) To describe the meanings of figurative language in “25” album sang by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins. The researcher used the theory from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) to find out types of figurative language and the theory from Leech (1974) to analyze the meaning of figurative language. This study was used qualitative descriptive method to find out types of figurative language and the meaning of figurative language in “25” album song lyrics. The result of this research there are 5 types of figurative language found in “25” album song lyrics. There are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, and paradox. Based on the data there are 23 lyrics that contains figurative language. The researcher found simile with total data 5, metaphor with total data 3, personification with total data 4, hyperbole with total data 10, and paradox with total data 1. This research also aimed at analyzing the meanings of figurative language in “25” album sang by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins. There are 2 types of meaning found in “25” album song lyrics. They are connotative meaning and affective meaning.

Keywords: figurative language, album, song, lyric.

Copyright (c) 2025 Author (s).



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License.

I. INTRODUCTION

Language is a tool to communicate with each other. (Lindsay and Knight, 2006, p.27). Language is a system of conventional spoken or written symbols used by people for communicating to each other. In other words, language is used by people to communicate, interact and get information from other people. Language has various types based on the region in the world, so that language is one of the most important and inseparable things in everyday life. The scientific study of language is linguistics. Hartman (1972, p.132) stated that linguistics as a field of study and the object is language. As a science, linguistics concerns itself with all aspect relating to language and studies it from all theoretical view point. Linguistics divided into some parts of discipline knowledge. They are: Phonetic, Phonology, Morphology, Semantic, Pragmatic and Syntax.

According to Fromkin, et al (2000, p.372) Semantic is the study of the linguistic aspects off the meaning of expressions. Semantics aims to study the meaning contained in a language, code, or other types of representation. In other words, the study of meaning is semantics. In this theory, voice, facial expressions, body language, and symbols have semantic content (meaning), and each of them consists of several branches of study. Semantics is the study of meaning used to understand human expression through language. One of the theories related to semantics is figurative language, basically figurative language is a part of semantics, figurative language has a function to animate and give effect to a sentence so that readers can be more interested in what is read. In figurative language there are many types and hidden meanings or messages that the writer wants to convey to the reader. Therefore, semantic theory is needed to find out the meaning contained in a literary work. The use of figurative language in a literary work such as novel, poetry, and song lyrics to create a richer effect, add to people interest, and add to the aspect of beauty in a literary work. Therefore, some writers, poet, motivator, and songwriters use figurative language to express their thinking and their feeling in literary work.

Jay in Harmastuty (2003, p.313) stated that figure of speech is not intended to be interpreted literally. It means figurative language is a type of language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Figurative language has been widely examined by linguist in the study of literature in recent years and plays a major role in compelling literary works. It is because figurative language has the essence of style and beauty. According to Leech (1969) figurative language has eight types, namely: personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, irony, litotes, metonymy, and oxymoron. Figurative language is very interesting to be analyzed because it is used very often in daily life in which we can find out it in daily conversations, songs, poems, novel or any other written forms. In daily life people need to spend extra effort to understand the meaning of figurative language since the meaning is different from the words spoken or written. Furthermore, confusion and misunderstanding possibly happen when people use figurative language in daily conversations and written works, because it depends on how the speaker or writer use it to others. Figurative language mostly can be found in songs, especially if the song contains the figurative elements.

Song is the act or art of singing, song as piece of music with word that is sung has a function to express the thoughts and feeling. Hornby (1974, p.822) stated that, song lyric is a short poem in a number of verses set to music to be sung. Song has two elements, such as lyric and music. Song usually consisting of figurative language since the figurative language is used in the lyric that is written well. The descriptive word of figurative language has a meaning in sense other than literal even the words convey precise meaning. Based on reason it brings the writer of the research to analyze.

Kingdom singer who started her career in 2008 and has produced many songs that are loved by most people around the world. Adele's highly iconic voice made him easily recognizable to most of the people. Many songs from Adele have messages that may be difficult for some people to understand because they have a figurative language. In this research the researcher analyzed figurative language in "25" album sung by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins, because in Adele song lyrics there are many hidden meaning which are in the form of using figurative language.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The research design is the framework for planning your research methods, and the techniques a researcher chooses. Design will help researchers hone research methods to be successful. The research design aims to ensure that the data required is appropriate to the problem at hand and will be collected accurately. In this study, the researcher used a qualitative method because the data from the song lyrics contained in the album "25" sung by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins contained figurative language. According to Nazir in Nurlaila (1998, p.34) descriptive qualitative method is a method used to create a picture of a situation, event, or collect basic data. This study discusses the figurative meanings expressed in the song and uses this research method to analyze the types and meanings of figurative language in the album "25" sung by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins.

