

THE USE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN A HEAD FULL OF DREAMS ALBUM BY COLDPLAY

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the types of figurative language, the most dominant, and the contextual meaning of figurative used in lyrics of Coldplay's Album song entitled A Head Full of Dreams. The research uses a qualitative method that describes the analysis factually, accurately and systematically. Figurative language is a language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Based on research findings, there are six types of figurative language used in A Head Full of Dreams Album by Coldplay. They are hyperbole, metaphor, personification, simile, irony and symbol. Awhile the most dominant type of figurative language is hyperbole stated in 34 lyrics. So, the contextual meaning of A Head Full of Dreams Album by Coldplay is giving a lot of relationships, memories, and social lives.

Keywords: *figurative language, song, contextual meaning.*

INTRODUCTION

In our daily life, songs have an important part in the human's language experience. Songs can develop learning through auditory skills and rhythmic patterns that stimulate brain tasks and encourage activity (Taghizadeh et al(2017)). It is usually accompanied by a musical instrument to produce a musical composition that has unity and continuity is in rhythm. Without a song, the world may sound empty to some people. A song has become a part of life that is present in the middle of loneliness, become a friend of many generations, from children to the elderly. It is not without reason that listening to a favorite song seems to have an additional effect, wanting to hear it again and again. Listening to songs has the ability to affect a personality. A song can be enjoyed by a lot of people without regarding their gender, educational background, age, even their country. People are not only enjoying song, but also creating a remarkable song with beautiful lyrics and music (Volume 8, No. 2, August 2017, 2017).

Listening to song is an enjoyable activity, but the listeners better understand the figurative language that is commonly found in the song. It turns out that a lot of songs consist of figurative language, because the lyrics of a song convey many meanings that are impressed by listeners. According to Alwafi Ridho Subarkah(2018), “Figurative language is associated with the lyric of the song uses figurative language. Figurative language can be found in any source, such as in literary works. But, we can also find it in songs or lyric song, especially English song”. It means the figurative language is used in many different resources to give a meaning of these words.

A song itself is an artistic form of expression based on sound, with distinct pitches, pattern and form, generally considered a complete work, whether musically or lyrically. It can be wordless or with words. Written words created specifically for music or for which music is specifically created, are called lyrics. Awhile the lyrics in songs are formed by combining some words that represent feelings or emotions from the writer. The language which is chosen in song lyrics can be literally and non-literally.

According to Gritsenko & Aleshinskaya (2016), “A song has three properties (music, lyric, and prospective performance) and music has three components (melody, harmony, and musical sense).” It suggests that a song translator may have five options: (1) leaving the song not translated, (2) translating the lyrics without taking the music into consideration, (3) writing new lyrics to the original music, (4) adapting the music to the translation, and (5) adapting the translation to the music. Anggara (2017), “The song lyrics aim not only to take the audience to the world established by the song writers’ imagination but also to make them think and react.” From this statement, it can be concluded that song is related to music, which consists not only lyrics. It also has the purpose to convey the writer’s message by putting feelings or emotions in the song. For Fikrina & Nim (2019) “Lyrics is an expression. A thought, and also a personal feeling that is felt by someone which is related to songs or poetry.” It means, lyrics is very important to make the listeners get the

feeling from the meaning of songs, because of without lyrics, a song cannot be called a song and without song lyrics is just music or just an instrument.

In a song, lyrics, and melodies have a connection. The lyrics will help to explain topics in the song and melodies will strengthen the emotion or feelings that writer puts in a song. The combination of lyrics and melodies will add the taste of the song.

Hutauruk (2019) argued, "Figurative language is a language that is used imaginatively and not literary because the use of the words diverging from its usual meaning." It means figurative language is not intended to be interpreted in the literal sense but appeals to the imagination. Based on Holme (2004:15) book, "Using figurative language was born out of the idea that accounts of language production, use, comprehension, structure, underpinning, and change, for figurative and indirect but additionally all language, need to align with current understandings of not only human cognitive phenomena but also social, emotional, motivational, physical, and other human and animal functioning along with established explications of the all the layers of language and their nature." It means, studying language is conducted by allied disciplines needs also to add here a social commitment, a developmental commitment, an embodied commitment, and commitments to emotional, evolutionary, and other domains of human structure and operation, as well as to their complex interaction, to fully portray the processes and products stemming from human linguistic communication.

There are many different types of figurative languages, such as; simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, symbolism, irony, etc. Using figurative language, listeners can grasp the meaning of the lyrics of a song. The brief explanation of each type is well elaborated at the following description.

