

## **Analysis of Figures of Speech in Fallin' Flower Lyrics by SEVENTEEN**

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**Abstract.** This study analyzes the figures of speech found in Fallin' Flower (舞い落ちる花びら /Mai Ochiru Hanabira)'s lyrics by SEVENTEEN. It is intended to explore the various types of figures of speech used in the lyrics and explore their meanings. This study using adopts a descriptive qualitative. The author found several figures of speech based on Gorys Keraf's theory, including simile, metaphor, personification, and hypallage. The findings suggest that these figures of speech enrich the song's emotional depth while also conveying symbolic meaning, reflecting themes of resilience, hope, and renewal. This study contributes to the field of stylistics by providing insights into the use of figures of speech in J-Pop lyrics.

**Keywords:** figures of speech; gorys keraf; song lyrics; fallin' flower

### **RESEARCH BACKGROUND**

Literary work is a form of creative expression consisting of a series of words (Wardani, 2009). Literary work functions as an imaginative medium for authors to express their ideas, emotions, and worldviews which are often conveyed through the use of beautiful words (Putri et al., 2020). There are various forms of literary works, such as poetry, song, drama, movie, and short stories that have different characteristics and functions. One form of literary work examined in this study is the song. A song is a composition of lyrics sung with specific tones, rhythms, beats, and melodies to create harmony (Dwipayanti et al., 2021). As a literary work, a song contains lyrics that play an important role in conveying messages and meanings. Song lyrics are written compositions consisting of poetic and evocative language in each stanza (Asriani et al., 2021). The beauty of the song lyrics emerges through wordplay, layered meaning, and the use of figures of speech which serve as the main appeal. Moreover, song lyrics function as a medium through which creators convey their emotions, ideas, and perspectives, both explicitly and implicitly.

Song lyrics have the ability to evoke the listener's emotions, especially when supported by harmonizing musical instruments. The choice of words in song lyrics not only functions as a means of communication, but also reflects the creativity and the characteristic of the songwriter. As a part of literary work, song lyrics contain aesthetic language that enriches the meaning being conveyed. According to Fadli & Kusmiati (2020), lyrics can become a song through an aesthetic process which is the process of expressing feelings and inner thought in written form through words. To study the aspects of beauty and meaning in language, a stylistic approach is needed.

According to Turner in Pradopo (2020), stylistics represents one aspect of the broader field of linguistics that focuses on variations of language use. Fransori (2017), drawing on Sudjiman as cited in Nurhayati (2008, p. 11), states that stylistics focuses on how language and figures of speech are used in literary works, with the main objective of revealing the aesthetic effects produced by language use. Stylistic can simply be understood as the study of figures of speech. Through a stylistic approach, figures of speech use and word choice in a text including song lyrics can be analyzed in depth to interpret the messages conveyed within it.

Figures of speech are a unique way of conveying thoughts through language, reflecting the character and personality of the writer (Lestari & Aeni, 2018). Keraf (2009) states that figures of speech reveal the writer's personality, character, and linguistic competence. Figures of speech are defined as a distinctive way of expressing thoughts through language that reflects the writer's inner self and character. Key elements of figures of speech include word choice, tone, sentence structure, and the level of directness to enhance the aesthetic quality of a text.

Figures of speech can be classified according to the direct meaning. Within this classification, two main categories are recognized: Rhetorical Language and Figurative Language. This study focuses on figurative language is based on the process of comparison or similarity. This comparison is made by juxtaposing one thing with another to highlight shared characteristics between them. Figurative language consists of various types, including:

1. Simile: A direct correlation shown between two subjects, typically using words such as like, as, similar to, resembling, and others.
2. Metaphor: A comparison between two unlike things without using comparison words, implying the two are the same in some way.
3. Forms of extended metaphor that often conveys a moral lesson:
  - a. Allegory: It is a symbolic narrative where abstract characters represent ideas, and the message is clearly stated.
  - b. Parable: A short story featuring human characters that conveys a moral or religious lesson.
  - c. Fable: A brief tale, often featuring animals that act like humans, conveying a moral similar to that of a parable.
4. Personification: A figure of speech that assigns human characteristics to inanimate objects or non-human entities, as if they could act like people.
5. Allusion: A figure of speech that indirectly references a person, place, or event to suggest a similarity.
6. Eponym: A figure of speech where a person's name is used to represent a characteristic commonly associated with them.
7. Epithet: A descriptive phrase that highlights a distinctive trait or quality of a person or thing.
8. Synecdoche: A form in which a part represents the whole (*pars pro toto*) or the whole represents a part (*totum pro parte*).
9. Metonymy: The use of a related concept or term to refer to something else.
10. Antonomasia: A specific form of synecdoche where a proper name is replaced by a descriptive title or characteristic.
11. Hypallage: A figure of speech in which a modifier is grammatically applied to a word it does not logically describe, transferring attributes to something else.
12. Figurative language in the form of satire:
  - a. Irony: Saying the opposite of what one means, often for humorous or emphatic effect.
  - b. Cynicism: A figure of speech that contains harsh criticism and a mocking tone or attitude, stronger than irony.
  - c. Sarcasm: A figure of speech that conveys bitterness and harsh ridicule, harsher than irony and cynicism.
13. Satire: A literary device or tone used to criticize or ridicule human weaknesses, often in a witty or indirect way.
14. Innuendo: An indirect or subtle implication, often used to diminish or belittle a truth.

15. Antiphrasis: A form of irony where a word is used in a sense opposite to its normal meaning, often to negate something bad (like evil or misfortune).
16. Paronomasia: A figure of speech that uses punning or wordplay based on similar sounds between words with different meanings.

The use of figures of speech can be found in the lyrics of Fallin' Flower (舞い落ちる花びら) by SEVENTEEN, a South Korean boy group, written by Woozi et al., which serves as the object of this study. Fallin' Flower reflects the atmosphere of spring and conveys a positive message that falling is not the end, but rather the beginning of something new (Boram, 2020). The song symbolizes the cycle of falling and renewal, as reflected in its title. Fallin' Flower portrays the cycle of life: living, dying, and being reborn. In this context, death does not necessarily refer to the end of physical life, but to things like lost spirit or hope. Each ending is not a final closure, but rather the beginning of a new phase. Just like a flower that blooms and offers beauty and fragrance, even if only for a short time.

The study aims to identify the various figures of speech used in Fallin' Flower's lyrics. Furthermore this study also attempts to reveal meaning in the lyrics through the analysis of figures of speech so it can be understood how stylistics strengthen the emotional messages and the aesthetic.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A relevant study was conducted by Saputra & Rohman (2022), which focused on understanding the meaning of figures of speech and describing their use in the lyrics of the albums *The Book* and *The Book 2*, using the theory proposed by Inagaki and Kenichi. The results of the study showed that the song lyrics in both albums contained 13 types of figures of speech. Another study was carried out by Wilian & Andari (2020), which focused on identifying the use of diction, figures of speech, and the meaning of diction in the albums *Answer*, *My Way*, and *Negai E.P.*. Wilian's findings revealed that the lyrics in the album *Answer* contained 13 types of figures of speech, *My Way* had 9, and *Negai E.P.* had 3. Although more types of figures of speech were found, the broad analytical scope limited the depth of interpretation for each figure of speech.

Both studies analyzed figures of speech in Japanese song lyrics. However, while Saputra and Wilian focused on native Japanese musicians, this study examines Japanese-language lyrics written by SEVENTEEN, a South Korean group. Additionally, this study offers novelty in its use of Keraf's theory, which emphasizes figures of speech, allowing for a more systematic identification and classification of figures of speech. This approach supports a deeper analysis to uncover the emotional and symbolic meanings embedded in the lyrics. Therefore, this study aims to address the lack of research by analyzing the use of figures of speech in Fallin' Flower through a stylistic approach.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses qualitative descriptive methods with a stylistic approach to analyze the use of figures of speech as proposed by Gorys Keraf (2009). According to Sukmadinata pada Zulkhairi et al. (2018) qualitative descriptive research aims to describe and explain phenomena, whether occurring naturally or as a result of human intervention, by focusing on characteristics, qualities, and the relationship between activities. Qualitative descriptive research is generally used to study social phenomena and understand the meaning of human experiences (Yuliani, 2018). In this context, social phenomena may include music, particularly song lyrics which serve as the primary data source in this research.

