

# AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN IMAGINE DRAGONS' SELECTED SONG LYRICS

By:

Deslina Waruwu <sup>1)</sup>

Putri Arikan Onoda Gea <sup>2)</sup>

Andi Jaihutan Silitonga <sup>3)</sup>

Universitas Darma Agung <sup>1, 2, 3)</sup>

E-mail:

[Deslinawaruwu00@gmail.com](mailto:Deslinawaruwu00@gmail.com) <sup>1)</sup>

[putriarikanonodagea@gmail.com](mailto:putriarikanonodagea@gmail.com) <sup>2)</sup>

[andijaihutansilitonga@gmail.com](mailto:andijaihutansilitonga@gmail.com) <sup>3)</sup>

## ABSTRAK

Artikel ini membahas Analisis Bahasa Kiasan dalam Lirik Lagu Pilihan Imagine Dragons'. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu pilihan Imagine Dragons, yang paling dominan dalam lirik lagu pilihan Imagine Dragons, dan alasan dari jenis bahasa kiasan yang paling dominan yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu pilihan Imagine Dragons. Tesis ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Data dari penelitian ini adalah bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu Imagine Dragons. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah ada lima jenis bahasa kiasan yang ditemukan dalam lirik lagu Imagine Dragons, yaitu: hiperbola, metafora, personifikasi, simile, dan paradoks. Di mana total data terdiri dari 63 data dengan persentase 100%. Dari total data, hiperbola ditemukan 26 lirik yang persentasenya 41,27%, metafora ditemukan 13 lirik yang persentasenya 20,63%, personifikasi ditemukan 11 lirik yang persentasenya 17,46%, simile ditemukan 11 lirik yang persentasenya 17,46%, dan paradox ditemukan 2 lirik yang persentasenya 3,18%. Setelah menganalisis lirik lagu Imagine Dragons, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa jenis bahasa kiasan yang paling dominan adalah hiperbola (41,27% dari 100%). Dapat disimpulkan bahwa bahasa kiasan dapat di temukan dan dipelajari di dalam lirik lagu.

**Kata Kunci: Bahasa Kiasan, Imagine Dragons, Lirik Lagu**

## ABSTRACT

This article deals with *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Imagine Dragons' Selected Song Lyrics*. The problems of this study are: to find out the types of figurative language used in Imagine Dragons' song lyrics, the most dominant types of figurative language used in Imagine Dragons song lyrics, and the reasons of the most dominant type of figurative language used in Imagine Dragons' song lyrics. This study were conducted by using descriptive qualitative research. Data of this study are figurative language used in Imagine Dragons' song lyrics. The result of this study there are five types of figurative language used in Imagine Dragons' song lyrics, namely: *hyperbole*, *metaphor*, *personification*, *simile*, and *paradox*. Where the total data consists of 63 data with percentage of 100%. From the total data, hyperbole is found 26 lyrics which 41,27% in percentage, metaphor is found 13 lyrics which 20,63% in percentage, personification is found 11 lyrics which 17,46% in percentage, simile is found 11 lyrics which 17,46% in percentage, and paradox is found 2 lyrics which 3,18% in percentage. After analyzing Imagine Dragons' song lyrics, the researcher concluded that the most dominant type of figurative language is hyperbole (41,27% from 100%). Based

on analysis it can be concluded that figurative language can be found and learned in the song lyrics.

**Keyword: Figurative Language, Imagine Dragons, Song Lyric**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is an individual's tool for interacting and communicating with other individuals, groups, and communities. As a communication tool, language can convey the heart's content, thoughts, desires, messages, and even feelings to other people. It shows how important language is to human life. In the interest of social interaction, language occupies an important place in daily life. Through the existence of language, interaction in social life can be well established and makes it possible for humans to exchange information more efficiently.

According to Keraf (2009) language is communication between one and two members of the community in the form of sound, symbols, and produced by human speech. Through language, people could express their own perspective through verbal communication. Verbal communication is oral communication that is produced by mouth and uses words to speak aloud. The spoken language is expressed not just through communication with one another, but also through song, which is where a writer can say what they want in the lyrics of the song.

Songs are attractive to convey and arouse the interest of the audience, and are usually composed by composers and professional lyricists. The song conveys a lot of messages through songs, people can communicate with others. In other words, song can be used to convey thoughts, feelings, and help listeners understand what the composer means.

## 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

### a. Semantic

Semantics is the study of meaning of words, phrases, sentences, and text. According to Griffiths (2006:1) semantics is one of the two main branches

of linguistics, and it basically the study of meaning. Semantics is also concerned with exploring ideas of what meaning is. Semantics is a study of other words and sentence meaning. Meaning has an important relation with language because of that people also need to study about meaning that is enriched and gives a clear explanation of meaning. And also they will be easy to show their intention in daily activity.

