

An Analysis of Figurative Language in Santa Esmeralda's Song Lyrics Entitled *You're My Everything*

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the figurative language and its meaning contained in the lyrics of the song *You're My Everything*. It is descriptive qualitative research where the data taken comes from a song lyrics website. The data used in this study are the lyrics of a song released in 1977 entitled "You're my everything" which was sung by Santa Esmeralda on Esmeralda on the album *Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood*. The result of this study indicates that there are nine data sets that contain 14 figurative languages consisting of four types, namely: alliteration (six items), hyperbole (four items), pleonasm (three items), and synthesis (one item). Thus, the results of this study show that 42,8 percent is alliteration, 28,5 percent is hyperbole, 21,5 percent is a pleonasm, and 7,2 percent is the antithesis.

Keywords: Figurative language, song lyrics, You're My Everything

Introduction

As an international language, English is not only used by people in the whole world for communication in daily activity but it is also used in all sectors of life including in the art field like music, poetry, drama, etc. A song as a composition of music contains lyrics that are performed by the singer functions as a means of communication. Sometimes the language used in song lyrics is written rather differently from other things. This unusual or indirect way of conveying is often referred to as figurative language. So as a means of communication, language has also a different way of delivering it. Kennedy stated that "figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotation of words" (1983: 479).

And according to Morner and Rausch, "Figurative language. Language that contains figures of speech, such as metaphor, simile, personification, and hyperbole, expressions that make comparisons or associations meant to be interpreted imaginatively rather than literally" (1991:83). So it's clear that in figurative language, the idea is conveyed by means of metaphors or other figures of speech.

The use of figurative language in the field of art like in music is very interesting. In every song lyrics it is often found the use of figurative language. Sometimes people don't realize that a song that they listen to actually also contains many elements of figurative language.

As mentioned before that figurative language uses expressions with a meaning that is different in its conveying. And learning the meaning of language is sometimes not easy although it seems simple. The study of meaning is usually learned in Semantics. Kreidler stated that "Semantics is the systematic study of meaning, and linguistic semantic is the study of how languages organize and express meanings (1998: 3). And according to Leech (1984: 9), "On this basis, I shall break down 'meaning' in its worst sense into seven different ingredients, giving primary importance to logical meaning or (as I shall prefer to call it) conceptual meaning, the type of meaning I was discussed earlier in connecting with

'semantic competence'. The six other types I shall consider are connotative meaning, social meaning, affective meaning, reflected meaning, collocative meaning, and thematic meaning".

Both singing and listening to a song are very pleasant things for almost everyone. By understanding the meaning contained in a song lyrics, including those containing figurative language elements, can make it more enjoyable. For this reason, the writer tries to do research on figurative languages contained in an English language song entitled "You're my everything". Based on the information from genius.com, this song was written by Leroy Gomez and performed by Santa Esmeralda on the album Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood which was released in 1977.

According to information obtained from lyrics.com, Santa Esmeralda is a U.S./French Disco group formed in the 1970s; perhaps best known for their hit disco remakes of the 1960s hits "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood" and "House of the Rising Sun". The group featured singer Leroy Gómez from 1977 until 1978 and singer Jimmy Goings from 1978 until 1983 when the group disbanded.

This song also has beautiful lyrics and melody. The lyrics of the song consist of 5 stanzas where each stanza consists of 4 lines, plus one chorus which is sung twice; after the first two stanzas and before the last two stanzas.

Theory and Method

This study used descriptive qualitative method. "Qualitative Research analyzes data interpretively by organizing the data into categories, identifying patterns, and producing a descriptive narrative synthesis, whereas quantitative analysis involves statistical procedures." (Gay & Airasian, 2000: 9). From that statement it can be concluded that qualitative research doesn't use statistical methods but tends to use words and meaning descriptions in analyzing data.

According to Reaske, figurative language is "language which employs various figures of speech. Some examples are metaphor, simile, antithesis, hyperbole, and paradox" (1966:33).

According to Wales, "In Semantics figurative meaning describes a very common type of extension of meaning for a word (resulting in polysemy or multiple meaning), i.e. by metaphoric transfer of senses" (2014:20).

The data used in this research are lyrics of the song. Reaske stated that "Lirical: referred originally to lyric poetry, that is, to poetry written to be sung to a lyre. However, the term 'lyric' now designates a short poem which emphasizes the expression of the individual's feeling and emotion rather than external events or attitudes" (1966:35).

The research used the lyrics of a song entitled You're my everything performed by Santa Esmeralda which was released in 1977 as the data. The data was obtained from website <https://genius.com/Santa-esmeralda-youre-my-everything-lyrics>.

