

An Analysis of Figurative Language in Michael Jackson's Songs Album History: Past, Present and Future, Book I

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An Analysis of Figurative Language in Michael Jackson's Songs Album History: Past, Present and Future, Book I

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Abstract. This research seeks to identify Michael Jackson song lyrics include figurative language. As a result, the researcher came up with a question to represent the issue. What forms of figurative language does Michael Jackson utilize in his songs Album History: Past, Present and Future, Book I? According to this study, Figurative language comes in 12 different types such as Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Allusion, Anaphora, Idiom, Onomatopoeia, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Hyperbole, Syntax, Repetition, and Imagery are some of its forms. This research is made by William Haudinata Prakasa from Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya. The researcher employed a qualitative approach since the data were gathered utilizing word documents and a method of systematic context text analysis (words, phrases, lines, and sentences). By categorizing words with similar meanings, qualitative analysis enables researchers to comprehend the text. The researcher used 20 songs from Michael Jackson Songs Album History: Past, Present and Future, Book I as a tool to identify the data that will be studied based on this research. According to the research, there are 86 datas from each Michael Jackson's songs, including 21 personifications, 23 metaphors, 20 hyperboles, 5 repetitions, 5 similes, 2 idioms, 1 imagery, 2 allusions, 2 anaphoras, 1 onomatopoeia, 1 metonymy, and 3 synecdoches.

Keywords: *Figurative language, Lyric, Michael Jackson, Song*

INTRODUCTION/PENDAHULUAN

Language has several purposes, involving play, artistic expression, self-expression, and release of emotion. Language has been defined in a variety of ways. Language is the expression of thoughts through speech-sounds merged into words, according to English phonetician and language expert Henry Sweet, who made this claim in 2012." Sentences are constructed using words, just as thoughts are constructed using ideas. In their 2011 paper, Language was defined by two linguists from the United States named Bernard Bloch and George L. Trager as "Language is the capacity that allows people to express themselves to one another through signs like words and gestures."

A literary style known as figurative language prioritizes connotation over denotation. In general, Figurative language is when words or expressions are used that have a deeper

meaning than what they initially appear to mean. (Marlinton, 2018) asserts that figurative language, which tries to convey significance in addition to its literal meaning, is also known as metaphorical language or simply metaphor. Furthermore, (Abrams, 2009) provides keywords for comprehending figurative language, which is the understanding of the common meaning of words to convey a certain message or impact. Therefore, metaphorical language usage by a speaker indicates indirect communication. A statement that contradicts itself. Figurative language is used when compare something to describe it something different the idea of symbolic for individuals who already find language tough, language is also challenging. Figurative language is used to increase reader attention and make material more entertaining to read. so utilize your imagination. However, everyone must be able to recognize and apply it in reading. Any language can use figurative language, which can be found in everyday speech, newspaper articles, commercials, books, and poetry. But it can also be found in poetry, lyric song, or even specifically English song.. (Jacobs L. C. Sorensen, 2010).

Because there are so many metaphorical languages that may be studied, the researcher is concerned about how to categorize it, especially in the music of Michael Jackson. Michael Jackson is an American singer, composer, and dancer. He is known as the "King of Pop" and is thought to be one of the 20th century's most influential cultural figures. Jackson is the most renowned artist in the history of popular music. In truth, figurative language, how to categorize it, and ways to illustrate what each figurative language means are concepts that many people outside of academics do not grasp. Michael Jackson's songs use figurative language can be challenging for common listeners to understand at times because of their diverse cognitive skills. Additionally, not everyone is aware of the full significance of metaphorical language. Every music contains a variety of meanings, thus understanding it needs delving into its deeper significance. Figurative language is crucial to comprehend since it makes it possible to describe a word's meaning in greater detail and accuracy. Because of this propensity, researchers are increasingly interested in looking at Michael Jackson's songs use figurative language.

LITERATURE REVIEW/ TINJAUAN PUSTAKA

The research discuss about the hits songs from Michael Jackson only whereas this research is focus on one album. This research title is An Analysis of Figurative Language in Michael Jackson Song Lyric in 2021 by Herman, Bloner Sinurat and Dewi Sri Lumbangtobing from HKB Nommensen University Medan and it tells about the analysis on one album HIStory. The research method is qualitative research design. The result on this research is Hyperbole is the most prevalent sort of figurative language seen in several of Michael Jackson's song lyrics.

