A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE USE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ENGLISH SONG LYRICS
BY WESTERN MUSICIANS

RESEARCH PAPER

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Bachelor Degree in English Department

by

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SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2007
APPROVAL

A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE USE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
IN ENGLISH SONG LYRICS BY WESTERN MUSICIANS

by

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TESTIMONY

Herewith, I testify that in this research paper, there is no plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain bachelor degree of a university, nor there are opinions or masterpiece which has been written or published by others, except those which the writing are referred in the manuscript and mentioned in literary review and bibliography. Therefore, if it is proved that there are some untrue statements in this testimony, I will hold fully responsible.

Surakarta, November 2007

The writer

Ismail Marzuki
MOTTO

The best educated human is one who understand most about
the life in which she/he is placed

(Helen Keller)

Time is sharp like a sword

(Napoleon Bonaparte)
DEDICATION

From the deepest mind this simple work is

dedicated to:

✏️  My beloved parents, mom and dad,
✏️  My beloved sisters, Zayin and Itsna,
✏️  My dearest soul mate.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Assalamu`alaikum wr.wb.

Alhamdulillahirrobbil`alamiin, praise is to Allah SWT who has given His divine direction and guidance so that the writer able to finish his research paper with the title ‘A Descriptive Study On The Use of Figurative Language In English Song Lyrics By Western Musicians.

However, this success would not be achieved without the help, guidance, and support from others. Therefore, the researcher would like to express his great gratitude to:

1. Drs. H. Sofyan Anif, M.Si., as the Dean of School of Teacher Training and Education of UMS who has given the permission to the researcher to make her research paper,

2. Koesoemo Ratih, S.Pd., M.Hum., as the Head of English Department of School of Teacher Training and Education of UMS who has given the agreement to the researcher’s title and letter for references,

3. Dra. Malikatul Laila, M.Hum., and Drs. H.Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum., as the first and second consultants who have given guidance, advice and encouragement in doing and finishing the research paper,

4. Siti Zuhriyah Ariatmi Dr., as the academic consultant who has patiently guided and given advice during the researcher studies at UMS,

5. His unforgettable seminar on linguistics lecture Mr. Agus Wijayanto for his discussion and criticism,
6. All Lectures of English Department of School of Teacher Training and Education who have given knowledge during the writer studies at UMS,
7. His beloved parents: Mr. Zakariya and Mrs. Thoyibah, for their prayer, support, and deep love given to the writer,
8. The English teacher of SMP 10 Salatiga: Drs. Masyhudi who has helped the writer in revising the grammar use,
9. His beloved sister: Zayinul istiqomah, S.Pd., and Itsna Fajar Wati for their love, support, and fresh jokes.
10. His dearest soulmate Tri Harjani, for her faith, patience, and deepest love in happiness and tears. We will get married soon,
11. The main chief of Istiqomah Comp: Mr. Irfan Ibnu Hasan for his permission given to the writer to use the computer with the unlimited time,
12. Back to tree community: Zimbah, Zholeh (let’s pray, God missing you so deep), Hiema One, Julia Indah, A Lee, Ponco Wake Up Sanjoyo (some day we will move to luar negeri),
13. Mr. Ftahudin H…….” you may be crazy, but donot be lazy,
14. Mr. Anung for his permission given to the writer to stay in his unique boarding house.
15. Kc. Net the unlimited time internet access for the help given to the writer in finding the source of the data and other literature review,
16. All of the people who cannot be mentioned one by one here.

Finally, the researcher realizes that this research paper is still far from being perfect. Therefore, the researcher accepts happily constructive comments and criticism from the readers to make this research paper better. The researcher
wishes that this research paper would be useful for all readers, especially students of English Department.

Wassalamu`alaikum wr.wb.

Surakarta, 2007

Ismail Marzuki
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SUMMARY

Ismail Marzuki, A 320 990 075. A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE USE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ENGLISH SONG LYRICS BY WESTERN MUSICIANS. Research Paper, Muhammadiyah University of Surkarta. 2007.

This research is conducted in the objective to observe and to describe the use of figurative language in English song lyrics by western musicians and the meaning. As it is assumed that song lyrics are one of several human’s creativities in communicating all of what has kept in their mind through the medium of language use. This research takes the English song lyrics especially written by western musicians as the object of the study. Furthermore, the data for this research is figurative language taken from the English song lyrics written by western musicians.

Hence two major problems proposed, which are: (1) what are the types of figurative language used by western musicians in English song lyrics, (2) what are the meanings of figurative language used in English song lyrics by western musicians. In collecting the data, the writer applies the observation and documentation by studying carefully the English song lyrics written by western musicians. And then classifies the data based on the Perrine’s Lawrence theory of figurative language and other scientists that support it. Whereas, in order to elaborate behind the meaning of figurative language utterance in English song lyrics written by western musicians, the writer applies the Leech’s theory of meaning and the Levinson’s theory of speech act and other scientist’s theories that support it.

The result of the study indicates that in English song lyrics, western musicians use figurative language dominated by metaphor as their creativity of mind expressions. Besides, the writer also finds other type of figurative language namely; personification, apostrophe, hyperbole, metonymy, irony, symbol and simile. Closely related to the meaning of figurative language in English song lyrics by western musicians, here the writer finds that figuratively western musicians try to convey sharply, meaningfully, have a power, varitype, assertive of their ideas, meaning, feeling, truth, love, imagination expression by taking an object include abstract, concrete, death and live illustrated as they are compared implicitly or explicitly, or by making an overstatement. In addition it is the self-way of the western musician in giving the audience an imaginative pleasure and giving the extra dimension to the language of their mind expression through the song lyrics.

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