For the method, the writer analyzed the data through some steps such as: (1) Reading the data; (2) Finding the meaning of the data, (3) Finding the types of figurative language used in the data based on the theory, (4) Describing the meaning of the figurative words or sentences from the data, (5) Making Conclusion.).

Findings and Discussion

Findings

Based on the data that is used in this research, the song lyrics consist of 28 lines. To make it easier in analyzing the data, the number of lines is added at the end of every single lyric. The following are the lyrics of the song “*You're my everything*”:

YOU'RE MY EVERYTHING

You're my everything (1)
The sun that shines above you makes the bluebird sing (2)
The stars that twinkle way up in the sky (3)
Tell me I'm in love (4)

When I kiss your lips (5)
I feel the rolling thunder to my fingertips (6)
And all the while my head is in a spin (7)
Deep within, I'm in love (8)

chorus

You're my everything (9)
And nothing really matters but the love you bring (10)
You're my everything (11)
To see you in the morning with those big brown eyes (12)
You're my everything (13)
Forever and a day I need you close to me (14)
You're my everything (15)
You'll never have to worry, never fear, for I am near (16)

For my everything (17)
I live upon the land and see the sky above (18)
I swim within her oceans sweet and warm (19)
There's no storm, my love (20)

back to chorus.

When I hold you tight (21)
There's nothing that can harm you in the lonely night (22)
I'll come to you and keep you safe and warm (23)
It's so strong, my love (24)

When I kiss your lips (25)
I feel the rolling thunder to my fingertips (26)
And all the while my head is in a spin (27)
Deep within, I'm in love (28)

Based on the data analyzed, the writer has written it down in tabular form to make it easier to read the results of data processing. The table shows that there are 9 data in the form of sentences and words that contain a total of 14 figurative languages. The result of the data can be seen in table 1 below.

Table 1. The Result of Data Analysis

No.	Data / Lyrics	Types	Lines
1	You're my everything, The sun that shines above you makes the bluebird sing	alliteration, hyperbole	1, 2
2	The stars that twinkle way up in the sky	pleonasm	3
3	When I kiss your lips, I feel the rolling thunder to my fingertips	alliteration, hyperbole	5, 25 6, 26
4	And all the while my head is in a spin Deep within, I'm in love	hyperbole, alliteration,	7, 27 8, 28
5	You're my everything And nothing really matters but the love you bring	alliteration, antithesis	9, 10
6	You'll never have to worry, never fear, for I am near	pleonasm, alliteration	16
7	I live upon the land and see the sky above	pleonasm	18
8	I swim within her oceans sweet and warm	hyperbole	19
9	When I hold you tight There's nothing that can harm you in the lonely night	alliteration	21, 22

After analyzing all data, the writer concludes that there are 9 data in the form of sentences and words that contain totally 14 figurative languages. In this research the writer make one datum can be consists of more than one lines of the lyrics in order to make it simpler to analyze. For example, if there are two lines of lyrics ended with the same speech sound, it can be categorized as an alliteration.

Three data contain hyperbole and alliteration types, one data contains alliteration and antithesis, one data which contains alliteration and pleonasm, two data that contains pleonasm only, one data that contains alliteration only, and one more data which contains hyperbole only.

Discussion

Based on the result of the study, it is found that there are 4 kinds of figurative language in the song lyrics, namely: alliteration, hyperbole, pleonasm, and antithesis.

“Sometimes rather loosely paraphrased as ‘initial rhyme’, alliteration is the repetition of the initial consonant in two or more words” (Wales, 2014 :14). Although alliteration does not involve figures of speech, but it can help to create a mood especially in song lyrics. It can also increase the beauty of the lyrics so that it becomes more fun to be said and heard.

And according to Reaske, the definition of alliteration is "the repetition of the same sound at the beginning of several words which are near one another" (1966:26).

Hyperbole is different from alliteration, it involves a figure of speech. Reaske stated that hyperbole is "a figure of speech which employs exaggeration. Hyperbole differs from exaggeration in that it is extreme or excessive" (1966:34).

According to www.myenglishpages.com, "Antithesis is a figure of speech which refers to the juxtaposition of opposing or contrasting ideas. It involves the bringing out of a contrast in the ideas by an obvious contrast in the words, clauses, or sentences, within a parallel grammatical structure."

According to <https://literaryterms.net>, "A pleonasm is when one uses too many words to express a message. A pleonasm can either be a mistake or a tool for emphasis."

According to <https://dictionary.cambridge.org>, "Pleonasm is the use of more words than are needed to express a meaning, done either unintentionally or for emphasis"

Data 1:

Song lyric: You're my everything (Line 1),

The sun that shines above you makes the bluebird sing (Line 2).

The sentences in lines 1 and 2 contain alliteration because both sentences end with the same speech sound, namely /-ɪŋ/. It is found in the word "everything" and the word "sing". This thing can create unique and interesting lyrics so that it becomes more beautiful and fun to be heard.

