Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Selected Song Lyrics by Niki Zefanya

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Abstract: This study analyzes of the figurative language used in the song lyrics by Niki Zefanya. This research aims to find out the figurative language used in the lyrics of the song lyrics. This method uses qualitative data to find out the figurative language contained used in selected the lyrics songs entitled "Autumn", and "Lowkey" "Too many good things" by Niki Zefanya which have been released and received many viewers. Data collection uses observation techniques using the theory (Abrams, 2018) to categorize figurative language. The results of this study found 9 data from 10 types of figurative language displayed. In the selected lyrics of the song by Niki Zefanya, there are types of figurative language, such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, synecdoche, allusion, symbolism, metonymy, and irony. The researcher concluded that the most common figurative languages found used in selected the lyrics of the song by Niki Zefanya are hyperbole.

Keywords: Figurative language, Song Lyrics, Autumn, Niki Zefanya

Introduction

Nowdays, language functions as the main medium for interacting and conveying messages both verbally and in writing. Language as a means of communication allows every human being to share experiences, social values, and information, as well as express considerations and concepts(Bayuaji et al., n.d.). In the context of linguistics, studies that discuss human language contain several sections in linguistics, namely phonology, phonetics, syntax, morphology, pragmatics, and semantics. (Bouti et al., 2023) Semantics is a part of linguistics in learning a language, emphasizing how a meaning can be carried out by communicating and implemented in various contexts in linguistics and social contexts (Aryawan et al., 2019). There are two meanings that function in a language: literal meaning, which can be classified using a direct and limited meaning in language, and non-literal meaning, which involves figurative language(Azizah & Arifin, 2024).

Figurative language offers a method to convey meaning more clearly and precisely by using words that are not literal to help clarify the intended meaning of an expression and reduce the potential for multiple interpretations (Muhammad et al., 2021). It functions as a

comparative tool that makes ordinary words clearer and more distinctive, thereby increasing understanding and making complex ideas easier to understand (Rohmiyati et al., 2023) Furthermore, figurative language plays an important role in improving social communication skills. It can manipulate a listener's or reader's comprehension of a word or idea by juxtaposing it with another thing, thereby enriching understanding and communication dynamics (Zaimardiansyah et al., 2019).

Additionally, Figurative language demonstrated to play a dual role in musical structure, academic discourse, and scientific inquiry(Nirwanto et al., 2021). It empowers us to communicate complex thoughts, empathy, and tangible encounters by drawing upon affiliations, imagery, and imaginative comparisons (Alfiyani, 2021b). On the other hand, figurative language is a way of including emotional intensity in informative statements and conveying a shared attitude toward the information. Figurative language includes the use of words or phrases in a way that goes beyond their literal meaning, adding layers of depth and context when interacting (Datul & Agung, 2023).

Figurative language plays a crucial role in literary and musical expression, adding depth, emotional resonance, and vivid imagery to both written and spoken creations. By employing metaphors, similes(Fadhila & Juanda, 2023), personification, and other figurative devices, artists and writers can effectively communicate intricate emotions and themes in a nuanced and captivating way (Ni Nyoman, Ida Ayu, 2023) Examining the use of figurative language in song lyrics offers valuable insights into how musicians construct their stories and establish profound connections with their audience, stating that language is a human and non-intense method of communicating ideas, feelings, and desires using a system of sounds and auditory symbols (Ni Nyoman, Ida Ayu, 2023).

A powerful method of conveying messages is through song, where figurative language is commonly employed in song lyrics. The use of figurative language in song lyrics is crucial for communicating messages effectively, enhancing beauty, and imbuing listeners or readers with a specific emotional impact. Additionally, songs are occasionally used by the hearers or viewers to express feelings or information to others, especially when direct communication is challenging when used skillfully in both writing and speech, can effectively convey thoughts and ideas (Ibrahim et al., 2019). Songs come from a piece of writing and then sung to describe someone's feelings, made to persuade and advise readers and listeners, and have a tone or rhythmic sounds (Eka Agustina & Mustikawati, 2023). Songs are defined as the creation of a writer to convey a message that has meaning in it that the author delivers and says in lyric songs. (E. Ngailo et al., 2022) Lyrics are someone's literary expression of what they see, hear, or experience, usually in the form of words and language(Santika & Syafryadin, 2023). Lyrics contain messages conveyed through written words and sentences (Queenta, Muliana, 2022) which are able to create certain imaginative atmospheres and images for listeners, so that they can find various meanings(Pratiwi et al., 2020).