According to Lyons (2005) semantics is the study of the meaning in language. Utterance meaning is the part of meaning of a sentence that is directly related to grammatical and lexical features but is obtained either from associated prosodic and paralinguistic features from the content, linguistics and non linguistics.

### b. Figurative language

Figurative language is the style of language used to express messages in an imaginative way or uses words of expression with meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. When an author uses literal language, he is merely stating the facts as they are. In comparison, figurative language uses alteration to make a particular linguistic point. Figurative language is a word or phrase that departs from every literal language which is very difficult to understand by people because it has a different context and reality meaning. According to Gorys Keraf (2009) figurative language is away of *si* ; mind through a specialised language that shows the soul, feeling and the characteristic of the writer (language user). A good language style has to contain three elements, three are: sincerity, respectful, and attractive. According to Keraf (2009:138) there are some types of figurative language, they are: *personification, metaphor, simile, hyperbole, metonymy, and paradox.*

### 1. Personification

Personification is a figure of speech that described something that is not human as though it could feel, think, act, live and die in the same way as people. According to Keraf (2009:140) personification is kinds of figurative language which described lifeless thing as if has human being nature.

### 2. Metaphor

The word metaphor comes from Greek it means “to carry over”. Metaphor is used to explain emotions, feelings, relationship other elements that could not be described in ordinary language. Metaphor is figure of speech to comparing two unlike things as if they are one. Metaphor used to compared two things directly in a simple form (Keraf, 2009:139).

### 3. Simile

Simile is figure of speech that make comparisons between two different things, just like metaphor but in simile usually using the word as, than, like, seem, so, and more than to expressed some of words. According to Keraf (2009:138) simile is comparisons that have an explicit character. Explicit mean that directly comparing things that similar with others by the word or phrase such as: like, as, and etc.

### 4. Hyperbola

Hyperbole is the term used over statement. This figure use by someone who has desire and expectation to the thing that happen to make object more greater than the real object. Keraf (2009:139) hyperbole is figure of speech which contains a point statement of exaggeration as it is. Hyperbole is an exaggeration more than the fact. The language can make attention to the reader and it is an exaggeration of object.

### 5. Metonymy

Metonymy is a change of name, the use of the one word for another, the use of an idea by means of terms involving association. It also about part whole relationship, the kind which allows the same word to be used in many languages

for “hand” and “arm” or “foot” and “leg”. According to Keraf (2009:142) metonymy is a figure of speech that uses a word to represent another thing closely related to the word it self.

### 6. Paradox

The term paradox is form the Greek word “paradoxon” that means contrary to expectations, existing belief or perceived opinion. Keraf (2009:140) paradox is a figure of speech that contains real contradiction with something true. Paradox is a figure speech that deliver two things which contradictory but this figure reveal the real fact that make sense even the speaker or the writer use a word that absurd.

## 3. RESEARCH DESIGN

In this study the writer used descriptive qualitative research. This study intends to analyze figurative language in Imagine Dragons’ selected song lyrics. Based on Gay (2006) says that qualitative research is the collection, analysis, and interpretation of comprehensive narrative and visual data in order to gain insights into a particular phenomenon. According to moleong (2009:11) Descriptive qualitative approach contains sentences or description of the explanation of the objects.

This study were used descriptive qualitative research to analyze the types of figurative language, the most dominant type of figurative language, and the reasons of the most dominant type of figurative language used in Imagine Dragons’ selected songs.

In collecting data, the researcher did same steps as follows

1. Browsing songs of Imagine Dragons’ that are going to be used as the objects of the study by using spotify
2. Listening the song of Imagine Dragons’ using spotify application
3. Selecting the word or sentences related to the figurative language

4. Coding. The researcher give the code in order to make easy in rechecking.

Code :

P : Personification

H : Hyperbole

M : Metaphor

S : Simile

Me : Metonymy

Pa : Paradox

5. Writing down the data

The technique of data analysis as follows

1. Analyzing the lyrics that related type of figurative language in Imagine Dragons' songs.
2. Counting the frequency of the type of figurative language in the lyrics of Imagine Dragons' songs to find out the most dominant type by using formula as follows:
 
$$X = F/N \times 100\%$$

X = The percentage of the type of figurative language  
 F = The frequency of the type of figurative language  
 N = Total number of figurative language
3. Analyzing the reasons of the dominant type of figurative language in the lyrics of Imagine Dragons' songs.
4. Drawing the conclusions based on the result of the analysis

#### 4. DISCUSSION

After collecting the data, the writer classified the data based on the types of figurative language. And the data were describing the figurative language. After analyzing the data there are five types of figurative language used in Imagine Dragons' songs namely: Personification, Hyperbola, Metaphor, Simile, and Paradox.

