Investigating Figurative Language in "Lose You to Love Me" Song Lyric

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Abstract: Figurative language is part of the semantic aspect of language that employs various figures in a language. The study discussed an analysis of the figurative languages in Selena Gomezs' song. The study aimed at finding out the kind and the meaning of figurative language in her song "Lose You to Love Me". The source of the data was taken from the lyrics of Selena Gomez's song. Her song was classified as a pop song released on 23th October 2019. In this analysis, the descriptive qualitative model was used with a pure structuralism approach, such as hyperbole, irony, paradox, personification, repetition, and simile. Then, the types of figurative language were classified and analyzed. The result showed that six kinds of figurative languages were found: hyperbole 33.3%, Irony 11.1%, paradox 22.3%, personification 11.1%, repetition 11.1%, and simile 11.1%. The figurative language dominant is hyperbole, since song lyrics are distorted by adding original meanings to exact words. Instead, song lyrics contain a comparative meaning between denotative interpretation and connotative meaning. Besides, this song provides the essence of the song on aesthetic principles and colors.

INTRODUCTION

Language is one of the communication tools used by humans. As a result, humans will never be able to communicate with others without language. People need the language to share, help, find and provide ideas and useful information for others. Bonvillain (2019) argues that people consider the use of language for granted in terms of daily conversation. Even with the ability to make daily conversations with others, some people still find some difficulties in expressing and understanding feelings, thoughts, ideas, and experiences in expressing a language. One of the problems people have in a language is the use of figurative language (Saboe, 2018). Since people sometimes say something without saying its literal meaning. Alternatively, they choose some languages that require the interpretation of the addressee to understand what people mean.

In light of figurative languages are not only found in conversation. Defisyani, Hamzah, and Fitrawati (2016) stated that figurative language could be found not only in written, but also in spoken languages. Figurative language can be found in written languages such as in books, novels, short stories, and advertisements. Moreover, it can be found in oral languages in songs, speeches, and TV programs. Miller (2018) argues that figurative language is one of the literature study. While taking up and figuring out the literature, people need to comprehend

not only the form of language or speech, but also the sense behind each sentence. It seems to indicate that writers or speakers also desire to obtain the reader or listeners feel sensate the sense behind each sentence.

Moreover, a song is one of the greatest literature forms. Another critical thing to remember, a song is a short rhymes music with songwriter's imagination, feelings, ideas, illusions, and messages to others throughout the words or song lyrics. Song lyrics convey the messages to the listeners. It consists of a series of words written and performed by a chosen singer. A songwriter would typically have a target for who will be his or her listeners (Tikkanen, 2018). Therefore, a song can be viral because of the singer, lyrics, or both. Also, listeners sometimes used song as accompanied them to enjoy their activities. Songs are used to express the feeling of the listeners to convey messages to someone else since some people experience difficulties in expressing their feelings or willing to do directly.

In accordance, Selena Gomez has just released her new song on 23rd October 2019 entitled "Lose You to Love Me". The song was one of the viral song in 2019. Moreover, the song's official video clip even became the number one trending on YouTube on 26th October 2019. Selena Gomez said that she made the official video clip only using a mobile phone. This song is a song about a woman's feelings who parted with her lover. The woman feels lost when establishing a relationship. After her romance ended, the woman has just realized that she had to trust herself. To trust herself, she needs to lose and to hate the lover who becomes an ex-boyfriend.

Moreover, it seems interesting to analyze figurative language in the song lyric "Lose You to Love Me" by Selena Gomez. Since the figurative languages were not only found in daily conversation, but also these figurative languages found in song lyrics. Many songs especially love songs using figurative languages (Ibrahim, Akib, & Hasyim, 2019). Therefore, it seems to indicate that important to learn figurative languages in terms of understanding the songs. The present study is expected to inform readers, in particular language learners, of figurative language analysis in song lyrics. The study is aimed at finding out the types and meanings of the figurative languages in song lyrics "Lose You to Love Me" by Selena Gomez. In this regard, a qualitative-descriptive study was conducted in the study. In analyzing the figurative languages, the researchers used pure structuralism.

