A SEMANTIC STUDY ON FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

USED IN THE WESTLIFE'S ALBUM

RESEARCH PAPER
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by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Communication is the process whereby information is imparted by a sender to a receiver via a medium. Communication requires that all parties have an area of communicative commonality. There are auditory means, such as speaking, singing and sometimes tone of voice, and nonverbal, physical means, such as body language, sign language, paralanguage, touch, eye contact, by using writing. (Severin, Werner. J:wikipedia.org/wiki/communication)

In sending the message the sender does not only use an explicit utterance or direct expression but also uses an implicit utterance or indirect expression, in which the meaning of utterance is different from the utterance itself such as by using figurative language. Figurative language is one of the indirect speeches in which the meaning is more than the utterance itself. It is used to describe something, which has no specific word, in order to be explained what is like. Figurative language may also be described as an intentional departure from the literal use of the language for the purpose of clarity, emphasis, or freshness of expression. Sometimes, the receivers are confused to differentiate between pure language and figurative language. This due to the fact that a language which looks abstract can look real and it will cause misunderstanding.

There are many kinds of figurative language such as personification, irony, metonymy, synecdoche, hyperbole, allegory, paradox, apostrophe, simile,

metaphor, and litotes. Dealing with figurative language above, this study will discuss all of them that related to the research (Perrine, 1977: 61-109).

Transferred meaning or figurative meaning is language use where the meaning is not real meaning. One way to understand a figurative language is by studying semantics.

In linguistics, semantics is the subfield that is devoted to the study of meaning, as inherent at the levels of words, phrases, sentences, and even larger units of <u>discourse</u> (referred to as *texts*). (<u>Cruise, Alan.:wikipedia.org/wiki/semantics</u>)

A song is a musical composition that contains vocal parts (lyrics) that are performed (sung), commonly accompanied by musical instruments (exceptions would be acapella songs). The lyrics of songs are typically of a poetics, rhyming nature, although they may be religious verses or free prose. (<u>Kamren, Roger August :wikipedia.org/wiki/song</u>)

One case of figurative language that can be found in the lyrics **"fragile heart" taken from WESTLIFE's album** is personification.

> *A fragile heart*, was broken before,
> I do not think it could endure another pain
> But there's a voice
> From deep inside of you
> That's calling out to make you realize
> That this new bond gives inspiration
> To all who feel no love no more
> So, how can I break this wall around you
> That's aiding both *our hearts to grow in pain*

In fragile heart lyric of WESTLIFE album above, people can feel strange when they are reading **a fragile heart**, because a fragile heart does not mean that human's heart can be fragile but in this sentence, it means that heart is pretended like thing or an object. The heart can be fragile in different situation like someone who was broken heart; they use that word to express their heart situation. The heart is actually inanimate endowed with personal attributed.

In the last lyric of fragile heart, there is an expression **our hearts to grow in pain**, this is impossible that "heart" can grow in pain, because something that can grow is plant or something that can move. So in this sentence **heart** is pretended as life which is predicted especially in **fragile heart** title to grow up as flora.

The figurative languages used in the lyrics of Westlife's songs are interesting phenomena, and this makes the writer decides to conduct a study on the topic entitled **A Semantic Study of Figurative Language Used in the Westlife's Album.**

B. Previous Study

To prove the originality of her study, the researcher discusses previous studies that deal with metaphor used in literary work done by students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

Sofiani (2004) from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in her research entitled **A Study of Metaphorical Language Used in the Corr's Song**

reveals that there are five types of metaphor used in human perceptual system applied in the Corr's song, they are abstract concept, cosmos, energy terrestrial, and metaphor. In the research, the researcher used observation as the method of collecting the data. This method was proposed to observe the metaphor expressed in the Corrs' songs. This research applied hermeneutics as the technique of analyzing the data.

Fatmawati (2006) from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta conducted a study entitled **A Semantics Study of Metaphorical Language Used in the Josh Groban Closer Album**. She classifies the data based on human perceptual system by Michael C. Haley. Then she applies semantics approach in order to get the inside meaning of it. After analyzing the data, the researcher has found 31 metaphor expressions in this song. There are 16 Abstract concept expressions, 2 Energy metaphor expression, 7 Terrestrial metaphor expression, 1 Animate creature expression, 1 Substance metaphor expression and the last 4 Man/Human expressions. And the researcher does not find Thing/Objective, Life/Living, and Cosmos category

Based on the above studies, it is obvious that all studies used human perceptual system that is under the scope of pragmatics and semantics. Different from those studies, although the researcher presents her scope of semantics approach in fact, the researcher does not concern with the metaphor, but the researcher concerns with figurative languages as her studies. In addition, the researcher uses the Westlife's song lyrics in Westlife album containing figurative languages as the data.

C. Problem Statement

Knowing the problem is the most important part in the research. The researcher decides some problems that will be discussed here. The problems are formulated as follow.

1. What are the figurative languages expressions based on human perceptual system used in Westlife's song lyric on Westlife album?

2. What are the contextual meanings of the figurative languages expression used in Westlifes song lyrics on Westlife album?

D. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statements above, the objectives of the study are as the follows:

1. To classify the figurative languages expressions based on human perceptual system used in Westlife's song lyrics on Westlife album.

2. To describe the contextual meanings of the figurative languages expressions used in Westlife song lyrics on Westlife album.

E. Limitation of the Study

The researcher has limitation in analysing a semantic study of personification language used in the Westlife album. This study is intended to

help the readers comprehend a semantic study of figurative language used in the Westlife album by using human perceptual system and contextual meanings.

F. Benefit of the Study

After completing the study, the writer hopes this study will have the benefits for anyone who reads it, such as:

1. Students of English Department.

    This research will help the readers to understand the figurative language expressions used in Westlife's song lyrics on Westlife album.

2. The writer.

    This research can be used as an additional reference for the next researcher, especially those who are interested in the study of figurative language.

G. Research Paper Organization

The writer uses several step of this research to make it easier to be understood. Those steps are:

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of the background of the study, previous study, problem statement, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is the underlying theory. It deals with of typical language of song, notion of semantics, contextual meaning, figurative language, and type of figurative languages expression.

Chapter III is research method. It presents type of method, object of method, data and data source, method of collecting data, method and technique of analyzing data

Chapter IV is research finding and discussion. It relates to research finding and discussion.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. It consists of conclusion and suggestion.