FIGURES OF SPEECH IN *WESTLIFE'S SELECTED SONGS*

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ABSTRACT

This study deals with the figures of speech used in the lyrics of Westlife's Selected Songs. The objectives of the study are to describe the types of figures of speech used inWestlife's Selected Songs, to derive the figures of speech usedin Westlife's Selected Songs,and to reason why they are found in Westlife's Selected Songs . The research was conducted by descriptive qualitative design. The data was the lyrics ofWestlife's Selected Songs, the data were collected from 10 songs that has figures of speech. The data were analyzed by identifying and classifying the figures of speech displaying the result in a table. Then these figures of spech was described in details. It was found that there was eight types of figures of speech which used; they areSimile 27,71%, Metaphor 21,70 %, Personification 1,20 %,Synecdoche 1,20 %, Metonymy 7,23 % , Symbol 4, 81 %, Hyperbole 33,75 % and Paradox 2,40 %.The most frequent type of figures of speech used in the lyrics of Westlife's Selected Songs was Hyperbole.

Keyword :*Literature , Figures of Speech,Song*

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INTRODUCTION

The Background of the Study

Language can be defined as System of conventional spoken or written symbols used by people in a shared culture to communicate with each other. People need language to communicate, to interact and to get information from other people. Figures of speech is a departure from the ordinary form of expression or the ordinary course of ideas in order to produce a greater effect (Wren and Martin 1981: 488). Figures of speech important for listener to understanding the meaning of song and also very important for composer to make song because without using figures of speech the composer will difficult to express their feeling, thinking, emotion. The writerwas interested to conduct this research because generally the readers including the writer herself sometimes found some difficulties in understanding the meaning from the song lyrics. The writer chooses songs by Westlife because Westlife'ssong are meaningful and enjoyable to be heard. The lyrics of songs are typically of a poetic, rhyming nature. It is because the song writer merely use figure of speech in order to be more interesting, memorable, and aesthetic.

The research questions of the present study are What types of figures of speechare used in Westlife's selected Songs ?, What is the dominant type of figures of speech used in Westlife's selected Songs?, In what context, the figure of speech used dominantly in the lyrics of Westlife's selected Songs?

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Figures of Speech

According to Wren and Martin (1990:359), a 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 .There are twelve types of figures of speech based on Perrine's theories (1991). They are *simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, hyperbole, apostrophe, understatement , paradox , and irony.*

1. Simile

Simile is a figure of speech that compare one thing to another, but in simile the comparison is explicit, indicated by the adding or using the words of comparison such as like , as , resemble , etc.

Here are some examples :

a) My love is **like a red, red rose.**

 b) There is no frigate **like a book**

2. Metaphor

Wren and Martin (1981:489) states metaphor is an implied simile. It's not , like the simile ,that   state one thing is like another or acts as another , but takes that for granted and proceeds as if the two things were one.

b)   Here are some examples :

a. **The road** was a ribbon of **moonlight**

b. **The ship** plows through the **waves**

3. Personification

Siswantoro (2002 :29) defines personification is depictions of inanimate objects or object either visible or abstract treated as if it were a human.

Here are some examples :

a. **The old train***crept* along the narrow path

b. **Love** *comes* to my heart

4. Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure of speech that mentions part of a thing tosignify the whole thing or users the whole to signify the part.

 Here are some examples :

a. I did not see your **nose** at the party last night

b. A hundred **wings** flashed by

5. Metonymy

 A figure of speech that uses a concept closely related to the thing actually meant. The substitution makes the analogy more vivid and meaningful.

Here are some Examples:

 a. My sister always drink **Aqua**(Aqua means water).

b.He has **Marlboro**in his bag (Malboro means cigarette).

6. Symbol

The words of symbol mean merely what they are and something else that are represented by the words. It means that a symbol uses a word or phrase which is familiar in society and has one meaning.

Here are some Examples:

a**. A dove** stands for Peace

b. **Red**, symbol of braveness.

7. Allegory

A poem in the form of a narrative or story that has a second meaning beneath the surface one. Allegories are written in the form of fables, parables, poems, stories, and almost any other style or genre.

Here are some Examples:

a. The story of **deer and crocodile**.

b. The relationship between **cat and mouse**

8. Hyperbole

A Hyperbole is a figure of speech that is a grossly exaggerated description or statement. In literature , such exaggeration is used for emphasis or vivid description.

Here are some Examples :

a. **I will die** if I did not pass the exam.

b. **The world ended** the day my parents died

9. Apostrophe

A figure of speech in which someone absent or dead or something nonhuman is addressed as if it were alive and present and often begins with the exclamation "O'' or''oh''.

