



Comparative Figures of Speech in the Collection of Reality Club's Songs: A Semantic Study

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify the types of figures of comparison in the collection of Reality Club's Songs and the meanings contained. This study used the theory of types of figures of comparison by Kennedy (1983) and the theory of meaning according to (Lyons, 1968). The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative method. This study begins with gathering information, collecting data, identifying the problems, classifying the data, analyzing the data and finally making conclusions. The results show that from 57 study data found in the collection of Reality Club songs, there are 4 types of figures of comparison with the following description, 32 data (56%) of metaphor, 9 data (16%) of personification, 5 data (9%) of hyperbole, 11 data (19%) of simile. Based on the form of meaning, there are 54 data (95%) of connotative meaning and 3 data (5%) of denotative meaning. This study concludes that the type of figures of comparison in the collection of Reality Club's songs is dominated by the type of metaphorical comparison. Meanwhile, the meaning of comparison is dominated by connotative meaning.

Keywords: *semantics, figures of comparison, meaning.*

I. Background

Language and linguistics have a close relationship because language is the main object of study in linguistics. Linguistics is the study of how language works [1]. Additionally, linguistics is also concerned with the meaning conveyed by its native speakers. The process carried out by listeners and readers involves connecting new information with old information. In linguistics, the branch of study that examines meaning is semantics, and one of the topics in semantics is figurative language or figures of speech [2].

Figurative language, or commonly known as figures of speech, is a way of expressing thoughts through language in a distinctive manner that reflects one's soul and personality [3]. Figures of speech function as literary devices because of their expressive use of language [4]. Figures of speech are often found in musical works or songs, as songs frequently use figurative language. Reality Club is an indie rock

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V. Mardiansyah and R. A. E. V. Targa Sapanji (eds.), *Proceedings of the 1st Widyatama International Conference on Management, Social Science and Humanities (ICMSSH 2024)*, Advances in

Social Science, Education and Humanities Research 886,

https://doi.org/10.2991/978-94-6463-608-6_5

band from Jakarta, Indonesia, formed in 2016. Reality Club is known for their catchy songs and poetic lyrics. The data for this research is taken from a collection of song lyrics by Reality Club, which contain many figures of speech

Figures of speech are grouped into four types, one of which is comparative figures of speech. A figure of speech is used to compare or express something in terms of something else [5].

Example (1) :

"Just like a certain motorbike gang from charming"

"I am falling in love with Alexandra"

In the example 1, phrase of *"Just like a certain motorbike gang from charming"* contains a comparative figure of speech, *Simile*, because it is used to compare something with something else. The phrase 'just like' indicates that a comparison is being made between two things. In this context, the phrase 'Just like a certain motorbike gang from Charming' compares the motorbike gang with Alexandra. Based on the phrase 'just like,' the meaning conveyed is connotative. This is because Alexandra is likened to a group of motorbike gangs from Charming. From the explanation above, this research describes various types of comparative figures of speech and the meanings contained in each lyric performed by Reality Club..

Based on the explanation above, the problems of identification of this research are (1) to find out types of comparative figures of speech in the collection of Reality Club songs, and (2) to find the meaning contained in the comparative figures of speech in the collection of Reality Club songs

II. Research Method

2.1 Method

The research method used is a qualitative descriptive research method. The qualitative descriptive method is an approach used to understand and explain social phenomena by collecting qualitative data. According to [6] the objectives of qualitative research generally include information about the main phenomena explored in the research, research participants, and research locations.

2.2 Research Objectives

The research objectives of this study are to find out the types of comparative figures of speech in the collection of Reality Club Songs and to find out their meanings contained in the collection of song lyrics by Reality Club

III. Literature Review

3.1 Semantics

Semantics comes from the word *semanticos* in Greek which means 'sign' or 'symbol'. This word was first discovered by a French philologist named Michel Breal. Semantics is a field of linguistics dedicated to the study of the meaning contained in language and the meaning inherent in it at the level of words, phrases, sentences, or texts. As stated by [7] that "*Semantics is generally defined as the study of meaning*". It means that semantics is the study of meaning. As experts have explained, semantics allows us to investigate and understand the meaning contained in language, both at the level of words, phrases, sentences and the text as a whole.