In collecting the data, the researcher used observation method by observing the figurative language used in "25" album song lyrics by Adele Laurie Adkins. There are four steps in collecting the data, they are:

1. Direct observation by listen all of the song lyrics in "25" album by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins carefully and repeatedly in order to understand the content of the songs.
2. The researcher were used the smart phone for copy or download the lyrics in every song "25" album by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins from the internet, and read them carefully.
3. The researcher used stationeries to make a checklist, underline and categorized the types of figurative language in the "25" album song lyrics by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins.
4. The researcher direct observations to analyze the song lyrics in "25" album by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins to get the meaning of the figurative language.

The object of this study and the data were taken from "25" Album song lyrics by Adele Laurie Adkins. In this research the researchers analyzed eleven songs in the 25 album. There are list of "25" album, those are: Hello, Send my love (to your new lover), I miss you, When we were young, Remedy, Water under the bridge, River lea, Love in the dark, Million years ago, All I ask, Sweet devotion. The researcher used Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) theory to find out the types of figurative language in "25" album song lyrics. There are 10 types of figurative language in Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) theory, those are: simile, metaphor, personification, allusion, dead metaphor, synecdoche, hyperbole, irony, metonymy, and paradox. To find out the meaning of figurative language the researcher used theory from Leech (1974). Data was collected using stationary to make a checklist to categorize the types of figurative language in the data, and meaning in the data. The collected data is then analyzed by means of observation to ensure the figure of speech that has been obtained in the data and will be explained in detail in the next chapter.

III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

a. Finding

Based on the formulation of the problem, the aims of this study showed the types of figurative language expression. The researcher also analyzed the meaning of each figurative language in “25” album song lyrics. In this part, the researcher presented the occurrence of figurative language and types of meaning in “25” album song lyrics. In this research, the researcher found five types of figurative language in “25” album song lyrics. And two types of meaning in figurative language used in “25” album song lyrics.

Table 1. Types of Figurative Language.

No.	Type of Figurative Language	Total
1	Simile	5
2	Metaphor	3
3	Personification	4
4	Synecdoche	0
5	Metonymy	0
6	Hyperbole	10
7	Irony	0
8	Allusion	0
9	Dead metaphor	0
10	Paradox	1

Table 2. Types of Meaning.

No	Types of Meaning	Total
1	Connotative meaning	16
2	Affective meaning	7
3	Stylistic meaning	0
4	Reflective meaning	0
5	Collocative meaning	0
6	Thematic meaning	0
7	Conceptual meaning	0
	Total	23

Table 1 above described the figurative language which occurred in the “25” Album song lyrics sung by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins. Based on the table above the researcher found 23 sentences that used figurative language in “25” Album song lyrics and 5 types of figurative language used in “25” album, including: simile with total data 5, hyperbole 10 data, metaphor 3 data, personification 4 data, and paradox 1 data.

Based on table 2 above, the total number of figurative language that can be categorized as connotative meaning is 16. Then, the researcher found 7 lyrics which contains figurative language as affective meaning. However, the researcher did not found the lyric contains figurative language that can be categorized as conceptual meaning, stylistic meaning, collocative meaning, reflective meaning, and thematic meaning.

b. Discussion

This section serves the main point of discussion about the analysis of the type figurative language “25” album song lyrics and the meaning from each figurative language in “25” album song lyrics. There are 22 sentences that used figurative language found in the song lyrics of “25” album sung by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins. These figurative languages were listed and classified based on Knickerbocker & Reninger’s (1963) theory about the types of figurative language, and Leech’s (1974) theory about the meaning of figurative language used in “25” album song lyrics. In this part, the researcher will discuss about the

figurative language and meaning of figurative language that has been found in “25” album song lyrics. The researcher uses the theory of Knickerbocker & Renninger (1963) to assist researcher in finding figurative language in “25” album. The researcher also uses theory from Leech (1974) to assist researcher in finding the meaning of figurative language in “25” album song lyric. In this discussion, the researcher has found five figurative language types in “25” album song lyrics. The researcher also found two types of meaning in “25” album song lyrics and will be explain below.

Simile

Title: *When We Were Young*

Lyric: “*You look like a movie*”

The word like in the lyrics indicates the use of simile type figurative language, because the word like in the sentence compares between two things, namely the words “you” and “movie”. This word refers to the author's feelings and says that she (her boyfriend) is look like a movie. The word "movie" is used to describe the life story of the singer with a man when she was young.

