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Personification Style in Selected Owl City' Song Lyrics

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ABSTRACT
The purpose of this study is to describe personification style of figurative language in Owl City's song lyric and its meaning. Several song lyrics have been selected such as Vanilla Twilight, Fireflies, and Air Traffic to limit the data analyzed. The research method used is descriptive qualitative, while the techniques used for data collection are non-numerical data such as song lyrics in audio visual form, documentation, and observation. From the results of the research that have been conducted, it shows that there are ten examples of personification in three Owl City' song titles. The characteristics of the personification style that are often found use the concept of nature or natural phenomenon in conveying the feelings, ideas, fantasies or objects. The use of animal concept is also found in the lyrics of Owl City' songs that express fantastic or dramatic narratives. In the terms of meaning, non-literal or implied meanings are most often found in the song' lyrics, and in conveying them, they tend to suggest the listeners to think beyond the literal ones.
Keywords: Figurative Language, Personification Style, Owl City

INTRODUCTION

Learning foreign language is challenging sometimes, using and understanding foreign language particularly English is very helpful to communicate effectively and efficiently to the people around the world. Different backgrounds of culture may not be a problem as long as the speakers understand the global language either in spoken or written form. Learning English involves learning the listening, speaking, writing, and reading skills. All those things cover up the four English skills. For non-speaking English students, learning the meaning may a complex thing. Knowing the meaning is a must in learning English, it eases the leaners to comprehend the conversation or a formal text. The semantics or learning about meaning is the important point in communication and it's one of crucial factors to build up understanding in communication. Semantics is a branch of linguistics study that focuses on the meaning. Knowing the meaning may reflecting the knowledge or being aware of the issues around.

According to Leechh (1969), in Adityo (2019) “The aim of semantics is to explain and describe the meaning in natural language. To make our starting point in ordinary usage more explicit, it may even says that the goal of semantics is to explain what underlies the use of the word means and related term (sense, nonsense, signify, ambiguous, antonimy, synonymy, etc) in English and other language.”

One of the easiest ways in learning English particularly the meaning is through songs or movies. Songs can be used as a real-life source for language learning. Furthermore, it's a fun way to practice the English skills. However, the language feature may be different as mostly used is informal English for the lyrics, but learners may find it as a stepping stone toward mastering English. Learning the language style is an essential part from learning the meaning. The way the message delivered, the language style shapes perception and mood. Style creates a different mood and conveys different perspectives. Language style is often varied, it's a conscious choice while using it both spoken and written.

Figurative language is a language style. Figurative language is words or phrases that have different meaning from its literal meaning. It goes beyond the literal one that build emotions, connect ideas, build a deeper understanding also create imagery. According to Warinner in Tarigan (1985: 179) figurative language is the language that is used imaginatively and not literary. Furthermore, according Perrine (61: 1977), "figurative language is broadly defined as any way of saying something other than ordinary way. And it is more narrowly definable as a way of saying one thing and meaning another.'' Figurative language may not have defined directly; it uses the language style to describe it. Metaphor may be used in expressing something, exploring the imagination using undaily words. "Gaya bahasa merupakan susunan perkataan yang terjadi karena perasaan yang timbul atau hidup dalam hati penulis, yang menimbulkan suatu perasaan tertentu dalam hati pembaca" (Pradopo, 2013: 93). While learning through song' lyrics, learners may find many figurative languages. There are types of figurative language in English such as personification, metaphor, simile, symbols, hyperbola, irony, and many more. The researchers are interested to analyze one of the types of figurative language which is personification. Personification may be found a lot in song's lyric in comparing something unhuman to human abilities or reactions. In other words, personification gives human characteristics to non-living things.

This research is conducted by following the research questions: first, hows the personification style of figurative language used in Owl City' Song lyrics? And the second, how's the meaning of personification found in selected Owl City' lyrics? The researchers selected some songs from Owl City' such as Vanilla Twilight, Fireflies, and Air Traffic.

According to Perrine (1992) ''figure of speech is everything to say other than an extraordinary way.'' Moreover, according to Kridalaksana (2001: 63) figurative language is "Gaya bahasa merupakan pemanfaatan atas kekayaan bahasa oleh seseorang dalam bertutur atau menulis. Selain itu bisa diartikan sebagai pemakaian ragam tertentu untuk memperoleh efek- efek tertentu atau keseluruhan ciri-ciri bahasa sekelompok penulis sastra." In addition, Perrine (1977) in Jubilezer (2016) said that figurative language consists of twelve types, they are; simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole/overstatement, understatement, and irony.

