

## **An Analysis of Non-Living Personification in Northlane's Selected Songs**

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### **Abstract**

This article is entitled "An Analysis of non-living personification in Northlane's selected songs". This article aims to identify which lyrics are containing the non-living personification used in the selected songs of metal band Northlane and its meaning. The theory used is the theory from Zhu (1991) to identify which lyrics from selected songs such as: Free fall, Talking Heads, Eclipse, Vultures those are containing the non-living personification and theory meaning from Leech (1981). In this article, the method used in this research is the library method. The method used for presenting data is an informal method, which means that the data will be described qualitatively with the description method which includes several descriptions and support for formal methods, which means that in this article there is a table used to explain the classification of the data used. After analyzing the data, the writer concluded and found the result that in each songs such as: Free fall, Talking Heads, Eclipse, Vultures there are some lyrics that contain non-living personification based from theory of personification by Zhu (1991), but there are only 5 types of meaning found from 7 types of meaning based on the theory of meaning by Leech (1981) that found from the data such as Conceptual, Connotative, Social, Affective And Thematic meaning.

**Keywords:** Lyrics, meaning, personification, non-living personification

### **Introduction**

Language is one of the most important parts of the world and is often used in every day human life. This is because language can support as something of a communication tool and a human language that can express thoughts and other emotions. Language is a symbol system through which humans interact (Kreidler, 2002) In this time, we can speak and express our feelings through poetry and songs.

Nowadays, many songs could express our feeling as far as we know. Songs usually consist of many figurative languages, especially personification, to make the lyrics more interesting, imaginative, and meaningful but not too obvious. Language is also one of the things we learn and discover from when we were born until we grow up. Language can also be used to show all people ideas or feelings. There are many ways to convey our emotions, it can use the media as tools to convey their ideas and feelings, such as poetry, drama, novels, music, etc.

Personification is one of figure of speech. Sometimes the using of literal sentences in language make it seems too boring. Figurative languages is a tool to help the reader visualize the scene in other mind's eyes. Personification as a type of figurative languages that is commonly used by making non-living objects more relatable to humans using vivid description, feelings, and emotions. That is the point personification can help reader to develop new perspective on something. It also help to capture the implicit message properly, because it needs the ability to recognize a wide range of meanings of personification itself (Canada, 2018). Personification is a sign to make people more understanding about the meaning of the songs. It makes people wondering about the meaning, not only about the

object that discussed but also how the feel will be received by people. Personification also gives soul to the sentences or lyrics of the songs. It has meant that personification is able to animate objects or abstract things as if those are human being (Melion, 2016).

This study deals with some previous studies. The first previous study conducted by Putri Pratiwi (2015) entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Camila Cabello's Selected Songs". The study is about to find out the type of figurative languages and also analyzed the meaning that contained in figurative languages that found in Camila Cabello's selected songs. The study also identifies the most dominant types and the meanings of figurative languages used in Camila Cabello's selected songs. Based on the research, the written could be conclude there were seven forms of figurative languages that are found in 5 songs by Camila Cabello. The second previous study is conducted by I Gede Jana Utama (2015) entitled "An Analysis of Personification Expression Used in The Blink 182 Songs". This study is aimed at finding out the type personification expression and its meaning in six songs written by American punk-rock band, Blink 182, taken from the album "Self-Titled" (2003), "Neighborhoods" (2011) and "Dogs Eating Dogs" (2012). The third previous study is conducted by I Kadek Agus Darmayasa (2015) entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in The Song Lyrics Of Lady Gaga's Album "The Fame"". The results of this study indicated that the types of figurative language proposed by K.L Knickerbocker & H. Williard Reninger (1963) used in the song lyrics in this album are hyperbole and metaphor. In addition, the results also show that the figurative language meanings proposed by Leech (1974) contained in this song album are connotative meanings. They are the types and meanings of figurative language found in some of the song lyrics on this album.

This research has similarities with three previous studies in analyzing of personification which is also the one of figurative language and also three of the previous studies also used the theory of meaning by Leech (1981) in analyzing the meaning of the data. Meanwhile there are some differences of the previous studies with this study, the first previous study used selected songs from the singer Camila Cabello and analyze the type of figurative languages that found from the data. Afterwards, the differences from the second previous study with this study are the previous study used songs from Blink 182 as the data source and focusing on the types of personification expression based on the theory from Knickerbocker K.L (1963). The last is the differences from the third previous study with this study are the previous study used songs album from Lady Gaga "The Fame" as the data source and the first problem is focusing to analyze the types of figurative languages that found from the data.

Here, the writer focused on analysing of non-living Personification that found in Northlane's Selected Songs by using theory about personification from Zhu (1991) and the meaning from each lyrics that consist Non Living Personification from album Alien by Northlane by using theory from Leech (1981) about the types of meaning. This data and topic really interesting to analyze because people nowadays usually judging the lyric from the genre from the songs, if the songs is from metal band, its usually correlating with anarchism, atheism, vandalism, and the negative attitude because the songs are presented in a high tone and Northlane is one of metal band. So, here the writers try to break the stigma of community by give the interpreting of the lyric, and proving that the lyrics also bring a deep meaning which relates to our social situation in order to opening the mind set from people to not judging before interpret the meaning.

