



AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN DAN BYRD'S SONG LYRICS ENTITLED "BOULEVARD"

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Abstract

This purpose of this study is trying to analyze the figurative languages and its meaning which exist in the lyric of the song "Boulevard". It is a descriptive qualitative research where data were taken from a songs lyrics website. Data used in this research was a song lyrics entitled "Boulevard". This song was very popular in the 80s era and sung by Dan Byrd which was released in 1984. The result of this study is indicated that: there are 12 data which contain figurative languages. They consist of 12 alliterations which 2 of them are also hyperboles and one of them is an idiom. The study shows that all of figurative languages in "Boulevard" song lyrics involves alliteration type.

Keywords: Song Lyrics, Boulevard, Figurative Language

Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mencoba menganalisis bahasa kiasan atau figuratif serta maknanya yang terdapat pada lirik lagu "Boulevard". Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif dimana data yang diambil berasal dari website lirik lagu. Data yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah lirik lagu yang berjudul "Boulevard" dimana lagu ini sangat populer di era 80-an dan dinyanyikan oleh Dan Byrd yang dirilis pada tahun 1984. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa terdapat 12 data yang mengandung bahasa figuratif yang terdiri dari 12 aliterasi yang 2 di antaranya adalah juga termasuk jenis hiperbola dan salah satunya adalah jenis idiom. Kesimpulan dari studi ini adalah bahwa semua bahasa figuratif dalam lirik lagu "Boulevard" merupakan jenis atau tipe aliterasi.

Kata kunci: Song Lyrics, Boulevard, Figurative Language

I. INTRODUCTION

As a means of communication, language has also a different way of delivering it. This unusual or indirect way of conveying is often referred to as figurative language. According to Kennedy,

figurative language is a language that uses figures of speech. A figure of speech is a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the words. (1979: 187). And Morner & Rausch stated that figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a

meaning that is different from literal interpretation.." (1991:83). So it's clear that in figureative language, the idea is conveyed by means of metaphors or other figures of speech.

The use of figurative language is very interesting, especially when it's applied to the field of art like in music. In every song lyric it is often found the use of figurative language. Sometimes we don't realize that in a song that we listen to it also contains many elements of figurative language.

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 is a very enjoyable thing for almost everyone. By understanding the meaning contained in the lyrics of a song, including the lyrics which contains elements of figurative language will certainly make it more fun. For this reason, the author tries to research figurative language contained in an English song entitled Boulevard. This song was very popular in the 80s era and sung by Dan Byrd which was released in 1984.

The writer chose this song as the data for this research because besides he likes the melody, this song also has very beautiful lyrics. The song lyrics consist of 3 stanzas where each stanza consists of 4 lines, plus a stanza of the refrain that are placed at the end of each stanza of the lyrics of this song.

II. METHOD

This study used descriptive qualitative method. Gay and Airasian stated that "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." (2000: 9). It means that qualitative research doesn't use statistical method but tends to use words and meaning description in analyzing data.

The data used for this research are the lyrics of an English song entitled Boulevard performed by Dan Byrd which was released in 1984. The data was obtained from song lyrics website <https://genius.com/Dan-byrd-boulevard-lyrics>.

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.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

a. Results

The lyrics of the song “Boulevard”

I don't know why, you said goodbye (1)
 Just let me know you didn't go forever my love (2)
 Please tell me why, you make me cry (3)
 I beg you please I'm on my knees if that's what you want me to (4)

Refrain:

Never knew that it would go so far (5)
 When you left me on that boulevard (6)
 Come again you would release my pain (7)
 And we could be lovers again (8)
 Just one more chance, another dance (9)

And let me feel it isn't real that I've been losing you (10)

This sun will rise, within your eyes (11)

Come back to me and we will be happy together (12)

Refrain:

Never knew that it would go so far (13)

When you left me on that boulevard (14)

Come again you would release my pain (15)

And we could be lovers again (16)

Maybe today, I'll make you stay (17)

A little while just for a smile and love together (18)

For I will show, a place I know (19)

In tokyo where we could be happy together (20)

Refrain:

Never knew that it would go so far (21)

When you left me on that boulevard (22)

Come again you would release my pain (23)

And we could be lovers again (24)

2X

No.	Data / Lyrics	Types	Lines
1	I don't know why, you said goodbye	Alliteration	1
2	Just let me know you didn't go	Alliteration	2
3	Please tell me why, you make me cry	Alliteration	3
4	I beg you please I'm on my knees	Alliteration,	4
5	Come again you would release my pain	Alliteration, hyperbole	7
6	Just one more chance, another dance	Alliteration	9

7	And let me feel it isn't real	Alliteration	10
8	This sun will rise, within your eyes	Alliteration, hyperbole, idiom	11
9	Come back to me and we will be	Alliteration	12
10	Maybe today, I'll make you stay	Alliteration	17
11	A little while just for a smile	Alliteration	18
12	For I will show, a place I know	Alliteration	19

b. Discussion

After analyzing the data, the writer concludes that there are 12 data in the form of sentences that contain figurative language. All of the 12 data contain alliteration type which two of them are also hyperboles and one of them is an idiom.