1. Simile

   According to Perrine (1977) in Jubilezer (2016), simile is the comparison of two things, by the use of some words or phrase such as like, as, then, similar to or resemble. Simile is the comparison of two things, indicated by some connective usually like, as, then, or a verb such a resemble. A simile expresses as similarity. For example, 'your fingers are like sausages', 'how public, like a frog'.

2. Metaphor

Perrine states that between metaphor and simile is similar. Both of which are comparison between two things that essentially unlike. The only distinction between them is the use of connective words. In simile, the poet uses the connective words such as such as: like, as, then, similar to, resemble or seem; while in metaphor the comparison is implied, the figurative term is substituted for or identified with the literal term. For example, 'to a heart in a port'' the poet uses the metaphor Emely (the author of the novel) in comparing two things: a heart and a port. The poet feels that her heart is in a port; just sitting there, waiting, useless, and expand that metaphor when she says '' a heart in a port ''doesn't need a compass or chart because it's not going anywhere (Perrine in Jubilezer, 2016).

3. Personification

Personification is a figurative language giving the attribute of human beings to an animal, an object, or a concept. It is sub type of metaphor an implied comparison in which the figurative term of the comparison is always human being. For example, shadow—hold their breath. Shadow is a placed as human being and act hold. The image of shadow is presented as human being (Perrine in Jubilezer, 2016). It is said that "personification is part of figurative language, personification is a figure of speech in which things are endowed with human qualities or are represented as possessing human form". (Wolosky 2001, p. 93 in Fata& Aprilya 2021) By using human characteristics to describe objects, animals, or even places, personification can make our descriptions more unique and help the readers and the listeners better relate to songs, writings, novels, and more (Arta 2017, in Fata& Aprilya 2021).

Furthermore, it is said that personification is a kind of figurative language that describes un-living matter or inanimate object as if having humanism attitudes. For example, "the wind howling in the dark midnight added to our fear" by Keraf (2006, p. 140 in Fata& Aprilya 2021). The actual meaning of the wind howling is the wind started to blow loud and harsh.

According to Oxford English Dictionary and Oxford Learner's Dictionaries "personification is the practice of representing an object, quality, or idea as a person or by giving it human characteristics. This can be done to create a more vivid or engaging description, such as saying the wind "bit" or the leaves "danced". It can also refer to a person who is a perfect example of a particular quality, as in "She was the personification of elegance".

4. Apostrophe

Apostrophe is defined as addressing someone absent or something non-human as if it was a life and presents and could reply to what is being said. Apostrophe is also a form a personification in which non-human or in animate thing is directly addressed as if it were human or animate. For example, 'this is my letter to the world', 'it isn't exactly addressing herself to every single person in this world. Also, the world is absent in action because it never gave her any feedback' (Perrine in Jubilezer, 2016).

5. Allegory

   Allegory is a narrative or a description that has meaning beneath the surface one. Allegory is a description that has another meaning. The meaning beneath is different from its description. For example, ‘’after the great pain a formal feeling comes’’ in the first stanza: the nervous sit ceremonious, like tombs the stiff heart questions was it be that bore and yesterday or centuries before. The turn of allegory in Emily Dickson comes from a sense of inner division caused by ‘great pain’ which then makes each part of the body act separately and independently. At a formal level, the poem moves in out of allegory, while also using simile, as with the appearance of the word ‘like’. Indeed, the poem never moves from figurative, while also suggesting that the allegory is part of an ongoing narrative, as indicated by the word ‘yesterday’, its structured by words which associate with each other: ‘formal’, ‘ceremonious’, and stiff (the machinery will not work easily but the word also suggest the stiffness of the death) (Perrine in Jubilezer, 2016).

6. Paradox

   Paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless something true. It may be either situation or statement. Paradox is the statement seemingly self-contradiction or opposed to what is commonly held to be true but which nevertheless contains a truth. For example, ‘heavenly hurt, it gives us’ its paradoxical statement that is contradictory, but in fact in the heaven isn’t any hurts or any affliction. There is any happiness in the heaven (Perrine in Jubilezer, 2016).

