

**INVESTIGATING FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE SONG LYRICS
OF PAMUNGKAS “FLYING SOLO” ALBUM**

A RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted to Fulfil One of The Requirements
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MUHAMAD FAJAR FADILAH

NPM: C1.19200013

ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM

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APPROVAL SHEET

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by

MUHAMAD FAJAR FADILAH
NPM C1.19200013

approved by:

The 1st Supervisor,



Anit Pranita Devi, S.Pd., M.Pd.
NIDN. 0415078703

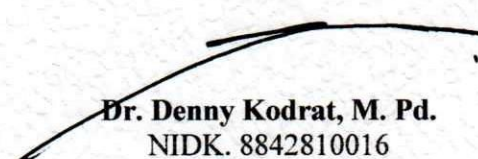
The 2nd Supervisor,



Afni Apriliyanti D., S.S., M.Hum.
NIDN. 0401049701

known by

Head of English Literature Study Program,



Dr. Denny Kodrat, M. Pd.
NIDK. 8842810016

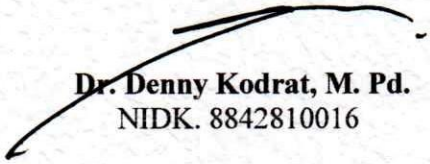
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by

MUHAMAD FAJAR FADILAH
NPM C1.19200013

legalized by:
Head of English Literature Study Program,



Dr. Denny Kodrat, M. Pd.
NIDK. 8842810016

The 1st Examiner,



Nurhasanah, S.S., M.Hum.
NIDN. 0401058604

The 2nd Examiner,



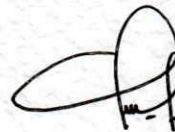
Anit Pranita Devi, S.Pd., M.Pd.
NIDN. 0415078703

The 1st Supervisor,



Anit Pranita Devi, S.Pd., M.Pd.
NIDN. 0415078703

The 2nd Supervisor,



Afni Apriliyanti D., S.S., M.Hum.
NIDN. 0401049701

DECLARATION

I hereby certify that this thesis entitled *Investigating Figurative Language in The Song Lyrics of Pamungkas "Flying Solo" Album* is completely my own work. I am fully aware that I have quoted some statements and ideas from various sources. All of the quotations are already acknowledged.

Sumedang, 26 August 2023



Muhamad Hajar Fadilah

NPM: C1.19200013

ABSTRACT

Figurative language is one method for adding more lovely words and rich meaning to languages (Damayanti, 2018). However, figurative language often makes the listeners have a different interpretation. This problem occurs because figurative language cannot be understood and interpreted literally. The reason is that figurative language is used as an indicator to get the word's special meaning (Abrams, 1999). This research provides an overview of figurative language in song lyrics and its meaning. This research is entitled Investigating Figurative Language in the Song Lyrics of Pamungkas "Flying Solo" Album. The aims of this research are to classify some types of figurative language in Pamungkas' "Flying Solo" album and to interpret its meaning. The qualitative applied was used in this research along with a descriptive analysis reaching to provide analytic descriptions of the research topics. The object of this research is the song lyrics in "Flying Solo" album by Pamungkas. There are 11 songs from the "Flying Solo" album were used as the research's objects and data sources. This research uses the theory proposed by Kennedy (1983) about types of figurative language and Leech (1981) about meanings. There are seven different types of figurative language have found: metonymy, hyperbole, paradox, personification, simile, synecdoche, and understatement. Hyperbole is the most common type of figurative language used in Pamungkas' "Flying Solo" album. This album used a lot of figurative language that describes feeling about love. It indicates that this album made an effort to creatively portray the feeling or idea by using figurative language.

Keywords: *Figurative language, Song lyrics, Semantics, Flying solo, Pamungkas*

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the research, research question, scope of the research, aims of the research, and significance of the research.

A. Background of The Research

Song is one type of literary work. The main part of a song is the song lyrics. According to Ramadhika (2022), a song's lyrics are the group of words that make up the song. However, lyrics are not only found in songs; lyrics are also part of poetry. The song comes from a poem with an additional tone to make it interesting (Azhari, 2017). If the lyrics are combined with music, is called a song.