Meaning:

This lyric can be identified as affective meaning. The lyric "it was just like a movie" has the intention to express the author's feelings for someone. This lyric has meaninga feeling about sad of getting old. The lyrics express her feelings for the man, when she was young she loved someone and had so many memories with him. Because of that she expressed him look like a movie sometimes funny, happy, and sad. He gives the memories that are hard to forget.

Hyperbole

Title : *I Miss you*

Lyric : “*I want every single piece of you*”

The selected lyric is classified into kind of hyperbole because the author explain something that illogical or exaggeration. In this sentence it is impossible to separate a human body into pieces. However, she exaggerates that she wants everything about the man.

Meaning:

Based on the theory about meaning proposed by Leech (1974) the sentence classified into connotative meaning. The lyric belong connotative meaning because the author described that she want every single piece of the man. In other words the author is talking about the body that a person has or physical appearance. The word "every single piece" has a meaning that includes all parts of the man such as body, love, heart and other parts of the man. What she means is that she wants to have everything about him.

Personification

Title : *Remedy*

Lyric : “*When the world seems so cruel*”

The sentence is categorized as personification in figurative language. Because the authors give human attributes to something as if they were human. Actually the world is a planet, or an inanimate object made as if it has human characteristics. Therefore, the world cannot be cruel to humans.

Meaning:

This lyric can be identified as connotative meaning. The lyrics include connotative meanings because they are more than literal meanings and cannot be understood only with dictionary meanings. This lyric shows the author's expression about the nature of the social properties or environment in which she is located. The lyric means she wants to help him

when she is down. There are many things in this world that make him drown, even though many people are cruel to him, she will be there and support him by her side.

Metaphor:

Title : *Remedy*

Lyric : *“Your love it is my truth”*

This lyric is classified as Metaphors in figurative language terms. The author compares unlike two things, they are “your love” and “my truth”. Love is a strong human feeling for somebody or something, and true is a fact about something. The sentence mean you love can illuminate in every doubt that can feel she has the right and proper the love.

Meaning:

This lyric is categorized as affective meaning. This lyric can be categorized as affective meaning because the author expressed her feeling about her love. The lyric means she makes her love into one with her partner, she promises to always accompany him every step of the way and follow her feelings in deciding something.

Paradox:

Title : *I Miss You*

Lyric : *“Treat me soft but touch me cruel”*

This lyric is classified as paradox in figurative language terms which are defined as real contradictions which are somehow true. It can be a situation or a statement. The contrast situation in this lyric is stated in the clause treat me soft and touch me cruel. In the lyric it is clear that there is a contradiction in the situation that occurs in the lyric.

Meaning:

This lyric can be identified as connotative meaning. The lyric belong connotative meaning because the lyric has something more than dictionary meaning. The lyric means that a woman is so obsessed with her boyfriend that she wants a different and more intimate treatment when it comes to making love.

In the explanation above, the researcher only wrote one example of the thesis data obtained. The researcher found five types of figurative language in the song lyrics of 25 albums, namely simile, personification, hyperbole, metaphor, and paradox. while for meaning, researchers found two types, namely connotative meaning and affective meaning. The researcher uses qualitative descriptive to explain the data that has been obtained so that it is easy for readers to understand.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

a. Conclusion

There are some conclusions that can be formulated which are relevant as the answer to cope with the problems of this study. It based on the analysis of figurative language in “25” album sung by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins. There are 11 songs lyric include in “25” album, those are When we Were Young, All I Ask, Remedy, River Lea, Send My Love (To Your New Lover), I Miss You, Love In the Dark, Water Under the Bridge, Hello, Million Years Ago, and Sweetest Devotion. The researcher found 23 lyrics that contain figurative language in “25” album sung by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins. They are simile consist 5 lyrics, hyperbole consist of 10 lyrics, metaphor consist of 3 lyrics, personification consist of 4 lyrics, and paradox consist of 1 lyric.

Based on the type of figurative language found in the song lyrics "25" album, hyperbole is the most dominant figurative language used in the "25" album sung by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins. Because the hyperbole makes "25" album songs have more dramatic effect on the feelings that the author wants to describes. This study also aimed at analyzing the meaning of each figurative language. In analyzing meanings of figurative language, there are two meaning types used in "25" album song lyrics. They are connotative meaning, and affective meaning. Most of the meanings of the figurative language found in the song were classified into connotative meaning. Because in the lyrics of the album "25" the author uses indirect words that have hidden meanings in the lyrics, besides that the singer also often uses figurative language to express her feeling about something and describe the author's physical appearance and social properties.

