

## AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN “HOW FAR I’LL GO” SONG LYRIC BY AULI’L CRAVALHO

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### Abstract

Language is a tool of communication used by people for certain reasons. Nowadays, people communicate in a various way for example with the use of figurative language. Figurative language is a language to express emotion or idea that is different from literal meaning. The aim of this research is to analyze the type of figurative language and the meaning which exists in the song entitled “How Far I’ll Go”. This research is a descriptive qualitative. The data of analysis is song lyric, the song lyric was taken from the musixmatch.com website. The result showed that the song consists of some figurative language, such as, personification, hyperbole, alliteration, rhetorical questions, and symbolism.

*Keywords* : Figurative Language, Song

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### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. Background Study

Language is a tool of communication commonly used by people, in writing or orally. People use language to interact with others, to share information, and to be learnt in personal purpose. In this modern era, people communicate their ideas in various way includes talks through literature such as poetry, novel and song lyric which commonly the messages or the real meaning of the words are implicit by using figurative language (Nursolihat & Kareviati, 2020). For example, in a song lyric by Billie Eilish entitled Ocean Eyes, the lyric is “Can’t stop staring at those ocean eyes” which is classified as metaphor in figurative language. According to Azzahra (2018), Figurative language is language that uses words or expressions with a meaning that is different from the literal interpretation. Aprisnindianningrum, Fardhani & Andayani, (2015) also stated that figurative language is a language which uses figure of speech as a way of saying something and another meaning. So, in order to know the meaning of the words or expressions, we have to understand that it may differ from the translation. According to Miller and Currie (2000) from Swarniti, (2022). Analysis of Figurative Language in “Easy on Me” Song Lyric, stated that there are some types of figurative languages, they are: simile, rhetorical question, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, apostrophe, alliteration, and assonance. Figurative language is often used in art works, in this case is song. Song has become a staple in our daily life, we listen to the song from every genre

and artist in many occasions. Some people not only like songs from the rhythm and melody, but also from the lyric which has unique word structures and it is perfectly written by the musician. However, with or without us knowing, the musician write the lyric with using the figurative language to match the rhythm and especially according to the style of the song.

Based on the background study, the writer is interested in doing this research. The aim of this research is to analyze the figurative language used in the song and to find out the meaning. The writer used a song lyric from a song entitled “How Far I’ll go” to be analyzed, the song is original soundtrack of a movie entitled “Moana” and it was sung by an actress and singer named Auli’i Cravalho. She is a Hawaiian actress and singer who also voiced “Moana” in the film.

### *1.2. Previous Study*

Research of figurative language in a song has been conducted by several of researcher previously. First, a research conducted by Nursolihat & Kareviati (2020) entitled An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in the Lyric of a Whole New World by Zayn Malik and Zhafia Ward. The aim of the research is to analyze the figurative language which exist in the lyric of a song A Whole New World and try to find out its meaning by analyzing its contextual meaning. It was concluded that there was some figurative language found in the song. Such as alliteration, simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole.

Second, research conducted by Fajrin & Parmawati (2021) entitled An Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Song of Bruno Mars Entitled “Grenade”. The aim of the research is to investigate the figurative languages found in the lyrics of the song Grenade by analyzing the context and attempting to decipher their meaning. It was found that there are 3 figurative languages in the song such as metaphor, hyperbole, and repetition. Also, the most common figurative language found in the song was hyperbole with a total data of 4.

Third, research conducted by Pamungkas, et al. (2022) entitled An Analysis of Figurative Language in Song Lyric on The S.I.G.I.T “Detourn Album”. The aim of the research is to find out the type of figurative language used in the album and to find out the dominant type of figurative language. It was concluded that there were 8 types of figurative language used in the album namely, hyperbole, irony, personification, synecdoche, simile, metonymy repetition, and metaphore. And the most dominant type of figurative language is a metaphor with a total data of 18 expressions.

