

AN ANALYSIS FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN WHITE SWAN SONG LYRICS

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Abstract

This study aims to find out the types of imagery and the meaning of imagery in the White Swans album *Cygnus*. Ten songs by White Swan served as the data source. This study used an observational method to collect the data. In this study, a descriptive qualitative method was used to analyze the data. This study applied the theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) to find out the types of figurative language. To answer the second problem, this study used Leech's (1981) theory of meaning, which focused on analyzing the data source based on the types of meaning, such as conceptual meaning and connotative meaning. The result of this study shows that 20 dates contained imagery. Based on the analysis, this study found 6 types of imagery in the White Swan *Cygnus* album. There are 6 (30%) exaggeration data, 4 (20%) metaphor data, 4 (20%) personification data, 4 (20%) simile data, 1 (5%) metonymy data, and 1 (5%) data on the paradox. The results of this study are equally dominant imagery found in the *Cygnus* White Swan album such as B. Hyperbola with a total of 6 (30%). It can be found dominant as exaggerations used in context can enhance the ability to understand the message being sent by the speaker and generally convey the feelings or emotions. The results emphasize the album's symbolic representation and the significance of deciphering its meaning. This work expands our understanding of musical imagery and provides new directions for future investigation.

Keywords: *Cygnus Album, Figurative Language, Meaning, White Swan*

INTRODUCTION

Humans created a system consisting of spoken and written symbols to help them communicate, and it is called language. According to Maftuhah (2018), language plays a crucial part in human communication, which includes exchanging information, working with others, and even conducting buying and selling transactions, among other things. In daily life, human does not only deliver denotative meaning but sometimes connotative meaning within the communication. The use of connotative meaning has the purpose to enhance a certain meaning to deliver a message aesthetically. In linguistics, expressions with connotative meaning are called figurative language. Reaskse (1996:27) states that figurative language is language which employs various figures of speech. Figurative language is a kind of language that departs from the language employed the traditional literal ways of describing persons of object. It is usually immediately obvious whether a writer is using figurative language or literal language.

According to Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963), figurative language is also known as metaphorical language or simply metaphor since it involves transferring meaning from the literal meaning to the figurative style. Many authors employ this linguistic style to describe their feelings about something, with the added benefit of understanding every syllable of their work. Figurative

language refers to a large range of diverse methods to express something. Imagery can be found in works of literature such as poems, films, and song lyrics. Songwriters usually utilize metaphorical language to conceal the true content of their songs and express it poetically. For some reason, analyzing the imagery of the lyrics is significant since it can lead to a deeper comprehension of their meaning.

This study was taken from an album from White Swan. According to White Swan's official website, White Swan is a rock band from Denpasar which was formed on October 7th, 2016. White Swan in 2019 was nominated for the best rock album at Anugrah Musik Indonesia. This study analyses from song lyrics of White Swan's album "Cygnus". The purpose of this research was to examine the figurative language employed in the lyrics of White Swan's album "Cygnus." The research was carried out by reading and reviewing relevant thesis on simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole figures of speech in song lyrics. As a reference, the first study linked to this topic, "Figurative Language in the Song Lyrics of Passenger's Album All the Little Lights," was employed. The purpose of this research was to examine the figurative language employed in the lyrics of White Swan's album "Cygnus". The research was carried out by reading and reviewing relevant thesis on simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole figures of speech in song lyrics. As a reference, the first study linked to this topic, "Figurative Language in the Song Lyrics of Passenger's Album All the Little Lights" by Permana P & Rajeg (2018) was employed. The second journal related to this study entitled "Analysis Of Hyperbole In Album The Chainsmoker" was written by Astina et al. (2021) the third study entitled "Types Of Figurative Language in Miley Cyrus's Song" was written by Krisnawati et al. (2021) the fourth journal entitled "The Analysis of Figurative Language on Passenger Song Lyric in Runaway Album" was written by Palguna et al. (2021) and the last study entitled "Analysis of Figurative Language in Easy On Me Song Lyrics" was written by Swarniti (2022).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The first study was taken from a thesis written by Kusmirayanti et al. (2022) titled "Analysis of figurative language in the original soundtrack of Frozen". The previous thesis focused on analyzing figurative language and its meaning. The previous study used the theory of Perrine (1992). This previous study to classify types of speech and used Leech (1981)) theory to analyze the meaning of figurative language. Previous research has discovered eight (8) types of figurative language used in the Frozen soundtrack as well as; simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, symbolism, paradox, understatement, and exaggeration. The apostrophe is one of the main types of figurative language used in the Frozen soundtrack. Compared with the previous study, the similarities with 12 recent studies all used figurative language as the research topic. The difference is the data source and the theory. Kusmirayanti et al., (2022) used Perrine's (1982) theory and the data source for earlier research was from the original Frozen Soundtrack. The data source for this study was then taken from the lyrics of the song White Swan. This study uses the theory of Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963) to analyze the type of figurative language.