First Simile. It is a part of figurative language in English that uses conjunction such as: *as*, *like*, *resemble*, and so on to express the comparison of two different things. According to Nursolihat & Kareviati (2020), "Simile is generally the comparison of two things essentially unlike, on the basis of a resemblance in one

aspect.” It means this figurative language tries to compare things by using the connective word. For example, she moved like a dear.

Second Metaphor. According to Harya (2017), “Metaphor is a kind of figurative meaning which is an implicit comparison in which two unlike objects are compared by identifying or substituting one with other.” It means to phrase the words with an idea or the object for the purpose of suggesting a likeness between the two in place. The word “metaphor” derives from the Greek word “meta” means “over” and “herein” means “to carry”, which states an analogy, similarity and relation between two things (Tira et al (2018). The metaphor makes a qualitative leap from a reasonable, perhaps prosaic comparison, to an identification or fusion of two objects, to make one new entity partaking of the characteristics of both. It compares to things without using comparative words such as like, as, then, similar to or resembles, for example, I feel the stench of failure coming on.

Third Personification. It is subtype of metaphor, an implied comparison in which the figurative term of the comparison is always human being. Based on Ismael Sayakhan (2016), “Personification is similar to metaphor, in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth, death, nature, treason, frustration, ecstasy, hunger, or fate) is made human in such a way as to render a normally disembodied idea or aspect dramatically effective.” According to Deyin (2018), “Personification as a figure of speech that gives human form or feelings to animals, or life and personal attributes to inanimate objects, or to ideas and abstractions.” It means the object will be the meaning of main idea to describe about something to discuss. An example of personification is science-fiction novels were his constant companions.

Fourth Hyperbole. According to Rani & Padang (2020), “Hyperbole is one kind of figure of speech that exaggerates things with overstatement.” This expression is because something seems excessive then it really does. Hyperbole cannot be taken literally; therefore, we can say that hyperbole has a connotative meaning. It is also effective to gain others attention by using hyperbole. Hyperbole is an obvious and deliberate exaggeration, an extravagant statement. Hyperbole is a

figure of speech that not intended to be taken which has a way of abundant to express something. Hyperbole is a figurative language statement exaggerated, intended to obtain certain effects, not the truth (Yastanti et al (2018) such as I am so hungry I could eat a horse.

Fifth Irony. It is the opposite of what one means. The irony is a hint that wants to say something with other meaning on what it contains in the words. Irony contains in the literal evaluation of something that is contrary to what individual aims to get across (Burgers et al (2016). This implies that the intended evaluation of an ironic utterance (negative, positive) is contrary to the stated evaluation. The irony is traditionally defined as a matter of saying one thing and meaning the opposite. According to classical rhetoric, metaphor and irony are tropes in which the literal meaning is replaced by a related figurative meaning: with metaphor, this would be a related simile or comparison, while with irony, it would be contrary or contradictory of the literal meaning (Blochowiak et al(2017) for example, a fire station burns down.

Sixth Symbol. It is a literary device that contains several layers of meaning, often concealed at first sight and its representative of several other aspects, concepts or traits than those that are visible in the literal translation alone. The symbol is using an object or action that means something more than its literal meaning. The symbol is one of elements that is usually used in poetry. Often poems will convey ideas and thoughts using symbols. A symbol can stand for many things at one time and leads the reader out of a systematic and structured method of looking at things (Tankaruba et al (2016). The symbol is a character, an action, a setting, or an object representing something else. A symbol that something is used itself and also stand for a particular objective reality (Amil et al (2020). It means, usually symbol is a name or a picture that may be familiar in daily life. In a literal sense, a symbol combines a literal and sensuous quality with an abstract as suggestive aspect for instance time is money.

Referring to the literature discussed above, the research study is guided by three following research questions:

1. What kinds of figurative language are used in the lyrics of “A Head Full of Dreams Album” by Coldplay?
2. What are the most dominant type of figurative languages used in “A Head Full of Dreams Album” by Coldplay?
3. What are the contextual meaning of figurative languages used in “A Head Full of Dreams Album” by Coldplay?

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method that allows the writers to conduct the research in a natural state, not driven by a theory or a conceptual framework. Participants are recruited through purposive sampling because this provides a rich and more varied description of the problem (Alghamdi et al 2019). The data is collected by using a semi-structured analysis by using thematic analysis. The writers also collect the theory and other necessary data through the library and internet research. In answering the research questions, the writers focus on kinds of figurative language, the most dominant type of figurative language, and the meaning of the figurative language used in “A Head Full of Dreams Album” by Coldplay.