##### 1. The Type of Figurative Language in Imagine Dragon's Song Lyrics.

After analyzing ten songs of Imagine Dragons the researcher finds that there are 63 lyrics has contain of figurative language and there are five kinds of figurative language found in imagine dragons song lyrics they are: hyperbole, metaphor, personifications, simile, and paradox Hyperbole is figure of speech which contains a point statement of exaggeration as it is. Hyperbole is an exaggeration more than the fact.

1. This is it the apocalypse

The statement this is it the apocalypse is hyperbole because the lyric is exanggerated. The *apocalypse* is a huge event where the world will be broken and all the living creature will be extict and the event have not happened yet.

2. And the saints we see are all made of gold

And the saints we see are all made of gold is hyperbole because *saints made of gold* is cleary exaggerated because in generally there is no one living things are made of gold. It means that he is kind hearted but the kindness is covered by greed to rule the world.

Metaphor is the process of comparing two unlike things as if they are one. Metaphor is the figurative speech, which compares two things directly in a simple form (Keraf, 2009:139).

1. I'm waking up to ash and dust, i wipe my brow and i sweat my rust  
*I'm breathing in the chemicals*

The statement *I'm breathing in the chemicals* is metaphor because the singer used word chemicals to compare with the oxygen. Humans basically breathe the oxygen, while chemical is a poisonous can cause a death. From the lyrics above the singer tell that he belongs is completely broken. His surroundings are not as pure as the once were , dust and ash are strewn about, and the oxygen has been replaced by chemical.

2. I'm radioactive, radioactive, I'm radioactive, radioactive

I'm radioactive, radioactive, I'm radioactive, radioactive is metaphor

because the singer compared himself with radioactive, radioactive is a harmful chemical. It means that he is not good for the other people.

Personification is a figure of speech that describes something that is not human as though it could feel, think, act, live or die in the same way as people. According to Keraf (2009:140) personification is a kind of figurative language which describes lifeless thing as if has human being nature.

1. The path to heaven runs through miles of clauded hell

The path to heaven runs through miles of clauded hell is personification because run is the activity of human being. The writer giving the human activivty imagery of succes and failure through heaven and hell.

2. All systems go, the sun hasn't died deep in my bones, straight from inside

All systems go, *the sun hasn't died* deep in my bones, straight from inside is personification because here the sun is given qualities or characteristics of human which is died. It means he will always struggle for himself till the end.

Simile is figure of speech that make comparison between two different things, just like metaphor but in simile usually using the word as, than, like, seem, so, and more than to expressed some of words

1. Find a little bit of steady *as* i get close

The statement find a little bit of steady as i get close is simile because in this lyric the writer using connective word *as* to compare two difference thing. The writer compared word *steady* with *i get close*. It means someone who asks to other people around to make him feel safe and comfortable.

2. Like i'm empty and there is nothing really real, real

Like i'm empty and there is nothing really real, real is simile because the writer using connective word *like* to compare *i'm*

with *empty and nothing really real*. It means someone feels lonely and there is nothing purpose or something special inside his life. Everything only comes from his own mind and nothing is real.

Paradox is a figure speech that deliver two things which contradictory but this figure reveal the real fact that make sense even the speaker or the writer use a word that absurd.

1. The more I stray, the less I fear

The more I stray, the less I fear is paradox because the meaning of this lyric is self contradictory. The word more stray and less fear make the lyric self contradictory.

2. The more I reach, the more I fade away

The more i reach, the more I fade away is paradox because the meaning of this lyric is self contradictory. The word more I reach and more I fade away make the lyric self contradictory

## 2. The Most Dominant Type of Figurative Language in Imagine Dragons' song lyrics.

The percentage of each kind types of figurative language that are found in *Imagine Dragons'* selected song lyrics. They are: hyperbole 26 (41,27%), metaphor 13 (20,63%), personification 11 (17,46%), simile 11 (17,46%), paradox 2 (3,18%) and there is nothing metonymy. Based on the analysis, it is clear that hyperbole is the dominant type of figurative language used in *Imagine Dragons'* selected song lyrics with the percentage of 41,27%.