In a song lyric, figurative language often appears. According to Damayanti (2018), figurative language is one method for adding more lovely words and rich meaning to languages. The existence of figurative language gives freedom for a writer to write down his ideas. With figurative language, a songwriter can convey his heart's desires to his listeners, who can feel emotions with their hearts, ears and eyes (Keraf, 1985).

However, figurative language often makes the listeners have a different interpretation. This problem occurs because figurative language cannot be understood and interpreted literally. The reason is that figurative language is used as an indicator to get the word's special meaning (Abrams, 1999).

One might not pay attention to the song's words while listening to it, especially if it uses figurative language. Most of the time, people only enjoy it because of the music or even the vocalist (Arifah, 2016). Understanding a lyric's meaning will help us understand the purpose and message of a song.

Collections of songs are often released in the form of an album. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, an album is "a collection of several pieces of music, available as a single item on CD, on the internet, etc.". One of the albums that has a lot of figurative language in its songs is the album "Flying Solo" by Pamungkas. One example is in the song "To the Bone", where one of the lyrics is *I want you to the bone*. The phrase *to the bone* has a hidden meaning, which requires a semantic approach to find its meaning.

Semantics is a part of meaning-related linguistics (Lobner, 2013). Something must have meaning, including words, phrases, and sentences. Semantics specifically examines the meaning of linguistic expressions of a word, phrase, or grammatical form and sentence. By using semantics, we can find out the true meaning of a song because figurative language is part of semantics (Arifah, 2016).

Search results using the Open Knowledge Maps platform for the last five years, with the keywords 'figurative language' and 'song lyrics', found several similar researches regarding figurative language in song lyrics (Open Knowledge Maps, 2023). Some of them are Yusnitasari, Wangi, and Sugianto (2022), who focused on examining the analysis of the types of figurative language found in the lyrics of the song "You are My Sunshine"; Siagian and Englishhtina (2022), who examined the

types of figure of speech and the meaning of song lyrics in the film Moana; Iqbal, Thamrin, Maulida, and Rusmana (2023) who examined the types of figurative language and their meanings by using the theory of classification of figurative language Kennedy (1983) and Ogden and Richard's theory of meaning (1923); Nosi (2022) who examined the types and meanings of figurative language in Jason Derulo's song lyrics. Previous research has mostly researched the types and meanings of figurative language in song lyrics. However, there has been no research that examines Pamungkas' "Flying Solo" album.

In response to this gap, this research examines the types and meanings of figurative language in the song lyrics on the album "Flying Solo" by Pamungkas. Therefore, this research is entitled *Investigating Figurative Language in the Song Lyrics of Pamungkas' "Flying Solo" album*.

B. Research Question

This research would try to answer the following research questions:

1. What types of figurative language are used in the song lyrics on Pamungkas' "Flying Solo" album?
2. What is the meaning of figurative language in the song lyrics on Pamungkas' "Flying Solo" album?

C. Scope of the Research

This research focuses on the analysis of types of figurative language such as metaphors, similes, hyperbole and others. In addition, this research focuses on analyzing the meaning of each figurative language in the songs on the album "Flying Solo" by Pamungkas. As a limitation, the research is limited to investigating the words, sentences, and phrases used in the lyrics of the songs in the album "Flying Solo" by Pamungkas. In addition, the research will not analyze the background of the songwriter, but only every lyric that has figurative language.

There are many classifications of figurative languages by different experts. Kennedy (1983) suggest that figurative language consist of nine types. They are apostrophe, metaphor, metonymy, overstatement (hyperbole), paradox, personification, simile, synecdoche, and understatement. The analysis follows the classification of figurative languages proposed by Kennedy (1983).

D. Aims of the Research

Based on the research questions, the objective of this research are focused on the following:

1. To identify the types of figurative language used in the song lyrics on Pamungkas' "Flying Solo" album.
2. To interpret the contextual meaning of figurative language in the song lyrics on Pamungkas "Flying Solo" album.

E. Significance of the Research

This research is expected to provide theoretical and practical benefits as follows:

1. Theoretically

This research uses the theory of figurative language proposed by Kennedy and the theory of meaning proposed by Leech in song lyrics. This research is expected to provide knowledge to songwriters and listeners to improve their quality in making or understanding figurative language.