7. Hyperbole/overstatement

   Hyperbole is simply exaggeration out in the service of truth. Hyperbole states something or situation excessively by using word contain greater meaning from the real taste or meaning. For example ‘since then its century and yet. Feels shorter than the day’. It represents that the woman has been dead for centuries but she feels like its only been a day (Perrine in Jubilezer, 2016).

8. Synecdoche

   A figure of speech which is mentions a part of something to suggest the whole. Example: Shakespeare uses synecdoche when he says that the cuckoo’s song is unpleasing to a “married ear,” for he really means a married man (Perrine 1982 in Wibisono and Widodo 2019).

9. Metonymy

   The use of something closely related for the thing actually meant. Example: In “Out, Out--,” Robert Frost uses metonymy when he describes an injured boy holding up his cut hand “as if to keep / The life from spilling . . . .” Literally he means to keep the blood from spilling (Perrine 1982 in Wibisono and Widodo 2019).

10. Symbol

    A thing (could be an object, person, situation, or action) which is stand for something else more abstract. Example: Early in Frost’s poetry, flower becomes a symbol for the beloved, his wife Elinor (Perrine 1982 in Wibisono and Widodo 2019).

11. Understatement

    The presentation of a thing with underemphasizes in order to achieve a greater effect or implying more than is said. Example: Frost's "Birches": One could do worse than be a swinger of birches."—The end of the poem suggests that swinging on a birch tree is one of the most satisfying activities in the world (Perrine 1982 in Wibisono and Widodo 2019).

12. Irony

    Verbal irony is a figure of speech when an expression used in the opposite of the thought in the speaker's mind, thus conveying a meaning that contradicts the literal definition. Dramatic irony is a literary or theatrical device of having a character utter word which the reader or audience understands to have a different meaning. Irony of situation is when a situation occurs which is quite the reverse of what one might have expected. Example:

    a. The road of taken: Verbal irony the speakers knows he will tell the old story "with a sigh" of a choice that "made all the different".
    b. Birches: Dramatic Irony the wish to get away from earth may not be granted too soon.
    c. Rage-finding: Irony of situation when speaker disturbed by a bullet but finds it unimportant (Perrine 1982 in Wibisono and Widodo 2019)

The researchers focus only on personification style to limit the data observed. The songs that observed are Vanilla Twilight, Fireflies, and Air Traffic lyrics.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, the researchers carry out qualitative research in analyzing non numerical data. This method collects the data through text which is the song's lyric, the audio visual, documentation, and observation. According to Sugiyono (2013: 213), who stated that "Qualitative research methods are research methods based on the post-positivist philosophy that are used to study objects in their natural conditions (as opposed to experiments). In these cases, researchers are the key instruments, and data sampling is carried out purposively and snowball. The techniques used for data collection are triangulated, and the analysis is inductive or qualitative. The results of qualitative research emphasize meaning more than generalization."

In qualitative research, Moleong (2005:9) said that "a human instrument is used in research because only human who has capability to understand the real condition of the research subject." A qualitative approach is done to understand the underlying data in the form of descriptive, particularly in phrase or sentence form in song's lyric. To limit the data, the researchers have selected the songs they are Vanilla Twilight, Fireflies, and Air Traffic lyrics. From those songs have been taken 10 examples of personification style. Representatives' data are chosen to be analyzed to get a deeper understanding like in the following research problems which is analyzing the personification style of figurative language that is used in Owl City' Song lyrics and the second, describing the meaning of personification found in selected Owl City' lyrics.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

In this section, the researchers discuss one of the types of figurative language, which is personification. The sentence or phrase will be put in the table following the song' lyric and it will be analyzed by describing the style. From the style, the researchers will explain the meaning that is described by the song writer. The following is the data of the lyric that have been selected.

Discussion

Table 1. Personification Style in Owl City's Lyrics

	Sentence/Phrase	Meaning
1.	*"The stars lean down to kiss you and I lie awake and miss you"*	From the line above shows personification as it contains human qualities or action. 'The stars' acts like human being that leaning down and kissing.
2.	*"I'll taste the sky and feel alive again"*	From the line contains personification 'the sky' that is imagined as something that can be tasted like food or drink. It clearly shows an action, something inedible to be done by human.
3.	*"Pour me a heavy dose of atmosphere"*	The line shows personification as atmosphere suggests something that can be drink in. In fact, 'atmosphere' is gas surrounding the earth or planet that cannot be drink in.
4.	*"Cause cold nostalgia chills me to the bone"*	This phrase shows personification style like the word 'nostalgia ' represents the feeling, a wistful affection in the past that the writer really miss a lot and the word 'bone' expresses how deeply the memories affect the writer.
5.	*"Relax your back and let the noise / Sing to you to sleep in my arms"*	Here, "noise" is described as being able to "sing" and capable of being held in "arms," which are actions and attributes form of a human being.