Elfita's (2021) thesis, "Figurative Language Analysis in William's Poems The Little Black Boy and The Echoing Green," focuses on studying figurative language and its significance. The author employed Perrine (1992) theory in the previous study, which included 7 similes, 4 metaphors, 4 personifications, 1 synecdoche, 5 metonymies, 3 symbols, 2 paradoxes, 3 hyperbolas, 9 understatements, and 2 ironies. Understatement is prevalent throughout William's poetry. In assessing the significance of Leech (1981) earlier work. The prior study and the present study are comparable in that they both research the same issue, namely figurative language. The distinctions were in the data source and the hypothesis. The prior study applied Perrine's (1982) theory, and the data came from William's Poem. Meanwhile, the current study's data comes from the lyrics of White Swan. This research examined the kind of figurative language using Knickerbocker & W. Reninger's (1963)) theory.

The third research was derived from the paper "An Analysis of Figurative Language in CNN

International News Headlines Post on Facebook" by Kasma et al., (2021) Their research focuses on evaluating figurative language and its meaning. They applied Perrine's thesis from his book "Literature, Structure, Sound, and Sense" as well as Leech (1981) theory of Study of Meaning. Their findings may be summarized as follows: they discover four varieties of figurative language, including metonymy, simile, and exaggeration. Metonymy is the most common kind. The issue explored in both research is similar; both studies examined metaphorical language. However, the study's distinctions are the data source and the hypothesis. The data for their study came from CNN International News, and the previous study utilized Perrine's (2018) theory to examine the type of figurative language discovered, but this study used Leech's (1985) theory to assess the meaning of figurative language found. Meanwhile, this research uses Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963) writer theory to assess the type of figurative language. The data for this study was derived from the lyrics of White Swan's songs.

The fourth study was derived from an article named "The Analysis of Figurative Language on Passenger Song Lyric in Runaway Album" published by Palguna et al. (2021) The prior research concentrated on figurative language and its meaning. The previous study applied Arp and Perrine's (2018) theory to examine the varieties of figurative language, and the researchers discovered six categories: personification, metaphor, imagery, simile, symbol, and overstatement. Meanwhile, they employed Leech (1981) theory to determine the meaning. The similarity is utilized figurative language is the research subject, and the theory of Leech (1981) is used to assess the meaning of figurative language. The study's distinctions, however, are the data source and the hypothesis. Their 14 experiments employed data from Passenger's Runaway Album as their data source, and they used Arp & Perrine's (2018) theory to evaluate the data. The figurative language utilized in this study was analyzed using the theory from Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963) and the data were gathered from the lyrics of a song by White Swan.

The fifth research was adapted from Rusadi, Pratiwi, and Santika's essay "The Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Twilight Saga Poem by Stephenie Mayers" published in 2022. Analyzing figurative language and its meaning was the main emphasis of the prior study. The previous study utilized the theory from Perrine (1977) to assess the kind of figurative language and the theory from Leech (1981) to analyze the meaning. The findings of their study may be summed up as follows: they discovered 17 pieces of information, including similes, metaphors, personifications, synecdoches, symbols, exaggeration, and irony. The topic of the study is how metaphorical language is comparable. Additionally, the study's data source and theory are different from other studies' data sources and theories. The data source of their study was taken from the Twilight Saga poem and used the theory of Perrine (1977). The author's theory from Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963) was used in this study to assess the type of figurative language and validated Leech's (1981) theory of meaning. White Swan song lyrics were chosen as the source of the information in this study.

The originality of this work is found in its analysis of the many forms and connotations of images in the setting of the White Swans album *Cygnus*. While the use of imagery in music has been somewhat studied, this research adds to the field by examining the imagery on this album in particular and finding six different forms of imagery. In addition, the use of Leech's theory of meaning and Knickerbocker and Reninger's theory of figurative language offers a special framework for studying and understanding the imagery. The results of this study bring new knowledge to the body of literature on imagery in music by shedding light on the unique imagery strategies used by the White Swans and their effect on creative expression and communication in the *Cygnus* album.

