Figurative Language Analysis on *Efek Rumah Kaca*'s Song Lyrics at Sinestesia 2015 Album

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Abstract

Figurative language is one kind of the language styles to make the expression and the message of the speaker or writer is strengthened. Figurative language usually used in song lyrics. Sometimes, figurative languages existed in song lyrics can't be understandable. One of the song lyrics that has a lot of figurative languages is songs from *Sinestesia* album by *Efek Rumah Kaca*. Therefore, this research is trying to analyze figurative languages existed in song lyrics on *Efek Rumah Kaca*'s album titled *Sinestesia*. The research is focused on analyzing type of figurative languages with its meaning by using Kennedy's theory of classification of figurative language (1983) and Ogden and Richard's theory of meaning (1923). Qualitative descriptive is the method that used for this research. The result of this research is 4 type of figurative languages is found, which is 25 personifications, 18 metaphors, 15 overstatements, and 2 apostrophes with each of figurative language's meaning is elaborated. Besides of it, the writer found that figurative languages existed in the *Sinestesia* album's song lyrics has a connection to the song itself.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Lyrics, Meaning, Efek Rumah Kaca.*

INTRODUCTION

Figurative language is one kind of the language styles to make the expression and the message of the speaker or writer is strengthen. As stated by Giroux & Williston (1974 : 10), figurative language is the language that departs from the straightforward use of words. Figurative language usually used in a lot of literary works, such as poems, poetry, etc. Figurative language used either in music lyrics. Lyrics often written in many kinds of figurative language. Same as another literary works such as poem, the purpose of using a figurative language in lyrics is to add the elements of beauty and aesthetic value to the song which makes more interesting. One kind of lyrics that contain a lot of meanings behind of it is made by Efek Rumah Kaca in their album named Sinestesia, which is released in 2015. The writer's main goal in this research is to analyzing the figurative languages that existed in Efek Rumah Kaca's Album titled 'Sinestesia'. Started from classifying it into different types of figurative languages, to elaborate the meaning of the figurative languages found in the lyrics. Therefore, the research will be entitled "An Analysis of Figurative Language on Efek Rumah Kaca's Song Lyrics: Sinestesia 2015

Linguistic

Language is an communication system that has a big impact of human beings. In the evolution of human languages, there are scientific study that elaborates how language was structured, which is called linguistic. Lim (1975:3) stated "linguistics is the scientific study of language. Linguistics has also the framework or theoretical methods that could be categorized as the scientific method; in this case scientific

method for human and social studies". Linguistics is the study of scientific research methodologies which include human and social life. Mariani and Mu'in (2007:25) divided linguistic into several branches; phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, pragmatics, semantics, and generative transformational grammar. There's also branch of linguistics that related to other fields of study; sociolinguistics, and psycholinguistics. Linguistic classified into two major fields; micro linguistic and macro linguistic.

1. Microlinguistic and Macrolinguistic

Kridalaksana (1982:107) stated that micro linguistic is defined as a field of linguistic that study the structural of the languages itself. Microlinguistic are divided into 6 parts; phonetics, phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, and pragmatics.

Kridalaksana (1982:108) stated that macrolinguistic is a field of linguistic that study the languages and how it affects the factor outside of it. It is classified into 6 parts; sociolinguistics, psycholinguistics, neurolinguistics, discourse analysis, cognitive linguistics and applied linguistics. Based on the subject of the research, figurative language is included to semantics, which is the part of microlinguistic.

Semantics

Language is helping us to understand the meaning of each word spoken or written. The language spoken or written has a tons of meanings depends on what topic was talked about. Sometimes, the author or the speaker inserts or says a word that has a subliminal meaning

inside of it and we could not understand what is the author trying to say. This problem could cause misunderstanding between the speaker and listener, or author and reader. By that, we can use semantics to elaborate the meaning. Semantics is the study to understand the meanings behind a symbol or signal. It usually used for explaining the connotation and denotation of the symbol or signal, and it come in various form. Semantics is often used to signify the symbol or signal existed in literary works.

Figurative Language

Language has a main role in human communication. By language, human can interact to understand and express what each other's means. It divided into two; literal language and figurative language. Literal language tells the exact means what it says or known as denotation while figurative language is using words that different from the exact means. Talking about figurative language, there is a lot of types of figurative language.

