

ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN OWL CITY LYRICS“VANILLA TWILIGHT”, “THE SALTWATER ROOM” AND“LONELY LULLABY”

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Abstract

This article entitled *Analysis of figurative language in Song “Vanilla Twilight”, “The Saltwater Room”, and “Lonely Lullaby” by Owl City*. Object analysis is Owl City songs. Problems in this research is finding a figure of speech and meaning that may be contained in the lyrics Owl City. This study aims to find the figure of speech in the Owl City song and what the meaning of the song. This study uses qualitative methods. The qualitative approach is one in which the Inquirer Often makes knowledge claims based primary social constructs a history. Data collection techniques used observational data. Data analysis techniques the phase when the researcher precedes the data after the data are collected. The figurative language are found in the lyrics of songs like personification, similes, symbols, alliteration, hyperbole, repetition, and allegory, figures of speech and alliteration rarely. Then, total meaning are found in the lyric.

Keywords: literature, lyric, song, figurative language.

Music actually expresses world, event that happened in the phenomenon of human life. Then, literature is a realization of human daily life. Music is included in the literature. because in music there are several components in common with the poetry where there are similarities with the lyrics.

One of the subjects in literature works is poetry. Poetry is one of literature that expresses mind, idea and imagination in chosen words that have hidden meaning of the writer. Poetry is one of the eldest genres in literary history and it has closely related meaning to the term “lyric”, which derives etymologically from the Greek musical instrument “lyra” (“lyra” or “harp”) and points to an origin in the sphere of music (Mario Klaler 2004:27).

From the explanation above, poetry is one part of literature works that have hidden meaning of the writer who choose the words that express the writer's, mind, idea and imagination. Poetry has close relationship with the notion (form) of “lyric” and is one of the eldest genres in literary history. Lyric itself, etymologically is come from Greek musical instrument “lyra” or “harp” which points to an origin in the sphere of music. So poetry has close relationship with song especially, lyric of the song. According to the two theories above, the researcher can conclude that poetry is the symbol of the exchange process that can be done through the lyrics of the song which represented to the public.

Based on the theories, lyrics of the song contain messages and meaning to be conveyed by the author to the audience. This message may flow into the life or aspiration associated with a particular situation. The meaning of the lyrics which is packed with music is no longer a mere entertaining medium. So, it can be used as a medium to channel the aspirations of individuals, groups, or society in general.

Owl City is an electronic musical project by singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Adam Young. It is formed in 2007 in Owatonna, Minnesota. Adam

Young made this project while experimenting with music in the basement of his parents' home. Owl City gained widespread attention in the social networking site MySpace, like other successful musicians in the late 2000s, before joining Universal Republic in 2008. (Bill Lamb 2014/02/14).

Ocean eyes album released in 2009, OwlCity won several awards including, the European Top 100 Albums, Maybe I'm Dreaming Top Electronic Albums occupied level 16, level 8 The Billboard 200, topped the Top Digital Albums level 1, Top Electronic Albums occupied level 1, the Top Modern Rock / Alternative Albums level 1, Top Rock Albums occupy level 1, while in 2010 this album also won the Top Canadian Albums at level 18 in United Kingdom Albums (Andrew Leahey 2014). There are some songs in this album and one of the famous songs is twilight vanilla, and the saltwater room. There is also a singles song by Adam Young (Owl City) entitled alone lullaby, the song was released on bonus in his new album, a special release by Adam Young in memory of dead lover.

As far as the researcher concern, there is no one that has analyzed the Owl City song. The reason why the researcher chooses the song "Vanilla Twilight", "The Saltwater Room", and "Lonely Lullaby", by Owl City for the song vanilla twilight and the saltwater room included in the album which won numerous awards in 2009. The song lonely lullaby is new west single on the album owl city is intentionally lyrical song in memory of a former lover Adam young. Other than that the reason why the researcher chooses the third song is the third track because it has the meaning of Adam Young love story with some women that ended with the departure of the girl. The researcher analyzes figurative language in song lyrics that used in the songs by Owl City. It will provide some contribution to the study of literature in general and limited meaning for people who has a desire to learn English.