The source of data is the lyrics of Fallin' Flower (舞い落ちる花びら) by SEVENTEEN. To collect data in this study, the author implemented five stages:

1. Reading and comprehending the data.<sup>4</sup>
2. Translating the data into Bahasa Indonesia and interpreting the meaning.
3. Classifying the data based on the types of figures of speech.
4. Analyzing the meaning of the lyrics based on figures of speech.
5. Presenting the findings from data analysis.

The data analysis technique is based on the theory of figures of speech by Gorys Keraf to analyze the song lyrics. The analysis involves identifying the use of figures of speech and the meanings in the lyrics, categorizing them according to the types, and drawing conclusions from the analyzed data.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fallin' Flower (舞い落ちる花びら) by SEVENTEEN Lyrics and Translate

| Line | Lyrics  | Translate   |
|------|---|---|
| 01   | <i>Mai ochiru hanabira ni wa</i>                    | To falling petals                                   |
| 02   | <i>Dare mo te wo nobasanai</i>                      | No one reaches their hand                           |
| 03   | <i>Kanashimi ga mazatta youna</i>                   | Like a mix of sadness                               |
| 04   | <i>Tsumetai egao no mama</i>                        | With a cold smile                                   |
| 05   |   |   |
| 06   | <i>Yurari mai</i>                                   | Slowly falling                                      |
| 07   | <i>Kaze no mama ni</i>                              | Following the wind                                  |
| 08   | <i>Yurari mai</i>                                   | Slowly falling                                      |
| 09   | <i>Ochita kokoro no tadoritsuku saki wa</i>         | Where the fallen heart goes                         |
| 10   | <i>Ima yori wa mada atatakai kana</i>               | Could it be warmer than now?                        |
| 11   |   |   |
| 12   | <i>Natsu ni mo taete kosame ni nurete</i>           | Enduring the summer and getting wet from light rain |
| 13   | <i>Dare ka no tame ni chiritai nante</i>            | I would to fall for someone                         |
| 14   | <i>Setsuna ni ikitetakedo kimi to ai</i>            | I was living in a moment nothing but meeting you    |
| 15   | <i>Sou subete ni wa imi ga aru koto wo shitanda</i> | I realized that everything has meaning              |
| 16   |   |   |
| 17   | <i>Kimi e to mai ochitekuyo ima sugu aitai</i>      | I'm falling to you, i want to see you right now     |
| 18   | <i>Itsuka kitto kimi ga boku no kokoro ni</i>       | Someday you might be in my heart                    |
| 19   | <i>"Watashi wa hana, watashi wa hana"</i>           | "I'm a flower, I'm a flower"                        |
| 20   | <i>Kireina hana o sakaseru</i>                      | that I will make beautiful flowers bloom            |
| 21   | <i>to shinjiteiru kara</i>                          | I believe   |
| 22   | <i>Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin'</i>              | Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin'                     |
| 23   | <i>Fallin' Fallin', Yeah</i>                        | Fallin' Fallin', Yeah                               |