According to Reaske (1966:33), figurative language is a type of language that uses diverse figures of speech to describe people or objects in a way that differs from the language used in traditional, literal methods. Figurative language is often used to express the ideas or feelings of the author without stated it directly; which means that the language used by the author is connotation language. Kennedy (1983:479) said that "figures of speech are not devices to state what is demonstrably untrue. Indeed they often state truths that more literal language cannot communicate". As stated by Dancygier and Sweetser (2014:1) "Figurative language was thought of as being one aspect of what gives a text – in particular, a poetic text – special

esthetic value literary works". Besides of indirectly ideas or feelings expression, figurative language has a purpose to enhance aesthetical values of writings.

1. Types of Figurative language

Kennedy (1983) divided figurative language into eight types; metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe, overstatement (hyperbole), understatement, metonymy, synecdoche, and paradox.

1. Metaphor

Kennedy (1983:482) stated that "metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which, in a literal sense it is not". For example:

"*Your fingers are like sausages*" (Kennedy (1983:42))

In the literal meaning, fingers is not a sausages, neither the sausages is not a finger, but in metaphor, fingers are defined as sausages because the fingers are looked like a sausage in form of shape, act, etc.

2. Simile

Kennedy (1983:482) defines that "simile is a comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, usually 'like','as','then', or a verb such as 'resembles'. For example:

"*Life is like a box of chocolate. You never know what you're gonna get*" (Forrest Gump by Robert Zemeckis)

In the literal meaning, life is not like a box of chocolate. Because life is something that experienced by alive

beings. Neither box chocolate are not a life because box of chocolate are a box fulfilled by brown-colored sweet thing called chocolate. In simile, it means that life is a mistery, just as box of chocolate where we do not know what will happen next and what we will get.

3. Personification

Kennedy (1983:487) stated that "personification is a figure of speech in which a thing, an animal, or an abstract term (truth, nature) is made human". For example:

"*The tree are talking each other*"

As we know that the tree cannot communicate each other verbally like human, but in personification, it can be defined as talking each other because the leaf are shaking each other, or any other signs.

4. Apostrophe

Kennedy (1983:488) defines apostrophe as "a way of addressing someone or something invisible". For example:

"*Sky, what have i done?*"

As we know that sky as an object that cannot hear, talking and replying the person who are asking about what he/she have done. But in apostrophe, the sky is depicted as the person who could hear and replying the person.

5. Overstatement (Hyperbole)

Kennedy

(1983:488) stated that hyperbole is a point that emphazied by a statement that contains an exaggeration. For example:

"*Faster than greased lightning*" (Kennedy (1983:488))

We could not define exactly how fast the thing that moved fast. But in hyperbole, it can used the terms "greased lightning" to depict the thing as some object that move extremely fast.

6. Understatement

Kennedy (1983:488) said that understatement is the opposite of hyperbole. For example, a person get an achievemen that makes the other person praise him. And the person who get the achievement replying:

"*It's just a piece of award between the seas of it*"

In this sentence, a person assuming his or her achievment is just one of the awards that exists between a lot of people who also gets the same kind of awards. Therefore, this person stated "between the seas of it" to intensifies the understatement message.

7. Metonymy

Kennedy (1983:489) stated that metonymy is one kind of figurative language that using one name of a thing that is substituted to another that closely related each other. For example:

"*He uses his Converse to the school*"

As we know that Converse is a brand of shoes, so it means that he uses his shoes (which is Converse) to the school.

8. Synecdoche

Kennedy (1983:489) implies that synecdoche is "the use of a part of a thing to stand for the whole of it". For example:

"*England has won the World Cup*"

Term "England" refers only to the national football team of England, not refers to the whole country of the England (government, people, etc).

9. Paradox

Kennedy (1983:489) stated that "paradox occurs in a statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection that makes some sense". For example:

"*I'm just a small thing among the big world*"

As we know that terms 'small' is contradictive with 'big', but both terms can be used in one sentence.

Song Lyrics

According to Hornby (2010:891), lyrics is the word of a song. Lyrics describe a song depends on how the rhythmic tone was made. But sometimes, the lyrics can be the opposite of the tone of the song itself. Lyrics often using a figurative language to provide a deeper feelings towards the song. As stated by Pattinson (2010),

working on a lyrics is technical which pushes songwriters to be creative and pay attention to technical areas of lyric writing such as rhyme, rhythm, contrast, balance, and repetition. In relation between the song lyrics, and figurative language, Pattison (2010) added that metaphor is often used to make a good lyric writing, even for the most creative writing.