The sentence in line 2 is also hyperbole because it shows something very exaggerated that the sun that shines above someone can make the bluebird sing. It is impossible that the bird can sing because of the sun that shines above someone.

Data 2:

Song lyric: The stars that twinkle way up in the sky (Line 3)

The sentence in line 3 contains pleonasm because it uses more words than are needed. It is used either unintentionally or just for emphasis. Every person knows that the stars are always up in the sky, so actually, these words are not necessarily written anymore.

Data 3:

Song lyric: When I kiss your lips (Line 5)

I feel the rolling thunder to my fingertips (Line 6),

The sentences in lines 5 and 6 contain alliteration because both sentences end with the same speech sound, namely /-ɪps/. It is found in the word "lips" and the word "fingertips". This thing can also create unique and interesting lyrics so it can make it more beautiful to be heard by everyone.

The sentence in line 6 contains hyperbole because it shows something very exaggerated. The sentence "the rolling thunder to someone's fingertips" is heard over-statement. Because it is impossible that the thunder can roll to someone's fingertips. It describes how happy someone is that it can be described by the word.

Data 4:

Song lyric: And all the while my head is in a spin (Line 7)

Deep within, I'm in love (Line 8)

The sentences in lines 7 and 8 contain alliteration because of both the word 'spin' and the word 'within' end with the same speech sound, namely /-ɪn/. It consists of a vowel / ɪ / and a consonant / n /. This thing can also create unique and interesting lyrics so that it can more beautiful and nice to be heard by someone who listens to it.

The sentence in line 7 contains hyperbole because it also shows something exaggerated. The sentence "All the while my head in a spin" is heard over-statement and not realistic. Because it is impossible that someone's head can be in a spin.

Data 5:

Song lyric: You're my everything (Line 9)

And nothing really matters but the love you bring (Line 10)

The sentences in lines 9 and 10 contain alliteration because both the word 'everything' and the word 'bring' end with the same speech sound, namely /-ɪŋ/. It consists of a vowel / ɪ / and a consonant / ŋ /. This thing also creates unique and interesting lyrics that can make the lyrics become more beautiful and nice to be heard.

The sentence in line 10 also contains an antithesis expression because the sentence "And nothing really matters but the love you bring" refers to contrasting ideas. In this case "the love you bring" really matters. It means that nothing is so important except the love that is given by his beloved.

Data 6:

Song lyric: You'll never have to worry, never fear, for I am near (Line 16)

The sentence in line 16 contains alliteration because of both the word 'fear' and the word 'near' end with the same speech sound, namely /-ɪə/. The same with the previous data, this thing also creates unique and interesting lyrics that function to make it more beautiful and nice to be heard by someone.

The sentence above also contains pleonasm because it uses more words than are needed to express a meaning. The words "never have to worry" actually has the same meaning as the words "never fear". So actually there are too many words that are used to explain this thing. Or in other words, there are some words that actually are not very needed to be said or written, because it has been clear or described by the previous words.

Data 7:

Song lyric: I live upon the land and see the sky above (Line 18)

The sentence in line 18 contains pleonasm because it uses more words than are needed to express a meaning. For people in the land, the sky must be above, never below. So, like in data 6, actually, there are too many words that are used to explain or express this thing. All people know that sky must be always above. So the word above is actually not so important or needed to be written or said.

Data 8:

Song lyric: I swim within her oceans sweet and warm (Line 19)

The sentence in line 19 also contains hyperbole expression because it's heard over-statement and not realistic. In fact, it is impossible that she has oceans that taste sweet. The ocean or sea water always tastes salty. Actually, it expresses to shows how happy he is. And her oceans mean his beloved life. So he is very happy to be a part of his beloved life. Her

life is like something very sweet and warm for him. Her life here is also meant her love for him.

Data 9:

Song lyric: When I hold you tight (Line 21)

There's nothing that can harm you in the lonely night (Line 22)

The sentences in lines 21 and 22 contain alliteration because both the word 'tight' and the word 'night' end with the same speech sound, namely /-ait /. It consists of a diphthong /ai/ and a consonant /t/. Like the previous data, this thing also functions to create unique and interesting lyrics so that it can make it more beautiful and nice to be heard.

Conclusion

After analyzing the data, the writer found that there are nine data sets that contain 14 figurative languages in the song lyrics that consisting of four types, namely: alliteration (six items), hyperbole (four items), pleonasm (three items), and synthesis (one item). Thus, the results of this study show that 42,8 percent is alliteration, 28,5 percent is hyperbole, 21,5 percent is a pleonasm, and 7,2 percent is the antithesis. Based on the result, the alliteration type is the most and the antithesis type is the least.

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