The research discuss about novel whereas this research is focus on the meaning and the data of each songs. This research title is *An Analysis of Figurative Languages Used in Rick Riordan's Novel Entitled "The Heroes of Olympics, Book Three: The Mark of Athena"* in 2014 by Eva Ervina Widi Saputri from Dian Nuswantoro University Semarang and it tells about the analysis on novel. The research method is qualitative research design. The result on this research is the dominant type of figurative language in the novel is Simile.

METHOD/METODE

The researcher used a qualitative research design in this study. On 2014, Creswell said that the qualitative research often had discrete processes in data processing, relied on a range of designs, and a text or image source was used. It is communicated by describing words and dialects used in a certain context. A richer collection of data from many sources is typically used in qualitative research to learn more about a few individuals, including their viewpoints, ideas, and attitudes.

The study's main focus is on Michael Jackson's song lyrics. The study's focus is on the figurative language employed in song lyrics. The researchers then chose a few songs from the album and examined them, searching for various kinds of figurative language.

Data collection steps include: 1) browsing Genius.com website, 2) locating song lyrics scripts, 3) collecting data, 4) using Genius.com to copy song lyrics, 5) reading and identifying each of figurative language; and 6) gathering all types of figurative language that uses news as data. For example, You Are Not Alone song in line 14-15 (*Billie jean is not my lover, she's just a girl who claims that I am the one*) is Metaphor.

In analyzing the data, there were 4 steps of procedures, such as:

1. Mentioning all the Michael Jackson's songs into a table.
2. Classifying the figurative language into each group.
3. Finding the words, phrases or even sentences from a lyric then classified it into each group.
4. Interpreting metaphorical language's meanings. The researcher was employ the table to interpreting metaphorical language's meaning. The researcher was made a table that contains the kinds of metaphorical language used and their corresponding meanings in the song's lyrics.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION (HASIL DAN PEMBAHASAN)

No.	Song Title	Figurative Language
1	You Are Not Alone	Metaphor, Hyperbole, Personification Repetition
2	Billie Jean	Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Hyperbole, Idiom

3	Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough	Anaphora, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Allusion, Simile
4	Thriller	Personification, Hyperbole, Repetition, Metaphor
5	The Way You Make Me Feel	Metaphor, Repetition, Hyperbole
6	Stranger in Moscow	Metaphor, Personification
7	Bad	Metaphor, Personification, Hyperbole
8	Man in the Mirror	Personification, Metaphor, Simile, Hyperbole
9	HIStory	Metaphor, Hyperbole
10	Rock With You	Metaphor, Personification, Hyperbole, Synecdoche, Imagery
11	2 Bad	Repetition, Personification
12	Scream	Onomatopoeia, Metaphor, Hyperbole
13	Money	Synecdoche, Personification, Metonymy
14	Remember The Time	Metaphor, Simile, Personification
15	Heal The World	Personification, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Repetition
16	Childhood	Simile, Hyperbole, Metaphor, Personification
17	They Don't Care About Us	Metaphor, Hyperbole, Personification, Anaphora
18	Earth Song	Metaphor, Personification, Hyperbole
19	Black or White	Simile, Metaphor, Hyperbole, Personification
20	I Just Can't Stop Loving You	Allusion, Hyperbole

After reading the song lyrics, there are 86 datas that consist of 5 Similes, 23 Metaphors, 21 Personifications, 2 Allusions, 2 Anaphoras, 2 Idioms, 1 Onomatopoeia, 1 Metonymy, 3 Synecdoches, 20 Hyperboles, 5 Repetitions and 1 Imagery.

Simile**a. Data SML.BJ.1**

"The kid is not my son." This data is in the song Billie Jean.

This data is Simile because to compare the child to speaker's son.

b. Data SML.BJ.2

"She was more like a beauty queen from a movie scene." This data is in the song Billie Jean.

This data is Simile because the comparison between "she" and a beauty queen from a movie scene in the phrase "more like a beauty queen from a movie scene" is made with the adverb "like." This analogy enriches the reader's mental picture of "she" and the description of her.

c. Data SML.DSTYGE3

"I'm melting (I'm melting), like hot candle wax." This data is in the song Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough.

