FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN RIHANNA'S "SELECTED SONGS"

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Abstract

This research is concerned with the analysis of figurative language portrayed in Rihanna's selected songs. Figurative language is a kind of literature that emphasize in connotation meaning than literary one. It is language that uses word or expression with a different meaning than literal interpretation. It can be found in literature and poetry where the writing appeals to the senses. It can do this by giving a word with a specific meaning, by comparing two things in such a way that it finds the comparison interesting or by using words that have unusual constructions or sounds.The objectives of the study are to identify the types of figurative language and to state how the figurative language is in Rihanna's selected songs. Figurative language theory applied in this paper is proposed by Perrine (1969) stating that figurative languages are another way of adding extra dimension to language. The findings show that there are significant figurative language in Rihana's selected songs: Hyperbole, Personification, Simile, Metaphor, Symbol, Repetition, Imagery, Alliteration, Metonymy, and Assonance.

Keyword: Music, Figurative Language, Song

Introduction

Song is piece of music with words that are sung having a function to express the thoughts and feeling, Kennedy (2007: 74) states that song has two elements, lyric and music. Lyrics are the words of a song and music is a pattern of sounds made by musical instruments, voices or computer, or a combination of these, intended to give pleasure to people to listen. Songs also contain figurative language. Figurative language is sometimes difficult to interpret for general listeners, because they have different capability.

Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. When a writer uses literal language, he or she is simply stating the facts as they are. Figurative language, in comparison, uses exaggerations or alterations to make a particular linguistic point.Figurative language is very common in poetry, but is also used in prose and nonfiction writing as well as songs.

In figurative language, an expression may be used to refer to an idea or subject that

does not normally belong to the primary meaning of the object that the figure is used to refer to. In this case, Kennedy (2007: 3) says there is an advantage in using figurative language; it is to make the story more real than it would be without figurative language in literary works.

Figurative language is language that contains or uses figures of speech. When people use the term "figurative language," however, they often do so in a slightly narrower way. In this narrower definition, figurative language refers to language that uses words in ways that deviate from their literal interpretation to achieve a more complex or powerful effect. This view of figurative language focuses on the use of figures of speech that play with the meaning of words, such as metaphor, simile, personification and hyperbole. The figurative language can be used for comparison, for emphasis to the sentence, to say something in a new way, to help the reader/listener form a picture in their mind, and to make song lyric or poem interesting.

Using figurative language is an effective way of communicating an idea that is not easily understood because of its abstract nature or complexity. Although figurative language does not offer a literal explanation, it can be used to compare one idea to a second idea to make the first idea easier to visualize. Figurative language also is used to link two ideas with the goal of influencing an audience to see a connection even if one does not actually exist. Researcher of prose and poetry use figurative language to elicit emotion, help readers form mental images and draw readers into the work.

Robyn Rihanna Fenty popularly known as Rihanna is a Barbadian singer-songwriter who gave us hits like 'Pon de Replay', 'SOS', 'Umbrella', and 'Take a Bow'. A very successful artist still in the prime of her youth, she has already sold over 41 million albums and 150 million songs worldwide, becoming one of the best-selling artists of all time. Born in Barbados, she grew up listening to reggae music and began singing when she was quite young. Disturbed by her chaotic family life and the constant arguments between her parents, she immersed herself in music and before long realized that she wanted to be a professional singer. She formed a musical group while still in high school and got an opportunity to an audition with music producer Evan Rodgers who was highly impressed by the teenager's talents. He asked the girl to move to New York in order to pursue a full-time career as a singer which she gladly did. Her debut album was soon released and Rihanna became a musical sensation before long. Her peppy, foot-tapping songs became the hot favorites of the youngsters motivating her to venture into films as well. Pretty, young and highly talented, she is today regarded as a teen idol and a fashion icon. Rihanna also puts her fame to good use and is actively involved with several charitable causes. Rihanna has many popular songs such as: Diamond, Mean, Back to December, Enchanted, Never Grow Up and Mine.