Niki Zefanya, whose real name is Nicole Zevanya or better known professionally in the entertainment industry as Niki, is an Indonesian singer and songwriter who is famous

for her unique voice and writer of song lyrics full of meaning. Niki emerged from the dynamic music scene in Southeast Asia after releasing songs through the recording 88rising. Niki has gained global recognition for combining Rhythm and Blues influences or better known as R&B, pop and indie into her music. Some of his famous songs are "Autumn", "Lowkey", showing his skill in integrating figurative language with musical compositions, creating moving and resonant works(Angelique & Mulatsih, 2024) .

This research aims to examine the use of figurative language in some of Niki's song lyrics such as "Autumn", Lowkey" and "Too Much of a Good Thing" exploring how this literary device contributes to the overall meaning and emotional impact of the song. By identifying and interpreting figurative elements in the lyrics, this analysis seeks to highlight Niki's skills in composing meaningful lyrics and using language to convey deeper layers of emotion. In addition, this research will investigate the broader meaning of figurative language in music, discussing how figurative language enriches the listener's experience and facilitates a deeper understanding of the singer's message. songwriter(AZZAHRA, 2024).

Niki Zefanya, professionally known as Niki, is an Indonesian singer-songwriter renowned for her emotive storytelling and lyrical depth. Emerging from Southeast Asia's dynamic music scene, Niki has garnered global acclaim for blending R&B, pop, and indie influences into her music(Alfiyani, 2021a). Her notable song, 'Autumn,' showcases her skill in integrating figurative language with musical composition, crafting a moving and resonant piece. Through 'Autumn,' Niki explores themes of change, nostalgia, and the passage of time, employing various figurative language techniques to intensify these themes and provoke a strong emotional responses(Puspitarini, 2024).

Methodology

This research uses a qualitative method which focuses more on experience and subjective points of view, as well as the meaning and interpretation attached to experience by collecting rich, detailed and varied data (Creswell, 2014). using data sources in the form of 3 songs entitled "Autumn" "Too many good things" and "Lowkey" by Niki Zefanya which have been released and received many viewers. In this case, researchers see that the three song lyrics by Niki Zefanya are included in the type of figurative language in accordance with the theory in (Abrams, 2018).

Result and Discussion

From the results of the analysis, researchers observed the lyrics of the song "Autumn" by Niki Zefanya. Based on the theory in (Abrams, 2018) there are 10 types of figurative language. Researchers found 9 data in the lyrics of the song entitled "Autumn" "Too many good things" and "Lowkey" by Niki Zefanya such as: Metaphor, simile, hyperbole, personification, synecdoche, symbolism, metonymy and irony. then, classified in the table below(Kaka, 2023).

Table 1. Types of Figurative Language

No	Types of figurative language	Data
1.	Methapor	4
2.	Simile	3
3.	Hyperbole	5
4.	Personafication	4
5.	Synecdoche	3
6.	Onomatopoeia	-
7.	Allusion	1
8.	Symbolism	2
9.	Metonymy	4
10.	Irony	2
Total		**28 Data**

Discussion

The Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Selected Song Lyrics by Niki Zefanya suvh as: "Autumn" "Too many good things" and "Lowkey"(DANISYA, 2023).

1. Methapor

Metaphor involves comparing two usually unrelated objects implicitly. So, methapor as a phrase or expression that typically represents one type of item but is used to refer to a completely different type without an explicit comparison (Abrams, 2018)

<div align="center">

Lyric songs- Autumn by Niki Zefanya

"This loves our shield, our blade."