2. Practically

Understanding the figurative language in song lyrics can bring about several practical benefits:

a. For students. It can add insight regarding the use of English in improving listening skills and understanding of song lyrics that use figurative language. Then the types of figurative language and the meaning of song lyrics that use figurative language.

b. For teachers. It can inspire the use of English song lyrics as a tool for learning the figurative language. Teaching process can use the result of this research as a source.

c. For further research. This research can help further research on figurative language discourse in English song lyrics as a reference.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter presents the methodology for conducting the research. It comprises research design, research object, data collection technique, data analysis, and data validity. Each of them is elaborated in the following sections.

A. Research Design

This research was included in qualitative research because the data from this research is in the form of text and is focused on explaining the type and meaning of a text. Qualitative research deals with processes, meanings, and understanding of words or images (Creswell, 2013). Qualitative research is an investigation that is descriptive and frequently employs an inductive analytical method. In qualitative research, the process and meaning (from the subject perspective) are more stressed (Ain, 2013).

This research was included in qualitative descriptive research. According to Dulock (1993), descriptive research aims to characterize what already exists, ascertain how often something occurs, classify data, or uncover new meanings.

B. Research Object

The object of research in this research is the song lyrics in the album "Flying Solo" by Pamungkas. This album has eleven songs. The eleven songs analyzed were (1) Intro III, (2) Modern Love, (3) Flying Solo, (4) The Retirement Of U, (5) Break It, (6) Intro IV, (7) To the Bone, (8) Nice Day, (9) Lover Stay, (10) Untitled, and (11) Outro I. The lyrics of the songs were taken from genius.com. Genius.com is the world's largest music encyclopedia, with over two million contributors (Genius, 2023). By using genius.com, the search for the analyzed song lyrics is more objective.

C. Data Collection Technique

In this research, the techniques that used to collect data are documentation techniques and hermeneutic techniques. Documentation techniques, namely finding data on matters or variables in the form of notes, transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, inscriptions, meeting minutes, calendars, agendas, and so on (Arikunto, 2011). In addition to documentation, this research also uses hermeneutic techniques. Hamidy (2012) explained, "Hermeneutic techniques are techniques of reading, making notes, and concluding.

In this research, documentation techniques and hermeneutic techniques were used to collect data on figurative language found in the song lyrics of Pamungkas' "Flying Solo" album. Here are the following steps to collect data:

First, listen to all the song lyrics contained in the song in the album "Flying Solo" by Pamungkas. Second, taking documented data in as the form of lyrics of

the album song "Flying Solo" by Pamungkas from genius.com, then the writer matches it to the song the writer has heard. Third, read the lyrics of the songs that have been transcribed, taking notes of the lyrics of the songs based on the language style, and conclude the data based on the results of the analysis.

D. Data Analysis

According to Miles and Huberman (2014), there are three activities in qualitative data analysis. They are data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification. Here are the steps to analyze the data in this research:

1. Data Reduction

Reducing data means summarizing, choosing main things, focusing on the important things and looking for themes and patterns (Sugiyono, 2013). Collecting raw data for document sources is the main thing at this stage. After that, the data must be organized and prepared so it can be processed more efficient and easier. Next, selecting the data that considered as the most significant and relevant to the research aims.

First, researcher listened to all the song in the "Flying Solo" album by Pamungkas.

Second, the researcher matched the lyrics that heard by researcher with the lyrics of all the song in "Flying Solo" album in genius.com.

Third, the researcher analyzes and classified the lyrics that have figurative language into types of figurative language (apostrophe, metaphor, metonymy,

overstatement (hyperbole), paradox, personification, simile, synecdoche, understatement). Here is the table for analyzing types of figurative language in “Flying Solo” album by Pamungkas:

Table 3.1 Figurative Language Lyrics in “Flying Solo” album by Pamungkas

No	Data	Types of Figurative Language								
		Apostrophe	Metaphor	Metonymy	Hyperbole	Paradox	Personification	Simile	Synecdoche	Understatement

2. Data Display

Data display is displaying data thorough presentation, so the data become organized and arranged in a relationship pattern (Sugiyono, 2013). After data reduction, the displaying data involves presenting data that has been processed and compiled beforehand. The data presented is in the form of figurative language in the “Flying Solo” album by Pamungkas.

