

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN FIVE SONGS OF JUSTIN BIEBER

Marselina Suryani<sup>1</sup>, I Gusti Agung Sri Rwa Jayantini<sup>2</sup>, Komang Diang Puspita Candra<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup>English Study Program, Faculty of Foreign Language, Mahasaraswati University, Jl. Kamboja No 11 A, Dangin Puri Kangin, Denpasar, Indonesia

E-mail: <sup>2</sup>[suryanimarselina98@gmail.com](mailto:suryanimarselina98@gmail.com), <sup>2</sup>[srijayantini833@gmail.com](mailto:srijayantini833@gmail.com), <sup>3</sup>[dianpuspitacandra@unmas.Ac.id](mailto:dianpuspitacandra@unmas.Ac.id)

**Abstract**— *The goal of this study is to analyze the different figurative language styles present in Justin Bieber's album songs. The type of figurative language and the type of meaning of the data from Justin Bieber's songs were defined by the researcher using the descriptive qualitative method. The purpose of this study was to identify the many types of figurative language that may be heard in Justin Bieber's songs. The purpose of this study was to identify the many types of figurative language that may be heard in Justin Bieber's songs. There are two issues with the study's research namely (1) what are the types of figurative language that found in song lyrics of Justin Bieber's songs? (2) What is the meaning of each type of figurative language? In this study, two theories were employed: the first is that put forth by Perrine (1974), and the second is that of Leech (1981). In this study, the researcher identified three categories of figurative language: similes (3), metaphors (1), and hyperbole (4). In conclusion, it is evident that hyperbole is the most common sort of figurative language used in Justin Bieber's songs.*

**Keywords**— *figurative language, justice album, song lyrics*

### 1. Introduction

Humans are social creatures who interact with other humans through reciprocal relationships. Hence, language serves as a mediator for communication. As a result of the fact that language is a tool for communication that individuals use to interact with one another and share thoughts, ideas, emotions, and feelings through sounds, gestures, and signs, it plays a very important role in their lives (Wedayanti 2021). Nowadays, people can express thoughts, ideas, emotions, and feelings through song.

Songs are another sort of entertainment that a lot of people appreciate. Song is made up of rhythm, tone, speed, beats, and lyrics (words). Lyrics are a collection of beautiful words made up of multiple stanzas; they are also known as poetry since they serve the same purpose, which is to draw the listener's attention. Besides, the song's lyrics are significant memories and perceptions of human experience, written in a memorable style, and serve as a source of information, education, and amusement.

Figurative is used to give a sense of beauty and to draw attention to crucial features. Figurative language offers a wide range of styles to express ideas in different ways (Rajeg 2018). It is employed in a variety of contexts, including common speech, literature, poetry, music, and more. Readers must use their imagination to decipher the author's meaning in order to comprehend figurative language. Since the meaning of figurative language cannot be found in a dictionary like the definitions of other vocabulary words we commonly use in our everyday conversations, it makes it harder to understand what is being said. People have to work harder to grasp figurative language since it has a different meaning than words that are spoken or written, it produces a pleasant experience of imagination in them, which is why this topic is attractive. To avoid any misconceptions, it is vital that we understand the true meaning of the songs.

This study concentrated on figurative language in song lyrics since figurative language is a concept that many people are unfamiliar with, do not know how to describe it, and struggle to understand the meaning of song lyrics. When they read a source or something with figurative language, readers should.

## 2. Literature Review

This study deals with the previous study. The first previous study is journal conducted by Hasby and Muhlisin (2018) entitled "figurative language in soledad song by westlife". The study focused to analyze the types of figurative language found in sole dad song by westlife. In analyzing the data the writer used descriptive qualitative method. As a result the writer found six types of figurative language they are 1 hyperbole, 2 personification, 3 metaphor, 4 paradox, 5 symbolism, 6 paralellism.

The second journal, "Meanings of figurative language with reference to four maiden songs," was published in 2016 by Daniswara, Winaya, and Parthama. The purpose of this study was to identify the various forms of figurative language and to examine the significance of figurative language used in maiden songs. To assess the data, the researchers employed the qualitative approach. The researchers discovered 3 different categories of meaning and 8 different types of figurative language.

"Figurative language in Carl Sandburg poems" is the topic of Alotia's third journal from 2016. This study sought to identify the many kinds of figurative language and to explain its significance in Carl Sandburg's poetry. The author of "Literature, Structure, Sound, and Sense" employed Perrine's (1983) theory in his work. The study discovered seven different varieties of figurative language, such as personification, metaphor, symbol, similitude, metonymy, hyperbole, and synecdoche.