This data is Simile because in order to relate the topic (the speaker) to hot candle wax and convey the idea that they are both melting, the phrase "like hot candle wax" is employed.

d. Data SML.MITM.4

"I'm asking him to change his ways." This data is in the song Man in the Mirror.

This data is Simile because the speaker is likened to the man in the mirror. The speaker would think of himself as the same person as the man in the mirror, according to the analogy, and he might be able to alter his own behavior.

e. Data SML.MITM.5

"I'm starting with the man in the mirror." This data is in the song Man in the Mirror.

This data is Simile because the speaker and the figure in the mirror are contrasted. The need for transformation and the need of introspection are shown by this comparison.

Metaphor

a. Data MTPR.YANA.1

You are not alone. " This data is in the song You Are Not Alone.

The data is Metaphor because it makes a physical comparison between being alone and how lonely we feel.

b. Data MTPR.YANA.2

"You are not alone, I am here with you." This data is in the song You Are Not Alone.

The data is Metaphor because to convey emotional support and friendship, the speaker use the metaphor of being physically present.

c. Data MTPR.BJ.3

"Billie Jean is not my lover, she's just a girl who claims that I am the one." This data is in the song Billie Jean.

This data is Metaphor because the speaker compares Billie Jean to his lover symbolically, emphasizing that she is not his romantic relationship.

d. Data MTPR.DSTYGE.4

"Keep on with the force, don't stop / don't stop 'til you get enough." This data is in the song Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough.

This data is Metaphor because the force is a metaphor for the energy, drive, or motivation to pursue something farther.

e. Data MTPR.T.5

"Thriller, thriller night." This data is in the song Thriller.

This data is Metaphor because equating the night to a thrilling and suspenseful event.

f. Data MTPR.T.6

"And something evil's lurking in the dark." This data is in the song Thriller.

This data is Metaphor because in this instance, the reader is given a clear and powerful mental picture of the darkness as a lurking demonic force. By evoking a sense of peril or dread, the metaphor gives the description depth and intensity.

g. Data MTPR.TWYMMF.7

¹⁵ "*The way you make me feel.*" This data is in the song *The Way You Make Me Feel*.

This data is Metaphor because is used to describe a range of emotions, including excitement, passion, and desire.

h. Data MTPR.TWYMMF.8

"*You knock me off of my feet.*" This data is in the song *The Way You Make Me Feel*.

This data is Metaphor because the metaphor of being physically thrown off balance is used to illustrate the overpowering effect the person has on the vocalist.

i. Data MTPR.SIM.9

"*Stranger in Moscow.*" This data is in the song *Stranger in Moscow*.

This data is Metaphor because to portray the speaker's sense of loneliness and alienation in his personal life as well as in Moscow.

j. Data MTPR.B.10

"*Your butt is mine.*" This data is in the song *Bad*.

This data is Metaphor because the speaker's domination or authority over someone is implied.

k. Data MTPR.MITM.11

¹ "*I'm starting with the man in the mirror.*" This data is in the song *Man in the Mirror*.

This data is Metaphor because the statement implies that the speaker will begin by altering how he views himself. The mirror stands in for the speaker's personal self-reflection.

l. Data MTPR.MITM.12

"*Man in the mirror.*" This data is in the song Man in the Mirror.

This data is Metaphor because refers to a person's reflection and denotes self-reflection and personal growth symbolically.

m. Data MTPR.H.13

"*Every day create your history.*" This data is in the song HIStory.

This data is Metaphor because this line contrasts the act of writing a personal history with the process of living and making decisions.

n. Data MTPR.RWY.14

"*Rock With You.*" This data is in the song Rock With You.

This data is Metaphor because with the song's fast speed and enticing tune, the speaker is inviting the audience to dance along with him.

o. Data MTPR.RWY.15

"*And when the groove is dead and gone.*" This data is in the song Rock With You.

This data is Metaphor because the groove is likened to a living being, with the possibility of death, underlining the importance of rhythm and music.

p. Data MTPR.S.16

"*Scream.*" This data is in the song Scream.

This data is Metaphor because the sound of a scream is contrasted with the sound of music.

q. Data MTPR.S.17

"*Tired of injustice.*" This data is in the song Scream.

