

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SONG LYRICS OF ELOISE'S SELECTED SONGS

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### ABSTRACT

Figurative Language in Song Lyrics of Eloise's Selected Songs aims at identifying the kinds of figurative language and explaining the meaning of figurative language implied in song lyrics of each song. Some selected songs from Eloise are the data of this undergraduate thesis, especially from the album *This Thing Called Living* and *Somewhere In-Between*. There are five songs selected as the data to identify, they are *Subside*, *TTCL*, *Intertwined*, *Wanderlust*, and *Hungover*. In order to collect the data, documentation and note-taking technique were applied in this study. Also, descriptive qualitative was used to analyse the song. Hence, informal method was presented to be a method of presenting the whole data. A theory of figurative language proposed by Knickerbocker & Reninger (1963) to identify the first problem and a theory of meanings proposed by Leech (1983) to explain the second problem in this study. As the result, this undergraduate thesis identified that there are seven kinds of figurative language found in the song lyrics namely simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, and irony. Moreover, there are four types of meaning found, they are conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, stylistic meaning, and affective meaning.

**Keywords:** *figurative language, song lyrics, kinds, meaning.*

### INTRODUCTION

Naturally, language is such a crucial part in terms of human life, especially in this generation. Regarding to Hornby (1987), language is a human and non-intensive method of communicating ideas, feeling, or desires by means of a system of sound and sound symbols. In processing the language by understanding each sentence, learning what meaning can be expressed is a key of a language. There are various methods that people tend to use in order to deliver the importance of their thoughts and one of them is by doing literary works. People need a language in literary works such as written or even spoken language. Song lyrics is counted as a written form in a language.

Song is a musical composition with the intention of the lyrics are sung, which has words of expressions or thoughts written by a singer. A song consists of lyrics that lyrics in a song have a meaningful purpose and diverse grammatical functions. Literature has various forms and a song is one of them. According to Meyer (1997:1), literature is a kind of term to describe written texts characterized by careful use of

language that includes features such as creative metaphors, well-turned phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, and aesthetic alliteration that are read or intended by the author to be aesthetically read and deliberately slightly open in interpretation. Literature is the kind of creative work that portrays human life that people can enjoy or use in society. Writing song lyrics is challenging yet eases the hearer because the hearer of a song catches what the songwriter wants to deliver in a song. Lyrics in a song are mainly contained in sentences and those sentences usually have different intentions for what will be delivered once the hearers listen and read the lyrics. This situation makes songwriters put some figurative language in their works.

Some songs contain figurative language because it is considered a way to convey something rather than use a literal meaning of the words. Figurative language is described as something or an inanimate object as life, based on Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963). Songwriters usually indirectly write song lyrics by containing their works of figurative language. Song lyrics with some figurative languages will attract the hearers or even attach to the song and the hearers will dig the meaning. This undergraduate thesis focuses on identifying figurative language and the meaning of figurative language implied in song lyrics of Eloise's selected songs since these songs have a huge potential to be analysed. Mostly, songwriters often use figurative language in their works and listener often do not get the meaning behind the lyrics. Therefore, the data of this undergraduate thesis are from the song lyrics Subside, TTCL, Intertwined, Wanderlust, and Hungover because they contain several figurative languages to be discussed in this undergraduate thesis.

Other than that, the current undergraduate is expected to be well-explained regarding to a theory of figurative language. This undergraduate thesis uses theories from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) and Leech (1983) to identify the problems. Also, this undergraduate this has a purpose to make the readers learn to be more mindful of the meaning behind a song, especially in the album This Thing Called Living and Somewhere In-Between by Eloise.

## **METHODS**

### **Data Source**

The data in this undergraduate thesis is from five of Eloise's selected songs in the album *This Thing Called Living* published in 2019, and *Somewhere In-Between* in 2021. The selected songs are *Subside*, *TTCL*, *Intertwined*, *Wanderlust*, and *Hungover*.

