PEJLaC
Pattimura Excellence Journal of Language and Culture

Volume 5 No. 1 | JUNE 2025
e-ISSN: 2808-2265
https://ojs3.unpatti.ac.id/index.php/pejlac

AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN COLDPLAY'S SONG LYRICS

https://doi.org/10.30598/PEJLac.v5i1.pp30-36

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Abstract

Figurative language is a way of beautifying certain expressions by using different words which have different meanings from their literal meanings. This study examines the use of metaphorical expressions in Coldplay's song lyrics. The data source were taken from ten songs of Coldplay's various albums. The goal of this study is to identify the most common form of metaphorical language used in Coldplay's song lyrics. The qualitative descriptive method was employed in this study. Data were collected through the employment of checklist instrument to identify the types of figurative language from Coldplay's song lyrics. To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, expert judgement was also engaged. The results of this research show that the total number of figurative language expressions used in Coldplay's song lyrics were 52 expressions. There were 12 metaphor, 11 personification, 8 hyperbole, 8 symbol, 7 synecdoche and 6 similes. The most dominant type of figurative language expression found in this study was metaphor. Therefore, it is important that teachers can bring these types of figurative language in their classrooms in order for students to get used to using and understand them.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Song Lyric, Qualitative Descriptive Method, Coldplay.*

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Article Information:

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Article submitted: *06/05/2025*
Last Revision: *10/06/2025*
Article Accepted: *16/06/2025*
Article Published: *23/06/2025*

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Publisher: *Universitas Pattimura (Manage by Language Study Center)*

INTRODUCTION

Figurative language is a nonliteral language usually used to convey a deeper meaning or express certain communication goals. Figurative expressions have special choice of words that might have caused confusion to the meanings. This condition could have created a room that led to misunderstanding and misinterpretations. Rohani & Arsyad, (2018) argued that numerous expressions required exceptional creativity and conceptualization to decipher the meanings they conveyed.

Furthermore, Figurative language can be found in literary works including newspapers, ads, novels, music, and poetry as well as in everyday discourse. Sharndam and Suleiman (as cited in Astuti & Astuti, 2020) stated that figurative language is a means of expressing cognition, feelings, and ideas directly rather than obliquely in works based on concepts from performances. Figurative language is a type of language where a statement is expressed in a way that deviates from how it is usually expressed. According to Peter (2002), figurative language is language that has a symbolic meaning and is used to persuade someone else of the truth of what they are saying by appealing to their feelings.

In addition, a figure of speech is utilized by writers in a variety of ways. Most frequently, it varied depending on the reader and is located in either spoken or written terms. Writers use figurative language as a way to take readers to imaginative realms. Its use is to improve readers' comprehension of the current situation by helping them see the context more clearly. Also, figurative language could be efficiently used to persuade readers to agree with a specific point of view. According to Groys (as cited in Wibisono 2019), Figurative language, sometimes referred to as style, is a means of conveying information in a way that reflects the characteristics and true self of the writer (language user).

Some research found that Figurative Language was prominently employed within literary compositions, particularly in the realm of song lyrics. Each musical piece incorporated figurative language to elevate the lyrical content, adding depth and enhancing its aesthetic appeal. Figurative language, according to Tarigan (2009), is a lovely language that is used to introduce and contrast particular items with other objects in order to create and enhance impacts. Song lyrics are no different from other written language in that they frequently use metaphors. As a result, in order for the reader to comprehend the interpretation of the song, they must become proficient in metaphorical language.

Then, many people found it difficult to understand song lyrics grammatically. They therefore have to look at the relevance of the usage of metaphorical language in song lyrics in more detail. Students are needed to be introduced to these expressions since figurative language is becoming more and more widespread and are used in situations that cannot be avoided. It is a departure from standard forms.