The research procedure is made by following 4 steps. First, selecting lyrics to be analyzed in connecting with the research of figurative language. Second, analyzing the song lyrics by identifying and classifying the kind of figurative language found in the song lyrics. Third, searching the resources both library and internet research which support the analysis. Fourth, write a paper and report it to complete. The writers analyses figurative language based on Hutauruk (2019) who argues that figurative language is a language used imaginatively and not literary because the use of the words diverging from its usual meaning.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Coldplay is a British rock band, begin its career in 1998. Until today Coldplay has already nine songs albums, are; first song album in 1999 entitled *The Blue Room*, the second songs album in 2000 entitled *Parachutes*, the third songs album in 2002 entitled *A Rush Of Blood To The Head*, the fourth songs album at 2005 entitled *X&Y*, the fifth songs album at 2008 entitled *Viva La Vida*, the sixth songs album at 2011 entitled *MyloXyIoto*, the seventh songs album at 2014 entitled *Ghost Stories*, the eighth songs album at 2015 entitled *A Head Full Of Dreams*, and the ninth songs album at 2019 entitled *Everyday Life*. (www.coldplay.com).

The meaning of Coldplay songs is not only about love but also about life and struggle and other social issues. For the purpose of the research study, the writers choose *A Head Full of Dreams* songs album as the subject of the research study. On this album there are nine songs: *A Head Full of Dreams*, *Birds*, *Hymn for The Weekend*, *Ever glow*, *Adventure of A Lifetime*, *Fun*, *Army of One*, *Amazing Day*, and *Up & Up*. Among these songs, the writers will display two samples of lyrics as data analysis.

Analyzing the Types of Figurative Language

Two examples of data analysis of *A Head Full of Dreams* song lyrics are presented. The first song lyric is *A Head Full of Dreams*. This song lyric tells about someone who will bring a change to a new place. Below is the first lyric:

oh, I think I landed (Line 1)
in a world I hadn't seen (Line 2)
when I'm feeling ordinary (Line 3)
when I don't know what I mean (Line 4)

oh I think I landed (Line 5)
where there are miracles at work (Line 6)
for the thirst and for the hunger (Line 7)
come the conference of birds (Line 8)

saying it's true, it's not what it seems (Line 9)

leave your broken windows open (Line 10)
 and in the light just streams (Line 11)
 and you get a head, a head full of dreams (Line 12)
 you can see the change you wanted (Line 13)
 be what you want to be (Line 14)
 and you get a head, a head full of dreams (Line 15)
 into life I've just been spoken (Line 16)
 with a head full, a head full of dreams (Line 17)
 oh I think I landed (Line 18)
 where there are miracles at work (Line 19)
 when you got me open-handed (Line 20)
 when you got me lost for words (Line 21)
 I sing oh-oh-oh (Line 22)

A head full of dreams (Line 23)
 A head full of dreams (Line 24)
 Into life I've just been woken (Line 25)
 With a head full, a head full of dreams (Line 26)

Table 1
 The Analysis of Figurative Language
 On A Head Full of Dreams song lyrics

No	Lyrics	Type of Figurative Language
1	Where there are miracles at work (<i>Line 6</i>)	Metaphor
2	Come the conference of birds (<i>Line 8</i>)	Hyperbole
3	Leave your broken windows open (<i>Line 10</i>)	Hyperbole
4	And you get a head, a head full of dreams (<i>Line 12</i>)	Hyperbole
5	Into life I've just been woken (<i>Line 25</i>)	Personification

In A Head Full of Dreams lyrics, the writer had found kinds of figurative language that is metaphor (found in verse 2 in line 2), hyperbole in verse 2 in line 4, in verse 3 in line 2 and 3, and personification in verse 5 in line 3. So, it can be concluded that there are 3 kinds of figurative language in this song lyrics, they are metaphor, hyperbole and personification.

The second song lyric is Birds. This song lyric tells about a moment in joy and beauty to reach something higher. Below is the second lyric:

been standing in the corner (Line 1)
studying the lights (Line 2)
the dreaming of escape will keep you up at night (Line 3)
but someone had put the flares up and got me in the rays (Line 4)
so I guess I'd better stay (Line 5)
'uh uh no come on' you say (Line 6)

it's a fool's gold thunder (Line 7)
it's just a warring rain (Line 8)
don't let the fears just start 'what if I won't see you again (Line 9)
around here you never want to sleep all night (Line 10)
so start falling in love, start the riot and (Line 11)

come on rage with me (Line 12)
we don't need words and we'll be birds (Line 13)
got to make our own key (Line 14)

