FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN OWL CITY'S ALBUMS: A PRAGMATICS PERSPECTIVE

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The study belongs to descriptive qualitative research. The research aims to identify the types of figurative language and illocutionary act in the lyric of Owl City’s Albums. This research uses pragmatics approach to find out the illocutionary act. The objects of the research are lyrics in the Owl City’s album entitled Ocean Eyes and Maybe I’m Dreaming which consist of 19 songs. In collecting data, writer uses the document. The data in this research are figurative language, they are metaphor, simile, personification, symbol, paradox, and hyperbole. The illocutionary meanings are thanking, asserting, stating, suggesting, boasting, complaining, ordering, requesting, advising, recommending, blaming, praising, and condoling. From the collected data, the writer finds 50 data. Based on the research finding, the writer found that figurative language of hyperbole is the most appeared in the lyric of Owl City’s albums. Then, Personification, Simile, Metaphor, Symbol and the last is Paradox. The figurative language of hyperbole is most appearing in the Owl City’s song because the characteristic of the song-writer uses excessive words to express his feel to be a song. The next research finding is the illocution of the figurative language. Here, there are 13 illocution of Figurative Language used in Owl City’s albums. There are Thanking, Asserting, Stating, Suggesting, Boasting, Complaining, Ordering, Requesting, Advising, Recommending, Blaming, Praising, and Condoling. Based on the analysis, the results of the kinds of speech act is that there is asserting. It is the most commonly found in the analysis. The next illocution act that found is stating, requesting, complaining, thanking, advising, praising, and blaming. The last are boasting ordering, recommending, and condoling.

Keywords: figurative language, illocutionary act
A. Introduction

Figurative language has been widely examined by linguist in the study of literature in recent years, because it has the essence of the style and beauty. Figurative language is language which is not real meaning and has more than one meaning.

According to Perrine (1977:61), figurative language is figure of speech a way of adding extra dimensions to language. It is used by the poets because figurative language can say the words what they want to say with interesting expressions meaning by implicit and attractive rather than say it directly and flat. Figurative language makes a poem becomes more imaginative, attractive and adds the intensity of the poets’ feeling for poetry to convey their attitude. Figurative language is not used only in the poetry. This can be applied in the song lyric too.

According to Perrine (1997:6), literature is a kind of art, usually written, that offers pleasure and illumination. A literary work is imaginative work that uses literary language and ambiguous words. Most of literature work is using figurative and ambiguities to stimulate a certain image. It affects the language beauty of work in both oral and written. A song lyric includes as poetry and literary works. It is a poet that pronounced with rhyme, tone, bars, and melody accompanied by music.

Figurative language will produce interesting meaning but difficult to be interpreted in a literary sense completely and perfectly. Figurative cannot
be separated from writer’s ways or technique to express, reflect, and describe his or her song lyrics.

Yule (2006:112) states that pragmatics is the study of speakers mean or ‘speaker meaning’. It means that the pragmatics is concerned with the study of meaning as communicated by a speaker (or writer) and interpreted by a listener (or reader).

Levinson (1983:21) explains that “Pragmatics is the study of the relation between that language and context are basic to an account of language understanding.” According to Peccei (1999:5), pragmatics concentrates on those aspects of meaning that cannot be predicted by linguistics alone and takes into account knowledge about the physical and social world.

Pragmatics is branch of linguistics that concerns with study of meaning between language and context used in social world and need knowledge to understanding. Pragmatics deals with communication between speaker and listener, so the utterance spoken by speaker should be interpreted by the listener.

This research focuses on the study of figurative language and the illocutionary act in Owl City’s songs. The data analyzed by using Perrine’s theory of figurative language and illocutionary act of figurative language used in Owl City’s albums by referring to the theory speech act of Leech.
B. Research Method

The type of the research is qualitative research. The object of the research in this study is figurative language used in Owl City’s Albums. The data in this research are sentences or lyrics containing figurative language used in Owl City’s Albums. The data source of this study is Owl City’s Albums. The research aims to identify the types of figurative language and illocutionary act in the lyric of Owl City’s Albums. The writer uses some steps to collecting the data: Listening deeply the songs of Owl City’s Albums. Reading and understanding deeply the lyrics toward the source of data. Writing the data of figurative language found Owl City’s songs and coding the data. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows: analyzing the types of figurative language in songs of Owl City by using the theory of Perrine and describing of illocutionary act of figurative language in songs of Owl City by referring to the theory speech act of Leech.

C. Research Finding

1. Types of Figurative Language

Figurative language is an imagination that has more one meaning and cannot be interpreted literally. There are seven types of figurative language used in Owl City’s songs. They are Metaphor, Simile, Personification, Symbol, Paradox, and Overstatement or Hyperbole.
a. Metaphor

Metaphor is comparing two things that are essentially unlike and the comparison is implied.