3.2 Figure of Speech

Figure of speech is a form of expression that uses figures of speech to convey meaning beyond literal interpretation. [8] defines that "figure of speech is a figurative word or language style". Figures of speech are also an interesting element in reading. According to [9]. "*Authors have different styles in expressing each idea in their writing. Every piece of writing produced will have a style that is influenced by the writer,*" so it can be said that the character of a writer greatly influences the work he produces. As stated by [10] that "figurative language is one of semantic relations that commonly used in poetry, song lyrics, and nonfiction writing as well. They also claimed that "figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal meaning."

3.3 Comparative Figure of Speech

According to [11] "*Comparative figurative language is a term used to refer to any figurative language a writer uses to express a point by comparing objects to other objects.*" From this definition it can be interpreted that a comparative figure of speech is a figure of speech that is used to compare or express something else. This comparative figure of speech aims to clarify, embellish, or emphasize an idea or concept by comparing it with something else that is better known or clearer to the reader or listener. Comparative figures of speech in the author's research include: metaphor, personification, hyperbole and simile.

A. Metaphor

Metaphorical figures of speech are the use of words without actual meaning, but rather as images based on comparisons or similarities [12]. The term metaphor is derived from the words "*meta*" which means above and "*pherein*" which means to carry. However, according to [13] the main function of metaphor is as a stylistic or rhetorical ornament, especially a figure of speech. [14] added that this figure of speech is used to beautify expressions. Metaphor has been shown to

play an important role in L1 educational contexts to clarify abstract or new concepts according to [15] in Cameron, 2003; Deignan et al., 2017. Some examples of metaphorical figures of speech are as follows: Example (2): "*Time is a thief.*"

In example (2) above, "time" is compared to "a thief". In this context, time is like a thief because time can "steal" precious moments in our lives without us realizing it. This figure of speech can provide a more powerful and emotional picture of how time can pass quickly and take something valuable from us, such as memories, opportunities, or even youth.

B. Personification

According to [16] "personification is a kind of figurative language style depicting inanimate objects or goods lifeless as if they have human nature" which means that personification figures of speech are figures of speech that describe lifeless or inanimate objects so that the characteristics or appear to be like humans. Personification applies human characteristics to inanimate objects, equating these objects with humans, including having characteristics, abilities, thoughts and feelings such as several examples of personification figures of speech, as follows:

Example (3): "The wind whispered through the trees."

The sentence in example (3) uses a personification figure of speech by giving human characteristics to the wind. In this context, the wind is likened to whispering like humans. Of course, the wind cannot actually whisper, but this personification gives a more vivid and poetic picture of how the wind moves through the trees with a gentle sound.

C. Hyperbole

Hyperbole is a sentence that contains an exaggerated statement so that it can magnify something [17], "Hyperbole is a kind of figure of speech that contains an exaggerated statement, exaggerating a thing". Meanwhile [18] argues that "Hyperbole is an overstatement of the literal exaggeration", which means that hyperbole is an exaggerated statement of something literal and exaggerated.

Example (4): "I've told you a million times not to do that."

The sentence in example (4) above uses hyperbole to exaggerate the amount of time someone spends telling other people not to do something. Of course, the person didn't actually repeat the advice a million times.

D. Simile

A simile is a figure of speech comparing two things which are essentially different and which are deliberately considered to be the same. According to [19], "Simile is used as a means of comparing things that are essentially unlike", meaning that simile is used as a means of comparing things that are essentially different. Expressions with explicit comparisons expressed with prepositions and conjunctions, which in English are 'just', 'like' and so on. The following is an example of a simile, as follows:

Example (5): "Her laughter was like music to his ears."

The sentence in example (5) uses a simile by comparing her laughter with music. A simile is used here to show that the person's laughter gives a very pleasant and refreshing impression to other people

IV. Meaning

Meaning is an idea or concept that can be transferred from the mind of the speaker to the mind of the listener to realize them as if in the form of one language or another [20].

According to [21], based on the presence or absence of additional meaning, meaning is divided into two, namely connotative and denotative meaning. Connotative meaning is meaning that has additional meaning. Denotative meaning is a meaning that does not have additional meaning

4.1 Denotative Meaning

Denotative or conceptual meaning is the meaning of a word that is based on a direct (straightforward) designation of a thing or object outside of language. Direct meaning or straightforward meaning is objective, because it directly refers to the object. So, this denotative meaning concerns objective factual information.

According to [22], denotative meaning is the basic meaning. Where everyone will agree and understand the meaning denotatively. Apart from that, the denotative meaning is the meaning of a word which is based on a direct, plain, and what it is. Therefore, the denotative meaning is often referred to as the true meaning.