When the words with the true meaning are not found by the speaker, the speaker use figurative language to express the meaning implied. In the context of education, especially at junior and senior levels, one of the fundamental skills covered by the curriculum is this material. Students are asked to understand the meaning of figurative expressions that are relevant to the lives of teenagers for this fundamental competency. Rohani & Arsyad (2018), stated that figurative language had proven to be challenging to be understood by beginners as well as junior and senior high school students. Students had trouble conceptualizing the meaning of expressions that were written in figurative language. They frequently interpreted meanings literally rather than delving deeper into the true meanings suggested by the terms. According to this study, it may be inferred that understanding song lyrics is crucial for learning, particularly in English.

Studying the concept of figurative language is important because it plays an important role in society and helps avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretations. One could understand the meaning of figurative language without having their perceptions affected by studying it. In other situations, using figurative language might have made it simpler for readers and listeners to understand what is being said. In other words, figurative language could sometimes be presented in a more understandable way. It should be mentioned, however, that not everyone understand it well. Without effective comprehension, it takes longer to understand what is being said by the speaker. As the result, readers and listeners have to expand their understanding of figurative language.

Given its intrinsic elegance and attractiveness, figurative language has been thoroughly studied by linguists over a long period of time. Based on the facts that the research carefully examined, this type of language is claimed as songs fundamentally included in poetry works, important to be examined as teaching sources. Therefore, this researcher focused on analyzing how figurative language was used in Coldplay’s song lyrics. Ramadhika (2022) mentioned that

songs are literary works with elegant and powerful lyrics. Even a song's literary component had the power to uplift the soul for listeners. It could be realized that when depressed, listening to music brought comfort and peace. Songs have the power to break up monotony, create happiness, and ignite the imagination. And in the era of young people, Coldplay is quite famous for its music genre that relates to the mood or feelings of teenagers and adults.

Elsawati (2022) stated that analyzing metaphorical language in song lyrics is important for a number of reasons. First, it is better to sing while comprehending its meaning than to do so without enough context. Second, studying figurative language gives us more experience to comprehend the content more clearly. This area has been explored by some researchers. Among the analysis, the first study was done by Sihaloho (2020), entitled *'Figurative Language of Cinema's World in Joko Widodo's Speech'*. The aim of this study was to examine and characterize the figurative language used in Joko Widodo's speech, as well as the significance of the figures of speech. The data was analyzed and classified using a qualitative approach. The method for gathering the data was looking through Joko Widodo speech videos. The information was based on Perrine's (1963) and Taylor's (1981) ideas, according to which there are three categories for figurative language: comparison and substitution, representation by substitution, and contrast by discrepancy. The information was extracted from Joko Widodo's speech at the US-ASEAN Forum, the World Economic ASEAN Forum in Hanoi, and the Annual Meeting of the International Monetary Fund-World Bank in Bali. In Joko Widodo's address at the international event, the author identified nine figurative languages: seven allusions, one metaphor, and one assonance. According to the study's findings, employing figurative language can draw readers' or listeners' attention and spark their creativity in addition to indicated literal meaning.

The second study was done by Elsawati (2022), entitled *"Analysis of Figurative Language in Taylor Swift's Song "Fearless" Album".* This study aimed at determining and evaluating the various forms of metaphorical language as well as their meaning in the lyrics to Taylor Swift's song "fearless." In the investigation, two theories were applied. To analyze the meaning of figurative language, two theories were used: the first was the theory of types of figurative language from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963), and the second was Leech's (1985) theory of meaning. This study employed a qualitative methodology. Taylor Swift's songs contain four different forms of figurative language, according to the researcher: simile, hyperbole, synecdoche, and allusion. By reading the song's lyrics, Taylor Swift's data was gathered. Hyperbole is the most common form of figurative language in those songs, accounting for 36% of the total. Connotative, intellectual, and affective meanings were three of the seven meanings that may be interpreted from those lyrics to comprehend the figurative language.