only got this moment (Line 15)
you and me (Line 16)
guilty of nothing (Line 17)
but geography (Line 18)

come on and raise it (Line 19)
come on and raise this noise (Line 20)
for the million people who got not one voice (Line 21)
come on it's not over if you mean it say loud (Line 22)
come on all for love (Line 23)
out from the underground (Line 24)
away with me (Line 25)
we don't need words (Line 26)
close your eyes and see (Line 27)
and we'll be birds flying free (Line 28)
holding on in the mystery (Line 29)

oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh (Line 30)
fearless together (Line 31)
you said 'we'll go through this together' (Line 32)

when you fly won't you (Line 33)
 won't you take me too? (Line 34)

in this world so cruel (Line 35)
 I think you're so cool (Line 36)

Table 2
 The Analysis of Figurative Language on Birds song lyrics

No	Lyrics	Type of Figurative Language
1	Studying the lights (Line 2)	Hyperbole
2	The dreaming of escape will keep you up at night (Line 3)	Hyperbole
3	But someone had put the flares up and got me in the rays (Line 4)	Hyperbole
4	It's just a warring rain (Line 8)	Hyperbole
5	We don't need words and we'll be birds (Line 13)	Hyperbole
6	Come on all for love (Line 23)	Metaphor
7	Out from the underground (Line 24)	Hyperbole
8	Holding on in the mystery (Line 29)	Hyperbole
9	In this world so cruel (Line 35)	Irony

In Birds lyrics, the writers found kinds of figurative language that is a metaphor (found in verse 5 in line 5), hyperbole in verse 1 in lines 2, 3, and 4, in verse 2 in line 2, in verse 3 in line 2, and irony in verse 6 in line 6. So, it can be concluded that there are 3 kinds of figurative language in this song lyrics, they are metaphor, hyperbole and irony.

The third song lyric is Hymn for the Weekend. This song lyric tells about doing something good together with someone. In Hymn for the Weekend lyrics, the writers found kinds of figurative language that is metaphor (found in verse 2 in line 1, in verse 5 in line 3), hyperbole in verse 1 in line 2 and 4, in verse 2 in line 2 and 4, in verse 4 in line 2 and 5, in verse 5 in line 2, in verse 6 in line 1, in verse 9 in line 4, and personification in verse 2 in line 3, in verse 5 in line 4. So, it can be concluded that

there are 3 kinds of figurative language in this song lyrics, they are metaphor, hyperbole and personification.

The fourth song lyric is Ever glow. This song lyric tells about the feeling of warmth or happiness that comes with sadness in a relationship. In Ever glow lyrics, the writers found kinds of figurative language that is metaphor (found in verse 1 in line 4), hyperbole in verse 3 in line 3 and 4, in verse 5 in line 2, in verse 7 in line 2, also simile found in verse 2 in line 1 and 2, in verse 4 in line 1 and 4, and symbol in verse 2 in line 2. So, it can be concluded that there are 4 kinds of figurative language in this song lyrics, they are metaphor, hyperbole, simile and symbol.

The fifth song lyric is Adventure of a Lifetime. This song lyric tells about hoping and fun. In Adventure of a Lifetime lyrics, the writers found kinds of figurative language that is metaphor (found in verse 2 in line 5), hyperbole in verse 1 in line 1, in verse 3 in line 2, and simile in verse 6 in line 4. So, it can be concluded that there are 3 kinds of figurative language in this song lyrics, they are metaphor, hyperbole and simile.

The sixth song lyric is Fun. This song lyric tells the story of a relationship. In Fun lyrics, the writers found kinds of figurative language that is a metaphor (found in verse 3 in line 6), hyperbole in verse 2 in lines 1, 2, and 7, in verse 3 in line 5, and personification in verse 1 in line 6. So, it can be concluding that there are 3 kinds of figurative language in this song lyrics, they are metaphor, hyperbole and personification.

The seventh song lyric is Army of One. This song lyric tells about the story of a long journey that a man is falling in love with a woman. Source: Based on the writer's research in Army of One lyrics, the writers found kinds of figurative language that is metaphor (found in verse 4 in line 5), hyperbole in verse 2 in line 4, and simile in verse 1 in line 4. So, it can be concluded that there are 3 kinds of figurative language in this song lyrics, they are metaphor, hyperbole and simile.

The eighth song lyric is Amazing Day. This song lyric tells about wonderful memories with a love. In Amazing Day lyrics, the writers found kinds of figurative

language that is metaphor (found in verse 1 in line 1 and 4), hyperbole in verse 1 in line 3, in verse 3 in line 4, also personification found in verse 2 in line 4 and 5, and irony in verse 3 in line 5. So, it can be concluded that there are 4 kinds of figurative language in this song lyrics, they are metaphor, hyperbole, personification and irony.