Method

This research uses qualitative method, because it related to the object of the research. Mertens (2010: 225) states that qualitative methods are used in research that is designed to provide an in depth description of a specific program, practice, setting. In addition to qualitative research is a situated activity that locates the observe in the world. It consist of a set of interpretive material practices that make the world visible. Qualitative involves the studied use and collection of a variety of empirical materials case study ; personal experience; introspection; life story ; interview; artifacts : cultural text and production; observational, and visual texts that describe routine and problematic moments and meanings in individual's lives.

From the statement above, it is obvious that the data used in qualitative research and the data are not in the forms of number but in the form of words of picture. The qualitative data is data qualitatively oriented to describe some situation.

2.1 The Data Collection

The data that will be collected, analyzed in this study are the kinds of figurative language in Owl city song, which have been released on two albums this thesis uses data from MP3, internet that are related to Owl City. This thesis the main source of the data is the Owl City texts lyrics. The researcher selects the data for this thesis after listening to the Owl City songs and examines the lyrics of the song which has a figurative language.

2.2 The Steps of the Data Analysis

- 2.2.1 Listening the object songs carefully and intensively and reading intensively.
- 2.2.2 Finding out the figurative language of each lyric.
- 2.2.3 Analyzing the meaning of each lyric.
- 2.2.4 Classifying the figurative language of each lyric and its meaning.
- 2.2.5 Taking conclusion.

Analysis

1.1 Types Of Figurative Language In The Owl City Song

3.1.1 The First Song Line of “Vanilla Twilight – Owl City”.

3.1.1.1 Personification

The lines which contain personification are:

- *The stars lean down to kiss you (1)*
- *Pour me a heavy dose of atmosphere (3)*
- *I'll taste the sky and feel alive again (26)*

Personification is found by the researcher in the line *stars lean down to kiss you (1)*, *Pour me a heavy dose of atmosphere (3)*, *I'll taste the sky and feel alive again (26)*. It is because according to Richard personification means that attributes human qualities to nonhuman ideas or issues (16/06/2013). The lyric gives a human quality attributes, “kiss”, “pour”, and “taste”. A kiss is an activity is done by human beings, and we know that the stars are a thing and absolutely cannot kiss. “Pour” is human activity carried out when they feel thirsty then they would pour a drink to alleviate thirst, and we know that the atmosphere cannot pour into the glass. While “Sky” logically cannot be felt by mankind. So, personification gives effect to the song. The word “taste” in the line *I'll taste the sky and feel alive again*, is a personification because human cannot possibly feel the sky.

3.1.1.2 Allegory

The lyrics which contain Allegory are:

- *I watch the night turn light blue (8)*
- *But it's not the same without you (9)*
- *Because it takes two to whisper quietly (10)*
- *The silence isn't so bad (11)*
- *Till I look at my hands and feel sad (12)*

The Researcher finds these lines contain of allegory *I watch the night, turn light blue (8)*, *But it's not the same without you (9)*, *Because it takes two to whisper quietly (10)*, *The silence is not so bad (11)*, *Till I look at my hands and feel sad (12)*. Describe the situation and feeling sad that author left behind by her lover. This is supported by Abrams opinion stating:

Allegory is a narrative, whether in prose or verse, in which the agents and actions, and sometimes the setting as well, are contrived by the author to make coherent sense on the "literal," or primary, level of signification, and at the same time to signify a second, correlated order of signification (Abram, 1999:5).

3.1.1.3 Antithesis

The lines which contain Antithesis are:

- *Are right where yours fit perfectly (14)*
- *I'll find repose in new ways (15)*

According to Richard Norquist Antithesis is a rhetorical term for the juxtaposition of contrasting ideas in balancing phrases or clauses (2014/02/10). Thus, the line *Are right where yours fit perfectly (14)* and *I'll find repose in new ways (15)*. The lyric shows between the first statement and the second is contrasts. The first statement in line 14 is about the author who questioned the comfort of his girlfriend somewhere. While the second statement in line 15 about the author who tries to live in a new way so that he was happy without his girlfriend. The researcher chosen as Antithesis because the contrary meaning of both lines describe the conflict in his heart in the line 14, the author as if said in a statement that he was not willing to let his girlfriend. While in the line 15, the author is trying to live without his girlfriend. It can give effect to this song ironic.