## 3. Methods

The data for this study came from a few songs from Justin Bieber's songs. The researcher employed a few procedures to gather the study's data, such as; 1) Repeated listening is necessary to fully comprehend the song's message. 2) Compile a list of songs with figurative lyrics. 3) Sorting and classifying figurative language into distinct categories. This study examined the data using a qualitative method, which explains the data descriptively. The first step in analyzing the data and the second is to identify the figurative language present in Justin Bieber's songs using the Perrine (1974) theory, and then to examine the meaning of each figurative language using the Leech (1981) theory. The data in this study was presented in both formal and informal ways. The data were shown formally by using a table in order to make the data easier to understand. An informal presentation is employed to describe the data in a descriptive manner.

## 4. Result and discussion

In this section, the researcher presented 9 terms from Justin Bieber's songs that contain figurative language in song lyrics. The writer examined such terms using Perrine's (1974) theory, which was supported by the theory of meaning by Leech's (1981). The table below shows the total number of figurative language discoveries in song lyrics from Justin Bieber's song lyrics, which was published in 2021.

Table 1 list of figurative language found in Justine Bieber's song lyrics

NO	Types of Figurative Language	Number of Occurrence
1	Simile	3
2	Metaphor	1
3	Hyperbole	5
	Total	9

Based on table 1 the researchers found 3 types of figurative language out of the twelve types of figurative language identified by Perrine (1974), there are three of simile, one of metaphor, and five of hyperbole used in Justine Bieber's album Justice

## 1. Simile

According to Perrine (1974) a simile compares two unrelated objects by using terms like "like," "as," "than," "similar to," "resemble," or "looks."

### Data 1

**I'll keep you near (Mmm), as I wipe your tears away**

*("As I am" line 18)*

The lyrics above are part of the simile because it compares two different things, as seen in the sentence, "I'll keep you near (Mmm) as I wipe your tears away." In this case, the songwriter wants to convey that he will always take care of and accompany his lover.

The song lyrics above are part of the connotative meaning because they have a hidden meaning behind the actual meaning. What the songwriter wants to convey is that he will always protect his lover when bad things happen to her.

### Data 2

**Who gon' defend you like an army**

*("Somebody" line 13)*

The above data is a simile since it compares two distinct things: "who" and "army." In the previous lyrics, it says that:

*Everybody needs somebody*

*Somebody to remind you that you're not alone*

This shows that "who" in the above lyrics refers to somebody who is the songwriters need the most in order to get through all the obstacles in life. The term "somebody" which is meant by the songwriter, refers to the family or people closest to the songwriter, who is always by his side. And the army is those who are tasked with protecting the country from threats and disturbances to the integrity of the nation and state. According to oxford dictionary army refers to a sizable, well-organized body of soldiers with extensive ground combat experience.

Connotative interpretations can be derived from the song lyrics above since they conceal their genuine meanings. Connotative meaning, according to Leech (1981), is solely conceptual substance depending on what it refers to. In the lyrics above, the songwriter wants to convey that whatever problems we face in this life, we know that we do not walk alone but that there are people who are always faithful to accompany us. Be it family, girlfriends, or friends, they are the people closest to us, so don't feel alone because they are all there for us.

### Data 3

**When I am with you, I feel like it's a daydream**

*("Loved by you line" 25)*

Due to their comparison of two distinct objects, the aforementioned lines are similes, and as can be seen from the sentence "When I am with you, I feel like it's a daydream". In this line, the songwriter compares the presence of his lover with a daydream. A daydream is something that refers to things related to fantasy or to something that doesn't really exist but only exists in the mind. According to oxford dictionary daydream is pleasant thoughts that make you forget about the present.

In this lyric, the songwriter wants to express that the presence of his lover makes him happy and forgets everything that happens in his life.

The lyrics mentioned above are a part of the connotative meaning since they conceal a deeper meaning from the listener. The lyrics above convey the idea that the lyricist loses himself when his sweetheart is around, and he is swept away by the beauty of his lover. Besides that, he feels happy with a lover beside him.

## 2. Metaphor

According to Perrine (1974) Simile and metaphor are both forms of figurative language that contrast two things without the use of intermediary words.