</div>

Explanation: the lyrics above contain a metaphor because the word "shield" is an object that protects against something that can hurt someone's body and "blade" is a sharp object that can hurt someone (Hidayah & Bustam, 2023). For this reason, comparing two unrelated objects implicitly in the object These are not related to each other, while the words "shield" and "blade" are explicit in the challenging role that can provide strength or conflict in the feelings of love.

<div align="center">

Lyric songs- Too many good things by Niki Zefanya

'I'm the bull's eye, but in a doomed way"

</div>

Explanation: the lyrics of this song are included in metamorphosis because the word "I'm" refers to someone and "bull's eye" refers to the meaning of the target. For this reason, it shows an implicit comparison of two different words that are not related to each other.

Meanwhile, the words "I'm" and "bull's eye" express the phrase of someone who gets attention so that they become a target without explicitly stating the comparison(Handayani, 2022).

Lyric songs- Lowkey by Niki Zefanya

"This liquid courage got me way too honest"

Explanation: the above lyric contains a metaphor, as the words "liquid courage" metaphorically represent "alcohol". "alcohol" itself is a drink that if a person drinks it in high levels, the person will get drunk and give courage and confidence that they do not have when they are not drunk and give a sense of confidence for someone who drinks to be honest(INDRI, 2024).

Lyric songs- Lowkey by Niki Zefanya

"Wizard with words, tellin' me my energy's so bewitching"

Explanation: The lyrics above contain a metaphor in the words the phrase "wizard" is a metaphor used to compare a person who is good at stringing words with a magician who gives an impression of the person's language skills. And in the words "bewitching" is a metaphor because it compares a person's energy with magical abilities that are so enchanting. This metaphor is used to emphasize how strong and attractive a person's energy is.

2. Simile

Simile compares two unlike things that share some common characteristics, often using words such as "like," "as," "so," "appear," "seem," or "more than" (Abrams, 2018).

Lyric songs- Autumn by Niki Zefanya

"I fell for you, faster than I fell apart."

Explanation: The song lyrics above include a simile because the word "faster than" shows a comparison that describes two objects explicitly. Where the words "fell for you" refer to a feeling, the speed of falling in love is "fell apart" which refers to the speed of time it takes to fall apart. In this case, it involves a comparison of a feeling as its explicit object.

Lyrics songs- Too many good things by Niki Zefanya

"And I look like a tough shout in the dark on a good day"

Explanation: the lyrics above are similes because they contain the word comparison which has the characteristic of liking. The words "I look" describe someone's statement of seeing themselves. With the word "like" to compare "Difficult shot in the dark" the difficulty or impossibility that occurs. In this case, both words compare themselves to something that is difficult or even impossible to happen.

Lyric songs- Autumn by Niki Zefanya

"Tension so intense like an asteroid"

Explanation: in the lyrics above it is a simile because it contains the word compare with the characteristic like. The words "Tension so intense" describe very strong tension. by comparing "like an asteroid" that the tension felt is so strong and extreme that it can be compared to the power or devastating impact of an asteroid.

3. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is an exaggerated statement used to emphasize a point that hyperbole involves overstatement for the sake of truth, often to express intense emotions (Abrams, 1999).

Lyrics songs- Autumn by Niki Zefanya

"I ripped my heart out and put it in your hands."

Explanation: in the song lyrics above, the words "ripped my heart" are a statement that expresses something that is an exaggeration. However, this is a proof of truth that does not make sense to take literally.

Lyrics songs - Too many good things by Niki Zefanya

"Stronger than the noon sky"

Explanation: in the song lyrics above, the words "Stronger than the noon sky" are a statement that expresses hyperbole exaggeration. However, this is a proof of truth that does not make sense to take literally.

Lyrics songs - Too many good things by Niki Zefanya

"We can talk all night"

Explanation: in the song lyrics above, the words "we can chat all night" is a statement that expresses hyperbole that exaggerates where two people chat all night for a very long period of time. However, this is proof of the truth of the statement. It doesn't make sense to interpreted literally.