### **Method and Technique of Collecting Data**

The documentation method and note-taking technique were used in order to collect the data. The technique of collecting data includes some several steps. Firstly, there were five of selected songs from Eloise's albums named *This Thing Called Living* and *Somewhere In-Between*. Secondly, the song lyrics of selected song were downloaded from the website named [www.genius.com](http://www.genius.com). Thirdly, those songs were listened and analysed intensively in order to understand what is of meaning behind the song. Lastly, song lyrics that contained of figurative language were classified throughout the analysis and written down the result.

### **Method and Technique of Analyzing Data**

The technique of analysing the data applied was a qualitative method. Hence, descriptive qualitative analysis was used to analyse the data since the data is non-numerical information. Firstly, the song lyrics of selected songs were read accurately and classified into types of figurative language using a theory by Knickerbocker & Reninger (1963:367). Secondly, to analyse the meaning of figurative language implied in song lyrics, a theory by Leech (1981:10) was used. Lastly, the result of analysing the data were obtained to answer problems in this undergraduate thesis.

### **Method and Technique of Presenting Analysis**

The method applied in presenting the analysis is the informal method. The analysis of the first problem were presented by identifying the types of figurative language in the song lyrics of Eloise's selected songs for some types of figurative language regarding to Knickerbocker & Reninger by using words. For the second problem in this undergraduate thesis, the analysis was presented by finding the meaning of figurative language implied in song lyrics regarding to theory from Leech by using words.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Kinds of Figurative Language in Song Lyrics of Eloise's Selected Songs

#### 1. Simile

I bet you taste like peppermint. (Line 1 in Subside lyrics)

**You taste like peppermint** is categorised as simile because the comparison here means it is between **you** and **peppermint**. In this case, **you**, who is loved and adored by the songwriter in the song, represents another entity that has a taste compared to peppermint. The taste here is an attributive that **you** have. Therefore, it is not a direct comparison between **you** and **peppermint**.

#### 2. Metaphor

Come through my door and be **my fire's replacement**. (Line 3 in Subside lyrics)

The line above in Subside lyrics is considered as metaphor because it essentially conveys a new meaning and can be understood in **my fire's replacement** on the basis of similarities to its literal meaning. By using the phrase **my fire's replacement** in this line, the songwriter is implying that while he is in her company, he can serve as her fire's replacement.

Did I forget to mention that **you remind me of the ocean?** (Line 21 in Subside lyrics)

The metaphor is **you remind me of the ocean** which **the ocean** here means a new sense of something in terms of explaining someone. Thus, **you remind me of the ocean** means that whenever the songwriter thinks of this person, an image of the ocean pops into her thoughts. Because of how quickly the waves can become powerful, the ocean is often shown as being both tranquil and magical. He receives a reference to the metaphorical ocean that the songwriter uses in this situation.

#### 3. Personification

Every time **your eyes meet mine**. (Line 18 in Subside lyrics)

The line in Subside lyrics is categorised as personification because **your eyes meet mine**, as stated by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367), they said that personification signifies an inanimate object performs an activity like to a human being when eyes cannot do something like that on the line. Through the line above, it is

believed that the words of **your eyes meet mine** means that the songwriter and the person she was referring to are looking at each other in the line above.

But **my heart still jumps at the thought of you.** (Line 7 in TTCL lyrics)

**My heart still jumps at the thought of you** on the line above is considered a personification since the heart acting like a human. The songwriter intends to convey the idea that no matter what the circumstance, he will always have a special spot in her heart, even though it is only a glimpse of him comes across her mind. To emphasize the usage of personification in this line, the songwriter has highlighted the words.

#### 4. Synecdoche

I used to break down but **everything** is changed now. (Line 4 in Hungover lyrics)

Because **everything** on the line above it is described as a whole by just one part and this line from the song Hungover is a synecdoche. **Everything** in this sentence refers to all the emotions the songwriter formerly felt toward the subject at hand, as previously mentioned in the song's prior lines. For example, she felt nothing when she looked at him and she is supposed to feel something different. **Everything** in this phrase is the best way to convey how she has been feeling lately to him.