The ninth song lyric is Up & Up. This song lyric tells about a person who has lost something important and looking to get back on the right track again. In Up & Up lyrics, the writers found kinds of figurative language that is metaphor (found in verse 3 in line 2 and 11, in verse 5 in line 2), hyperbole in verse 3 in line 1 and 6, and personification in verse 1 in line 4, 10 and 11. So, it can be concluded that there are 3 kinds of figurative language in this song lyric, they are metaphor, hyperbole and personification.

The Most Dominant of Figurative Language

Following the previous analysis of different types of figurative language in A Head Full of Dreams song lyrics by Coldplay, it's clearly stated that the most dominant of figurative language in that song is hyperbole, metaphor, personification, simile, irony and symbol. The summary of the data is shown in following table 3.

Table 3
 Rhe Most Dominant Figurative Language
 On A Head Full of Dreams Song Album Lyrics

No	Types of Figurative Language	Numbers
1.	Hyperbole	34 times
2.	Metaphor	12 times
3.	Personification	9 times
4.	Simile	6 times
5.	Irony	2 times
6.	Symbol	1 time

Contextual Meaning of Figurative Language

The analyses of contextual meaning for figurative language is based on Holme (2004:15) who said, using figurative language was born out of the idea that accounts of language production, comprehension, structure, underpinning, and change, for figurative and indirect but additionally all language, need to align with current understandings of not only human cognitive phenomena but also social, emotional, motivational, physical, and other human and animal functioning along with established explications of the all the layers of language and their nature. On table 4 and 5 are examples of how the writers tried to contextualize the meaning of figurative languages used in A Head Full of Dreams Lyrics.

Table 4.
 Contextual Meaning of Figurative Language Used in
 A Head Full of Dreams Lyrics

No	Lyrics	Categories	Contextual Meaning
1.	Where there are miracles at work (<i>Line 6</i>)	Social	Someone knows that this place is something special
2.	Come the conference of birds (<i>Line 8</i>)	Animal functioning	Birds go on a quest to seek out
3.	Leave your broken windows open (<i>Line 10</i>)	Motivational	To open ourselves up to someone
4.	And you get a head, a head full of dreams (<i>Line 12</i>)	Motivational	He has begun to dream of something bigger and better
5.	Into life I've just been woken (<i>Line 25</i>)	Motivational	The power that imagination has in our lives

Table 5.
 Contextual Meaning of Figurative Language Used in Birds Lyrics

No	Lyrics	Categories	Contextual Meaning
1.	Studying the lights (<i>Line 2</i>)	Social	He has been watching good things happen from afar
2.	The dreaming of escape will keep you up at night (<i>Line 3</i>)	Motivational	Keep you longing for something more
3.	But someone had put	Physical	To keep people away from

	the flares up and got me in the rays (<i>Line 4</i>)		dangerous situations
4.	It's just a warring rain (<i>Line 8</i>)	Emotional	It will not be the last dream
5.	We don't need words and we'll be birds (<i>Line 13</i>)	Emotional	The feelings and excitement will be all the explanation they need
6.	Come on all for love (<i>Line 23</i>)	Social	He wants people to do this
7.	Out from the underground (<i>Line 24</i>)	Emotional	He urges them to come away
8.	Holding on in the mystery (<i>Line 29</i>)	Physical	They are the mystery and they feel it
9.	In this world so cruel (<i>Line 35</i>)	Another human	To the woman that in this cruel world

CONCLUSION

Based on data analysis of figurative language in A Head Full of Dreams Album songs' lyrics by Coldplay, it can be concluded that the most type of figurative languages found in A Head of Dreams Album song's lyrics are hyperbole, metaphor, personification and simile. This can be inferred as well that the vocalist and the composer of the song lyrics of A Head Full of Dreams Album, Chris Martin used many hyperboles, metaphors, personifications and similes in his song due to his interest to show the beauty of the lyric that he wrote. The songs' lyrics are not only about love but also about social lives, other humans and also about life based on stories.

The use of the contextual meaning in this analysis also opens up all the meanings and the purposes from nine songs of A Head Full of Dreams Album by Coldplay. The words that first look complicated can be elaborated in the contextual meaning, so that they can be better understood. So, by using figurative languages and contextual meaning, the writers want to attract attention and slowly leads the readers to the theme. As a suggestion for further research study, other researchers

can do more research on figurative language in other literary works like short stories, novels, or daily conversations in our society.

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