Literature Review
Definitions of Figurative Language
According to Perrine (1969: 60), figurative languages are another way of adding extra dimension to language. In other words, figurative language is another way of saying something from the common way. By using this style of language, the speaker usually

wants to add some special effects to their words. Those kinds of words or phrases do not have their literal meaning.

According to Kerraft (1994: 113), figurative language is a way of showing mind through a special language that shows the soul and the characteristic of the researcher (language user). It can be said that figurative language is the way of giving expression through a special language which shows the soul and the researcher personality. A good language style has to certain three elements, three are: sincerity, respectful, and attractive.

The term figurative language is used to describe expressions that conform to a particular pattern or form and those patterns, each of which has a special name, have become the tools or rhetoric and poetry (Robert, 1986: 590). Thus it can be defined that figurative language is a tool to describe expressions that usually expressed in figurative meaning or has non-literal meaning. Most of people express their idea or feeling does not use direct statement. They prefer using non-literal meaning, for example when there is a statement "love is blind", the listeners already know that it is a figurative language which cannot be taken literally because in the real life, there is no love which has eyes, so it cannot be blind.

Type of Figurative Language
There are many figurative languages that commonly appear in literary work based on habitual of the author: simile, metaphor, metonymy, allegory, synecdoche, personification, symbol, hyperbole, litotes, paradox and irony. So, there are many kinds of figurative languages that the author can use in his/her work.

Simile
Kennedy (2007: 490) affirms that simile is comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, usually like, as, than or verb such as resembles. Generally, simile is defined as a type of figurative language used to explain the resemblance of two objects (in shape, color, characteristic etc).

Metaphor
The second type of figurative language is metaphor. It is like simile that is to make comparison but metaphor does not use "as" or "like" to create the comparison. Kennedy (2007: 490) affirms that metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which in a literal sense, it is not. It does not use connective words such as like or as. Metaphor only makes sense when the similarities between the two things become apparent or someone understands the connection.

Personification
It is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth or nature) is made human (Kennedy, 2007: 495). Personification gives human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or ideas. This can really affect the way the reader imagines things. This is used in children's books, poetry, and fictional literature.

Metonymy

According to Perrine (1969: 57), metonymy is the use of something closely related for the thing actually meant. It is figure of speech which the name of one object is replaced by another which is closely associated with it.

Symbol

According to Yanni (2004: 569) symbol is any object or action that represents something beyond its literal self. The meaning of any symbol whether an object, an action, or a gesture, is controlled by its context. A symbol can be defined simply as any object or action that means more than itself.

Synecdoche

Synecdoche is the use of part a thing to stand for the whole of it or vice versa (Kennedy, 2007: 479). From the definition above a synecdoche is a figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole.

Paradox

Paradox is statement which seems to contain two opposite facts but is or may be true (Robert, 1986: 134). Paradox occurs in a statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection make some sense (Kennedy, 2007: 497).

Hyperbole

Kennedy (2007: 496) affirms hyperbole is emphasizing a point with statement containing exaggeration. Hyperboles can be added to fiction to add color and depth to a character. Hyperbole is figure of speech that it is intentional exaggeration or overstating. Sometimes it is used for comic purpose, but more often it is used seriously. Hyperbole can produce very dramatic effect.

Oxymoron

Murthy (2003: 507) affirms that an oxymoron is a figure of speech which is used to express two contradictory qualities of the same thing. Oxymoron is when two words are put together that contradicts each other (opposite).

Litotes

Litotes is opposite from hyperbole. It is kind of understatement where the speaker uses negative of a word ironically, to mean the opposite. According to Murray (1995:451), litotes is expression of one's meaning by saying something is the direct opposite of one's thought to make someone's remarks forceful.

Irony

According to Kennedy (2007: 46), irony is a kind of figurative language involving a relationship between the realities describes and the term used to describe it.

Song Lyric

Music is one of of important thing in human life. Almost everyone in the world always listens to music. Listening to music is one of the comfortable activity. When people feels

sad, or happy , music can be alternative for expression feelings. Music is not complete without song. A song is a piece of music that makes it perfect as an art (Wiwik, 1997: 52). The term song has various definitions; it depends on the people's points of view in giving definition. One may give a definition that a song consists of lyrics with music and rhythm. Others may give a definition that a song is a source of lyrical poetry. Song has been defined by the Murray (1995:395) as a poem set to music, intended to be sung". A song comprises lyrics or poems set to the arrangement of music.

