

## Types of Figurative Language in Maher Zain's Song Lyric 'Number One for Me' Album

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### KEYWORDS

*song lyric,  
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### ABSTRACT

This study aimed at identifying the types of figurative language and the meaning of figurative language found in the song lyrics of Maher Zain song "Number One for Me". There were two theories used in the study. The first was the theory of figurative language from Kennedy (1983), and the second was the theory of meaning by Leech (1974) to analyze the meaning of figurative language. The method used in this study was the qualitative method. The data were collected by reading the lyrics of Maher Zain song, identifying the types of figurative language, and analyzing the meaning. As a result of this analysis, the researcher found 3 types of figurative language found in song lyrics. They were simile consisted of 3(40%) words, metaphor had 2 words (20%) and hyperbole consisted of 3(40%) words. The conceptual meaning was dominant in this analysis

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### INTRODUCTION

Hikmaharyanti (2019) stated that figurative language is a language that uses figures of speech and express the message through personifying, comparing, and even exaggerating. Figurative language is commonly used in expressing the message in the song lyric. This method is also applied in the song lyrics of Maher Zain song "Number One for Me". Hornby (2000) stated "song is a short piece of music with words that you sing". The song consists of musical notes and words that people know as lyrics. Lyrics have bigger power in the song because they express the messages and the fillings by the song writer. If the listeners do not understand about the meaning of the lyrics, they will hard to get the message in the song lyrics. That is the way this study was conducted to briefly explain the meaning of figurative languages found in Maher Zain song. Figurative languages exist in song lyrics because the composers play words to deliver the message and attract the listeners. Kennedy (1983) categorized 5 types of figurative languages such as comparative (simile, metaphor and personification) and contradictive (hyperbole and irony). Some works have also been conducted on the same topic to be reviewed. The first review related to the study is written by Arifah (2016) about figurative language in John Legend songs. This research took two problems, the kinds of figurative language and the meanings. She used theory purposed by Kennedy (1983). This research also used the descriptive qualitative method. She found personification, hyperbole, metaphor, paradox, oxymoron, litotes, simile, allusion, repetition, symbolism, and enumeration. The second review related to this study by Listini (2015) and took two problems, the kinds of figurative language used in Taylor Swift's song and the meaning of the figurative language. In this thesis, she used descriptive method with the sample songs *Mean, Speak Now, Mine, Dear John, Back to December, Enchanted, The Story of Us, Haunted, Long Live, Last Kiss, Spark Fly, Never Grow up, Innocent, and Better than revenge*. The analysis showed that in the lyrics of Taylor Swift Speak Now Song, there were eight types of figurative language applied, such as hyperbole was 20, personification was 8, simile was 13, the metaphor was 4, the symbol was 10, synecdoche was 2, and oxymoron was 2. The figurative language used in Taylor Swift's songs is 59. The third review was "An analysis of Figurative language Found in James Blunts song lyrics by Dimu (2018). In this study the data were taken from James Blunt's song lyrics in the song "Chasing Time". This song consists of 12 songs, they are *Wiseman, High, Cry, Good Bye My Lover*

*So Song, Sugar Coated, You're Beautiful, Billy, Fall at Your Feet, Tears and Rain, No Bravery* and the last *Where is My Mind*. Theories were developed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) in analyzing the types of figurative language in James Blunt's song lyric. Based on the result of his study, hyperbole was the most emerging type with 14 lyrics while simile with 2 lyrics, a metaphor with 3 lyrics, personification with 11 lyrics, synecdoche with 3 lyrics and metonymy with 6 lyrics. The similarity of this study compared to the study conducted by Dimu (2018) is that both studies are using the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) for the types of figurative language and the study also applied the theory from Leech (1974) as the meaning of figurative language. Besides that the differences are seen from the data source, this study used the Maher Zain selected song lyrics from the "Number One for Me" Song, while the previous study conducted by Dimu (2018) was using James Blunt's song lyric.

## METHOD

The data source of this study was a song by Maher Zain in one of his songs, *Number One for Me*. The technique of collecting data started by selecting the songs, highlighting the figurative languages in the lyric, and then using the descriptive qualitative method, the data were analyzed to get the point of figurative language type and the meaning within.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the types of figurative languages proposed by Kennedy (1983), this study found three types of figurative languages shown in the table below:

**Table 1 Kinds of Figurative Language**

Figurative Language	Occurrence	Percentage (%)
Simile	3	40
Metaphor	2	20
Hyperbole	3	40
Total	8	100%

Meanwhile for the meaning, it was shown in the table below that conceptual meaning has been dominant in the songs.