METHODOLOGY

Research method is an important part of making a research. By using a certain research method, it can help the researcher to solve and found the problems that being an object of its research. In this research, writer using qualitative descriptive method for its. According to Cresswell (1994) "A qualitative study is defined as an inquiry process of understanding a social or human problem, based on building a complex, holistic picture, formed with words, reporting

detailed views of informants, and conducted in a natural setting." From what the writer see, the writer decided to use a qualitative method because the data that will be analyzed is made in form of words. Thus, the writer will analyzed the data which is the song lyrics in Efek Rumah Kaca's *"Sinestesia"* album.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The writer focused to analyzing the proper type of figurative language found in the song lyrics, and elaborate the meaning of it. To did it, the writer used 2 theories. The first theory is Kenedy's theory of classification of figurative language (1983). Then the second is theory of meaning by Ogden and Richards (1923).

After analyzing the whole data of this research that taken, 60 data has been found in the

song lyrics. From 9 type of figurative language that has been elaborated in Kenedy's theory of classification of figurative language, there are only 4 type of figurative languages found in all of the song lyrics of Efek Rumah Kaca's Sinestesia, among others are 25 personifications, 18 metaphors, 15 overstatements, and 2 apostrophes. By the data that writer analyzed, four of the type of figurative language found has a major impact for the song itself. Figurative language used in each of the lyrics depicted the title of the lyrics. It can be concluded that the figurative language used in the song lyrics has a purpose to add the aesthetical value of the song, and to emphasize the message that the songwriter wants to deliver. It is shown by the most of the type of figurative language used is personification, metaphor, overstatement, and apostrophe. Here is an examples of the data
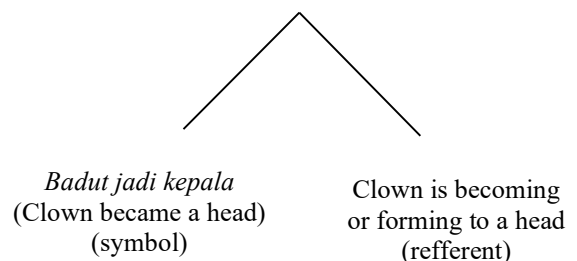
analyzed.

Data 1

Badut jadi kepala (Clown became a head)

Classification of Figurative Language : Metaphor

Meanings : This part of the lyrics stated that clown is becoming or forming to a head.

Analysis :

All of the silly person
are became a leader
(thought or refference)

Badut jadi kepala
(Clown became a head)
(symbol)

Clown is becoming
or forming to a head
(refferent)

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Badut jadi kepala (symbol) defined literally as clown becoming or forming to a head (thought or refference). "Clown" term was used to a person who has a funny or silly act. "Head" term was used to

describe a part of the human body that existed above the other part of the body. By the literal defitiniton of the part of the lyrics itself, it is not make sense that clown (human) is forming into a shape such as head. Therefore, this part of the lyrics categorized as figurative language. Metaphor is the most suitable type of figurative language because the part of the lyrics is refer something not in the right way. As the writer analyzation, the possible meaning of the part of the lyrics is a silly person became a leader, because "head" term was used for describing something that is above the others.

Data 2

Ditelantarkan harapan, ia kesakitan
(Abandoned by the hope, it hurting)
Classification of Figurative Language : Personification

Meaning : This part of the lyrics stated that "it" (object) is hurting because it abandoned by the hope.

Analysis :

"it" is in danger because nobody cares about "it"
(thought or refference)

Ditelantarkan harapan, ia kesakitan
(Abandoned by the hope, it hurting)
(symbol)

"It" was left behind by the hope, and "it" is in pain
(refferent)
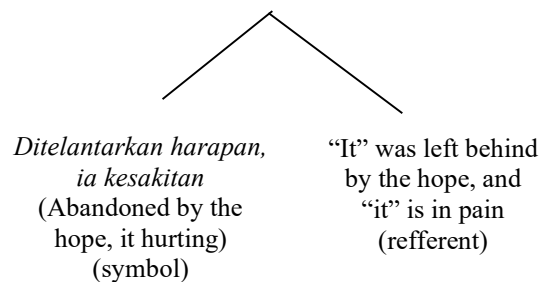
As explained above, *ditelantarkan harapan, ia kesakitan* part of the lyrics was defined literally as "it" (which is reffering to political condition because the lyrics is talking about how the political situation potrayed) was left behind by the "hope" (which is reffering to people or human because people or human is the only "hope" for "it"), and it is in pain. There are three points that will be elaborated, the first is "it" term. As stated before, "it" term is refering to political situation as