|    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 24 | <i>Kimi ni ima Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin'</i>       | To you now Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin'                        |
| 25 | <i>Fallin' fallin', yeah</i>                             | Fallin' fallin', yeah   |
| 26 | <i>"Watashi wa hana, watashi wa hana"</i>                | "I'm a flower, I'm a flower"                                      |
| 27 | <i>Kimi ni ima Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin'</i>       | To you now Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin'                        |
| 28 | <i>Fallin' Fallin', yeah</i>                             | Fallin' fallin', yeah   |
| 29 |  |   |
| 30 | <i>Yobareta mama ni Fallin'</i>                          | When you call me, I'm falling                                     |
| 31 | <i>Atatakana mune ni</i>                                 | Into a warm embrace   |
| 32 | <i>Boyaketeta mirai mo</i>                               | Vague future  |
| 33 | <i>Kimi to deatte senmei ni naru</i>                     | Becomes clear as I meet you                                       |
| 34 |  |   |
| 35 | <i>Yurari mai</i>  | Slowly falling  |
| 36 | <i>Kaze no mama ni</i>                                   | Following the wind  |
| 37 | <i>Yurari ma</i>   | Slowly falling  |
| 38 | <i>Ochita kokoro no tadoritsuku saki wa</i>              | The purpose of this fallen heart is                               |
| 39 | <i>Sekai de ichiban shiawasedatta</i>                    | The happiest place in the world                                   |
| 40 |  |   |
| 41 | <i>Aozora mitsume mou ichido saite</i>                   | Gazing at the blue sky, blooming once again                       |
| 42 | <i>Dare ka no subete ni naritainda</i>                   | I want to be someone's everything                                 |
| 43 | <i>Setsuna ni ikiteta kedo kimi to ai</i>                | I was living in a moment nothing but<br>meeting you               |
| 44 | <i>Sou subete ni wa imi ga aru koto wo shittanda</i>     | I realized that everything has meaning                            |
| 45 |  |   |
| 46 | <i>Hana saki chiru ma ni kizu ie me wa deru</i>          | While the flowers bloom and fall, wounds<br>heal, and buds appear |
| 47 | <i>Bokura wa saisho de saigo no ima wo ikiteirundayo</i> | We are living our first and last moment                           |
| 48 | <i>Dakara kimi wo atarimae nante omowanai</i>            | That's why I won't take you for granted                           |
| 49 | <i>Konna boku wo aishitekureta kara</i>                  | Because you loved me as I am                                      |
| 50 |  |   |
| 51 | <i>Kimi e to mai ochiteku yo</i>                         | I'm falling to you  |
| 52 | <i>Ima Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin'</i>               | Now Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin'                               |

|    |  |  |
|----|--|--|
| 53 | <i>Fallin' Fallin', Yeah</i>                       | Fallin' Fallin', Yeah                      |
| 54 | <i>Kimi ni ima Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin'</i> | To you now Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' |
| 55 | <i>Fallin' Fallin', yeah</i>                       | Fallin' Fallin', yeah                      |
| 56 | <i>"Watashi wa hana, watashi wa hana"</i>          | "I'm a flower, I'm a flower"               |
| 57 | <i>Kimi ni ima Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin'</i> | To you now Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' Fallin' |
| 58 | <i>Fallin' Fallin', Yeah</i>                       | Fallin' Fallin', yeah                      |

Each type was analyzed through one relevant data. The following are the results of the data analysis that have been obtained.

## Results

**Table 1** Analysis Results of Types of Figures of Speech in The Lyrics of Fallin' Flower (舞い落ちる花びら) by SEVENTEEN

| Types           | Line                                     | Number |
|-----------------|--|--------|
| Simile          | 03                                       | 1      |
| Metaphor        | 01, 02, 06, 09, 14, 18-22, 30-33, 38, 39 | 16     |
| Personification | 12, 17, 41, 46                           | 4      |
| Hypallage       | 041                                      | 1      |

The analysis results from Table 1 found four types of figures of speech in the lyrics. From all the data, the metaphor often appears in the lyrics.

## Discussion

### 1. Simile

#### DATA 1

悲しみが混ざったような

*Kanashimi ga mazatta youna*

"Like a mix of sadness"

This lyric features the use of simile. The expression of 悲しみが混ざったような "like a mix of sadness" is categorized as simile due to the presence of the word ような "like" which is a common marker of simile. Similes compare two different things using words such as "like", "as", or "as if" or ような (youna) in Japanese. In this case, the phrase compares a certain emotional state to sadness. Through this simile, the songwriters convey a clear emotional tone, expressing sadness in a direct yet poetic way.