Research Method

Research design is presenting the methodology which is used by the researcher to analyze the data. This is very important to do a research, the researcher need to apply the right method. The method which is used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive analysis means to describe what actually happen to procedures about method which are useful in research. Descriptive qualitative approach does not apply the detail arithmetic calculation or statistic contains sentences or description of the objects (Moleong, 2011: 11).

The researcher uses descriptive qualitative method in this study, because the data are form the text and lyric of the Rihanna's selected song which contain many types of figurative language. The aim of descriptive qualitative method is to describe a place, fact and characteristic of population systematically, factually and accurately. Descriptive qualitative method employs technique of seeking, collecting and analyzing data. The analyses in qualitative research concern in understanding the result of found data rather than calculate the result of found data. (Moleong, 2011: 3)

Discussion

Figurative language found in Rihana's selected songs.

a. Hyperbole

Hyperbole, derived from a Greek word meaning "over-casting" is a figure of speech, which involves an exaggeration or over statements of the ideas for the sake of emphasis.

Table 1. Analysis of Hyperbole on the Song Lyric by Rihanna

No.	Figurative Sentences	Code	Reason
1.	When you hold me, I'm alive	S 1 Line 9	Hyperbole is when a statement exaggerates. "When you hold me, I'm alive" It is another way of saying when you hold me I feel happy and stronger. And it is an exaggeration of feeling happy when someone holds someone else. It talks about whether her lover holds her or not, she will still live. She is exaggerating her love to show how he makes her feel.
2.	Well you can take me down with just one *single blow*	S 2 Line 8-9	The word "blow" is a daily word used for describing the air sends out from the mouth moreover, the sentence "take me down with just single blow" sounds an expression of overstatement.

b. Personification

Personification is a figurative comparison endowing inanimate things with human qualities.

Table 2. Analysis of Personification on the Song Lyric by Rihanna

No.	Figurative Sentences	Code	Reason
1.	I watched you laughing from the passenger side and realized I'd	S 3 Line 21-24	This sentence describes that the mind is able to creep as humans do. Meanwhile people and living creatures that have hands and feet are capable to creep too. Because there is a fear in her mind, as it creeps. The word "crept" here has a connotative meaning.

c. Simile

Simile is "like" or "as" comparison between two subjects. Mc Arthur (1996:935) said that simile is a figure of speech, in which a more or less fanciful or unrealistic comparison is made, using like or as. A simile also means as a comparison which is directly stated. A simile is easier to understand than a metaphor because it is stated directly

Table 3. Analysis of Simile on the Song Lyric by Rihanna

No.	Figurative Sentences	Code	Reason
1.	"Shine bright like a diamond"	S 1 Line 1	The figurative language of simile is used. It can be seen from the use of comparative word "like". In the lines "shine bright like a diamond", the act of shining bright is being compared to a diamond since diamonds are known the sparkle.

d. Metaphor

Metaphor directly compares two subjects. Metaphor is a figure of speech which concisely compares two things by saying that the one is the other. (McArthur 1996:653). According to Larson (2015:15) metaphor makes a comparison between two things to create a vivid impression without using the words like or as like simile.

Table 4. Analysis of Methapor on the Song Lyric by Rihanna

No.	Figurative Sentences	Code	Reason
1.	"You're a shooting star I see."	S 1 Line 7	The line is a metaphor because someone is being compared to a shooting star using 'are' words without using like or as. It's the characteristic of metaphor that point with the definition of something. Rihanna is talking about actually not a shooting star. The person is just one of a kind or maybe a good fortune to her.
2.	Do you remember all the *city lights on the water?*	S 6 Line 11-14	The statement compares two things that different.

e. Symbol

Symbol is something that means more than it is.