Example (5) *The tree in the backyard is very tall.*

Based on example (5), *The tree in the backyard is very tall.* In this sentence, *tree* only means *tree* as a type of plant without additional meaning or other associations.

4.2 Connotative Meaning

Connotative meaning is the opposite of denotative meaning. If the denotative meaning includes the actual meaning of the word, the connotative meaning is the opposite, which is also called figurative meaning. According to [23] connotative meaning is the communicative value that an expression has based on what it refers to, beyond its mere conceptual content. Furthermore, connotative meaning can be described as the meaning given to words or groups of words as a comparison so that what is meant is clear and interesting. In other words, connotative meaning is the aspect of the meaning of a word or group of words that is based on feelings or thoughts that arise or are evoked in the speaker (writer) and listener (reader).

Example (6): *I'm feeling blue. 'I feel sad'*

Based on Example (6), 'blue' is a color that means 'blue', but in this context, 'blue' refers to feeling sad or gloomy. This is an example of how color can be used in language to describe emotions.

V. Finding and Discussion

5.1 Finding

Table 1: Number of Comparative Figures of Speech Findings

Comparative Figures of Speech	Total	%
Metaphor	32	56.14%
Personification	9	15.79%
Hyperbole	5	8.77%
Simile	11	19.30%
Total	57	100%

Table 2: Meaning of Comparative Figures of Speech

Comparative Figures of Speech	Meaning			
	Denotative		Connotative	
	Total	%	Total	%
Metaphor				
Personification	3	5.26%	54	94.74%
Hyperbole				
Simile				

5.2 Discussion

5.2.1 Metaphor

Data 1

“Your right hand is not a man”

(Title: *You Let Her Go Again*, Baris ke-4 dan 5)

The lyric above is a type of metaphor of figure of speech because it conveys and compares one thing with another. This lyric is a comparative metaphor because there is a comparison between the sentences right hand and man. According to the songwriter, Faiz, the word right hand can be associated with a "confidant." is not a man, which means "not a man", the word man is associated with someone who has a lot of experience.

The type of meaning used in the lyric is a connotative meaning because in the context of the lyric, the meaning is in the form of conveying an image. ‘Your right hand is not a man’ means that someone's right hand is not someone who has a lot of experience. In the phrase ‘Your right hand is not a man’, Faiz also added that the trusted person in this song is a person with little experience who may not know more.

Data 2**“Over the arching hills there is a fire”**

...

“In that place, desire”(Title: *Desire*, Baris ke-1 dan ke-2)

In the lyric “Over the arching hills, there is a fire”, it is included in the metaphorical comparative figure of speech because it compares the arching hill with fire. the arching hills are described as something to be achieved. but fire shows something dangerous that will happen at the end of the journey.

In the lyric “Over the arching hills there is a fire,... In that place, desire” which means "On top of the arching hills there is fire" "in that place, desire" is a type of connotative meaning because it conveys an image or feeling indirectly by using the sentence. Image namely nature such as the words arching hills and "fire" which also has the meaning or intention, namely a problem, conflict, or something dangerous,

5.2.2 Personification**Data 3****“We’ve had our eyes locked for a while”**(Title: *Am I Bothering You?*, Baris ke-2)

The data above is included in the type of personification figure of speech because according to the songwriters, Faiz and Chia, they want to feel an intense interaction with someone by using the phrase “eyes locked” which means two people are looking at each other as if there is a deep connection between the two of them. The author uses human characteristics in inanimate objects to express them, so the lyrics are a figure of speech for personification.

Based on the data above, “We’ve had our eyes locked for a while”, which literally means "Our eyes were locked for a while". The phrase "Eyes locked" is a personification figure of speech which contains connotative meaning because it is figurative. The phrase "eyes locked" suggests more than just the physical act of looking; this implies a strong emotional interaction and connectedness between two individuals.

Data 4**“The night’s still young and there’s still so much to gain”**(Title: *Anything You Want*, Baris ke-17 dan 18)

The figure of speech contained in the lyric above is a type of personification figure of speech because there are expressions that compare inanimate objects to living objects. The expression "The night's still young..." The term 'young' is usually an expression that can only be attached to living things, not to inanimate objects like "the night". This lyric clearly contains personification figures of speech.

In the lyric "The night's still young and there's still so much to gain" is an expression that contains connotative meaning. This expression illustrates that "the night" means night in the form of an inanimate object that cannot be aged, while the word "young" is synonymous with the age possessed by living creatures, such as humans or animals. The lyric "The night's still young" is a figurative expression that implies that there is still a lot of time left in the evening to do various activities.

