

**A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY
OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
IN EVANESCENCE'S SONG**



Research Paper

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Song is a device to express human feeling. Everything we see, everything we do is associated with the sound we are hearing (and which is echoing in our minds). Songs stick in our minds and become part of us. It is hard to escape music and song as it occupies ever more of the world around us, in operating theaters, in our cars, restaurant and cafes, shopping malls, and at sport events.

Songs can be used by listeners for their own purposes, largely because many types of song do not have precise people, place or time reference. For those who find them relevant, songs happen whenever and wherever one hears them and they are, consciously or subconsciously, about the people in one's own life. Most importantly, perhaps, songs are relaxing they provide variety and fun and encourage harmony within oneself and within a group. Little wonder they are important tools in sustaining cultures, religions, patriotism and even resolutions.

Talking about song cannot be separated from music. Lyrics in a song strengthen the existence of music. The song lyrics having a role to kindle, meaning imagination is called a product of kindling the meaning. Music and song are forming a communal activity in which, for a while, the world becomes one. Murphy (1996: 6) says songs can be immensely valuable for developing

certain capacities, but they can be more valuable if the singer or the listeners exploit them creatively to bridge the gap between the pleasurable experience of singing or listening and the communicative use of language.

The arrangement of usual words will not attract the listeners to imagine and then to reveal the message beneath the songs. But those, who embrace the figurative and ambiguous words, will make the song sound beautiful. It is true that the nice melody of a song will also make the listeners love it. Machinist in the Enjoyment of music states the artist needs a public for his work springs not only from this desire for self expressing but also from his needs to communicate with his fellow (1995: 3). The beautiful words of song lyrics will have additional value to the lyrics, and it is related to the songwriter capability to choose certain words to present the images.

However, figurative can surely be little mystery. Writers have mysterious and special sentence which are different from one another. It cannot be separated from the writer's ways or technique to express, to reflect, and describe his or her song lyrics. So it is sometimes very difficult to analyze figurative language completely and perfectly.

It is important for the readers or listeners to understand figurative language to comprehend the song lyrics. If the readers or listeners have difficulty in doing so, they may not understand what the singer is really singing. It is also important for the readers or listeners to be able to recognize figurative language. These two factors, recognizing and understanding

figurative language are important if the readers or listeners are to fully comprehend the material in which figurative language appears.

Evanescence is a rock band from little rock, Arkansas, consisting of

1. Amy lee as vocals and pianist (co-founder of the band)
2. John LeCompt as Guitarist
3. Rocky Gray as Drummer
4. William Boyd as Bassist
5. Terry Balsamo as a Guitarist (substitute for co-founder ben moody)

Past band members:

6. Ben Moddy as Lead Guitarist (co-counder-left October 2003)

Evanescence fits roughly into the generic genre of rock, but in fact sound guide is different among its arsenal of songs. While there are heavier songs general known for such as grind under, bring me to life and whisper, they really only constitute a minority of all the songs by the band. More widely known softer songs include my immortal, everybody fool and imagery.

Their first single album bring me to life was a global hit for the band, they reached of fifth rank on the American Billboard Hot 100. It was included in the soundtrack for the action movie Daredevil.

The sound of Evanescence is undeniably unique and very strong. Lead singer Amy Lee has a very powerful voice the resounds throughout the entirety of the album. The music style is varied throughout the album. The credibility of the music alone is clear. The lyrics have deep meaning and the figurative language gives poetic sense to their song.

The album *fallen* is extremely well done musically, and while a bit conventional in music style, the female lead vocalist is terrific twist that gives evanescence a sound belonging only to them.

In this study, dealing with figurative language, the writer is interested in analyzing the figurative language in the song lyrics. The writer formulates the title as follow. “A Descriptive Study of Figurative Language in Evanescence’s Songs”.

B. Previous Study

To provide the originality of this research the writer wants to present the previous research that deals with especially figurative language in general.

The previous research is done by Endah Dewangkara (2003) in Analysis on figurative language used in John Donne’s poems. Her study comes to the conclusion that the dominant figurative languages used on Donne’s poems are Hyperbola and symbol.

Another study is from Widiatmo (1997) in “An analysis of the figurative referential expression in Le Guinn’s *the left hand of darkness*”. He also finds all of figures of speech used in that novel and the most Dominant figurative referential expression used in this novel is Hyperbole.

The previous study above is really important to the writer because they help the writer finds the right books for literature. For this study the writer analyzes the lyrics by focusing on existence of figurative and imagery. The difference of this analysis is the object being analyzed.

C. Limitation of the Study

This study has a broad scope and it is impossible for the writer to handle all problems. Therefore, the problem, the limitation problem of that the writer is going to deal with in the study is:

1. The Subject of the study of Evanescence's song lyrics on the album entitled 'Fallen'. It contains 11 songs (1) Going Under, (2) Bring Me to Life, (3) Everybody's Fool, (4) My Immortal, (5) Haunted, (6) Tourniquet, (7) Imaginary, (8) Taking Over Me, (9) Hello, (10) My Last Breath, and (11) Whisper.
2. The study focuses on the use of figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, hyperbole, paradox, metonymy, symbol, allegory, irony and litotes) in the lyrics of each song of 'Fallen' album.
3. The writer uses a descriptive analysis to analysis the use of figurative language and imagery in Evanescence's album 'Fallen'.

D. Focus of the Study

In this study the writer wants to identify the use of figurative language in Evanescence's album entitled "Fallen". The problems can be determined as follows:

1. What types of figurative languages are used in Evanescence's album "Fallen"?
2. What are the meanings of figurative language in Evanescence's album "Fallen"?

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are follows:

1. The writer wants to find out types of figurative language in Evanescence's song lyrics.
2. The writer wants to find out the meaning of figurative language in Evanescence's album "Fallen".

F. Benefits of the Study

The study or figurative language on William Blake's poems has several benefits they are:

1. Theoretically, this study is expected to contribute the larger body of knowledge particularly the literary study on Evanescence's song lyrics.
2. Practically, this research is expected to improve the writer's understanding about literature, especially analyzing Evanescence's song lyrics. That will which the study of literature especially on figurative language.

G. Research Paper Organization

Chapter I is Introduction which consists of Background of the Study, Previous Study, Focus of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, and Research Paper Organization.

Chapter II is Underlying Theories, this chapter is related to the Language Literature, Definition of Figurative Language, Types of Figurative Language, Notion of Meaning and Biography of Evanescence

Chapter III is Research Method it present of the Type Research, Object of the Study, Data and Source Data, Technique of Collecting Data, and Technique of Data Analysis.

Chapter IV is Data Analysis and Discussion

Chapter V is Conclusion and Suggestion