METHOD

The album "Cygnus" by White Swan served as the research's data source. Rock is the album's genre, and it was released in April 2019. White Swan's album "Cygnus" was picked because it contains songs from the band's birthplace in the galaxy, which is thought to be able to

transmit positive energy like the constellations themselves. The analysis of songs using metaphorical language is very fascinating. The 10 tracks picked from the “Cygnus” album's ten song lyrics are “Ventured,” “Nicotiana,” “Rock 'n' Roll Lady,” “Wolf in Sheep's Skin,” “Delusion,” “Cygnus,” “Doctor Element,” “The Sun,” “Bow Surfer,” and “Liar.” The song's lyrics were taken directly from <https://genius.com/albums/White-swan/Cygnus>. Genius was known as a website or platform for musician to upload their official lyrics to Genius’ website.

The observational approach was employed in this study to get the data. In a buying or consuming situation, the method of observation is the human or mechanical observation of what individuals are doing or what events are occurring. The process of gathering the data included numerous phases, including first: The lyrics need first be downloaded from Genius through the internet. To get the song's meaning, pay close attention to the song and listen to it several times. Third: Highlight the sentence in this song that uses metaphorical language. Fourth: Data classification according to visual kinds.

The data analysis for this study employed the descriptive qualitative approach. Using the approach of Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963), the first stage in this study was to determine the different forms of figurative language that were present in the data set. The ten categories of figurative language identified by Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963) are simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, exaggeration, irony, paradox, dead metaphor, and allusion. To better grasp the meaning of song lyrics, the second phase is analyzing the imagery employed in the White Swan Cygnus album in light of Leech's (1981) theory.

This study's findings are provided in both formal and informal formats. The tabular data is provided formally, whilst the explanation of the analysis is offered informally. To make the results of the data analysis obvious and simple to grasp, the study employed tabular data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This part shows the result of the study. This study analyzed White Swan's Cygnus album, which contains ten (10) songs and has figurative language throughout its lyrics. The percentage of imagery used in the songs is shown in the table.

Table 1. The Occurrence of Figurative Language in the Songs

No	Types of Figurative Language	Amount of Data	Percentage
1.	Hyperbole	6	30%
2.	Metaphor	4	20%
3.	Personification	4	20%
4.	Simile	4	20%
5.	Metonymy	1	5%
6.	Paradox	1	5%
Total		20	100%

1. Hyperbole

According to Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963: 367), exaggeration is excessive to elicit a memorable response to a sentence. This type is mostly found in everyday life, for example in advertising. In the White Swan Cygnus album, the researcher found six exaggerations in the song, and the types of meanings implied in the exaggeration used in the song's lyrics can be seen below:

Datum 1:

Gimme some advice

Death in front your eyes

Never late to clear our mind

And open our eyes

(Nicotian, Line: 6)

Here, the lyric “death in front your eyes” was the focus of this data. the use of the word

"death" denotes a very serious and dangerous situation that was portrayed as a literal condition in that someone can see the death itself, perhaps as a mythical figure in the context of a certain religious context. The word choice of death itself might also be tried to reinforce the anxiety or fear experienced by the lyrical subject. That is why, this piece of lyric can be fairly identified as hyperbole since it was used to dramatically manifest or utter something emotional. Hyperbole is usually used for dramatic effects in song lyrics. Based on Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963), these lyrics were explained as the use of strong language to evoke intense feelings and emotions in the listener. The use of the word "death" in these lyrics creates a very frightening and intense image, which can make the listener feel a sense of fear or tension. This aims to strengthen the message in the lyrics that death is a terrible thing.

According to Leech (1981), these lyrics are included in the connotative meaning or meaning associated with feelings or emotions. The use of the word "death" in these lyrics creates a very negative and chilling connotation, which can evoke feelings of fear and horror in the listener. It makes these lyrics more powerful and effective in conveying the message. Overall, the lyrics of the song "death in front of your eyes" use a type of hyperbole in figurative language to create a dramatic effect and reinforce the message in the lyrics.