**Table 2 Figurative Language Meanings**

Meaning	Occurrence	Percentage (%)
Connotative	2	40
Conceptual	3	60
Total	5	100%

### 1. Simile

#### Datum 1:

I'd like to put your smile everyday

The data mentioned above are included in the example for types of figurative language simile. The data above is a simile because there is the word 'like' as a characteristic type of simile in the description of the figurative

language. As we know that there are 2 types of stains, there are stains that can be easy to removed and there are also stubborn stains that are very difficult to remove. But in the lyric above it is stated that 'like' to put your smile' means stubborn stains that are difficult to remove. Permanent stains will be hard to let go, of because they are already attached to the object it is attached to. It means that when someone wants to erase or forget their old memories they will not be able to. Even though we have hoped for a lot erasing someone's memory is not possible. In this lyric the songwriter wants to express that he hopes to erase or clean up all the memories with his lover but those memories cannot be erased and still continue to haunt him.

**Datum 2:**

Now I will try to love you, like you love me.

Only God knows how much you mean to me

The data mentioned above are included in the example for types of figurative language simile. The data above is a simile because there is the word 'like' as a characteristic type of simile in the description of the figurative language. In the lyrics of the song, there is the 'smile'. The figurative language simile types above contain affective meaning. In the song lyric 'Now I will try to love you, like you love me only God knows how much you mean to me' shows the characteristics of affective meaning. The song writer wants to forget or let go of all his old memories in the lyric of the song. The old memories are like a permanent stain where the stain is very difficult to remove. Even though they had tried to forget it, the memories had stuck in his memory

## 2. Metaphor

**Datum 3:**

To make your smile, each time I'm around you

Within the sentence above kind of figurative language the researcher observed in metaphor, because it compares two different things, specifically according to Merriam-Webster Dictionary in this styles of figurative language this information is assessed in to metaphor 'you' are the only who's talked. And around crock like a bow.

Based totally on the poem above, the author analogizes the 'you' as 'round'. In this case, 'around' to excellent features and mature behaviour bring pride to those around them. So this lyric classified as metaphor

**Datum 4:**

Mama now I'm here for you for all the times I made you cry.

According to the data above this lyric is a kind of figurative language, which is a metaphor is an implied comparison or an expression used to denote a new meaning, which is based on the similarity between the literal meaning and the new thing or situation it is applied to. Metaphors are usually used for something resembling what is usually referred to.

## 3. Hyperbole

**Datum 5:**

You know you are the number one for me

Based on this data this is kinds of hyperbola which is as we know, a hyperbola is a figure of speech tat uses the effect of exaggeration which is used effects (knickerbocker and Reninger ,1963:367). In the sentence above hyperbola because *number one for me* is imposible, as we know that human being a lot of people in this world and it is not guaranteed if only one person.

#### **Datum 6:**

There's no one in this world that can take your place

The sentence expression above is hyperbole because that someone wish could walk through the doors of the mind itself. This phrase reflects the meaning that someone really wants to walk and open through the doors in his mind. The mind is part of a person brain where our thoughts are formed, developed and stored. Our mind is inside us and does not have door or an entrance of any kind so we will one able to walk into it. It is not a building with adoor that makes the speaker can enter over the door. This is not meant to be taken literally since it is impossible to happen. However, this might mean that those people are trying to solve the problem easily as if they walked through a door. This hyperbolic statement is exaggerated for the sake of emphasis that ultimately makes the song lyric more interesting and engaging

#### **CONCLUSION**

There are several conclusions that can be formulated in a relevant way based on the results of the figurative language analysis contained in the lyrics of the album Number one for me by Maher zain. In number one of myalbum there are 1 songs , but only 8 songs are chosen as a data source used in this study. In these songs, the writer gets 8 song lyrics which contain figurative language. The figurative language type most used in the album is simile, which is 3 in the song lyrics, because in Maher zain song lyrics there are many comparisons between two objects that expressed with the word " like ". Another type of figurative language contained in song lyrics is hyperbole with 3, and the last one is metaphor with 2 in the song lyrics. The writer did not find a type of figurative language that is included in the allusion, dead metaphor, paradox, and irony in Maher zain song lyrics. Besides analyzing the type of figurative language, the writer also analyzes the implied meaning of figurative language. In the Number one for me album, connotative meaning, Conceptual meaning is uses for analyzed the implied meaning. The three types of meaning were chosen because in Maher zain song lyrics, the song writer wants to pour out his heart or feelings. Which is where the figurative language contained in it really describes the situation of the songwriter, therefore the three meanings are suitable to describe the type of each figurative language in the lyrics of the Maher zain songs. The most meaning that can be categorized into this song is connotative meaning because there are other meanings found outside of the true meaning. This study shows how the figurative language functions in a song. This makes the song sound more beautiful when performed by a singer. When the person who hears the song doesn't understand what the songwriter is trying to say, that's when custom language lessons come in handy. The results of this analysis will also help people who are interested in learning figurative language better know and get to know the rious figurative languages themselves.

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