6.	*'"Cause I'd get a thousand hugs from ten thousand lightning bugs"*	The line shows personification as the 'lighting bugs' give human quality or human action.
7.	*"Fireflies went about with their tiny green lamps":*	The phrase attributes a human-like, like the word "going about" its a task for the fireflies, as if they are carrying lamps or performing an action of human like.
8.	*... as they tried to teach me how to dance"*	The line shows personification as the 'lighting bugs' give human quality or human action which is dancing.
9.	*"You would not believe your eyes if ten million fireflies lit up the world as I fell asleep"*	The phrase indicates personification as the 'fireflies" do a human action to lit up or like human does, lit up a room or something.
10.	*...cause they fill the open air, and leave teardrops everywhere…"*	The line shows personification as the 'lighting bugs' give human quality or human action. The bugs cry and leave the teardrops everywhere. In fact, fireflies don't cry like human or mammalian. Biologically fireflies don't have tear ducts to produce tears and their brain structure is different so they don't feel sad or have something to cry about.

Analysis

a) Data 1

"The stars lean down to kiss you and I lie awake and miss you"

From the line above shows personification as it contains human qualities or action.

'The stars' acts like human being that leaning down and kissing. Stars can't perform these actions but it distinctly expresses the human affection. It can be described as emotions of missing someone or maybe a sad separation. It also might suggest the loved one is far away, expression of loneliness and sleeplessness of the person's absence.

b) Data 2

"I'll taste the sky and feel alive again"

From the line contains personification 'the sky' that is imagined as something that can be tasted like food or drink. Its clearly shows an action, something inedible to be done by human . The phrase describes the overwhelming joy or freedom after a long term of sadness or emptiness. Moreover, likely it could be defined that someone is falling in love or achieving something great after a long time ago.

c) Data 3

"Pour me a heavy dose of atmosphere"

The line shows personification as 'atmosphere' suggests something that can be drink in. In fact, 'atmosphere' is gas surrounding the earth or planet that cannot be drink in. Atmosphere is treated like pourable thing like a drink. The meaning implies a strong desire, mood, or exaggeration feeling, or it could be the feeling of losing someone, a great pain or agony. The writer possibly wants to say that he needs to let go of something and back to reality.

d) Data 4

"Cause cold nostalgia chills me to the bone"

This phrase shows personification style like the word 'nostalgia ' represents the feeling or emotion, or it could be a wistful affection in the past that the writer really miss a lot and the word 'bone' expresses how deeply the memories affect the writer. Furthermore, it possibly can be meant as memories of the past that deeply felt to connect the writer and his loved one who is either far away or separated or maybe gone entirely.

e) Data 5

"Cause I'd get a thousand hugs from ten thousand lightning bugs"

The line shows personification as the 'lighting bugs' give human quality or human action. Bugs or glowing insect simbolizes hope, dream or symbol of guidance. It describes the fireflies give hugs that distinctly a human gesture to connect the feeling of warmth and affection. The writer wants to describe his feeling that his dream come true. The joy feeling, overwhelming joy about his dream is coming true, it feels like surrounded by a thousand of glowing insects that hug you tightly.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research, the researchers conclude that there are 10 examples of personification style found in three Owl City's songs. The characters of the lyric or phrase use human characteristics to describe objects, animals, or even places. Some of the lines from the lyric use nature concept or natural phenomenon such as the skies, stars, and so on in describing the feelings of the writer. The writer also assigns animal to convey sense of emotions, or behavior to an imaginative narrative or abstract ideas in the lyric like the using of the word 'bug'. The writer tends to use personification to create a magical or imaginative resemblance to imply purposeful actions with human being quality. Furthermore, from the songs lyric that is observed most of them use poetic phrases that the meaning cannot be taken literally. Non-literal or implied meanings are most often found in the song' lyrics. However,

the researchers notice that the write frequently uses not just one style of figurative language but more in the writer' lyric.

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