### **Theory and Method**

Data source is needed in order to make the analysis easier to do. The data source is taken from Northlane's Selected Songs such as: Freefall, Eclipse, and Vulture. In this article,

library research is used as the way to collect the data. There are some steps that should do to analyze the data, as mentioned as: listen to the 3 songs by Northlane, and read the lyric from <https://www.azlyrics.com/> in purpose to find out words, phrases, and sentences that contain Non Living Personification, take a note which lyrics are the type of Non Living Personification, classify the data into type of Non Living Personification and then analyze the meaning of it. Here, the writer used the qualitative method to analyze the data. The aim of qualitative method is to describe a place, fact, and characteristic of population systematically, factually, and accurately. The writer also presented a table and also description for the lyrics that contained non-living Personification and the meaning itself that found in the song lyrics. The theory of personification from Zhu (1991) and theory meaning by Leech (1981) that used to analyze the data.

### Findings and Discussion

This chapter presents the results of the data analysis that concern to the description and explanation of the non-living Personification which used in selected songs lyric by Northlane. The data presented by the table to shows the lyrics that contain non-living personification that are used in the lyrics and there are some of the description from the meaning of the lyrics which contain Non Living Personification. The table shows the total of lyrics that contained non-living Personification that are found in selected songs by Northlane.

#### Non-Living Personification Found in Northlane's Song Lyrics

| NO.          | LYRICS  | SONG TITLE    | MEANING   |
|--------------|---|---------------|-----------|
| 1.           | Sharing a tired mattress on the floor             | Freefall      | Social    |
| 2.           | Salted streams of dismay run down my swollen face | Eclipse       | Thematic  |
| 3.           | My mind is silenced by the talking heads          | Talking Heads | Affective |
| 4.           | My lungs are whitewashed                          | Vultures      | Thematic  |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | 4   |               |           |

From the table above, that are 4 lyrics that found and contained of non-living personification in 3 selected songs by Northlane, such as: Freefall, Eclipse, and Vulture based on the theory about personification from Zhu (1991).

There are differentiate meanings for several lyrics. There are 5 types of meaning found from 7 types of meaning based on the theory of meaning by Leech (1981) in 3 selected songs lyric by Northlane, there are found Conceptual, Connotative, Social, Affective, and Thematic meaning. Based on the data analysis, it can conclude that the most dominant meaning used in these data Thematic meaning with (2) data and the last is Social and Collocative meaning with (1) data for each.

In this part the analysis non-living personification in Northlane's selected songs used the theory of personification by Zhu (1991) and for analyzed the meaning of each type personification used 7 types of meaning by Leech (1981). In analyzed the types of personification, all of the types of personification are found in song lyrics in Alien Album by Northlane, but there are only 6 types of meaning that found from 7 types of meaning

based on the theory by Leech (1981). The meaning that are found from the data such as Conceptual, Connotative, Social, Collocative, Affective and Thematic meaning.

Non-living elements include phenomena that eventually existed, such as mountains, rivers, lakes, the earth, the stars, the moon, the sun, and the clouds. It also includes artificial objects, such as buildings, ships and cars. It takes human sense pieces of consciousness or emotions to these non-living creatures (Zhu, 1991).

Data 1:

Sharing a tired mattress on the floor  
(Freefall, Line 8)

The data is categorized as a non-living creature personification. A word “mattress” is a non-living thing that got human attributes “tired”. Non-living things are including phenomena that generally occurred, such as mountains, rivers, lakes, the earth, the stars, the moon, the sun, and the clouds. It also includes artificial products, such as houses, ships and vehicles. Human sense parts of consciousness or feelings are taken from these non-living creatures (Zhu, 1991). In literal meaning there is no mattress that can feel tired as human being. So it is ridiculous if we translate it into literal meaning. The “mattress” is stand for the place where the speaker laying down. The word “tired” stand for the condition which is already unfit and shabby of the mattress not what mattress felt.

The data use social meaning. It because the data shows the condition of the speaker. Social meaning is the meaning used to explain the origin, even the condition or social status of a person, which is usually shown from the mention of the dialect, place name, habit or condition of the things used (Leech, 1981). Here the words “tired mattress” shown how shabby and not worthy of a mattress they slept on and their condition is very poor because we can see from the word “sharing” which meant they have to share a shabby mattress without bed on the floor. This condition shown us about the social status from the speaker. It is very clear that the speakers are people from a weak economy. Furthermore, the real meaning of this data is about the poor condition experienced by one of their personnel as a child with a broken family and also a drunken father left him with no other choice but to endure such a life.

Data 2:

Salted streams of dismay run down my swollen face  
(Eclipse, Line 1)

This statement is categorized as a non-living personification. According to Zhu (1991), Non living creature personification is the condition when the data includes non-living creatures, but it also includes human attributes, which makes the non-living creature do something more like a normal human being. A phrase “salted streams of dismay” is an imagery for the sweat that comes out. It can be seen from the next phrase “run down” which is a verb that is usually used by living things and is often done by humans. So, that will be ridiculous if we translate it into literal meaning because in fact sweat is never can run anywhere. Here, there are some clues that the audiences can get from the statement to catch the real meaning. First is the phrase “salted streams of dismay” that means sweat and “run down my swollen face” is stand for the sweat that fall and get through the speaker’s face, whose face is full of swelling.