## 2. Metaphor

DATA 2

舞い落ちる花びらには

誰も手を伸ばさない

*Mai ochiru hanabira ni wa*

*Dare mo te wo nobasanai*

“To falling petals

No one reaches their hand”

This lyric features the use of metaphor. The metaphor appears in the phrase 舞い落ちる花びら “falling flower petals” where the symbolizes the self. The petals falling represents personal failure whether in terms of lost hopes or other aspects of life. Another metaphor is found in 誰も手を伸ばさない “no one reaches their hand” which is the indifference of others, as if ignoring the songwriters’ sadness. The songwriters use metaphor intentionally to express feelings of sorrow and emotional neglect through poetic imagery such as falling petals and unextended hands. These metaphors allow the emotions to be conveyed more deeply and meaningfully without needing to state them directly.

DATA 3

青空見つめもう一度咲いて

*Aozora mitsume mou ichido saite*

“Gazing at the blue sky, blooming once again”

In this lyric, a metaphor used in 青空を見つめもう一度咲いて “gazing at the blue sky, blooming once again”. The phrase “gazing at the blue sky” symbolizes hope or a bright future while “blooming once again” refers to rising again after failure. This metaphor suggests that the songwriters aim to convey that failure is not the end and that everyone has the chance to rise again and face the future with renewed spirit. Thus, the lyrics carry a sense of optimism and encouragement not to remain stuck in failure.

## 1. Personification

DATA 4

花咲き散る間に傷癒え芽は出る

*Hana saki chiru ma ni kizu ie me wa deru*

“While the flowers bloom and fall, wounds heal, and buds appear”

The lyric conveys the idea that as flowers bloom and fall, wounds heal and buds appear. This line contains the use of personification as seen in the phrase 傷癒え (kizu ie) “wounds heal”. The word 傷 (kizu) “wound” in this context refers not to a physical wound on a flower, but rather to emotional wounds or healing process like humans do. However, through personification, the flower is portrayed as if it has the ability to heal emotional pain, symbolizing the human emotional recovery process. The songwriters use personification to express the idea that every wound like sadness will eventually heal.

## 2. Hypallage

DATA 5

冷たい笑顔のまま

*Tsumetai egao no mama*

“With a cold smile”

The hypallage is found in the phrase 冷たい笑顔 (tsumetai egao), which means “cold smile.” In this <http://publikasi.dinus.ac.id/index.php/uncle>

context, the word 冷たい (tsumetai) or “cold” would more accurately describe a person’s emotional state rather than the smile itself. However, the lyric attributes the coldness to the smile, forming a hypallage. This figure of speech is used to enhance the emotional tone, portraying a sorrowful mood conveyed by the songwriters through an outward expression.

## CONCLUSION

From the results and discussion of the lyrics in Fallin’ Flower (舞い落ちる花びら) by SEVENTEEN, four types of figures of speech were identified. Although the majority of the lyrics use metaphor, the author also identified other types of figures of speech. These include 1 data of simile, 16 of metaphor, 4 of personification, and 1 of hypallage. This indicates that the songwriters tend to use metaphor to convey the messages and emotions in a subtle yet profound way. Additionally, they also want to emphasize various emotions through the figures of speech in the lyrics. Through the lyrics, the songwriters represent themselves as a flower that undergoes the phases of falling and blooming, symbolizing the journey from failure to revival. The revival is portrayed as being driven by a specific goal or person who serves as the main motivation to rise again. existence of a certain goal or figure that is the main reason to rise again. The use of different figures of speech enhances the emotional depth of the message, making it easier for the listeners to understand and relate to the meaning.

It does not take into account the cultural context behind the creation of the song, which may result in an interpretation of the figures of speech that does not fully reflect the songwriter’s intended meaning within the frameworks of Korean or Japanese culture. Therefore, further research is recommended to involve the cultural analysis which would enrich the interpretation of the figures of speech and offer a comprehensive understanding of the message the song aims to convey. This approach will enrich the understanding of figures of speech used in the lyrics and provide a more comprehensive picture of the message the songwriters want to convey.

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