The study is expected to give a contribution in the academic field, especially on figurative language discourse analysis in song lyrics, since songs are learned at each level, from junior to high schools. In addition, the study is also expected could give additional information for the furtherer research on the same topic. Many have conducted figurative language analysis in song lyrics, such as "Endless Love" (Ibrahim et al., 2019), "Don't You Remember" by Adele (Sari, Dartini, & Mulyani, 2019), "One OK Rock" (Rahim, 2019). Similarly, the findings showed that all songs they investigated have figurative languages. However, those studies did not specifically discuss how figurative language analysis of the "Lose You to Love Me" song lyric by Selena Gomez. Therefore, different from those previous studies, this current study would be focusing on figurative language analysis in "Lose You to Love Me" song lyric by Selena Gomez. Those previous studies also presented some methods and theories that can be used to analyze the figurative languages in literary works. However, the current study would use pure structuralism analysis. Furthermore, present study is aimed to find out the contextual meaning and the type of figurative in song lyrics "Lose you to love me" by Selena Gomez.

Figurative Languages

Figurative language is the intended implications of the words, sentences, and expressions utilized do not concur with their literal meaning. In other words, figurative languages refer to words and word groups that sensationalize or change the common meaning of those words element. Traditionally, figurative language has been viewed as deviant from literal language. On the other hand, it is now well known that figurative language is a common part of daily language and social interaction. In accordance, Kalandadze et al. (2018) argued that figurative language could enhance the social communication ability so that figurative language master may alter listeners' or readers' understanding of a word or a concept by contrasting it to something else.

Hyperbole

Hyperbole affects overreaction by drawing something through words. In other words, Hyperbole is a kind of figure of speech that exaggerates and emphasizes arguments more than facts (Burgers, Konijn, & Steen, 2019). This could be absurd or funny. In addition, hyperbole can be added to stories to add color and depth to characterization in song lyrics.

Irony

Irony is a kind of figurative language which described something with the opposite meaning by giving a little satire. This type of figurative language usually draws something by reversing the meaning of the intention that happened (Burgers et al., 2019). It could also be said that the figurative language conceals or hides the purpose of reality. The meaning intended in irony is contrary to what is said or said; its nature is subtle, but it can also state rough meaning. This form is categorized as satire or contradictory.

Paradox

Paradox is an apparent self-contradiction or deliberate inconsistency. Also, Sudarsono, Samola, and Maru (2018) add that statements or situations that appear to contain contradictory or incompatible elements, but maybe true for closer examination. Moreover, the paradox is a clear contradiction, which is somehow valid. This can be a condition or statement.

Personification

Personification consists of assigning the characteristic of a human being to an entity, to an object or a concept. It is the attribution of human characteristics and/or emotions to non-human beings, inanimate objects, or abstract ideas (Tairako, 2018).

Repetition

Repetition is a kind of figurative language that repeats a word or a group of words in a sentence to accentuate and create a poetic or rhythmic effect. It can be used to show humor or even threaten, or emphasize, inter alia, intensity, mood, and image (Liontas, 2018).

Simile

Simile is a kind of figurative language, which is a comparison between two different things. In other words, It is easy to find a comparison of speech figures in the same way, as simile is one of the ways to equate one item with another by combining words or using comparators of terms: "as if, as if, like," etc. (Hidayati, 2017).

Song

Songs are musical works for sound, whether accompanied or not, or acts of singing, songs that can be performed by one or more people. It is also the most liked and very loyal to the people in the society. Since the songs will not only have fun, they will have a great, personal and fresh relationship with life. Nevertheless, songs are also used to convey perspectives, to talk about culture, about society, or about someone's life. Songs are also used to encourage people to listen to them or change their minds (Harper, 2018; Wilson, 2019). The song seems to be arranged in a language that is clear enough to be understood at first hearing. Furthermore, it seems reasonable to say, and a song is one of poetry

literature which is shown by singing and accompanied by musical instruments.