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that figurative language has important roles in "25" album song lyrics. It is a good thing if the song lyrics contained of figurative language. The songs become more interesting to hear and also help the listener to be more able to imagine the storyline or the meaning of the songs. The meaning of figurative can be reflections of the author's experiences. The similar experiences may also be experienced by the song listeners.

b. Suggestion

Based on the research that has been done, it is known that in the "25" album sung by Adele Laurie Blue Adkins, there are many lyrics that use figurative language. The researcher realizes that there are many other figurative languages that can be found in the lyrics of the "25" album song lyrics. The Researcher suggests to further researchers to explore this research so that they can contribute to figurative language. The researcher hopes that this research can be useful for those who will conduct the same research about figurative language. The researcher also hopes that this study can be one of sources for the readers who will analyze about literary work especially figurative language. The researcher realizes that this research has several weaknesses. The researcher expected any critics and suggestions from the readers to make this research better.

References

- Adele 25 Album. Blogspot.com (2021). Retrieved 22th March 2021 at 10.53 AM, from <https://kumpulan-lirik-lagu-terjemahan>.
- A&E Television Networks. Adele Biography, *The Biography.com website* (2017). Retrieved 8th November, (2020) at 15.34 PM, from <https://www.biography.com/musician/adele>
- Fromkin, et al (2000). *An Introduction to Linguistic Theory*. USA: Blackwell Publishers Inc.
- Harmastuty. K. N. F, (2016) entitled *A Study of Figurative Language In The Script's Album No Sound Without Silence*. Thesis. Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Program Department of Language and Arts Education Sanata Dharma University.
- Hornby. (1974). *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. London: Oxford University Press.
- Juliarta, I. M. (2020). THE MAPPING OF MOVEMENT VERBS FOUND IN THE GOOD EARTH. *LET: Linguistics, Literature and English Teaching Journal*, 10(2), 116-136.
- Juliarta, I. M. (2021). The noun phrase and its translation in the novel "Budha, a story of enlightenment". *Journal of Applied Studies in Language*, 5(1), 10-22.
- Juliarta, I. M. (2022). Noun Phrase and its Translation Found in the Novel "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz". *International Journal of Linguistics and Discourse Analytics*, 3(2), 73-85.
- Khadijah. A, (2016) entitled *Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's song*. Thesis. Malang: English Letter and Language Department Faculty of Humanities Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang.
- Knickerbocker, Kenneth Leslie & Harry Willard Reninger. (1963). *Interpreting Literature*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston Inc.
- Leech, Geoffrey. (1974). *Meaning and the English Verb*. New York: Longman Inc.
- Leech, Geoffrey. (1969). *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry*. New York: Longman Inc.
- Lindsay and Knight. (2006). *Learning and Teaching English*. China: Oxford University Press.
- List Dose, Music Genres. (2013). *Top 10 Music Genre List website*. Retrieved 17th November 2020 at 8:26 AM, from <http://listdose.co/top-10-music-genres-list/>
- Morner Kathleen and Ralph Rausch (1991). *NTC's Dictionary of Literary Terms*. Lincolnwood, III: National Textbook Co.
- Nurlaila (2018) entitled *Figurative Meaning in Mandailingnese Songs*. Thesis, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education University of Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara Medan.
- Oxford, Dictionary. (2008). *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictioary 4th Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Suardana, Ketut. (2021). Social semiotics of Mèn Brayut text: systemic functional linguistics perspective. *Journal of Applied Studies in Language*, [S.l.], v. 5, n. 1, p. 108-116, June 2021. ISSN 2615-4706. Available at: <https://ojs.pnb.ac.id/index.php/JASL/article/view/2393>. Date accessed: 08 mar. 2025. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.31940/jasl.v5i1.2393>.
- Suardana, I Ketut. (2022). *Klausa Sudut Pandang Systemic Functional Linguistic Edisi Ke-2*. Denpasar: Swasta Nulus.
- Semadi, Yoga Putra. & I Ketut Suardana. (2024). The Ideology Of Text "I Pucung": Sytemic Functional Linguistics Perspective. *IJOLIDA International Journal of Linguistics and Discourse Analytics*. Vol 6 No 1 (2024): IJOLIDA Vol. 6 No. 1, September 2024. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.52232/ijolida.v6i1.129>.