3.1.1.4 Repetition

The lines which contain Repetition are:

- *I don't feel so alone (20)*
- *I don't feel so alone (21)*
- *I'll think of you tonight (22)*
- *I'll think of you tonight (23)*

The Researcher was find repetition on line 20 until 23, *I don't feel so alone (20), I don't feel so alone (21), I'll think of you tonight (22), I'll think of you tonight (23)*. Repetition is an instance of using a word, phrase, or clause more than once in a short passage-dwelling on a point (Norquist, 2014/02/10). In line "*I do not feel so alone*" repeated twice to make a statement clearly that is not the author feel alone because the girlfriend is passed away. "*I'll think of you tonight*" to make a strong repetition the author meaning about the line is the author always thinking about the girlfriend on the night and cannot forget the girlfriend and the effect of repetition in the line is bring romantic effect for the sound.

3.1.1.5 Symbolism

The lyrics which contain symbolism are:

- *The lyrics When violet eyes get brighter (24)*
- *and heavy wings grow lighter (25)*

Symbol is a figure as one object that represents another object (often an abstract quality): conventional symbols include in it. A symbol is a kind of metaphor in which the subject of the metaphor is not made explicitly, and may be mysterious or undecided (Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle, 2004:309). In the line "*when violet eyes get brighter and heavy wings grow lighter*". The researcher called "violet" as a symbol of the flower like a sun. It means when the vanilla twilight gets brighter and so the reflection in your eyes get brighter and you are able to see things better or positive thinking now. And for the line "*of heavy wings grow lighter*", it means the "wings grow lighter" researcher finds the meaning of *your burden is lighter* in other words, when human see or use a light in your dream, the represents a new ideas.

3.1.1.6 Hyperbole

The lines which contain hyperbole are:

- *Oh if my voice could reach back through the past (29)*

The researcher finds hyperbole in line *Oh if my voice could reach back through the past* (29)., there is an exaggeration when the researcher says "*Oh if my voice could reach back through the past*", because he gives an exaggerate. As we know it is not possible sound of death make conclude to pass the time and whispered to the person who has died. This is supported by the Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle's opinion. Hyperbole Exaggerations excessive for literary effect (Andrew Bennett and Nicholas Royle, 2004:305), as the effect of feeling sadness.

4.2 The Discussion of Total Meaning Found In Owl City Song

4.2.1 Total Meaning in Song "Vanilla Twilight"

From the song *Vanilla Twilight* which contains some figurative languages can be concluded by the researcher that the *Vanilla Twilight* song tells about the story of someone who lost their beloved ones.

Conclusion

There are seven types the figure of speech has been found, in three songs by Owl City (*Vanilla Twilight*, *The Saltwater Room*, and *Lonely Lullaby*). Majas tersebut adalah personification, antithesis, allegory, symbol, repetition, simile, alliteration and hyperbole.

3.1.2 The figures of speech in this song "Vanilla Twilight".

The researcher find some figures of speech: Personification, Antithesis, Allegory, Symbol, Repetition, and Hyperbole.

3.1.3 The figures of speech in this song "The Saltwater Room"

The researcher find the figure of speech: Personification, Repetition, Antithesis, Symbolism, and Simile.

3.1.4 The figures of speech in this song "Alone Lullaby"

The researcher find that some figures of speech: Symbol, personification, repetition and hyperbole.

After see the results of these studies researcher find that the figure of speech that has been used by the author into four tracks and repetition personification is a figure of speech. While the figure of speech that is rarely used the author is alliteration.

The total meaning that there are three songs by Owl City (*vanilla twilight*, *the saltwater room* and *lonely lullaby*) is about can be concluded that the third song is Adam Young, inspired by his love experience that ended with sadness because Adam Young left for dead by his first lover named Annemari.

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