

SIMILE USED IN LENKA'S SONG *EVERYTHING AT ONCE*

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Abstract

The research was related to figurative language but the researchers focused on simile, aimed at identifying the dominant type of simile used based on the theory put forward by Kennedy and Giola. Simile is a comparison of one thing to another which is always listed because the words "like" or as are used. Simile is also commonly used in song lyrics and this is referred to as the object of the research, that is the song lyrics taken by Lenka's song *Everything at Once*. The researchers take this song because all the lyrics are full of similes, from the beginning to the end of the song. Qualitative content analysis as the use of replicable and valid methods to make specific inferences from the text to other circumstances or properties of the source under the Descriptive Qualitative Approach, pioneered by Krippendorff is applied here. The results show that there are two types of simile in this song and the dominant types used in this song is close simile.

Keywords: figurative language, simile, song lyric

1. Introduction

Figurative language is word/s or groups of words used to give particular emphasis to an idea or sentiment. Figurative language expresses an idea or experience vividly, forcefully, and briefly. Sometimes figurative language may seem even more direct than literal language because it helps the listener grasp important ideas immediately. In other words, figurative language is a form of expression in which words are used differently from their normal meanings. According to James (2009: 65) figurative language is a form of expression that departs from normal word or sentence order or from common literal meanings for words, for the purpose of achieving a special effect. Figurative language is often found in several literary works, especially poetry, novels, or song lyrics.

Song usually consists of figurative language since the figurative language is used in the lyric that is written well. The descriptive words of figurative language have meanings in sense other than literal text, even the words convey precise meaning. Song lyric is a short poem in a number of verses set to music to be sung. In its writing, the song writers or composers usually beautify the language they use by any figurative language, so that the listeners will be more attracted in listening the song.

Listening to the song is fun activity, but the listeners cannot get pleasure if they don't understand the figurative language commonly found in song. There are some similarities between a song and a poem. A song has to be rhythmic and so does a poem. Rhythm is one of the important elements in both songs and poetry. In fact, there is even a form of poetry which is made into music called a lyric poem. They can be used in songs to express the thoughts and feelings of the author. "Music without words is poetry, only not in the generalized sense" (Retinayanti, 2012). There are several figurative languages that are often

found in song lyrics, such as simile, metaphor, idiom, personification, hyperbole, symbol and repetition. Figurative language does not mean exactly what it says, but instead forces the reader to make an imaginative leap in order to comprehend an author's point, one of the examples is simile.

Similes are an important tools that make language more creative, descriptive, and entertaining. The mind thinks in images and associations, so similes are used to make stronger and more effective descriptions than if only adjectives or literal descriptions are used; they can stir up associated emotions, create new connections in the mind, and emphasize certain characteristics. Similes are almost essential to creative expression from everyday speech to poetry. Similes give the reader a more vivid experience of the story, calling powerful images to mind.

Lenka's *Everything at Once* song is full of similes. Lenka describes many characteristics that she wishes to have, including shyness, strength, quickness, and bravery, by using animals or objects that symbolize those traits.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Song

A song is a musical composition intended to be sung by the human voice. This is often done at distinct and fixed pitches using patterns of sound and silence. Songs contain various forms, such as those including the repetition of sections. Through semantic widening, a broader sense of the word "song" may refer to instrumentals.

Songs that are composed for professional singers who sell their recordings or live shows to the mass market are called popular songs. These songs, which have broad appeal, are often composed by professional songwriters, composers and lyricists. Art songs are composed by trained classical composers for concert or recital performances. Songs are performed live and recorded on audio or video (or, in some cases, a song may be performed live and simultaneously recorded). Songs may also appear in plays, musical theatre, stage shows of any form, and within operas. (Ozzi and Staff, 2018)

2.2 Figurative Language

Perrine (2000:34) states that first figurative language affords readers imaginative pleasure of literary work. Second, it is a way of breaking additional imagery into verse, making the abstract concrete, making literary works more sensuous. The third, figurative is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and conveying attitudes along with information. The last, it is a way of saying much in brief compass. She divides figurative language into seven types, namely metaphor, simile, personification, metonymy, paradox, overstatement, understatement, irony and illusion.

According to Kennedy and Giola (2005:6) figurative language is an expression of comparison that relies not on its literal meaning, but rather on its connotations. Figurative language is an expression, as metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, using words in non-literal sense or unusual manner to add vividness, beauty, etc to what is said or written.

2.2.1 Simile

Simile is a comparison between two objects that are different in literal meaning but have same characteristics. Fadaee (2011:22) states that the word simile is derived from the Latin word "simile", meaning "resemblance and likenesses", technically it means the comparison of two objects with some similarities. Simile is one type of figurative language

commonly included in poem, novel, movies, and drama. It is used when the authors describe about a person, place, ideas, and things by comparing something with something else connected with word “like or “as”.

3. Research Method

This research is done by qualitative content analysis embedding the song of Lenka “*Everything at once*” showing the aims of the discussion. This is expressed by Krippendorff (2000), defining content analysis as the use of replicable and valid method for making specific inferences from text to other states or properties of its source under Descriptive Qualitative Approach. The data in this research are taken from the song lyrics by Lenka, *Everything at once*. The sources of the data are the lyrics of Lenka. Other respective sources are also taken to support the research.

4. Result and Discussion

4.1 Types of Simile in *Everything at once* by Lenka

4.1.1 Open Simile

Open simile is a comparison that does not mention about the characteristics of similarity; the reader is expected to search on dictionary or interpret the characteristics of similarity. The writer gives some example about the process to find out the open simile type and the explanations are divided into three simile markers. Those are; “like”, “as”, and “as if”.