The data used thematic meaning. A sentence is categorized as a thematic meaning because it reveals the point of focus of the whole sentence and the focus point gives the

emphasis that places the audience's focus on that focus point. The emphasis of the argument can be seen from which subjects are discussed. The focus point can also be seen by whether the sentence can be explained by that focus point phrase (Leech, 1981). Here, the focus point is "my swollen face" because it phrase can describe the condition and can be a reason why the "salted streams of dismay" can be falling out. This focus point makes the audiences imagine what happened with the first speaker. Meanwhile, the real meaning of this statement is a feeling of tension mixed with panic that caused sweat to break out and cover the speaker's face. This tension occurred because the speaker had just been beaten by his own father. The disharmonious condition of the singer's family made him endure ill treatment from his father who was also a drug addict and drunk. Here, the speaker also shows how bad his relationship is with his father and he is often subjected to harsh treatment and often runs away from home several times

Data 3:

My mind is silenced by the talking heads  
(Talking Heads, Line 20)

This data is categorized as non-living personification. When subject of the data indicated inanimate thing or the thing that cannot be describe as a non-living then the data would be including into non-living personification (Zhu, 1991). The words "my mind" is stand for thoughts and interpreted as something that cannot be measured because human thought is something that has no size limit and everyone has different thoughts but it useless without the human itself. The words "is silenced by talking heads" interpreted as because human thinking is something cannot be standing alone without the human itself and that has no size limit and everyone has different thoughts. So, it is impossible if we translate it into literal meaning because actually human thoughts cannot be prevented.

This data is used affective meaning. According from theory of meaning by Leech (1981), affective meaning is used when the data consist an action that have affect to the speaker and bring any emotions and feelings also. The reason why this data is categorized as affective meaning, because the words "talking heads" is blocked or acted as a distraction and this is kind of action that gave an effect to the words "my mind", in other words "talking heads" are the cause of "my mind silenced". When human's thoughts blocked by something it brought someone into uncomfortable position and useless feelings as human being. Meanwhile the real meaning of this data is the condition when the speaker explained how public opinion or people around him bully him and say evil words that make his mind full of these words so that he cannot think clearly as if his own mind is useless and other people's words seem to be his benchmark for being human.

Data 4:

My lungs are whitewashed  
(Vultures, Line 9)

This data is categorized as non-living personification. When the data uses a subject other than humans or living things which are objects that can be seen or measured but the object is made as if the object is doing something or even feels something, the data is included in the non-living Creature personification type (Zhu, 1991). The words "my lung" is a Non living thing, parts of the human body without the human soul are inanimate objects. The phrase "are whitewashed" denotes the result of another activity before, namely "painting white" on something, here it means painting the lungs. Here it can be concluded that "lungs"

are things that can be colored, in fact, in the literal meaning there will be no such activity. It is very ridiculous if the lungs are stained with white color. Here also the phrase "whitewashing" the lungs could imply that this activity was the activity of poisoning the lungs or could be interpreted as an important part of its owner.

This data is used thematic meaning. Thematic meaning is a silver line to give power of statement. It gives emphasis to the point of sentence, for purposing the easiest way to catch the meaning. So, later on the audience would be memorized and wondered the real meaning from the statement (Leech, 1981). This data has also used thematic meaning because it is strongly related to the previous data and explains the focus of the meaning contained in this data so that listeners or readers can be properly understood and capture the clear message. Here the main topic are "lungs". We can see that the lungs are a thing that is being discussed. Here, the lungs are referred to as things that are exposed to white paint or colored white seen from the phrase "are whitewashed". The singer wants to convey that the most important part of his life is not good or toxic and this is very torturous. The real meaning of this data is that through these lyrics the singer tries to convey how hard her life is with all kinds of oppression and violence she has received from her closest people, namely her family. This heavy thing was like poison living in his lungs and making him suffocate and tortured.

### Conclusion

After analyzing the non-living personification in Northlane's selected songs, the writer concludes that in each songs there are lyrics that contain non-living personification based from theory of personification by Zhu (1991), but there are only 5 types of meaning found from 7 types of meaning based on the theory of meaning by Leech (1981) that found from the data such as Conceptual, Connotative, Social, Affective And Thematic meaning.

From the data of non-living personification that found in each lyrics from selected songs by Northlane, the writer classify the meaning based on the song used the 7 types of meaning theory by Leech (1981). There are Conceptual, Connotative, Affective, Social, and Thematic meaning. Conceptual and Connotative meaning were automatically included in each data because Conceptual meaning is the basis of all the types of meaning and Connotative is above from the conceptual meaning that can be interpreted depend from how the society or community understand about what topic that communicated based on what the language when it interpreted into general or literal meaning. For the other 3 meanings, there are Social, Affective, and Thematic meaning were used to explain the expanded meaning of the lyrics in order to makes audiences understand about the meaning.

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