The third study was done by Syahrina (2019), *entitled 'An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in The Song Lyrics of Katy Perry's Album entitled Witness'.* The two objectives of this study were to categorize the various forms of figurative language and to decipher the meaning of figurative language in Katy Perry's song lyrics. In order to determine the meaning and figurative language employed by Laurence Perrine, this study classified and analyzed the data using a descriptive qualitative method based on the theory developed by Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short. In all, he discovered the following categories of figurative language in this study: personification, symbol, metaphor, hyperbole, metonymy, and simile. With eight instances (29,63%) of metaphorical language usage overall, Katy Perry's song "The Witness" is the most prevalent form of figurative language on the album.

Considering the research facts mentioned, conducting a research with the title "An Analysis of Figurative Language in Coldplay's Song Lyrics" was considered crucial in order to help lower grade or common learners to identify, understand and interpret the concept of figurative language through song lyrics.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed a qualitative descriptive method, with the primary goal of providing a realistic representation of figurative language analysis through this approach. The author's attention was mostly on the data collection process. According to Dornyei (2007), data collection methodologies used in qualitative research produced open-ended, non-numerical data as their primary output, which is then evaluated using non-statistical techniques. Because it aimed at using a qualitative descriptive approach, this study examined the topic of figurative language used in Coldplay's song lyrics, offering an analysis and description of its use. The data were carefully analyzed through comprehensive reading process then grouped and categorized into their types based on the checklist made as the instrument of the research. After the data were put into the checklist, date were then reanalyzed by the appointed co-raters to verify its validity and reliability. Qualitative research methods are those that can only be verified or observed by the speaker's senses; hence, the results are presented as data exactly as they (Sudaryanto, 2015).

This study used Coldplay song lyrics. The data were taken from ten songs from different albums of Coldplay (Yellow, The scientist, Clocks, Fix You, Viva la Vida, Paradise, A Sky Full of Star, Hymne for The weekend,Let Somebody Go and My Universe). The instrument of the research used checklist to obtain a clear and coherent description of the type of figurative language content in the song lyrics.

Technique in collecting the data included read the lyrics of the songs thoroughly, decided which data would be restricted for the research's objective, classified the types of figurative language based on Knickerbocker and Reninger theory (simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbols, synecdoche)**,** grouped the figurative language based on their categories to be clearly outlined and understandable by using the checklist form and drew conclusions based on the data collected.

The processes of data analysis in this research followed some stages such as deciding how many extracts were there each type found from the checklist, then, the researcher crosschecking the analysis with the co-rater and described the result statistically and drawing some conclusions to answer the questions proposed in the study.

To check the validity and reliability of the research, the content of the analysis were validated by the experts and the results of the figurative language analysis were crosschecked by the co-raters and used Cohen Kappa coefficient to know the agreement. Furthermore, triangulation theory was implied to make certain the validity and reliability of the research.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the result of the inter-rater reliability between the researcher and co-rater, it was known that the result was in a good category (0, 66). This means that the agreement needed as reliable and valid data of study could be accepted. Therefore, the final result of this study based on the research questions addressed, is as the following:

Table 1. Ocurrence of figurative language

No	Figurative language	Percentage
1	Metaphor	23,07%
2	Personification	21,15%
3	Symbol	15,38%
4	Hyperbole	15,38%
5	Synecdoche	13,46%
6	Simile	11,5%
Total		**100%**

The table 1 revealed that metaphor was the most dominant types of figurative langauge found in Coldplay's song lyrics with 12 extracts (23,07%). The second dominant was personification with 11 extracts (21,15%) and the third dominant were symbol and hyperbole with 8 extract each (15, 38%). While the least dominant was synecdoche (13,46%) and simile (11,5%).

The reason why metaphor was the most dominant type of figurative language it was probably because it was their expression of creative goals, their interest in certain themes, and their aim to inspire strong emotional responses from their audience. Through metaphorical language, they can explore themes such as love, loss, hope, in a way that is understandable and engaging. Relate to Puspitorini & Hamdani (2021), A metaphor is a phrase used to compare something with similar qualities but without the use of conjunctions, such as and so forth. It has an oblique meaning.