Lyrics songs- Lowkey things by Niki Zefanya

"The tension is so strong like an asteroid"

Explanation: in the lyrics above it can also be considered as hyperbole, because in the word "Tension" is interpreted as extraordinary tension and is compared with the word "asteroid" which is a form of hyperbolic figurative language which means how tense it is like a very strong asteroid and as if -as if -will explode in the air. So, the statement is hyperbole to describe the tense atmosphere.

Lyrics songs – Lowkey by Niki Zefanya

" I carved my name into your ribs."

Explanation: The song lyrics above use statements that exaggerate something. however, In terms of truth and also unreason to be taken literally.

4. Personafication

Personification attributes human traits to abstract concepts or inanimate objects it as a figure of speech that gives human characteristics to animals, objects, or ideas (Abrams, 2018).

<div align="center">

Lyrics songs – Autumn by Niki Zefanya

"But when the night cuts into the days, it's your love I crave"
</div>

Explanation: In the song lyrics above, it is included in personification, the word "cuts" shows an action that is usually carried out by humans. as if it were cutting, however, the word "cuts" is meant to describe "night cutting through day" to allude to this human trait that expresses a painful change in one's feelings.

<div align="center">

Lyrics songs – Too many good things by Niki Zefanya

"You show off your true nature on your earlobe"
</div>

Explanation: In the song lyrics above, the words "true nature" and "earlobe" are included in the personification because it uses a figure of speech by giving human nature to the object. The "earlobe" is a trait that humans have by showing off or demonstrating human nature.

<div align="center">

Lyrics songs - Too many good things things by Niki Zefanya

"Something tells me this is gonna hurt someday"
</div>

Explanation: In the song lyrics above, it is included in personification, the word "something" shows an action usually carried out by humans as if saying to tell or speaking which is in the word "tells me" to allude to the human nature of asking to be told through speaking to something that hurts someone's feelings.

<div align="center">

Lyrics songs – Lowkey by Niki Zefanya

"My energy's so bewitching"
</div>

Explanation : In the song lyrics above, it is included in personification, the word Attributes human qualities to energy, describing it as "bewitching" suggesting it has a captivating power.

5. Synecdoche

Synecdoche occurs when a part represents the whole or vice versa. It is a figure of speech where a part of something stands in for the entire thing, or the whole represents a part (Abrams, 2018).

<div align="center">

Lyric songs - Autumn by Niki Zefanya

"But here we are, skin and flesh and beating hearts"
</div>

Explanation: The lyrics above show that Synecdoche in the words "skin", "flesh" and "hearts" represent the entire human body, which is related and focuses on the use of parts to represent the whole.

<div align="center">

Lyric songs – Too many good things by Niki Zefanya

"Oh, baby say it with your hands"
</div>

Explanation: The lyrics above show that the synecdoche on the word "hands" is a part of the body, but it is used to represent all the movements of a person when communicating simultaneously.

<div align="center">

Lyric songs - Lowkey by Niki Zefanya
</div>

<center>*"Bedroom's vacant"*</center>

Explanation : Here, "bedroom" is used to represent the entire private space available for intimacy, not just the physical room.

6. Allusion

An allusion makes a reference to a historical, literary, or cultural event, place, or person that allusions are brief and often indirect references to other works, events, or figures (Abrams, 2018).

<center>**Lyric songs - Lowkey by Niki Zefanya**
"Wizards with words"</center>

Explanation: the song lyrics above are included in allusion, because in these lyrics "Wizards with words" refers indirectly to wizards. Where this wizard is also a human being who is very skilled in using language skills as if they have magic or magic in processing words.

7. Symbolisme

Symbolism is a symbol used to identify ideas and qualities, by creating a symbolic meaning that is different from the literal meaning. Like involving an object. characteristics, and images that represent the object (Abrams, 2018).