Data 1

strong as I wanna be

The phrase above applies simile which is marked by connective element *as*. If it is viewed from structure, the singer is *strong* and the vehicle is *I wanna be*. The type of simile above is open simile because the phrase does not mention the characteristics of similarity and the reader needs to search the characteristics of the vehicle in the dictionary and then interpret to get the clear picture about the characteristics of similarity that the author means. The lyric tells about the singer’s hope, something she wants to be or a kind of wishes. It can be viewed in the lyric “*I wanna be*” singer (Lenka) is a strong woman.

4.1 2 Close Simile

Close simile is a comparison between two items that mention about the characteristics of similarity. The writer gives some examples about the process to find out the close simile type, divided into four simile markers. Those are; “like”, “as”, “as...as”, and “as if”.

Data 2

As sly as a fox

The phrase above applies simile which is marked by connective word *as*. If it is viewed from structure, the singer is *sly* and the vehicle is *a fox*. The type of simile above is close simile because there is the characteristic of similarity, that is the word “sly”. Singer is a girl and fox is an animal, both of them have different in literal meaning but have the same characteristics. The characteristic a fox is sly. We know a fox is a sly animal. The phrase above describes the singer’s characteristics. Therefore, the singer (Lenka) has similarities with the features of the vehicle (a fox) explained by the word “sly”.

Data 3

as strong as an ox

The phrase above applies simile which is marked by connective word *as*. If it is viewed from structure, the singer is *strong and* the vehicle is *an ox*. The type of simile above is also close simile because there is the characteristic of similarity, that is the word “strong”. Singer is a girl and ox is an animal, both of them have different in literal meaning but have same characteristics. The characteristic of an ox is mentioned, that is strong. We know an ox is a strong animal. The simile above describes the singer’s characteristics. Therefore, the singer (Lenka) has similarities with the features of the vehicle (an ox) which is explained by the word “strong”.

Data 4

As fast as a hare

The phrase above applies simile which is marked by connective word *as*. If it is viewed from structure, the singer is *fast and* the vehicle is *a hare*. The type of simile above is also close simile because there is the characteristic of simile, that is the word “fast”. Singer is a girl and hare is an animal, both of them have different literal meanings but have the same characteristics. The characteristic of a hare is mentioned, that is fast. We know a hare is a fast animal. The simile above describes the singer’s characteristics. Therefore, the singer (Lenka) has similarities with the features of the vehicle (a hare) which is explained by the word “fast”.

Data 5

as brave as a bear

The phrase above applies simile which is marked by connective word *as*. If it is viewed from structure, the singer is *brave and* the vehicle is *a bear*. The simile above is also close simile because there is the characteristic of simile, that is the word “brave”. Singer is a girl and bear is an animal, both of them have different literal meanings but have the same characteristics. The characteristic of a bear is mentioned, that is brave. We know a bear is a brave animal. The above describes the singer’s characteristics. Therefore, the singer (Lenka) has similarities with the features of the vehicle (a bear) which is explained by the word “brave”.

Data 6

as sharp as a tooth

The phrase above applies simile which is marked by connective word *as*. If it is viewed from structure, the singer is *sharp and* the vehicle is *a tooth*. The type of simile above is close simile because there is the characteristic of similarity, that is the word “sharp”. Singer is a girl and tooth is an organ, both of them have different literal meanings but have same characteristics. The characteristic of a tooth is mentioned, that is sharp. We know a tooth is a sharp thing. The simile above describes the singer’s characteristics. Therefore, the singer (Lenka) has similarities with the features of the vehicle (a tooth) which is explained by the word “sharp”.

Data 7

as dark as the night

The phrase above applies simile which is marked by connective word *as*. If it is viewed from structure, the singer is *dark and* the vehicle is *a night*. The type of simile above is close simile because there is the characteristic of similarity, that is the word "dark". Singer is a girl and night is a time without sun, both of them have different literal meanings but have same characteristics. The characteristic of a night is mentioned, that is dark. The simile above describes the singer's characteristics. Therefore, the singer (Lenka) has similarities with the features of the vehicle (a night) which is explained by the word "dark".

Data 8

as right as a wrong

The phrase above applies simile which is marked by connective word *as*. If it is viewed from structure, the singer is *right and* the vehicle is *a right*. The type of simile above is close simile because there is the characteristic of similarity, that is the word "right". Singer is a girl and and wrong is a situation when you do something that is not true; both of them have different literal meanings but have same characteristics. The characteristic of a wrong is mentioned, that is right. The simile above describes the singer's characteristics. Therefore, the singer (Lenka) has similarities with the features of the vehicle (wrong) which is explained by the word "right".

Data 9

Strong like a family

The phrase above applies simile which is marked by connective word *as*. If it is viewed from structure, the singer is *strong and* the vehicle is *a family*. The type of simile above is close simile because there is the characteristic of similarity, that is the word "strong". Singer is a girl and and family is a unit; both of them have different literal meanings but have same characteristics. The characteristic of a family is mentioned, that is strong. The simile above describes the singer's characteristics. Therefore, the singer (Lenka) has similarities with the features of the vehicle (family) which is explained by the word "strong".

5. Conclusions

Type of Simile	Simile Markers				Total of Simile
	Like	As	As...as	As if	
Open Simile	-	1	-	-	1
Close Simile	1	-	7	-	8

The above chart is the result of the analysis presented in the form of finding. In short it is seen that the most dominant simile used in *Everything at once* song by Lenka is Close simile, there are 8 Close Similes used in *Everything at once* song by Lenka. The song by the implicit meaning could be easily understood. This is how Lenka uses simile in her song. All the messages conveyed are dominantly presented by the use of simile, therefore the study of simile is important, not only for the song lyrics but also for other forms of writing, especially literary texts.

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