E. Data Validity

Validity in qualitative research is an important concept since it indicates that the research's observation and identification were accurate (Mason, 2002). Creswell (2013) state that validity is the result of research that is based on reliability and external evaluations. In qualitative research, Sugiyono (2013) lists tests for credibility (internal validity), transferability (external validity), dependability (reliability), and confirmability (objectivity) as data validity checks. The dependability test was used in this research. Sugiyono (2013) states, dependability testing is done by having an impartial auditor or a supervisor examine every step of the researcher's research process. In this research, the supervisor checks every step of the research process to ensure the data that have been found is valid.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The research's conclusion and recommendations are presented in this chapter. The study findings and discussion from the preceding chapter are the foundation for the conclusion. The data analysis and commentary were compiled in this section. While recommendations provide some ideas and suggestions that will be useful to upcoming researchers.

A. Conclusions

According to the Chapter IV, the Pamungkas "Flying Solo" album has a number of the figurative languages Kennedy (1983) proposed, and it is clear that these figurative languages are used in the song lyrics to give the sentences in these lyrics more alive and interesting. Based on the information in the Chapter IV, the researcher concluded that the most common sort of figurative language used in Pamungkas' "Flying Solo" album is hyperbole. Similes and understatement are the least figurative language types.

Seven different types of figurative language were found by the researcher in the "Flying Solo" album. They are metonymy, hyperbole, paradox, personification, simile, synecdoche, and understatement. According to the findings, the album appears to use hyperbole the most. The least amount of figurative language in the album is the simile and understatement.

As mentioned above, hyperbole is the most used figure of speech in the “Flying Solo” album by Pamungkas. It seems this happened because Pamungkas’s album “Flying Solo” has the theme of love, where the theme of love often exaggerates feelings about something. In line with Nosi et al. (2022), that the use of figure of speech in song lyrics is very important, thus the listeners can feel the feeling of the songwriter. It is in accordance with the statement from Keraf (1985) that figurative language can help songwriter convey his emotions.

Furthermore, similes and understatement are the least figures of speech in the “Flying Solo” album by Pamungkas. It seems this happened because similes and understatement figures of speech are slightly hard for theme of love. Yusnitasari et al. (2022) also found in their research about figurative language on song lyrics in “You are My Sunshine” that there are no similes and understatement figures of speech, which this song is considered has theme of love.

This research also examines the meaning of figurative language. Pamungkas' "Flying Solo" album contains 11 songs with a love-related theme and by identifying the many forms of figurative language, the researcher can better comprehend the message that the songwriter is trying to get over to the listeners. The researcher came to the conclusion that the entire "Flying Solo" album is meaningful for listeners

B. Recommendation

It is challenging to assess figurative language in song lyrics after data analysis since figurative language is not discussed in the genuine context, which does not

call for additional interpretation. It is crucial to use our creative imagination and in-depth interpretation to create the song's most appropriate or suitable meaning.

A few limitations are used to prevent distortions in the research findings. The limitations are to categorize the many types of figurative language and to interpret its meaning in Pamungkas' "Flying Solo" album. This research specifically examined Leech's (1981) theory of meaning and Kennedy's (1983) categories of figurative language.

The researcher is aware this research still has many flaws and is far from ideal. For instance, the analysis is still solely reliant on the researcher's interpretation, and the findings are influenced by the researcher's skills and experience. As a result, the researcher would like to offer some suggestions to other researchers who wish to conduct research in a related area.

1. For Further Research

The researcher would like to encourage further researchers to examine more closely at the use of figurative language in all literary works, including advertisements, poems, and other literary works, rather than only song lyrics. In order to better understand how figurative language functions, the researcher further advises that the theory employed in analysis be expanded in addition to Kennedy's (1983) theory of figurative language and Leech's (1981) theory of meaning.

2. For Learning Use

Students are suggested to use song lyrics to better comprehend English language and figurative language. Then, students also can better comprehend the

message that the songwriter is trying to convey. In addition, it is recommended for teachers to use song lyrics as a classroom resources and as a source for supplementary knowledge.



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