<center>**Lyric songs - Autumn by Niki Zefanya**
"You promised home, the kind I've never known, oh"</center>

Explanation: in the song lyrics above it is included in symbolism, the word "home" is an object that people usually know is a real place to live and is inhabited by many people. Meanwhile, in this symbolism the word "home" represents an abstract concept which symbolizes the embodiment of living creatures such as humans, to be used as the most comfortable place to communicate well, to have a sense of security, comfort, and to be used as a place of refuge for someone.

<center>**Lyric songs – Too many good things by Niki Zefanya**
"Your future lovers keep changing with the seasons, babe"</center>

Explanation : In the song lyrics above its is included in symbolism, the word "Seasons" are used as a symbol for changes or cycles in life or relationships. The changing seasons can reflect shifts in moods or feelings, as well as changes in one's romantic relationship. The symbolism of seasons illustrates the evolving dynamics of these relationships.

8. Metonymy

Metonymy is a figure of speech that calls something by the name of something that has a close relationship, for example calling something by the name of something that has a close relationship (Abrams, 2018).

<center>**Lyric songs – Autumn by Niki Zefanya**
"Oh, but darlin', did you see, The cuts from which I bleed?"</center>

Explanation: in the song lyrics above the word "cuts" refers to metonymy because it is closely related to representing a physical wound and is related to the word "bleed" which is more closely related to the feelings experienced.

Lyric songs – Autumn by Niki Zefanya

"All you do is blindside me, it's hard to be brave"

Explanation: in the song lyrics the word "blindside" refers to a metonymy which, if interpreted literally, refers to the side that is not visible. But this word has another meaning that describes a feeling of surprise or unpreparedness, such as an unknown prediction of an action someone takes.

Lyric songs – Too many good things by Niki Zefanya

"Look me in the eye and say you don't go it bad"

Explanation: in the song lyrics above the word "eye" refers to metonymy because it is closely related to the honesty and sincerity that radiates in connection with the word "say" which is a statement for someone to stay and never leave.

Lyric songs - Lowkey by Niki Zefanya

"Put your phone on vibrate"

Explanation: the lyrics above include metonymy because the lyrics literally change the telephone settings that are still in the telephone section, so that they become silent mode when someone calls or there is an incoming message. In figurative language, it is included in metonymy because it represents an action related to someone who does not want to be disturbed in their activities.

9. Irony

Irony involves saying one thing but meaning the opposite, often for humorous or emphatic effect, It highlights a contrast between expectations and reality (Abrams, 2018).

Lyric songs – Autumn by Niki Zefanya

"Ironically, I've never felt more alone"

Explanation: The song lyrics above include irony, the word "ironic" describes the opposite meaning where the lyrics show hope and reality. This means that in reality, even though your partner is by your side, feelings of loneliness dominate, where the lyrics show the difference between hope and reality.

Lyric songs – Too many good things by Niki Zefanya

"I get the feeling that this feeling isn't one meant to last anyway"

Explanation: The song lyrics above contain irony, the word "ironic" describes the opposite meaning where the lyrics show inconsistent hopes and reality. Even though someone feels that feeling, they realize that their feelings will not last long.

Conclusion

Researchers analyzed the lyrics of the song used in selected by Niki Zefanya. Based on the Results and Discussion in the earlier chapter found eight data from ten types of figurative language used in selected the lyrics song by Niki Zefanya. It contains eight figurative languages found such as metaphor (4), simile (3), hyperbole (5), personification (4), synecdoche (3), allusion (1), symbolism (2), metonymy (4), and irony (2). The figurative language most often found used in selected the lyrics song by Niki Zefanya is Hyperbole. There are the data each, the words used in the song are exaggerated from their original meaning compared to explicit words classify the used in selected lyrics of the song by Niki Zefanya by describing and emphasizes. In this case, the researcher reveals the meaning of the lyrics of the song by Niki Zefanya so that listeners know and understand the secret meaning in a song by using figurative language so that there will be no misunderstandings in interpreting the sense of the song. The researchers hope that this research can be useful not only for music lovers, but also for other people who want to understand song lyrics that contain figurative language.

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