By establishing a common vocabulary that cuts beyond linguistic and cultural barriers, metaphors enable listeners of various backgrounds to connect with Coldplay's music. Coldplay's metaphor touches on essential components of what makes human wants important by conjuring universal themes and emotions. Leech (1981), defined metaphor as a kind of figurative meaning, an implicit comparison that involves recognizing or substituting one unlike object for another in order to compare two different things. Through their music, they hope to find catharsis, contemplation, and personal interpretation. It is because Coldplay's lyrics share their experiences, hopes, and worries that listeners find inspiration and comfort. The profundity of each line in Coldplay's songs makes them stand out, in addition to the significance of their catchy tunes. The band pushes its songs above the level of ordinary pop rock songs by deftly employing metaphor, giving them a complex emotional and conceptual effect.

Coldplay's use of metaphor in their songs invites interpretation and self-description and helps listeners form a close, intimate connection with the song. As masters of metaphor and symbolism in music, Coldplay never fails to enthrall audiences with their distinct blend of poetic storytelling and melodic beauty. The band has had a significant influence on the music business not just via their ability to write songs that connect with listeners on an emotional and cognitive level, but also through their ability to write lyrics that evoke strong feelings and ideas.

In other study which also analyzed Coldplay's song lyrics, it was found that the most dominant figure of speech was rhetoric. Because the study's purpose and the theory it employed were different, other studies on figurative language in song lyrics have produced differing results. This study used Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) theory and other study used Perrine (1978) theory to find out the most dominant type of figurative language. The object from this study was ten songs from different album and other study only used "Parachutes" album. The most dominant type of figurative language found in this study was metaphor, the song lyrics compared between two unlike things without using "like" or "as" (Keraf, 2009). Additionally,

the findings of another study indicated that rhetoric predominated among the figurative language types in Coldplay's song lyrics, particularly in the lyrics to the album "Parachutes.". The researcher showed that rhetoric is the rhetoric of a question that does not need an answer, or, alternatively, rhetoric that is a question expression whose solution is contained in the question. As a result, the only response to this question is an affirmative (Perrien, 1978)..

CONCLUSION

According to the result and discussion previously, it can be concluded that there were six (6) types of figurative language found in the song lyrics by Coldplay. The result data exposes that metaphor 23,07%, was the first most dominant type of figurative language appeared in coldplay's song lyrics. The second most dominant was personification with 11 extracts or 21,15%, the third most dominant were symbol and hyperbole with 8 extracts or 15,38%. Meanwhile, the least dominant was synecdoche with 7 extracts or 13,46%, and simile with 6 extracts or 11,5%. This suggests that Coldplay primarily employed metaphor to contrast two things by saying that one was the other in order to express how something looked, felt, and taken into action. It was believed to be an inferred parallel and to convey the singer's feelings. It enhances the song's listenability and facilitates the listener's ability to visualize the narrative and the emotions based on the singer's previous illustration in the song. Hence, it is suggested for educator of all background to bring this type material into their classes as it proved benefit students or common learners to recognize figurative language better. Subsequently, the results of the research contribute a positive impact, it is then recommended that further research can be conducted to peel the inner side of figurative language as a study material which are important to be investigated. Broader or more specific areas can be considered as the pilot research.

ETHICAL STATEMENT

This study was conducted in accordance with established ethical principles. Including informed consent, protection of informants confidentially, and respect for local culture values. Special consideration was given to participants from vulnerable groups to ensure their safety, comfort, and equal rights to participate. No external funding was received, and the authors declare no conflict of interest. All data and information presented were collected through valid research methods and have been verified to ensure their accuracy and reliability. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) was limited to technical assistance for writing and language editing, without influencing the scientific substance of the work. The authors express their gratitude to the informants for their valuable insights, and to the anonymous reviewers for their constructive feedback on an earlier version of this manuscript. The authors take full responsibility for the content and conclusions of this article

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