the song is talking about the picture of the political situation, which is in form of thoughts or ideas. Second is "hope" term. "Hope" as Merriam-Webster dictionary stated is desire accompanied by expectation of or belief in fulfillment, in form of thoughts or ideas. If we're looking at the part of the lyrics, "hope" terms is having an act such as living things by abandoned "it". However, "hope" term is refer to people or human, because based on the lyrics, people are the only chance to make the "it" (political situation) is getting better. Third is "pain" term. As stated by Merriam-Webster dictionary, "pain" term defined as a localized or generalized unpleasant bodily sensation or complex of sensations that causes mild to severe physical discomfort and emotional distress and typically results from bodily disorder (such as injury or disease), which can only belong to living things such

as human and animal. But in this part of the lyrics, "pain" term was used for "it", which is not a living things. Therefore, this part of the lyrics classified as figurative language. Personification is the suitable type of figurative language because it depicts a non-living things that act like a living things. As the writer sees, the part of the lyrics is meaning "it (political situation) is in danger (in pain) because it was abandoned by hope (people)".
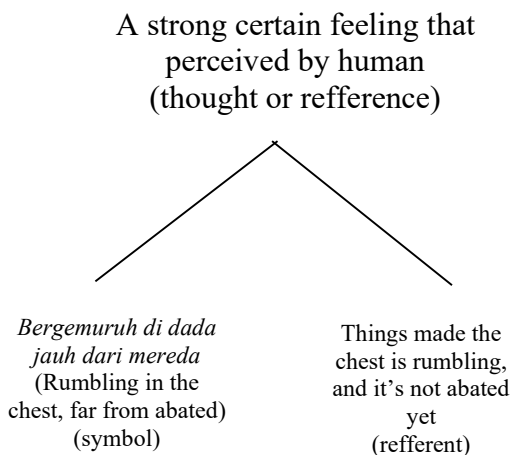
Data 3

Bergemuruh di dada jauh dari mereda (Rumbling in the chest, far from abated)
Classification of Figurative Language : Overstatement
Meaning : This part of the lyrics stated that something is rumbing in human's chest and it's not abated yet.

Analysis :

A strong certain feeling that
perceived by human
(thought or refference)

*Bergemuruh di dada
jauh dari mereda*
(Rumbling in the
chest, far from abated)
(symbol)

Things made the
chest is rumbling,
and it's not abated
yet
(refferent)

Bergemuruh di dada jauh dari mereda part of the lyrics defined literally as rumbling in the chest, far from abated. As the part of the lyrics stated, there is something that made the chest is rumbling, and it is not abated yet. "Rumbling" term defined as an activity of a low heavy continuous reverberating often muffled sound (Merriam-Webster). This term is often used to describe a sound of thunder, or any kind similar sound. As human being, we know that we could not hear such a sound in our chest. Therefore, this part of the lyrics categorized as figurative language. Overstatement is the appropriate type of figurative language because the songwriter is trying to emphasize a thing that humans often have in their behavior, which is "perceived" something, or having "a strong certain feeling" in their chest. As the writer sees, the real meaning of the part of the lyrics itself is "a strong certain feeling that perceived by human".

Data 4

Cahaya, ku jelang (Light, I'm coming)

Classification of Figurative Language : Apostrophe

Meaning : This part of the lyrics stated that "me" is talking to the light, saying that "me" will come.

Analysis :

There will be no semantic triangle used because this part of the lyrics is having no other meaning like another data. However, this part of the lyrics

categorized as figurative language because it's stated something that is unlogical to do (talking to the light). Apostrophe is the appropriate type of figurative language for this part of the lyrics.

CONCLUSION

Figurative language is one thing that existed in most of song lyrics. It has purposes to add the aesthetical value or even stated the subliminal message inside some phrases. Figurative language is often found in a lot of the song lyrics that made by many musicians or songwriters for the same purposes.

Song lyrics represents a various thing, it could be the expression of the songwriter itself, telling a story about some phenomenon that occured, or even criticized some person or some group of people. Sometimes, song lyrics is potrayed the genre of the band or singer itself. Efek Rumah Kaca is the band who is using their songs to criticize a phenomenon happened in our enviroments.

The writer is choosing Efek Rumah Kaca's Sinestesia because as the writer heard the song for the first time, the writer enjoyed the song, but sometimes there is a part of the lyrics that is not understandable. By intentions to enjoys a song much more, the writer is decided to analyze all of the song lyrics that existed in Sinestesia album, which led the writer to analyze the figurative language existed and its meaning. This phenomenon is often happened to people that listened to certain musics.

Nevertheless, the songs that heard by all of us which is having an understandable lyrics could be analyzed by what the reader already done, by using the classification of figurative language theory by Kenedy (1983), and meaning theory by Ogden and Richards (1923). In the end, all of the songs with its

lyrics has its own characteristic and messages to deliver that might be important for our lifes.

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