Lyric

The lyrics come from the Greek word *lyricos,* which means harp (Arifah, 2016; Ratna, 2017). Lyrical words are used for song lyrics. Lyrics are a collection of words that make up a song. The meaning of the lyrics can be explicit or implicit. Some of the lyrics are abstract, almost incomprehensible, and in such cases, the interpretation emphasizes form, articulation, meter, and symmetry of expression. Lyrics can be written in almost any size and on almost any subject, although the most commonly expressed emotions are love and sadness. In other contexts, lyrics to popular songs or other musical compositions are words that contradict music, which may not always be lyrical in a poetic sense. Furthermore, Moore (2018) states that certain lyrics create poetry for observers with genuine feelings from individual subjects, even through conventional language.

METHOD

The study used a descriptive qualitative research method. The data were from the lyric of Selena Gomez's song, which contained figurative languages entitled "Lose You to Love Me". In this regard, the data collection method was library research. The process started with reading the lyrics. Second, the researchers attempted to find the word, phrase, and sentence which contained the figurative language and grasping the meaning of each figurative language. Third, the researchers made a note, which was one of the used figurative language. Last, the researchers classified and rechecked the data and analyzed them. The data were analyzed by using a pure structuralism approach, which focused on the kinds and the meaning of the figurative language to identify types of figurative language such as simile, idiom, hyperbole, metaphor, personification and repetition. The next

step was discussing the data from each category. The last was drawing a conclusion based on the analysis.

This study seeks to address the following questions: 1) what are the types of figurative language found in "Lose You to Love Me" song lyric? 2) what is the meaning of figurative language found in "Lose You to Love Me" song lyric? The figurative languages would be counted by using the frequency of cumulative formula, as cited in Ibrahim, Akib, and Hasyim (2019). It could be seen as follows:

$$FK\ rel = \frac{FK}{\Sigma F} X100\%$$

FK = Frequency of cumulative
ΣF = Frequency of total
FK rel = Frequency of relative cumulative

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Figurative languages in lyric songs were analyzed, which consist of hyperbole, irony, paradox, personification, repetitions, and simile. Here are the figurative languages in song lyrics by Selene Gomez:

Table 1. Kinds of Figurative Languages found in "Lose You to Love Me" song lyrics

No	Figurative Language	Lyrics	Number of Occurrences	Percentage %
1	Hyperbole	You promised the world, and I fell for Set fires to my forest and you let it burn I need to lose you to find me	3	33.3%
2	Irony	Sang off key in my chorus, cause it wasn't	1	11.1%

		yours		
3	Paradox	Rose-colored glasses all distorted Set fire to my purpose, and I let it burn	2	22.3%
4	Personification	This dancing was killing me softly	1	11.1%
5	Reputation	To love, love, yeah. To love, love, yeah. To love, yeah.	1	11.1%
6	Simile	In two months you replaced us, like it was easy	1	11.1%
	Total		9	100%

Stanza 1
Line 1 "you promised the world, and I fell for"
Line 2 "I put you first, and you adored it"
Line 3 "set fires to my forest and you let it burn"
Line 4 "sang off-key in my chorus, cause it wasn't yours"

In the first stanza, the lyrics belong to three figurative languages consisting of two hyperbole and one irony. Hyperbole can be found in line 1 and line 3, since the lyrics are exaggerated. In the first line, the sentence "you promised me the world" seems that who promised can give anything that

exists in the world. The lyrics are also songwriters' very impressive first touch. The songwriter tries to express the hidden impression that she has drowned with the sweet promises of her lover in the past. The songwriter can also be said that she has already deified her lover to forget everything.