Here are some Examples :

a. "**O**star"

b. "**Twinkle, twinkle little sta**r, how I wonder what you are?"

10. Understatement

Understatement is the representation of something as significantly less than it actually is. In other definition understatement is the presentation of a thing with under emphasis in order to achieve a greater effect.

Here are some Examples:

a. That was **some sprinkle**

b. Anything more than **the truth would have seemed too weak**

11. **Paradox**

Paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true .

Here are some Example:

a. He who **loses his life**for my sake will save it.

b. One day is sometimes **better than**a whole year

12. **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.

Here are some Examples :

a. My grave is like to be **my wedding bed**

b. You are a smart student **who always absent**

Here are some reasons why figures of speech hasa prominent place in human conversation.

1) Figure of Speech compares two things that are different in such a waythat their similarities are explicit.

2) Writer or speaker use figure of speech to help them convey an expression

3) The writer or speaker wants to make their language more beautiful

4) To make some beautiful word in literary works

5) The writer or speaker want the reader or listener to smell , hear , taste , and feel the story as it is read.

Correlation between Language and Music

Language is very important in song and has relationship each other. It is impossible to separate that because language is related with song. Language is not

matter of neutral codes and use grammatical rules. Music is sounds that arranged in away that is pleasant or exciting to listen.

Song

Song is the act or art of singing. Song as piece of music with words that are sung has a function to express the thoughts and feeling. Song has two elements, such as:lyrics and music

Kinds of Songs

There are many kinds of song can be found, such as traditional pop, pop rock, jazz, hip hop, punk, trash, R&B, dance, rap, and metal. Song is a precious work which is created by the writer to express what is in his or her feelings about the life.

Biography of Westlife

Westlife is an Irish boy band formed on 3 July 1998. The group's original lineup comprised Nicky Byrne, Kian Egan, Mark Feehily, Shane Filan and Brian McFadden. Currently, Filan and Feehily serve as the band's lead vocalists. There are 11 album in Westlife , such as Westlife (2000), Coast To Coast (2001),World of Our Own (2002) , Unbreakable (2002),Turnaround (2003), Allow Us to Be Frank (2004), Face to Face (2005), Love Album (2006),Back Home (2007), Where We Are (2009),Gravity (2010)

RESEARCH METHOD

This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative design .Nazir (2003: 55) says that Descriptive qualitative is one which uses to make descriptive of situation, event or accumulate the basic data. Descriptive qualitative design simply describes what is going on and what data shows. It means, this research does not intend to find a new theory but to find new evidence to prove the truth of certain theory. In this research, the descriptive qualitative design was used to analyze figures of speech in the lyrics of Westlife's selected songs.

Source of Data

In this study, the source of data were taken from the lyrics of Westlife's selected songs. There are 10 songs that were analyzed, such as: *(1) You light up my life ,(2) Like a rose , (3)Heart without a home , (4)Angel's wings ,(5) If I Let You Go ,(6)Written in the star ,(7) Puzzle of my heart , (8) Miss you night, (9)When I'm with you (10) Love can build a bridge.*

DATA ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH FINDINGS

Data

The data were collected and selected from the Songs in *Westlife's Songs*. There are 10 Songs in all, they are:(1) *You light up my life (2) Like a rose (3)Heart without a home , (4)Angel's wings , (5)if I let you go ,   (6)Written in the star , (7) Puzzle of my heart(8) Miss you night, (9)When I'm with you, (10) Love can build a bridge.*

Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the writer classified them based on the types of figures of speech. Then the data are analyzed by describing and explaining the figures of speech. In analyzing data, there were eight (8) types of figure of speech used in the lyrics of Westlife's selected songs, namely: Simile, Metaphor, PersonificationSynecdoche , Metonymy , Hyperbole, Symbol ,and Paradox.

1. Simile

Simile is a comparison made between two objects of different kinds which have , however , at least one point in common (Wren and Martin 1981:480).

For example : You treat me **like** a rose , the sentence "You treat me like a rose'', it can be analyzed that the composer explain about someone that illustrated as a rose , in this sentence the word **like** shows that it is used the simile.

2. Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech containing an implied comparison, in which a word or phrase ordinarily and primarily used of one thing is applied to another. Wren and Martin (1981:489) states Metaphor is an implied simile. It does not , like the simile , state one thing is like another or acts as another , but takes that for granted and proceeds as if the two things were one.

