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An Analysis of Figurative Language in the English Billboard Song Lyrics 2019

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Abstract

The purposes of the study were to identify the types of figurative language in English Billboard song lyrics in 2019, and 2) to describe the contextual meaning of the songs in English Billboard song lyrics in 2019. The analyses in this paper focused on the Billboard Hot 100 top 10 songs from the years 2019. The Billboard Hot 100 from the American industry standard for tracking the popularity of songs. The Hot 10 songs are graded based on radio airplay, audience impressions as measured by the Neilsen BDS, retail and digital sales, and streaming from online music sources.

The results shown that the most dominant of figurative language in 10 songs are Connotation and Hyperbole. The total of Connotation from 10 songs is 35 figurative language or same with 38.88% and Hyperbole included 35 figurative language or 38.88%. So, from the many lyrics that are found, it can be concluded that the frequently used in the 10th song that the researched the kind figurative language which is used are Connotation and Hyperbole. So, the most dominant figurative language which is used is in the 10th songs are Connotation and Hyperbole.

Keywords: Figurative Language, English Billboard Song Lyrics

Introduction

To learn and understand literature, people not only comprehend form of language or words, but the meaning in it. It means they want to make the readers or listeners sense and catch the logic in it. Nevertheless, sometimes the readers feel hard to understand the meaning of the utterances because the writers frequently use the indirect meaning. They also use certain diction and imagery within it and what possibly says is not always same as means to express. Song is a part of literature. Beside singing, songs show the meaning with beautiful words. In order to allow the listener, appreciate with the meaning of the songs extremely and intensely, composers try hard to make sentences with beautiful vocabularies and structures. Currently, there are diverse kinds of music and songs. Presenting songs to the public, singers use diverse techniques and different ways to attract listeners. Meaning of songs is significant since it can express the direct and indirect purposes of composers. There are many messages transported by songs. Through song individuals can transmit their thoughts and sensitivity to other by voicing. People can connect to others through song. In other words, song can be used as the way to distribute idea and feeling, therefore the people can understand what the composers mean through lyrics. However, in terms of different nationality and language used, there might be one of the problems that most Thai learners are not interested in English songs. Moreover, they cannot understand the meaning of lyrics and don't know the words so these causes the young learners try not to listen to English songs. Therefore, in order to understand the meaning of the songs, lyrics will be mentioned.

Song lyrics use unusual words, compared to the word used in daily conversation. The lyrics use the figurative language to make its own meaning itself; if we can understand it the meaning can be appeared deeper. While the listener knows the meaning of the lyrics, it will have its own view. Consequently, people will understand it by their understanding without knowing the truth or conformity with the purpose of a composer. Attractive words will have valuable meanings and need capability to carry ideas through figurative language in song lyrics.

One of ways to comprehend the utterances meaning and to avoid numerous clarifications can use figurative language. Figurative languages are forms of language used by authors or speakers carrying something beyond the literal meaning Tarigan (Azwardi, 2016). In studied the implicit meaning of language or utterances in songs shaped by composer so that the readers or listeners can feel and understand that aims. Figurative language is a significant departure from what users of a language catch as the typical meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to reach some special meaning or result (Abrams, 1999: 96). Figurative language is a language that expresses expressions using words or beauty with different meanings or not actual meanings from literal interpretations. Keraf (2007) mentioned that figurative language is a technique used to direct ideas of thought through a language. This usually describes the spirit and character of a writer. The use of figurative language in a sentence has its own result but a very significant part of figurative language is having a change in

the meaning to be taken. Every sentence that covers figurative expression could make the readers or listeners confused and try to imagine what the real meaning of it.

According to the explanation of Matsumura (2012), Billboard, founded in the twentieth century, is the largest weekly music industry publication in the U.S. While it originally controlled information on events such as traveling festivals and dramatic presentations, it increasingly lifted to music tool and is now well-known for the Billboard Hot 100 chart, which is a grouping of such items as trade, the number of broadcast radio plays, and the number of downloads from cooperating websites. Since song's lyrics from Billboard chart are famous and well - known in the world of listeners. Song can show either the direct and indirect meaning. Word that the composers uses in communicating the meaning is beautiful and have been come through thinking and composing kindly from writers and composers which is the part of literature. Song is one of literature methods. Griffee (2001) mentioned that song is a part of music that is formed towards words that drives to be sung. Naturally, the literature writers will use it to direct their ideas, feelings, and emotions.

Consequently, the research will focus on investigating of using the figurative language in English Billboard song's lyrics 2019. In order to identify the types of figurative language in English Billboard song lyrics and to describe the contextual meaning of the songs in English Billboard song lyrics.

Purposes
       1) To identify the types of figurative language in English Billboard song lyrics in 2019
       2) To describe the contextual meaning of the songs in English Billboard song lyrics in 2019

Research Methodology
       In this point, the researcher will use the Qualitative research. Qualitative research is an inquiry approach useful for exploring and understanding a central phenomenon (Creswell, 2012: 626). Based on the definition this research will focus to the central phenomenon that happened in the field, because this research will identify the figurative language used in the Billboard song lyrics.