According to Wales, “Sometimes rather loosely paraphrased as ‘initial rhyme’, alliteration is the repetition of the initial consonant in two or more words” (2014 :14). Although alliteration does not involve figures of speech, it can help to create a mood in song lyrics. It also makes the lyrics heard more beautiful and become more fun to say and heard.

And hyperbole is different from alliteration, it involves a figure of speech. According to Reaske (1966:34), “hyperbole is a figure of speech which employs exaggeration”.

Idiom is also a kind of figurative language. According to merriam webster dictionary, the definition of idiom is “an expression

in the usage of a language that is peculiar to itself either in having a meaning that cannot be derived from the conjoined meanings of its elements (such as up in the air for “undecided”) or in its grammatically atypical use of words (such as give way)”.

Data 1:

Song lyric : I don't know why, you said goodbye (Line 1)

Analysis : The sentence in line 1 contains alliteration because both the first clause and the second one end with the same speech sound, namely diphthong /ai/. Diphthong is a merging of two sounds.

Data 2:

Song lyric : Just let me know you didn't go (Line 2)

Analysis : The sentence in line 2 contains alliteration because both the first clause and the second one end with the same speech sound, namely diphthong /eu/.

Data 3:

Song lyric : Please tell me why, you make me cry (Line 3)

Analysis : Like in data 1, the sentence in line 3 contains alliteration because both the first clause and the second one end with the same speech sound, namely diphthong /ai/.

Data 4:

Song lyric : I beg you please I'm on my knees (Line 4)

Analysis : The sentence in line 4 contains alliteration because both the word ‘please’ and the word ‘knees’ end with the same speech sound, namely /-i:z/.

Data 5:

Song lyric : Come again you would release my pain (Line 7)

Analysis : The sentence in line 7 contains alliteration because both the word ‘again’ and the word ‘pain’ end with the same speech sound, namely /-ein/. It consists of a diphthong /ei/ and a consonant /n/

The sentence in line 7 also contains hyperbole expression because it’s heard not realistic. In fact, someone’s pain can’t be released by other person. So the real meaning is, that he can only be happy again from broken hearted or sadness by the coming back of his girlfriend.

Data 6:

Song lyric : Just one more chance, another dance (Line 9)

Analysis : The sentence in line 9 contains alliteration because both the word ‘chance’ and the word ‘dance’ end with the same speech sound, namely /-a:ns /.

Data 7:

Song lyric : And let me feel it isn’t real (Line 10)

Analysis : The sentence in line 10 contains alliteration because both the word ‘feel’ and the word ‘real’ end with the same speech sound, namely /-i:1/.

Data 8:

Song lyric : This sun will rise, within your eyes (Line 11)

Analysis : The sentence in line 11 contains alliteration because both the word ‘rise’ and the word ‘eyes’ end with the same speech sound, namely /-aiz /. It consists of a diphthong /ai/ and a consonant /z/

The sentence in line 11 also contains hyperbole expression because it’s heard overstatement and not realistic. In fact, it is impossible that the sun will rise within someone’s eyes. The sun is extraordinary hot, huge, and its position is located outside the earth and the distance is very far. So the possible meaning is, that he wishes that the lady would realize or understand that it was wrong to leave him. The sentence “The sun will rise” also indicates the new hope, so the sorrow and sadness will go away soon and a better day will come.

There's also an idiom that is similar with this lyric: The sun is in someone's eyes. According to Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, the idiom means "the bright light of the sun is shining directly in someone's eyes // She couldn't see because the sun was in her eyes". So the contextual meaning is, that he wishes that the lady would close her eyes and decided to come back to him.

Data 9:

Song lyric : Come back to me and we will be (Line 12)

Analysis : The sentence in line 12 contains alliteration because both the word 'me' and the word 'be' end with the same speech sound, namely /-i: /.

Data 10:

Song lyric : Maybe today, I'll make you stay (Line 17)

Analysis : The sentence in line 17 contains alliteration because both the word 'today' and the word 'stay' end with the same speech sound, namely diphthong /eɪ/.

Data 11:

Song lyric : A little while just for a smile (Line 18)

Analysis : The sentence in line 18 contains alliteration because both the word 'while' and the word 'smile' end with the same speech

sound, namely / aɪ /. It consists of a diphthong /aɪ/ and a consonant /l/

Data 12:

Song lyric : For I will show, a place I know (Line 19)

Analysis : The sentence in line 19 contains alliteration because both the word 'show' and the word 'know' end with the same speech sound, namely diphthong / əʊ/.

IV. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, it can be concluded that the song writer tried to describe the feeling of sadness or disappointment and show it in such beautiful lyrics through the usage figurative languages. The study found that there are 12 data that involve figurative languages which consist of 12 alliterations which 2 of them are also hyperboles and one of them is an idiom. The result of study shows that all of figurative languages in "Boulevard" song lyrics involves alliteration type.

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