In the third line, the sentence "set fires to my forest, and you let it burn" is included hyperbole. Since the sentence is exaggerated. The word "fires" seems to be meaned as passionate love. Songwriter seems to express that she already has a very deep love. The love is actually damaging her and blooming herself. she also analogized her feelings as a forest. The forest is left to burn by a feeling of disappointment at the lover's attitude. The forth line, the sentence "sang off key in my chorus, cause it wasn't yours" seems to be classified as irony. Since irony is one of figurative language in which the speaker's intention differs from the meaning that sentence seem to express (Hamdi & Ali, 2018). In this lyric, the songwriter seems to intend to insinuate her ex-boyfriend who has hurt her feelings. The word "my chorus" here is interpreted as love that is damaged by her ex-boyfriend. Besides, her ex-boyfriend feels fair because it was not his love anymore.

Stanza 2
Line 1 "I saw the signs, and I ignored it"
Line 2 "Rose-colored glasses all distorted"
Line 3 "set fire to my purpose, and I let it burn"
Line 4 "you got off on the hurtin', when it was not yours, yeah"

In the second stanza, it was found some figurative languages which are paradox. Since the paradox means a variety of images that contrast with the fact. In line two, The word "distorted" here seems to be replaced by "clear" or "illustrate" because the songwriter has mentioned the attribute which colored the glasses. Moreover, the songwriter seems to indicate has another meaning to express

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the word "all distorted". She seems to express that she was the abstract. She analogizes a rose-colored glass was herself. She is beautiful but abstract because she has been hurt. In line three, the word "my purpose" here was reasonable to be said inappropriate to be fired. Since the purpose is the simple understanding that is working for something larger than themselves, and it can be burn. Furthermore, the songwriter seems to express another meaning from this figurative speech. The word "purpose" seems to indicate the songwriter's "future". She felt that she had let her future be burnt or be destroyed by her broken heart towards his ex-boyfriend.

Stanza 3
Line 1 "we'd always go into it blindly"
Line 2 "I need to lose you to find me"
Line 3 "This dancing was killing me softly"
Line 4 "I need to hate you to love me, yeah"

In the third stanza, it found three figurative languages, which are two hyperboles and one personification. Hyperbole was found in line two and line four, while personification is in line four. In line two, the sentence implies an exaggeration idea due to the emphasis. In "I need to lose you to find me" means the songwriter needs to forget her ex-lover, who has made her crazy and become a slave to love. So she can return to love herself or find herself.

In the third line, it found personification since the personification means an animate abstraction given to human's abilities. The lyric "This dancing was killing me softly" put human's ability on an abstract idea. The word "was killing" is used to kill the speaker softly while logically, a dancing never could kill someone else. Dancing makes people enjoy the instrumental music. However, the implicit meaning here is that the love which feels by Selena Gomez was hurt her. It makes her like was killing softly.

However, in line four, it was found hyperbole as the second line mentioned.

Stanza 4
Line 1 "To love, love yeah. To love, love, yeah. To love, yeah."
Line 2 "I needed to lose you to love me, yeah"
Line 3 "To love, love yeah. To love, love, yeah. To love, yeah."
Line 4 "I needed to lose you to love me, yeah"

In the fourth stanza, the song writer used two figurative languages which are repetition and hyperbole. Repetition can be found in the line one and three. Selena Gomez repeated the phrase "to love". She repeated the words because she wants to emphasize that she should find out herself by losing her ex-boyfriend from her mind. Furthermore, by repetition, the word "to love" seems to beautify the lyrics.

For the hyperbole explanation has already been mentioned in the previous stanza. Selena seems to express that she has already realized to lose her ex-boyfriend, to hate him. Therefore, she can find out her identity and to love herself.

Stanza 5
Line 1 "I gave my all, and they all know it"
Line 2 "You tore me down, and now it's showing"
Line 3 "In two months you replaced us, like it was easy"
Line 4 "made me think I deserved it, In the thick of healing, yeah."