       The researcher will apply the descriptive qualitative method to make description accurately and systematically. In collecting the data for this research, the researcher will follow these steps, first listening to the songs, reading to whole text to find out the figurative language used and get them into group and analyzing the figurative language used to find the average.

Table 1 Steps of Collecting Data

Steps of Collecting Data	Data Collection
1	Reading to whole text to find out the figurative language used and get them into group
2	Analyzing the figurative language
3	Identifying the figurative language
5	Interpreting songs' lyrics to find out the meaning of the figurative language

       Finally, the data will be separated into groups of figurative language used then the data will be calculated to find average to find out the most frequency used from each group.

Results

The results of the frequency found of figurative' types are shown as a pile chart as follow;
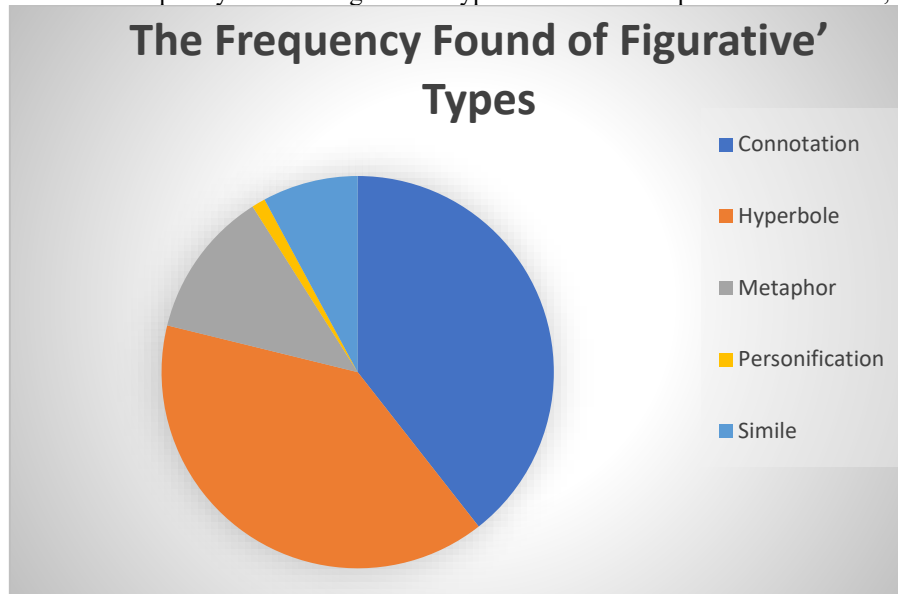

Figure 1: The Frequency Found of Figurative' Types

From figure 1, the researcher researched found the most dominant of figurative language in 10 songs are Connotation and Hyperbole. The total of Connotation from 10 songs is 35 figurative language or same with 38.88% and Hyperbole included 35 figurative language or 38.88%. So, from the many lyrics that are found, it can be concluded that the frequently used in the 10th song that the researched the kind figurative language which is used are Connotation and Hyperbole. So, the most dominant figurative language which is used is in the 10th songs are Connotation and Hyperbole.

The Most Dominant Figurative Language in The Song Lyrics

From the data above, could be concluded that there are many figurative languages uses in the song lyrics that the researcher analyzed in 40 song lyrics of 2019 Billboard.

1) In the first song "Old Town Road", the researcher found 2 kinds of song lyric of figurative language, including connotation in 12 song lyrics, metaphor in 1 song lyric, and hyperbole in 1 song lyric.

2) In the second song "Sunflower", the researcher found 3 kinds of figurative language, including hyperbole in 1 song lyric, metaphor in 1 song lyric, and simile in 1 song lyric.

3) In the third song "Without Me", the researcher found 4 kinds of song lyrics of figurative language, including hyperbole in 5 song lyrics, connotation in 3 song lyrics, metaphor in 1 song lyric, and personification in 1 song lyric.

4) In the thirty ninth song "Bad Guy", the researcher found 1 kind of song lyrics of figurative language, including connotation in 3 song lyrics.

5) In the twenty first song "Wow", the researcher found 3 kinds of song lyrics of figurative language, including simile in 5 song lyrics, hyperbole in 8 song lyrics, and connotation in 1 song lyric.

6) In the thirty sixth song "Happier", the researcher found 1 kind of song lyrics of figurative language, including connotation in 3 song lyrics.

7) In the fourth song "7 Rings", the researcher found 3 kinds of song lyrics of figurative language, including hyperbole in 13 song lyrics, connotation in 1 song lyric, metaphor in 1 song lyric, and simile in 1 song lyric.

8) In the twenty second song "Talk", the researcher found 1 kind of song lyrics of figurative language, including connotation in 1 song lyric.

9) In the twenty fourth song "Sicko Mode", the researcher found 4 kinds of song lyrics of figurative language, including simile in 3 song lyrics, metaphor in 7 song lyrics, hyperbole in 1 song lyric, and connotation is 11 song lyrics.