2. Metaphor

According to Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963:367), said metaphor is implied imagery suggested by as or similarly removed. The metaphor used to be (bin, is, are) to compare different things. There are 4 data metaphors in the Cygnus of White Swan album. The meaning of the lyrics is shown below:

Datum 2:

Cause you are the wolf in sheep's skin
(Wolf in sheep's skin, Line: 23)

Using metaphors and figurative language, the song's line "cause you are the wolf in sheep's skin" is an example. According to Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963) interpretation of these lyrics, the phrase "wolf in sheep's skin" refers to a person who is deceptive or conceals terrible intentions behind an outward look that seems nice or innocent. Someone who looks friendly and fun, but has evil plans or does things that are harmful to other people.

Based on Leech (1981), these lyrics are included in connotative meaning, the words are used in this lyric to express feelings or emotions associated with those words. In this case, the words "wolf" and "sheep's skin" create mental images that express distrust and feelings of insecurity towards someone who may pretend to be a friend but may have ulterior motives.

However, in this metaphor, the lyrics convey that the person in question has traits or characteristics that are unseen or hidden, similar to a wolf disguised in sheep skins. In other words, they may appear good or harmless on the outside, but have evil motives or intentions, and may act in harmful or harmful ways. These metaphors are used to create strong images and enrich the meaning of the lyrics. It helps describe a person's character more interestingly and emotionally and expresses concerns or warnings about their true nature.

3. Personification

Personification endows an object, abstract or animal idea with human characteristics (Knickerbocker & W. Reninger, 1963). In the White Swan Cygnus album, four personifications have been found in the song and the types of meanings involved in the metaphor used in the song's lyrics can be seen below:

Datum 3:

Into the boring time
I want to go out and see the world
I opened the gate
God, this crowd still looking down

(Delusion, Line: 4)

The use of this personification gives a stronger meaning and dramatic effect in the lyrics. In context, these lyrics may describe a crowd of people as an entity that appears to judge, judge, or demean. This can refer to the songwriter's feeling that they feel criticized or put down by the crowd. Personification is used to give a human aspect to non-human objects or entities. The crowd in this scenario can't see or sense in a way that is comparable to that of humans. This enables the listener to understand the songwriter's sentiments for the audience and helps generate a more vivid and emotional image in the lyrics. The song "God, this crowd still looking down" contains metaphorical language, or more specifically, uses personification. According to the idea Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963), the lyrics might be understood to represent emotions of loneliness and isolation that someone who feels excluded from a group or community can experience.

The phrase "crowd still looking down" can refer to a group or community that disparages or dismisses those who feel alone. The lines "God, this crowd still looking down" can be broken down into two meanings, connotative meaning, and conceptual meaning, following theory (Leech, 1981). In this situation, the lyrics' connotative meaning refers to the sense of isolation and loneliness that someone who feels rejected by a group or community could have. The words "God" and "looking down" can also convey deep feelings of frustration or disappointment. Meanwhile, the conceptual meaning of the lyrics is that there are a group of people who still look down on or ignore individuals who feel isolated.

4. Simile

According to Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963:370), a simile is a declaration of proportion that is prefaced with the words like or as. The following list of three similes that were discovered by the researcher in White Swan's *Cygnus Album* and their respective sorts of meanings is taken from the song's lyrics:

Datum 4:

Don't be like peanuts who forget their skins

We don't understand about your feelings

Don't be like peanuts who forget their skins

We don't understand about your feelings

(Ventured, Line: 14)

The message to be conveyed is the importance of respecting and recognizing one's origins, roots, or identity. Like peanuts who remember their skin as an integral part, songwriters want to remind listeners not to forget their essence or true nature. By using similes, these lyrics provide a live and clearer picture of the message to be conveyed to listeners.

A comparison is used in the song "Don't be like peanuts who forget their skins" in figurative language. A simile is a form of metaphorical language that uses terms like "like" or "like" to compare two things that are distinct yet have some similarities. In this instance, the phrase "Don't be like peanuts who forget their skins" contrasts the forgetful person with the forgetful peanut. Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963) assert that similes and another figurative language can evoke strong feelings in readers or listeners by encouraging them to see themselves in the context of the lyrics. This analogy might help the reader or listener understand how crucial it is to understand our beginnings and safeguard them.

According to Leech (1981), this lyric has a connotative meaning. These lyrics can be interpreted as a message so that someone does not forget their origins and respects their roots or origins like peanuts that still have their skins. Conceptually, these lyrics build an understanding of the importance of respecting one's origins and identity.