In this stanza, Selena used two figurative speeches, which are hyperbole and simile. The hyperbole can be found in line one, while simile can be found in line three. In line one, Selena express she gave her all. The word "my all" implies an exaggeration idea due to emphasis. She also seems to express that all of her life has already been given to her ex-boyfriend, and it is witnessed by other

people mentioned through, "and they all know it".

However, in line three is found simile. According to Setiawati and Maryani (2018), finding a comparison figurative language of simile is easy. Since simile is one of the ways to compare one thing with another thing by combining words such as if, as, like, and such as. Moreover, the lyrics above used the word "like". Therefore, the song lyric belongs to the simile since it compares two things between "In two months you replaced us" and "it was easy".

Stanza 6
Line 1 "To love, love yeah. To love, love, yeah. To love, yeah."
Line 2 "And now the chapter is closed and done"
Line 3 "To love, love yeah. To love, love, yeah. To love, yeah."
Line 4 "And now it's goodbye for us"
In this stanza, Selena used one figurative language, which is repetition. As mentioned in stanza four, Selena repeated the lyric "to love".

Overall, the song tells the story of someone who has been in an unhealthy relationship with her ex-boyfriend. The ex-boyfriend is only concerned with himself. He never cares about someone's feelings. Although her ex-boyfriend treated like that, the person is still understanding. When they have "broken up", within two months, the ex-boyfriend can get a new girlfriend. Someone is still blaming herself and considering herself to be the cause of the failure of their relationship. In this song, the person finally decides that she should be able to hate and forget her ex-boyfriend to be able to love herself more.

Based on the findings above, the "Lose You to Love Me" song lyric has six figurative languages. They are hyperbole, irony, paradox, personification, repetition, and simile. The hyperbole type was found in the first and third stanza with 3 number of occurrences. Some studies (e.g., Abbas, 2019; Pratama, 2016; Wood, 2017; Yusuf

& Amelia, 2018) assert that hyperbole is the most figurative language type often encountered in daily life, especially song lyric. For example, in the first stanza found two hyperboles. The lyric "You Promise the World" is a promise that actually can never be realized. The songwriter seems to indicate that it exaggerates the impossible to happen.

Moreover, Irony was found still in the first stanza. Lievois and Van (2017) argue that irony is a form of sentence that expresses subtle allusions. Figurative language, in terms of Irony, usually states something by reversing the meaning of the intention that happened (Green, 2017; Lievois, 2017; Van Hee, Lefever, & Hoste, 2018). It is subtle, yet it can also give a rude statement. This form is categorized as satire or contention. In accordance, the lyric "sang off-key in my chorus, cause it wasn't yours" has satire meaning. In this sense, Selena tries to explore her feeling that she was really disappointed. She felt that her ex-boyfriend was very unfair in their relationship. She felt like she had a beautiful song proved by using the words "my chorus," which was destroyed by her ex-lover. Hence, the Selena's expression through this lyric intend to insinuate her ex-lover, who has hurt her feelings.

Then, paradox was found two times in the second stanza. Paradox is a kind of figurative speech, which means an image variation that opposite to the fact. Paradox can also be interpreted as a statement that seems contrary to public opinion or truth (Hargrave & Van de Ven, 2017; Platt, 2016). It keeps the fact that the statement contains the truth.

Therefore, the paradox is the content that contradicts what is supposed to happen. The lyric "Rose-colored glasses all distorted" contains meaning that is not actually in term of "distorted" word. It seems to be replaced by "clear" or "illustrate". It is in line with the study by Sudarsono et al. (2018), who found the paradox in their study. They found "our health care is too costly" in Barrack H.

Obama's speech. They interpreted it as a tool to determine the cost of American health services is still not accessible to all citizens.

Moreover, the lyric "set fire to my purpose, and I let it burn" also contradicts the real situation. The word "my purpose" is not settled to be juxtaposed with something that can be burned. It was impossible to set the fire in the purpose. Therefore, Selena seems to indicate that she has another intention to express these words. The word "purpose" can be said as her future, which have burnt by her broken heart.