## 3. The Reason of the Most Dominant Type of Figurative Language Used in Imagine Dragons' Song Lyrics

After presenting figurative language that are found in *Imagine Dragons'* song lyrics, the writer concluded that the most dominant type of figurative language is hyperbole. Hyperbole is figure of speech which contains a point statement of exaggeration as it is. Hyperbole is an

exaggeration more than the fact. The language can make attention to the reader and it is an exaggeration of object. The reason why Imagine Dragons' song uses many hyperbole because the writer exaggerate events more to convey strong feelings to attract listeners. The writer used hyperbole to produce images in listener mind to explain ideas, emotions, and images in a more efficient way than through plain language. And hyperbole is statement can made emphatic by overstatement to allow the reader greater understanding of the feeling or character being describe and to make the song more interesting because the listener can get the hidden meaning in the song lyrics

#### 4. Conclusions

After finishing the analysis of each lyric in the previous chapter, the researcher concluded the result of the study as follows:

a. From ten songs by Imagine Dragons' selected songs as the object of the study. They are : *Radioactive*, *Demons*, and *It's time* (available in album, *Night Vision* 2012). *Bad liar*, *Machine*, *zero*, and *Natural* (available in album, *Origins* 2018) and *Rise Up*, *Whatever it Takes*, and *Believer* (available in album, *Evolve* 2017). The writer found five type of figurative language hyperbole 26 (40,63%), metaphor 13 (20,31%), personification 12 (18,75%), simile 12 (18,75%), and paradox 1 (1,56%)

b. The most dominant type of figurative language used in Imagine Dagon's songs is hyperbole.

The reason why hyperbole is the the most dominant type of figurative language used in Imagine Dragons' Song Lyrics becausebased on the data that has been collected that there are 26 lyrics are contain of hyperbole (41,27% from 100%).Hyperbole is a figure of speech that exanggerates something or situations and it offers an over statement to make it more attractive. For example I've been living but i was never breathing in Rise Up song

this lyric become hyperbole because word of never breathing is exanggerated and no sense.

#### REFERENCES

- Croft, S. and Helen, C. 2000. *Literature, Criticism, and Style*. Oxford: Oxford University Press
- Dewi, D. A. M. D. K. and Putra, I. G. A. C. S. 2022. *An Analysis of Figurative Language in the Song Lyric by Adele's*. BULLET: Journal Multidisiplin Ilmu, 1(05), 922-926. - Journal.mediapublikasi.id
- Dewi, N. K. W. 2022. *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Rocket Roker's Song*. -Jurnal Impresi Indonesia, 1(8), 877-882.
- Gay, L. R. 2006. *Education Research (Competencies for Analysis and Applications)*. USA: Pearson
- Griffiths, P. 2006. *An Introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatic*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Griffiths, P. 2006. *Introduction to English Semantics and Pragmatics*. Edinburgh University Press.
- Hulu, D. A. Sembiring, E. N. andTarigan, N. W.P.2021. *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Ariana Grande's Album Thank U, Next*. Linguistic, English Education and Art (LEEAA) Journal, 4(2), 317-327. - Jounal.ipm2kpe.or.id
- Keraf, G. 2009. *Diksi dan Gaya Bahasa*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Khairunnisa, M. 2016. *An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Some of One Direction's Songs Lyrics*. Doctoral Dissertation, Universitas Mataram. -eprints.unram.ac.id
- Lyons, J. 2005. *Linguistic Semantic:An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- Milana, H. and Ardi, H. 2021. *An Analysis of Figurative Language in the Song Lyrics by Saif Adam*. English

- Language and Literature, 9(3), 325-335. - [ejournal.unp.ac.id](http://ejournal.unp.ac.id)
- Miller , J. W. and Currie, C. 2000. *Introduction to English Semantic*. London: Routledge
- Moleong, Lexy J. 2009. *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya
- Nainggolan, F. Siahaan, D. A. Sinurat, B. and Herman, H. 2021. *An Analysis of Figurative Language on Joe Biden's Victory Speech*. International Journal on Integrated Education, 4(3), 364-375. - [Neliti.com](http://Neliti.com)
- Nurhaida, N. and Marlina, L. 2017. *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Views (Opinion Colum) of Online Padang Ekspres*. English Language and Literature, 6(1). - [repository.unp.ac.id](http://repository.unp.ac.id)
- Peter. 2002. *Figurative Language and Semantic*. Boston: Little Brown and Company
- Prayoga, I. B. 2019. *A Description of Figurative Language Found in Shawn Mendes's Album: Handwritten*. Doctoral dissertation, Universitas Sumatera Utara. - [repositori.usu.ac.id](http://repositori.usu.ac.id)
- Swarniti, N. W. 2022. *Analysis of Figurative Language in "Easy On Me" Song Lyric*. RETORIKA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa, 8(1), 13-18. - [ejournal.warmadewa.ac.id](http://ejournal.warmadewa.ac.id)
- Wibisono, R. T. and Widodo, P. 2019. *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Online Short Story Posted on The Jakarta Post*. Linguistik: Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra, 4(2), 62-72. - [jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id](http://jurnal.um-tapsel.ac.id)

### Internet Sources

- <http://frostfriend.org/figurative.html>
- <https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms/figurative-language>