For example :**You**'re the **blue bird** in my sky , " this sentence is metaphor because two different things compared without using word "like'' or "as'' . the two things which compared are,**you** and **blue bird**, this the writer describing someone like blue bird , it means someone who difficult to have for his life.

3. Personification

Siswantoro (2002 :29) defines personification is depictions of inanimate objects or object either visible or abstract treated as if it were a human. Personification means a figure of speech in which human attributes are given to an animal, an object or a concept.

For example :And the **warm winds** that **embrace me**, show us that the sentence is personification. It can be seen by analyzing the word "the warm winds that embrace me" as if the wind is a human can embrace. This type of figures of speech was used to

make a sentence more beautiful and to get a meaning of something by endowing it with things.

4. Synecdoche

Synecdoche is a figure of speech that mentions part of a thing to signify the whole thing or users the whole to signify the part.

For example :**Every heart** could understand , used Synecdoche. This sentence mentions part of a thing to signify the whole thing or users the whole to signify the part from the word "**every heart**". it means every person .

5. Metonymy

A figure of speech that uses a concept closely related to the thing actually meant. The substitution makes the analogy more vivid and meaningful.

For example : **Alone in the dark**, but now you've come along , is types of Metonymy , the word "**dark** " is another term to provide a more common meaning , it means night.

6. Symbol

The words of symbol mean merely what they are and something else that are represented by the words.

For example :Was written in the **stars.** Symbol was used to symbolize something , and this can be seen from the sentence "Was written in the **"stars"**.It is used as a symbol of destiny.

7. Hyperbole

A Hyperbole is a figure of speech that is a grossly exaggerated description or statement.

For example : The morning sun ain't the same without you here , is Hyperbole because it shows exaggeration. It is impossible the morning sun ain't the same in everyday because there's not someone who he loves.

8. Paradox

Paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true.

For example :I keep on searching but I can't find , ,this type is used to explain that someone who keep on searching the way to show his feeling to someone but he can't find. That's why this type of figure of speech actually has an inner coherence that gives a meaning.

Research Findings

There are eight (8) types of figures of speech found in Westlife's selected songs are Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Synecdoche, Metonymy, Hyperbole, Symbol and Paradox.The total number of the occurences of figures of speech are 83.it consists of Simile (27,71%), Metaphor (21,70 %), Personification (1,20 %),Synecdoche (1,20 %), Metonymy (7,23 %) , Symbol (4, 81 %), Hyperbole (33,75 %) and Paradox (2,40 %).The most dominanttype of figure of speech is Hyperbole with score 33.75%.

The most frequent type of figure of speech used in the Westlife's songs is Hyperbole. Based on Perrine's theory Hyperbole is a grossly exaggerated description or statement, Hyperbole has been the most frequently type because it is used as a means of emphasizing the truth of a statement and made emphatic by overstatement. Hyperbole is commonly used in daily conversation and also in all kinds of literature such as song lyrics, prose or drama. Hyperbole has an exaggeration used for special effect. We can conclude that hyperbole is used to make the object become greater than real object. Hyperbole is a bold, deliberate overstatement not intended to be taken literary; it is used as a means of emphasizing the truth of a statement.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

After analyzing the data, it can be concluded that firstly ; The total number of the occurences of figures of speech are 83 which are found in 10Westlife's selected songs.

Secondly ,There are 8 types of figures of speech that were usedWestlife's selected songs in the percentage of each types of figures of speech are Simile 27,71%, Metaphor 21,70 %, Personification 1,20 %,Synecdoche 1,20 %, Metonymy 7,23 % , Symbol 4, 81 %, Hyperbole 33,75 % and Paradox 2,40 %.

Thirdly , The most dominant type of figure of speech in Westlife's selected songs lyrics is Hyperbole.The most dominant type of figures in Westlife's selected songs is Hyperbole because it as an exaggeration used for special effect. Hyperbole is commonly used in daily conversation and also in all kinds of literature such as prose or drama and song lyrics. We can conclude that hyperbole is used to make the object become greater than real object. The statement is not meant to be taken literally.

And the last ,Music can lead a listener to interpret a song much better.

Suggestions

By considering the conclusion there are some suggestions. To the readers of figures of speech to learn about Poetry and Literary criticism first because this subject lead us to find figures of speech and use of them.

To the students of Applied Linguistics to apply a similar analysis on other text, because analyzing a song based on types of figures of speech can improve the students ability in understanding of figures of speech.

To the other researchers to find the other fields of language or other aspect which can be a way in conducting a new   research of figures of speech, and make research in other songs, it can be the ethnics songs like Karonese, Simalungunese, and Javanese in order to maintain this culture and to practice the language itself.

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