#### 5. Metonymy

So this **note** will stay somewhere tucked away. (Line 21 in Wanderlust lyrics)

The line above is considered a metonymy because **note** describes an object that is referred to something that closely associated with. Generally, **note** means a brief record of thoughts or topic in the way of writing it down as an aid to memory. However, through this line, the songwriter delivers a brief of her record that is about her feelings and memories as note in which those memorable memories will remain somewhere else that someone cannot find it.

#### 6. Hyperbole

**I could cross the mountains and the oceans.** (Line 1 in Wanderlust lyrics)

The line above is defined as a hyperbole. **I could cross the mountains and the oceans** is obviously a hyperbole because, as we all know, it is utterly impossible for

humans to cross the mountains and the oceans by simply walking with their bare feet. The songwriter attempts to make the idea more extreme by exaggerating her line in the line above and the line basically shows her effort to do anything for him.

## 7. Irony

### **I look at you I don't feel anything. (Line 33 in Hungover lyrics)**

The line above is classified as an irony because **I look at you I don't feel anything** shows something that is to express the opposite of the literal meaning). Since the songwriter had to feel something in relation to the song's previous line, the line **I look at you I don't feel anything** here are obviously opposite to the real meaning. The songwriter defines herself as being incapable of feeling anything, but she is a human with feelings that can explain all of her emotions, including all of her unhappy emotions. Whenever she is looking at this person, she usually has to communicate her feelings. However, the context of the sentence is essentially the reverse, and this is referred to as an irony-related figure of speech.

## **The Meaning of Figurative Language Implied in Song Lyrics of Eloise**

### **1. Conceptual meaning**

As some data found about the types of conceptual meaning in the song lyrics of Eloise, there are three data containing conceptual meaning.

One of data is included as conceptual meaning because on the line, the songwriter uses **every time your eyes meet mine** in which she explains that she is looking at the person she is having a talk to and their eyes are looking at each other at the same time.

### **2. Connotative meaning**

As some data found the types of meaning about connotative meaning, there are fifteen data containing the connotative meaning.

One of data is categorised as the types of meaning that is about connotative meaning because the line basically uses a figure of speech that mentions **you taste like peppermint**. It is difficult to understand immediately what the line **you taste like peppermint** means, and this is not the true meaning the songwriter is attempting to

overcome. The line uses a figure of speech to describe this person's imagined feelings rather than how he actually tastes like peppermint. Here, peppermint brings to mind an impression of an overpowering aroma, and the songwriter uses the words to imply the true meaning implicitly.

### 3. Stylistic meaning

As data found about the types of stylistic meaning in the song lyrics of Eloise, there is only one data containing stylistic meaning.

One of data is defined as stylistic meaning because the line indicates the perspective of the songwriter based on the social situation that is being addressed in the lyrics. The songwriter uses the words **and then we'll live out the rest of our days in black and white** which explains that she is able to spend every second and every minute to cherish the situation that she is having with this person until death do them part. This line is clearly the example of stylistic meaning found in the song lyrics.

### 4. Affective meaning

As some data found about the types of affective meaning in the song lyrics of Eloise, there are thirteen data containing affective meaning.

One of data is included as affective meaning because the songwriter expresses her real emotions through the lyrics, which explains the use of affective meaning. The songwriter is defining her thoughts about her relationship with this person by using the terms and the idea that **everything we had was tainted to a dull blue** to illustrate how her relationship with him is becoming more complicated. In this situation, the songwriter has chosen to use the term **a dull blue** differently in order to convey the speakers' personal emotions.

## CONCLUSION

The analysis of the data was identified and analysed thoroughly based on the research problems in the previous chapter. The kinds of figurative language as the first problem to be identified and the second problem is to identify the meanings of figurative language implied in song lyrics of Eloise. After identifying the data, it can be concluded that there are seven kinds of figurative language found in the song lyrics *Subside*, *TTCL*, *Intertwined*, *Wanderlust*, and *Hungover* according to a theory

by Knickerbocker & Reninger (1963). Those types of figurative language are simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, and irony. Therefore, the conclusion can be drawn that the meanings of figurative language implied in the song lyrics of Eloise. The data found that there are four types of meaning according to a theory by Leech (1983). Those types are conceptual meaning, connotative meaning, stylistic meaning, and affective meaning.

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