This data is Metaphor because used metaphorically to convey the sense of being abused or oppressed.

r. Data MTPR.RTT.18

¹ "Remember the time when we first met, girl / Remember the time." This data is in the song Remember The Time.

This data is Metaphor because the statement uses the word "met" metaphorically to relate the act of remembering a certain period to the act of meeting someone for the first time.

s. Data MTPR.HTW.19

⁶ "Make a little space, make a better place." This data is in the song Heal The World.

This data is Metaphor because implies that we can better the world by making room in our hearts and lives for others.

t. Data MTPR.C.20

⁴ "No one understands me, they view it as such strange eccentricities." This data is in the song Childhood.

This data is Metaphor because to express what it's like to be different and misunderstood.

u. Data MTPR.TDCAU.21

¹⁰ "Beat me, hate me, you can never break me." This data is in the ¹⁰ song They Don't Care About Us.

This data is Metaphor because that he is strong and unyielding, that no matter how hard people try to hurt him or bring him down.

v. Data MTPR.ES.22

⁶ "What about sunrise? What about rain? What about all the things that you said we were to gain?" This data is in the song Earth Song.

This data is Metaphor because the questions concerning rain and sunrise serve as metaphors for the splendor and abundance of nature, highlighting the destruction and environmental carelessness.

w. Data MTPR.BOW.23

¹⁹ "I'm not gonna spend my life being a color." This data is in the song Black or White.

The data is Metaphor because the speaker's refusal to define himself purely in terms of his race is demonstrated by the analogy between his life and a hue.

CONCLUSION/KESIMPULAN

Based on the analysis of the previous chapter, there are many kinds of figurative language are used in the Michael Jackson's Songs Album History: Past, Present and Future, Book I. First of all, *You Are Not Alone* song has 4 figurative languages. There are 2 Metaphors, 2 Hyperboles, 2 Personifications and 1 Repetition. *Billie Jean* song has 5 figurative languages. There are 2 Similes, 1 Metaphor, 1 Personification, 2 Hyperboles and 2 Idioms. *Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough* song has 5 figurative languages. There are 1 Anaphora, 1 Metaphor, 1 Hyperbole, 1 Allusion and 1 Simile. *Thriller* song has 4 figurative languages. There are 2 Personifications, 2 Hyperboles, 1 Repetition and 2 Metaphors. *The Way You Make Me Feel* song has 3 figurative languages. There are 2 Metaphors, 1 Repetition and 1 Hyperbole. *Stranger in Moscow* song has 2 figurative languages. There are 1 Metaphor and 2 Personifications. *Bad* song has 3 figurative languages. There are 1 Metaphor, 2 Personifications and 1 Hyperbole. *Man in the Mirror* song has 4 figurative languages. There are 3 Personifications, 2 Metaphors, 2 Similes and 1 Hyperbole. *HIStory* song has 2 figurative languages. There are 1 Metaphor and 1 Hyperbole. *Rock With You* song has 5 figurative languages. There are 2 Metaphors, 1 Personification, 1 Hyperbole, 1 Synecdoche and 1 Imagery. *2 Bad* song has 2 figurative languages. There are 1 Repetition and 1 Personification. *Scream* song has 3 figurative languages. There are 1 Onomatopoeia, 2 Metaphors and 1 Hyperbole. *Money* song has 3 figurative languages. There are 2 Synecdoches, 1 Personification and 1 Metonymy. *Remember The Time* song has 3 figurative languages. There are 1 Metaphor, 2 Similes and 1 Personification. *Heal The World* song has 4 figurative languages. There are 1 Personification, 1 Metaphor, 2 Hyperboles, and 1 Repetition. *Childhood* song has 4 figurative languages. There are 1 Simile, 2 Hyperboles, 1 Metaphor and 1 Personification. *They Don't Care About Us* song has 4 figurative languages. There are 1 Metaphor, 1 Hyperbole, 1 Personification and 1 Anaphora. *Earth Song* song has 3 figurative languages. There are 1 Metaphor, 1 Personification and 1 Hyperbole. *Black or White* song has 4 figurative languages. There are 1 Simile, 1 Metaphor, 1 Hyperbole and 1 Personification. The last but no least, *I Just Can't Stop Loving You* song has 2 figurative languages. There are 1 Allusion and 1 Hyperbole.

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