

# FIGURATIVE MEANINGS IN *SECONDHAND SERENADE'S* SONG LYRICS

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## ABSTRACT

The study deals with the Figurative meanings that consist of hyperbole, simile, metaphor, personification, and symbol. The objectives of this research were to find out the types of figurative meanings used in Secondhand Serenade's song lyrics and to describe the dominant one type of figurative meanings. This research was conducted by using qualitative method. The sources of the data were albums and lyrics of Secondhand Serenade and the data were 67 sentences of secondhand serenade's song lyrics. After analyzing, it was found that there were 67 sentences of Secondhand Serenade's song lyrics. The findings of this research were found that 30 (44.77%) hyperbole, 14 (20.89%) symbol, 11 (16.41%) simile, 7 (10.44%) metaphor, and 5 (7.46%) personification. Hyperbole 30(44.77%) becomes the dominant type of figurative meanings in secondhand serenade's song lyrics.

Key words: *Figurative meanings and Song*

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## INTRODUCTION

Figurative meaning is language that uses words or expression with a meaning that is different from literal interpretation, when a writer uses literal language, he or she is simply stating the fact as they are. Figurative meaning is meaning out of the real meaning or more imaginative that encourages our imagination. The meaning of the words is influenced by the words which exist around it in sentence. There are several types of figurative meaning, they are: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, irony, symbol, Antithesis, synecdoche, metonymy ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)).

Every song has meaning in its lyrics or sentences. A composer always tries to deliver the ideas of his or her songs to the listener. Most of the people in this world like songs and enjoy the songs by listening to it by using the tape recorder, MP3, MP4, compact disc, and cassette. In listening to the songs, language is very important because it means of communication. He or she will chooses the right words that he or she thinks can be the best to convey their thought, feeling, and experience. He or she hopes the listener will understand the meaning of the songs. A song has two meaning: literal meaning and figurative meaning. Literal meaning means corresponding exactly to the original. Figurative meaning means connotative meaning. It is concerned with the meaning of the unfamiliar word in which most word have several meaning. Figurative meaning uses figure of speech too.

Creating song lyrics is not an easy job to do. We needs imagination and figurative sense to create the lyrics of the song to make somebody listen to it, feels interested in it. One song that is recognized to have used very much using figurative is the group *Secondhand Serenade*, almost in all of their songs lyrics figurative language could be found. Since *Secondhand Serenade's* songs are very interesting to listen, it is considered important to know what actually the meaning implied within the songs. It will be useless when we listen to the songs without understanding what actually the song wants to convey to us as the listeners. That is the reason for the study to analyze it more deeply. The writer wants to analyze the figurative meaning in *Secondhand Serenade's* song

lyrics. Figurative languages make the songs become interesting and many listeners enjoy the songs because they use so many kind of figurative languages to express their feelings and ideas.

Analyzing figurative language in song lyrics is important for some reasons. First, singing a song and knowing the meaning of the lyrics is better than singing without understanding the lyrics. We can also gain some lesson learning and fruitful information when we understand the non literal meaning contained in song lyrics. Second, analyzing figurative language provides us more practices be better understand non-literal expression, Simamora(2014: 5). A song is a short piece of music with words that are sung. The words in song are called lyrics. Song is one example of literature. The language of literature usually interests people for its beauty, and song is one of literary works that mostly uses figurative language as a lyric. A song is interesting to listen and it may bring into close and fresh relation to life.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

### **A. Meaning**

Dale (1996: 8) states that the word meaning is the thought that the semantic properties of conventional expressions are to be understood in terms of propositional-attitude psychology. He will call the notion of an expression meaning something the notion of expression-meaning. The division of meanings of words into smaller units of meaning is one of the most successful areas of modern semantics, and term out to be useful for language learning, for most of the elementary units of meaning of one language are found in other language.

Hofmann (1993: 226) States There are three main ways in which linguists and philosophers have attempted to construct explanations of meaning in natural language: (a) by defining the nature of word meaning, (b) by defining the nature of sentence meaning, (c) by explaining the process of communication. In the first way, word meaning is taken as the construct in terms of which sentence meaning and communication can be

explained; in the second, it is sentence meaning which is taken as basic, with words characterized in terms of the systematic contribution they make to sentence meaning; and the third, both sentence and words meaning are explained in terms of the ways in which sentences and words are used in the act of communication.

## **B. Figurative Language**

A figure of speech is figurative language in the form of a single word or phrase. It can be a special repetition, arrangement or omission of words with literal meaning, or a phrase with a specialized meaning not based on the literal meaning of the words ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com)). There are mainly five figures of speech: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification and synecdoche.