5. Metonymy

Metonymy, according to Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963), is the act of describing one item by referring to another object that is directly linked to it. The researcher discovered 1 metonymy that is utilized in the song lyrics of White Swan's Cygnus album. Below is a description of the meaning of the album's song that employs a metonymy:

Datum 5:

Fire burn the wood (Will be ashes)

Air like a gas (The fire control)

The strongest water (Destroy a tower)

Green's our last hope, The Earth give safe for us

(Doctor element, Line: 15)

In the context of this lyric, "green" is used to represent nature or a healthy and sustainable environment. The use of metonymy conveys the message that nature or a green environment is the last hope for humans. In other words, sustainability and protection of nature are the keys to sustaining our lives and a good future. This metonymy creates a strong effect and illustrates how important the role of nature is in maintaining human life. By choosing the word "green", these lyrics direct attention to the importance of preserving and caring for nature for the sake of our survival.

From the lyrics of "Green's our last hope", it can be concluded that this song uses a metonymy type of figurative language, where "green" is used as a substitute for or represents something bigger, namely the environment or planet Earth. According to the hypothesis Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963), these lyrics can be understood as a plea for environmental protection, urging us to work to preserve the environment's sustainability as our final hope for preserving the world.

According to Leech (1981), which takes into account connotative meaning, the term "green" refers to everything natural, fresh, and sustainable. In addition, the word "last" also conveys the connotation that there is an urgent need to take appropriate action to protect the environment sustainably before it is too late and the planet is permanently damaged. Therefore, this song can be interpreted as a call to action and to protect our planet.

6. Paradox

According to Knickerbocker & W. Reninger (1963:368), a paradox is an expression of superficialities, which means that although the apparent meaning appears to be illogical and irrational, it makes sense. The researcher discovered 1 contradiction in the songs on the album Cygnus of White Swan, and the different personifications employed in the song lyrics are shown below:

Datum 6:

Wanna try to chase you, Baby

Now you give me a chance

I think we could live together

But you are still the same You leave me again

(Rock N' Roll Lady, Line: 9)

At the beginning of the lyrics, the writer expresses his belief that they can live together. However, later he stated that other people were still the same and left him again. This statement is contradictory because if someone is still the same and leaves it again, then they really can't live together. The paradox in these lyrics creates a strong feeling of conflict and confusion. Although there is the hope of living together, the truth is that the other person remains unchanged and leaves him again. It describes a failure in a relationship or difficulty in achieving harmony between two individuals. Using paradox, these lyrics create a dramatic contrast and reinforce the author's feelings of uncertainty and hopelessness in the relationship. This paradox also illustrates the complexity of the emotions involved in complex and elusive relationships.

The lyrics "I thought we could live together, but you are still the same You left me again' is classified as a paradox because it seems illogical but makes sense (Knickerbocker & Reninger, 1963). As we know, if someone becomes our life partner, he will have a high value and will indeed become better. The line served as the songwriter's way of expressing how he felt about his ex-girlfriend.

The lyrics "I thought we could live together, but you're still the same You leave me again' contains a connotative meaning because the lyrics above have more meaning than the dictionary meaning (Leech, 1981). As we know, if someone can be our life partner, they will be someone who continues to be with us, that person is called loyal to us. However, the meaning that the songwriter wants to convey is that he hopes that we can continue together until we are old, but he still leaves me for someone else.

CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this study was to examine the kinds and significance of images in the White Swans album *Cygnus*. Out of the 20 examples of figurative language that were found, the research showed that exaggeration emerged as the most prevalent kind of imagery, accounting for 30% of the data. Additionally, with four instances each, metaphor, personification, and simile each made up about 20% of the data. Metaphors and contradictions made up 5% of the data, each appearing once. It means that it was discovered using hyperbole helped the audience and the speaker both grasp the speaker's message better and successfully communicate their feelings. The album's heavy use of exaggeration highlights how effective it is for both artistic expression and communication. The White Swans were able to make a stronger effect, grab listeners' attention, and engage them more deeply by using exaggerated phrasing. The exaggerated facial expressions made it easier to communicate emotions and increased the intensity of the music's overall effect.

By focusing on the *Cygnus* album and revealing the ubiquity and relevance of exaggeration as a prominent kind of imagery, this study adds to the body of knowledge on imagery in music. Future studies should examine the relationship between various forms of imagery in musical compositions as well as the expressive and communicative possibilities of exaggeration. Understanding the many varieties and significance of musical imagery offers important new perspectives on the creative decisions made by artists and their aim to engage their listeners. Scholars and music lovers can better understand the creative processes that go into musical expression and the emotional effect it produces by diving into the world of figurative language.

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