T12/L.51/The Bird and The Worm

You’re the bird, I’m the worm
And it’s plain to see
That we were meant to be

The utterance “You’re the bird, I’m the worm.” uses figurative language of metaphor. Commonly, bird and worm are not friends but they cannot be separated. Worm is meal of the bird, and bird is worm’s enemy. The enemies usually have quarell each other. So, the meaning of the utterance is eventhough they always quarell but they cannot be separated and need each other.

b. Simile

Simile is comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, usually like, as, than, such as.

T2/L.4/Rainbow Veins/Maybe I’m Dreaming

Everywhere, is balanced there
Like a rainbow above you

The utterance “Everywhere, is balanced there. Like a rainbow above you” uses figurative language. There is a comparison between balance and rainbow by using “like”. It is indicated as figurative language as simile. Commonly, rainbow looks beautiful and brings
happiness, so it means whenever we make balanced and not mess it brings happiness and beauty.

c. **Personification**

Personification consists of giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object or a concept.

**T6/L5/Air Traffic/Maybe I’m Dreaming**

*Relax your back and let the noise
Sing to you to sleep in my arms*

The utterance “*Relax your back and let the noise. Sing to you to sleep in my arms*” uses figurative language. The type of figurative language is personification. In here, noise is placed as human being and acted sings. A sing is activity of human being but in this utterance the imagine of the noise is presented as human being.

d. **Symbol**

Symbol is defined as something that means more than what it is.

**T8/L2/Dear Vienna/Maybe I’m Dreaming**

*Until I viewed it in black and white*

The utterance “*Until I viewed it in black and white*” uses figurative language symbol. Usually, *black* represents bad or negative things while *white* represents good or positive things.
e. **Paradox**

Paradox is an apparent contradiction that is nevertheless somehow true.

**T19/L21/Tidal Wave/Ocean Eyes**

*Then I was given grace and love*
*I was blind but now I can see*

The utterance above shows figurative language of paradox. The paradox appears when two things should not be able to exist together. The author supposed that he was able not to see but he can now. The utterance “*Then I was given grace and love. I was blind but now I can see*” means that after I get wisdom, I realize that I have ability.

f. **Overstatement or Hyperbole**

Overstatement or hyperbole is simply exaggeration and upon closer examination this exaggeration is true.

**T3/L15/Super Honeymoon/Maybe I’m Dreaming**

*We played golf on the moon*
*And tennis on the sun*

This lyric contains figurative language of hyperbole with indicator “*We played golf on the moon. And tennis on the sun*”. It illustrates that he can play on the moon and the sun. In the real situation, he need more strength to go to space and it is impossible to play golf on the moon even tennis on the sun because he can go there
From the analysis, the writer finds 53 figurative language used in Owl City’s Albums, most of them are in the type of Personification. Then, Hyperbole, Simile, Metaphor, Symbol and the last is Paradox.

The figurative language of personification is most appearing in the Owl City’s song because the characteristic of the author is giving the attributes of human being to things, animals and feels in his every song.

2. The Illocution of Figurative Language

The next research finding is the illocution of the figurative language. Illocutionary act has been performed the hearer need to know what is the speaker intends to bring about by producing the utterance. This section is focused on the illocution of the figurative language used in Owl City’s albums. Here, there are 13 illocution of Figurative Language used in Owl City’s albums. There are Thanking, Asserting, Stating, Suggesting, Boasting, Complaining, Ordering, Requesting, Advising, Recommending, Blaming, Praising, and Condoling.

T2/L50/Rainbow Veins/Maybe I’m Dreaming

My emotion
Struck a sparkling tone like a xylophone
As we spent the day alone

Context: this context telling about a great time when the author is alone. He tells that alone is not bad and does not mean that he is lonely. However, alone makes he knows about him self more.

Locution my emotion struck a sparkling tone like a xylophone
As we spent the day alone

Illocution: The lyric describes about busy city life. Sometimes, the author depresses with his busy life. He compared his beautiful and peace day when he is alone with a xylophone. He thinks being alone is not too bad but it can bring joy and refresh our mind. The speech act used in this sentence is recommending. The author gives recommendation to spend your time alone when you exhausted. Alone is not mean lonely but you can know yourself as well too. And it gives a new energy for our mind and body. So, the writer’s intention of the figurative language is recommending.

Based on the analysis above, the results of the kinds of speech act is that there are asserting, stating and requesting. They are the most commonly found in the analysis. The next illocution act that found is complaining, thanking, advising, praising, and blaming. The last are boasting ordering, recommending, and condoling.

D. Conclusion

Based on the result of the research, the researcher can draw the conclusion as follow:

1. There are seven types of figurative language found in Owl City’s Albums. They are Metaphor, Simile, Personification, Symbol, Paradox, and Overstatement or Hyperbole. From the analysis, the writer finds 50
figurative language used in Owl City’s Albums, most of them are in the
type of Hyperbole. Then, Personification, Simile, Symbol, Metaphor,
and the last is Paradox. The figurative language of hyperbole is most
appearing in the Owl City’s song because the characteristic of the song-
writer uses excessive words to express his feel to be a song.

2. There are 13 illocution of Figurative Language used in Owl City’s
albums. There are Thanking, Asserting, Stating, Suggesting, Boasting,
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E. Bibliography