Figurative Language is a language that uses many figures of speech that explain or suggest by using words and ideas differently from literal meaning Yoko (2010: 9). Figurative language is part of language that using words to mean something different from their ordinary meaning in order to emphasize an idea. Kennedy (1991:584) states figure of speech is a departure from the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect.” This definition explained that figure of speech related what we called connotative meaning. A Figure of Speech is a word or words are used to create an effect, often where they do not have their original or literal meaning. Meaning is something which is asked and it is given an comprehensive a language. The word meaning can be used in many ways, referring to any kinds of symbol that provokes some kind of thought. And also song writer use figuratively in song in order to beautify and refine the language, make the lyrics sounds elegant, the lyrics can also be a special repetition, the lyrics will be specialized meaning it give the listener imaginative pleasure.

People use figurative language in their daily conversation and any literary work. There are some types of figurative meaning suitable in poetry, song lyrics and there are some types of figurative meaning suitable in movie script, novel and any literary work. The following is the explanation of several types of figurative meaning:

**a. Simile**

Setiasari (2013:11) states that Simile is Items from different classes are explicitly compared by a connective such as like, than, as, or by a verb such as appears or seems. can be found just about anywhere; from the printed word to oral conversation; in language, literature, and music.

**b. Metaphor**

A metaphor is a device for seeing something in terms of something else. A metaphor is one of the most extensively discussed figure of speech and is often bracketed with metonymy for purposes of clarification and for comparison of functions and effects. Goatly (1997:38) states that Metaphors are constantly being coined to meet the demands of experience on language. Metaphor

**c. Personification**

Dale in Simamora (1985:123) states that personification is comes from the Latin word, *persona* which means person and *fic* means make, personification is inanimate object are given human qualities and characteristics.

**d. Symbol**

Setiasari (2013: 15) sates that A symbol is defined as something that means more than what it is.

**e. Hyperbole**

Carter (2004:136) States that ahyperbole is an extreme exaggeration used to make a point.

**f. Irony**

Irony is a figure of speech in which words are used in such a way that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning of the words.

**g. Antithesis**

Antithesis, literal meaning opposite, is a rhetorical device in which two opposite ideas are put together in a sentence to achieve a contrasting effect.

**C. Song**

In music, a song is a composition for voice performed by singing or alongside musical instruments. A choral or vocal song may be accompanied by musical instruments, or it may be unaccompanied, as in the case of a cappella songs. The lyrics (words) of songs are typically of a poetic, rhyming nature, though they may be religious verses or free prose. A song may be for a solo singer, a duet, trio, or larger ensemble involving more voices, although the term is generally not used for large vocal forms including opera and oratorio.

**RESEARCH METHOD AND FINDINGS**

This research is based on design descriptive by using qualitative approach to find out the figurative language in *Secondhand Serenade's* songs. Jacob (2002:22) Stated that Descriptive qualitative method is one which is used to make description of situation, events or accumulate the basic data. So this research discusses figurative meanings which are expressed in song lyrics and uses this research method to analyze the figurative meaning in *secondhand serenade* song lyrics.

After collecting the data, the writer classifies them based on the type of figurative meanings. There were 67 sentences containing the types of figurative meanings and one of them becomes the dominant type of figurative meanings. The data has been analyzed by the writer through

counting the percentage of the lyrics based on types of figurative meanings.

After getting the realization, the analysis was conducted to derive the dominant types of figurative meanings used in Secondhand Serenade's song lyrics. And the dominant type of figurative meanings in Secondhand Serenade's song lyrics is Hyperbole.

To make the reader easy to see the occurrences of figurative meanings in data, it can be seen in this following table.

The occurrences of figurative meanings in secondhand serenade's song lyrics

No	Types of figurative meanings	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Hyperbole	30	44.77%
2.	Symbol	14	20.89%
3.	Simile	11	16.41%
4.	Metaphor	7	10.44%
5.	Personification	5	7.46%
	TOTAL	67	100%

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the previous data analysis, the conclusions of this research are.

1. There are five types of figurative meanings that were used in Secondhand Serenade's song lyrics; they are Simile, Hyperbole, symbol, metaphor, and personification. Whereas there are other five types of figurative meanings that are not used in secondhand serenade's song lyrics that have been selected, they are irony, antithesis, synecdoche, metonymy, and allegory.
2. The dominant type of figurative meanings used in secondhand serenade's song lyrics was Hyperbole. Hyperbole becomes the dominant type of figurative meaning in secondhand serenade's song lyrics and it leads us to a statement.

## **SUGGESTION**

1. For those who want to observe this study deeply, they must study about poetry and literary criticism first, since this subject leads us to find the figurative meanings and the use of them.
2. To find the other field of language or other aspect which can continue the way in conducting a new and better of this research.

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