10) In the fifth song "Sucker", the researcher found 2 kinds of song lyrics of figurative language, including hyperbole in 6 song lyrics, and metaphor in 1 song lyric.

In order to know the most dominant figurative language which is used in the 10 songs, the researcher would classify through the table to each song the kinds of figurative language.

Table 1 Figurative Types

Songs	Figurative Types									
	1 Con	2 Hy	3 Me	4 Meto	5 Per	6 Si	7 Li	8 Pa	9 Parall	Total
1	12	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
2	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
3	3	5	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	10
4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
5	1	8	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	14
6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
7	1	13	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	16
8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
9	11	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
10	-	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Total	35	35	12	-	1	7	-	-	-	90
%	38.88	38.88	13.33	-	1.11	7.77	-	-	-	100

Table 1 indicates that being found in 8 song lyrics made connotation the most dominant figurative language in the first song. Meanwhile, hyperbole, metaphor, and simile were the most dominant figurative language in the second songs (1 lyric for each type). In the third song, hyperbole (5 lyrics) was most used figurative language. In the fourth song, connotation (3 lyrics) was most used figurative language. In the fifth song, hyperbole (8 lyrics) was most used figurative language. In the sixth song, connotation (3 lyrics) was most used figurative language. In the seventh song, hyperbole (13 lyrics) was most used figurative language. In the eighth song, connotation (1 lyric) was most used figurative language. In the ninth song, connotation (11 lyrics) was most used figurative language. In the tenth song, hyperbole (6 lyrics) was most used figurative language. Totally there are 51 lyrics.

Discussion

1. From the many lyrics that are found, it can be concluded that the frequently used in the 40th song, the most dominant figurative language which is used is Connotation with 37.54% which meant that connotation meant a word's emotional meaning; suggestions and associations that are connected to a word. Words can be positive, negative, or neutral. Words can also connote specific feelings or emotions. The writer or speaker describes something through the use of unusual evaluations, for effect, interest, and to make things clearer. The result of using this technique is the conception of interesting images. According to Risdianto ($2011: 33$) states that figurative language is wording that makes clear judgments between unlike things using figures of speech such as metaphors and similes. Kennedy (1979:487) mentions that a figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of purity or emphasis, departs from the usual meanings of words

2. There are 5 figurative language types which used in the research, there are Personification, Metaphor, Simile, Hyperbole, and Connotation. Figurative language contains of comparative, contradictive, and correlative. Comparative language contains of Personification, Metaphor, and Simile. Contradictive figurative language consists of Hyperbole, litotes, Paradox, and Irony. Correlative figurative language consists of Metonymy, Synecdoche, Symbol, Allusion, and Ellipsis.

Conclusions

In each song definitely has a language style or figurative language that has a deep meaning by songwriters when written the song lyrics. Meaning contained in the song lyrics there are implicit and explicit meaning. From the song lyrics in 10 songs researched by the researcher, there are 3 types from Billboard's 2019 Year-End Hot 100 chart.

From the 10 songs, the writer found the figure of speech which is used in each song, follows: 1) In the first song, the writer found the most dominant figurative language which is used is Connotation with 1 song lyric. 2) In the second song, hyperbole, metaphor, and simile with 1 song lyric each. 3) In the third song is Hyperbole with 5 song lyrics. 4) In the fourth song is Connotation with 3 song lyrics. 5) In the fifth song is Hyperbole with 8 song lyrics. 6) In the sixth song is Connotation with 3 song lyrics. 7) In the seventh song is Hyperbole with 13 song lyrics. 8) In the eighth song is Connotation with 1 song lyric. 9) In the ninth song is Connotation with 11 song lyrics. 10) In the tenth song is Hyperbole with 6 song lyrics. Totally there are 51 song lyrics.

After sum all of the song lyrics in 10 songs that the researcher researched, found the most dominant of figurative language in 10 songs are Connotation and Hyperbole. The total of Connotation from 10 songs is 35 figurative language or same with 38.88% and Hyperbole included 35 figurative language or 38.88%. So, from the many lyrics that are found, it can be concluded that the frequently used in the 10th song that the researched the kind figurative language which is used are Connotation and Hyperbole. So, the most dominant figurative language which is used is in the 10th songs are Connotation and Hyperbole.

Recommendations

The language style, in this case, figurative language has an important position in the linguistic studies, especially in a literature, such as poem, novel, song lyrics, etc. This thesis examines the figurative language in the song lyrics from Billboard's 2019 Year-End Hot 100 chart which 10 songs were chosen. The writer hopes:

1. For the lecturer of literature, can be used this research as the example to learning about figurative language.

2. For the students of English department, can learn and get more knowledge about the figurative language.

3. For the readers can more interesting to listening to religious music, because in the religious music there is much knowledge about Islam.

4. For the next researcher to continue the research to compare, because figurative language cannot be understood with a brief, should continue to be studied in some literature. In order to enrich our understanding about figurative language and to obtain more reliable justification, a wider and further scope of the study needs to be conducted.

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