Furthermore, personification was found in the third stanza of line three. Personification is one of figurative speech that means an animate abstraction is given human ability. Ko (2018) assert that personification is a language style in literary works that give individual properties to inanimate objects or living things that are not human, such as plants and animals. Thus, they look like a human (Ko, 2018; Padillah, Firmawan, & Purwaningsih, 2016). In accordance, the lyric "This dancing was killing me softly" put human's ability on an activity. Logically, a dance will never kill someone. The dancing is an activity that people usually do in enjoying musical instruments. However, the meaning behind this lyric is the feeling she feels that her love continues to hurt. So, it make to appear killing her slowly. It is in line with a study by Ratna (2017), who analyzed the figurative language in Katy Perry song lyric entitled "firework". She found the lyric, which consists of personification. The lyric is "after a hurricane comes a rainbow".

Also, repetition was found in the fourth stanza in lines one and three. Repetition is one of the figurative languages that use words repetition to express the affirmation of the word or sentence in meaning and to increase the impression of the sentence to the listener (Harya, 2017; Surbakti, 2019). In accordance, many studies that analyzed

figurative languages in song lyrics found the repetition form. For instance, Ibrahim, Akib, and Hasyim (2019) mentioned in their study that in "Endless Love" song lyric found 36% of figurative language type is repetition. Surbakti (2019) also found 10 repetition forms in Katy Perry's song lyric. Suka and Jeremia (2019) also found two times of repetition forms in selected lyric of One Direction song. That is to say, the lyric "To love, love yeah. To love, love, yeah. To love, yeah" seems to beautify the song lyric itself. However, Selena repeated the words "love" since she wants to emphasize that she has to find out herself by losing her ex-boyfriend from her mind. In addition, simile was found in the fifth stanza in line three.

Simile is a linkage language that compares two things that are essentially different, but are considered to contain similar aspects; an explicit comparison on this form can be interpreted as giving meaning to something that is compared directly with words that are parables (Prasetyo, 2017; Rauuf, Nur, & Miranti, 2018). In accordance, the lyric "In two months you replaced us, like it was easy," belongs to simile type. Since it compares two things between "In two months you replaced us" and "it was easy".

Hence, the use of figurative languages in the song titled "lose you to love me" makes the song sound more beautiful and pleasant for listeners. By using several types of figures of speech, the songwriter can express what she wants to convey the messages (Ratna, 2017). The message looks short but has a profound meaning. So the listener can also enjoy the series of each word that has been composed by the songwriter. In this case, Selena Gomez expresses her heart's content through a series of words made by her into song lyrics that can be enjoyed for everyone. Therefore, Selena Gomez used figurative language to beautify the songs she made.

CONCLUSION

The study has analyzed song lyrics "Lose You to Love Me" by Selena Gomez. Based on the findings and discussion above, the researchers concluded that several kinds of figurative languages found in the song lyrics. Six kind of figurative languages which are hyperbole 33.3%, Irony 11.1%, paradox 22.3%, personification 11.1%, repetition 11.1%, and simile 11.1%. Hyperbole is the dominant of figurative languages found in the song lyrics. The words used in the songs are exaggerated by comparison of the original meaning with the exact words since the lyricists want to describe and emphasize the words used in the songs. The lyrics are exaggerated by comparison of the original meaning with the exact words.

Moreover, Selena Gomez wants to describe and emphasize conflict, pain and treachery are very profound. The generalized of all song lyrics that have been investigated is based on Selena's experiences. The song told how women want to find out her identity and to love herself by losing her ex-boyfriend. In addition, the meaning of the song lyrics has comparative meaning between denotative meaning and connotative meaning. As a result, it gives the essence of the song to the esthetic principles and colors.

It is expected that the present study is helpful and useful to researchers interested in literary analysis, particularly song lyrics. In addition, the data can be used as a source for further researchers who want to expand their analysis of the text and can help the readers think critically about the discourse analysis.

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