"Young" here is used figuratively to indicate that the evening is still in its early stages. "There's still so much to gain" implies that there are many opportunities or experiences to be had during the remainder of the evening.

5.2.3 Hyperbole

Data 5

"Think I dug myself a grave"

(Title: *Dancing in the Breeze Alone*, Baris ke-10)

Based on the lyric above, there is a figure of speech that is hyperbole because it means that the songwriter thinks he is digging a grave for himself, which is an extreme action and is usually not an activity that is carried out literally in

everyday life. It is included in the figure of speech of hyperbole because it describes situations or actions that are very exaggerated or exaggerate the negative impacts experienced by someone.

The lyric "Think I dug myself a grave" contain connotative meaning. "I think I dug myself a grave" can describe that the author feels a state of despair or difficulty, "Dug myself a grave" is a figurative expression that does not literally mean someone has dug a grave for himself, but rather refers to the action or decisions that result in serious consequences.

Data 6

"I'd wait 500 million hours on a park bench out on the moon"

(Title: *Alexandra*, Baris ke-7)

The lyric above fall into the type of figure of speech of hyperbole because the author states that he will wait 500 million hours to wait for someone he likes. "I'd wait 500 million hours on a park bench out on the moon" is included in the figure of speech of hyperbole because it describes a very exaggerated situation.

The meaning contained in the lyric "I'd wait 500 million hours on a park bench out on the moon" is a connotative meaning. In a connotative context, the sentence "I'd wait 500 million hours on a park bench out on the moon" implies the impossibility of something happening from that situation. This not only shows great desire or loyalty, but also depicts something far from reality, because waiting on a park bench on the moon is something that would be impossible in real life

5.2.4 Simile

Data 7

"Just like a certain motorbike gang from charming"

...

"I am Falling in love with Alexandra"

(Title: *Alexandra*, Baris ke-1 dan ke-22)

The lyrics above are included in the simile type of figure of speech because in these lyrics, the phrase "Just like a certain motorbike gang from charming" is used to compare several motorbike gangs with someone. In these lyrics, the main character compares several motorbike gangs to **Alexandra**.

The lyric "Just like a certain motorbike gang from charming" contain a connotative meaning because they use a phrase that implies an **Alexandra** who has similar characteristics to the motorbike gang.

Data 8

"Like shadow in the night, follow your every step"

(Title: *Fatal Attraction*, Baris ke-24 dan 25)

The song lyric above includes a simile figure of speech. In this lyric, the phrase "Like a shadow in the night" is used to compare the nature or behavior of something to a shadow in the night. By using the word "like," the songwriter

conveys that something resembles or has characteristics similar to a shadow in the night, namely following someone's every step closely. So the lyric is a type of simile figure of speech because it uses the word "like" to compare something.

The song lyric above contains a connotative meaning because it is a figurative language. The phrase "shadow in the night" can be interpreted as something dark, mysterious, and follows without being seen, like shadows in the night.

VI. Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis from this research, it is concluded:

1. There are four types of comparative figures of speech found in the collection of Reality Club songs with the following descriptions: 32 figures of speech for metaphors, 9 figures of speech for personification, 5 figures of speech for hyperbole, 11 data for figures of speech for similes. The type of comparative figure of speech that most often appears in Reality Club songs is metaphor. This happens because typical songs by Reality Club often illustrate one concept with another.
2. Judging from the form of meaning, there are two types of meaning found in the collection of comparative figures of speech, namely: 54 data of connotative meaning and 3 data of denotative meaning. The more dominant form of meaning is connotative meaning. Based on the figure of speech phenomenon, connotative data appears more often because figure of speech is a language full of figures of speech, one of which is in song lyrics. Song lyrics usually contain figurative language, especially in songs by Reality Club

Acknowledgement: The completion of this research paper would not have been possible without the support and guidance of Puspita Sari, S.S., M. Hum, my supervisor of English Department of Widyatama University. Her dedication and overwhelming attitude towards helping her students is solely responsible for completing my research paper. The encouragement and insightful feedback were instrumental in accomplishing this task. I thank all the staff of English Department for their cooperation and kind support throughout my research period. Special thanks to the examiners of this research, Dr. Hendar, Drs., M. Pd and Dianita, S.S., M. Hum for contributive advice and suggestions.. Their extraordinary contributions have greatly improved the quality of this paper.

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