Table 5. Analysis of Symbol on the Song Lyric by Rihanna

No.	Figurative Sentences	Code	Reason
1.	These days I haven't been sleeping Staying up playing back myself leaving, When your Birthday passed and I didn't call. And I think about summer, all the beautiful times I watched you laughing from the passenger side And realized I'd *loved you in the fall*. And then the cold came, the dark days when fear crept into my mind. You gave me all your love and all I gave you was goodbye.	S 3 16-24	Because the "loved you in the fall" here has meaning more than they are (not the literal meaning of dictionary).

f. Repetition

Kennedy (1979: 15) defines that repetition is a figure of speech which is used by the researcher to repeat several words in the sentence. It can be a whole repetition of sounds or words.

Table 6. Analysis of Repetition on the Song Lyric by Rihanna

No.	Figurative Sentences	Code	Reason
1.	"Shine bright like a diamond" "Shine bright like a diamond"	S 1 Line1 and Line 2	The line is a repetition because in the song, "shine bright like a diamond" is repeated several times.

g. Imagery

Imagery is as quasi-perceptual experience, experience that significantly resembles perceptual experience (in any sense mode), but which occurs in the absence of appropriate external stimuli for the relevant perception (Kennedy, 2007).

Table 7. Analysis of Imagery on the Song Lyric by Rihanna

No.	Figurative Sentences	Code	Reason
1.	"Find light in the beautiful sea."	S 1 Line 3	This line uses an imagery because the word "beautiful" is visual images. It talks about Rihanna's emotions are as deep as the sea, and after all the pain she has passed with him, she still found her light and choosed to be happy by keeping a friendly relationship with Chris Brown (the one who Rihanna loves) despite all the strong opinions the media voices about her decision to remain in contact with him.

h. Alliteration

Murthy (2003: 21) states that alliteration is the repetition of the same sound at the beginnings of the words in a series.

Table 8. Analysis of Alliteration on the Song Lyric by Rihanna

No.	Figurative Sentences	Code	Reason
1.	"You're a shooting star I see."	S 1 Line 7	Alliteration is when two or more syllables of a word group have the same consonant sound. The line is an alliteration because the words of "shooting star" begin with the same letter. It talks that Rihanna and her boyfriend will never be as immortal as a shooting star in the sky, as Rihanna hopes.

i. Metonymy

Metonymy is a word that stands for a closely related idea.

Table 9. Analysis of Metonymy on the Song Lyric by Rihanna

No.	Figurative Sentences	Code	Reason
1.	"A vision of ecstasy"	S 1 Line 8	The line belongs to metonymy because the word "ecstasy" is used as a way of referring to the object itself. It allows people to refer to something closely related to the actual object. It talks about Rihanna's referring to Chris Brown as a "vision of ecstasy" a play on the words as it is no secret she and Brown partook in the recreational use of the drug together as was seen in her video for We Found Love.

j. Assonance

According to Murthy (2003: 33), assonance occurs when vowel sounds are repeated in words that are next to or near each other. The sounds may be identical or similar, but in all cases the vowels will be accented.

Table 10. Analysis of Assonance on the Song Lyric by Rihanna

No.	Figurative Sentences	Code	Reason
1.	"I saw the life inside your eyes."	S 1 Line 14	The technique of assonance is shown with the "i" sound. This adds an upbeat rhythm to the song because of the short and sharp "i" sound.

Conclusion

Generally, figurative language is a word or group of words used to give special emphasis to the idea. It helps author of the song to convey the meaning of the song in a special way. From the discussion, it can be concluded that the lyrics of Rihanna's songs go far beyond their references. Through figurative meaning, language learners inevitably learn more about the linguistic knowledge. Having adequate competence on figurative meaning, learners are expected to make the use of figurative language in their spoken and written performances in order that they can make fresh and interesting expressions. The use of figurative language is various; it is caused by the imagination of composer in applying his mind into the language differently to see the condition that occurs in songs.

Based on the analysis above, it is found that not all of kinds figurative language are used in Rihanna's selected songs. Kinds of figurative language found in her songs are Hyperbole, Personification, Simile, Metaphor, Symbol, Repetition, Imagery, Alliteration Metonymy, and Assonance.

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