### Data 4

#### **Your voice is music to my ears, I'm wide awake**

*(Angel speak)*

Because it contrasts two extremely dissimilar objects, the information above is a part of a metaphor, as is clear from the statement "Your voice is music to my ears." In this lyric, the songwriter compares his lover's voice with music. A voice is the sound that comes out of the human mouth while music is the sound produced by musical instruments. Melody, harmony, rhythm, and tone are all components of music. Music is an instinctive phenomenon, and it is an art form to produce, create, and express it. Music is a unique phenomenon created by a variety of musical instruments. According to oxford dictionary music is made up of sounds that are arranged in a pleasing or interesting way to listen to. Music is performed by singing or playing instruments. In this case, the songwriter compares his lover's voice to music, which he enjoys and finds peaceful.

The lyrics of the song above can be concluded to have connotative meanings because the literal word conceals a deeper meaning. The songwriter feels that his lover's voice gives him a sense of calmness that can help him relax and find peace.

## 3. Hyperbole

Perrine (1974) state that using figurative language that exaggerates or distorts the facts is known as hyperbole.

### Data 5

#### **It's a miracle you didn't run away**

*("As I am" line 30)*

The language above demonstrates that the information above is considered hyperbole since it exaggerates "it's a miracle you didn't run away." A miracle is an event that occurs beyond human reason and it is something that is beyond the limits of human ability. Only God can do miracles. According to oxford dictionary a miracle is an action or occurrence that defies the laws of nature and is attributed to God. The fact that the songwriter's lover chooses to stay with him is an impulse in itself, and so the songwriter feels the songwriter's lover's choice is a miracle.

The lyrics above have connotative meanings because they have hidden meanings. What the songwriter wants to convey in the lyrics is that he is very grateful because there is someone who is always by his side, whereas before he had always failed in love relationships. But now there is someone who really wants to accept him as he is. That's what makes him feel that what he has now is a miracle.

#### **Data 6**

##### **An angel in the flames, she pulled me out**

*(Die for you)*

The above data is exaggerated, as seen in the sentence "an angel in the flames, she pulled me out." The word "angel" in the above lyrics refers to the songwriter's lover. Angels are mythical creatures that appear in many different religions and cultures. In Abrahamic religions, angels are frequently portrayed as kind celestial beings that serve as a bridge between mankind and God or Heaven. According to oxford dictionary an angel is a spirit that is thought to be a servant of God and is sent by God to convey a message or complete a mission. Angels are frequently shown as having wings and wearing white clothing. It can be concluded that it is very unlikely that humans are angels because humans do not have any power like angels.

In the stanza above, there is a hidden meaning, so that it is classified as a connotative meaning. The songwriter wishes to explain that his girlfriend has aided him on a positive path, transforming him into a new person (in a positive way).

#### **Data 7**

##### **Even if your kiss could kill me**

*(Somebody)*

The lyrics above are hyperbole because they exaggerate as seen in the sentence "even if your kiss could kill me". A kiss is the act of pressing one's lips against one of the members of one's own body or someone else's. According to oxford dictionary kissing is the act of putting your lips together to make someone feel your love, your desire for them, or to say hello or farewell.. It can be concluded that kissing is not an act to kill someone. The lyrics above are related to the previous lyrics "*I would walk through burning fire*". In this case, the songwriter wants to convey that he will fight for his lover.

With the hidden meaning in the song above, it can be concluded that this line has a connotative meaning. Through these lyrics, the songwriter wants to convey that even if he is hurt, he will still fight for his lover, overcoming various obstacles.

#### **Data 8**

##### **I walk a thousand miles, I've opened every door**

*("Loved by you")*

The lyrics above are exaggerated, so they are classified as hyperbole. Very few people are willing to walk thousands of miles just to get the love of a lover. In fact, humans are only strong enough to walk up to 4 kilometers per day, which means walking thousands of miles will take years. Justin could be referring to an earlier track on the album, As I Am, where Khalid sings "a thousand miles apart, yeah you are the one who holds my heart," or he could be referring to his 2012 song, Be alright, where he sings: "for you, oh I would walk a thousand miles."

It is concluded that in the lyrics of the song above there is a hidden meaning, so it is classified that the lyrics above contain connotative meaning. What the songwriter wants to convey is that distance is not a barrier for him. Even if he is far away from his lover, he will remain loyal and always love her.

### **5. Conclusion**

The researcher analyzed five songs from Justin Bieber's songs that use figurative language, including as I am, loved by you, somebody, die for you, and angel speak, which were published in 2021. In this study, the researcher discovered eight data, including three similes, one metaphor, and four hyperboles, as well as one

type of meaning, namely connotative meaning. The researcher discovered that the writer uses his imagination to express his feelings to the listener through song lyrics in this study.

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