Fourth, research conducted by Barung et al. (2023) entitled Types of Figurative Language Found in Coldplay Song Lyrics. The aim of the research is to find out the types of figurative language and the meanings in Coldplay song lyrics. It was found there are 5 types of figurative language in Coldplay song lyrics, they are simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, hyperbole, and allusion.

## **2. Method**

The research method used in this study is descriptive qualitative research. According to Hennink, Hutter, & Bailey (2020), qualitative research is an approach that allows to



examine people’s experiences in detail by using a specific set of research methods such as in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, observation, content analysis, visual methods, and life histories biographies. Quantitative research allows the researcher to familiarize him/herself with the problem or concept to be studied (Golafshani, 2003). All qualitative research is characterized by the search for meaning and understanding (Merriam & Sharan, 2002). Thus, this research is designed to analyze the figurative language and to find out the meaning.

The data is collected from the song entitled “How Far I’ll Go” which will be analyzed. The source of data is taken from the musixmatch.com website. The steps in doing this research were identifying the types of figurative language, finding out the meaning based on the context, and lastly is making conclusion.

### 3. Result and Discussion

There are some figurative languages found in the song lyric of “How Far I’ll Go”, such as personification, hyperbole, alliteration, rhetorical question, and symbolism. In addition, “How Far I’ll Go” is a theme song that tells about a villager girl who wants to achieve her dream, she wants to prove and show that she could go as far as she would. Here are the types and explanations of meanings.

Table 1

Figurative Language	Expressions
Personification	1. See the line where the sky meets the sea? It calls me 2. And it seems like it's calling out to me, so come find me
Hyperbole	1. I've been staring at the edge of the water, Long as I can remember, never really knowing why 2. And no one knows, how far it goes
Alliteration	1. Every turn I take, every trail I track.
Rhetorical Question	1. And let me know, what's beyond that line, will I cross that line?
Symbolism	1. See the line where the sky meets the sea

#### 3.1. Personification

"See the line where the sky meets the sea? It calls me"

- The lyric is attributing human characteristic to nonhuman thing. So, it does not have the ability to call anyone. The lyric means about Moana's desire to explore the sea.

"And it seems like it's calling out to me, so come find me"

- The lyric is attributing human characteristic to nonhuman thing, which is ocean. As same as before, the ocean does not have the ability to call or communicate to anyone. The lyric means about how the ocean tempts Moana

### 3.2. *Hyperbole*

"I've been staring at the edge of the water,  
Long as I can remember, never really knowing why"

- The lyric is an exaggeration of emphasizing an emotion or description. The lyric means that Moana exaggerates the amount of time she has spent looking at the ocean.

"And no one knows, how far it goes"

- The lyric is an exaggeration of emphasizing an emotion or description. The lyric refers to the ocean and it means that Moana exaggerates the distance of the ocean by suggesting that no one knows how far it is.

### 3.3. *Alliteration*

"Every turn I take, every trail I track."

- The lyric has the same consonant sound which is "t" and it appears 4 times in this lyric. The meaning of it is about Moana's struggles to be able to across the sea.

### 3.4. *Rhetorical Question*

"And let me know, what's beyond that line, will I cross that line?"

- The lyric contains a question which is not expecting an answer but only to make a statement. It means Moana is not seeking an answer but wants to say that she'd like to move forward.

### 3.5. *Symbolism*

"See the line where the sky meets the sea"

- The lyric tries to represent something other than its literal meaning. It means Moana refers the line as horizon that separate the sky and the sea.

#### **4. Conclusion**

From the data analysis and discussion, it was found that this song contains figurative language, such as: personification with the data of 2 expressions, hyperbole with the data of 2 expressions, alliteration with the data of 1 expression, rhetorical question with the data of 1 expression, and symbolism with the data of 1 expression. From this study, we are also able to know that the writer of the song used figurative language to make the song suitable and perfect for the character and the movie itself. That is why, it is important to understand what the context of the words really is. Because it may be different from the literal meaning. The use of figurative language in an art work is to express emotion or perspective in a unique and beautiful way, so it is such a good thing to learn about it.

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