

Analysis of Figurative Language in Lyrics of Song “Glimpse of Us” By Joji

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ABSTRACT

This research examines the figurative language in Joji’s captivating English song, “Glimpse of Us”. The research drew its source from the international song website, www.azlyrics.com. The researchers meticulously analyzed the findings using a qualitative approach with a descriptive design. Remarkably, the song revealed a rich tapestry of figurative language encompassing seven distinct types. Allegory, the dominant form, emerged seven times, while metaphor emerged three times. Hyperbole and symbol each made two appearances, lending further depth and nuance to the composition. Additionally, the song employed apostrophe, repetition, and synecdoche once each, contributing to its overall lyrical magnificence. In terms of percentage, allegory comprised an impressive 41%, metaphor accounted for 18%, hyperbole, and symbol contributed 12%, and apostrophe, repetition, and synecdoche each held 6%.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In the pursuit of mastering the English language, individuals must grasp both its essence and structure. Fortunately, there exists a multitude of approaches that can be employed to facilitate English language acquisition. One particularly effective method is through the art of song. Engaging in language learning through music fosters a heightened enthusiasm among students and yields remarkable results (Apsari in [7]). As [11] asserts, songs embody the very fabric of language, serving as a vessel for individuals to express their thoughts and emotions. Furthermore, songs possess the power to deliver profound messages, thereby enriching the learning experience.

A song is a melodic masterpiece brought to life by the harmonious blend of an instrument or a skilled performer [1]. Its presence in one’s life, be it personal or professional, is indubitably essential, owing to the enchanting power of music. This captivating art form profoundly influences individuals, permeating their physical, emotional, behavioral, educational, and imaginative realms.

In the realm of music, a captivating element often found woven within the fabric of songs is figurative language. This particular form of language possesses a brevity that goes beyond its literal interpretation, lending itself to be frequently employed in the lyrical realm. As [4] affirms, figurative language is a linguistic technique that employs words with divergent meanings from their literal

counterparts, requiring the listener to delve into the depths of inference. Indeed, understanding figurative language necessitates a deeper level of contemplation, as it veers from the conventional and challenges one to unravel its hidden meanings. Therefore, to truly grasp the essence of lyrics adorned with figurative language, it becomes paramount to acquaint oneself with and unravel the profound significance that lies within.

A figurative language is a captivating communication that transcends the boundaries of conventional meaning [1]. It is a skillful tool to infuse artistic charm and convey abstract ideas. By expanding upon the literal interpretation of words, figurative language captivates the audience through its inventive nature, comedic effect, or enhanced clarity. Particularly prevalent in narrative writing, this technique strives to evoke powerful emotions within the reader, leaving an indelible impact.

Using figurative language serves a multifaceted purpose in music, academia, and scientific knowledge [3]. Far from being uncommon or purely poetic, figurative language is an ever-present element in spoken and written communication. However, it is regrettable that the presence and accuracy of figurative language are not always readily apparent [6]. Figuration, in essence, involves using metaphor or metonymy to draw connections to other forms of expression that may be perceived as literal [10]. Unlike routine usage, the literal interpretation is not dependent on a figurative aspect but rather exists independently, conveying a distinct meaning from one context to another [2].

Drawing from Perrine's invaluable insights in [7], figurative language is divided into personification, metaphor, simile, irony, symbol, hyperbole, synecdoche, metonymy, allegory, paradox, understatement, apostrophe, and repetition. (1) Metaphor, the art of drawing direct comparisons without the use of common words such as "like" or "as," allows for an intricate and captivating form of expression; (2) Repetition employs the power of recurring words to reinforce and emphasize a specific message, lending a sense of authority and conviction; (3) Paradox, despite its apparent contradiction, possesses a hidden truth that stimulates contemplation and provokes deeper understanding; (4) Hyperbole serves as a tool for deliberate exaggeration, aiming to create a profound impact and evoke strong emotions; (5) Symbolism utilizes the inherent meaning of objects or concepts to convey a profound statement, adding depth and layers to the narrative; (6) Allegory, a form of storytelling, weaves intricate narratives that possess a secondary meaning, encouraging readers to delve into profound insights; (7) Apostrophe, a linguistic device, endows non-human entities or absent beings with life, allowing for an engaging and interactive dialogue; (8) Simile, through the use of explicit comparisons using words like "like" or "as," shines a spotlight on the similarities between two distinct entities, enriching our comprehension; (9) Synecdoche, by substituting a part for the whole, simplifies complex ideas, enabling concise and impactful communication.

Analyzing figurative language in song lyrics is an intriguing endeavor [12]. Numerous texts lend themselves to such analysis [13]. Examples include movie scripts, talk show conversations, speeches, short stories, drama scripts, song lyrics, newspapers, magazines, and more. For this research, song lyrics were chosen as the primary data source. This decision was made because song lyrics offer relevant and valuable insights for this research. Songwriters often employ figurative language to captivate listeners, making their songs all the more enchanting to sing along to. Furthermore, these researchers have a knack for implicitly conveying the song's meaning through their lyrics. The song lyric chosen for this research is "Glimpse of Us" by the renowned Joji, a world-renowned singer.

2. METHOD

This research employs a descriptive qualitative approach, in which the researchers examine and present the data related to figurative language found in songs. As Fraenkel and Wallen (in [1]) state, this approach aims to provide a comprehensive explanation, analysis, and classification of the object or phenomenon under investigation, utilizing various procedures such as surveys, interviews, questionnaires, or tests. Furthermore, Fraenkel and Wallen's (in [1]) definition of qualitative research is enlightening. They describe it as exploring the quality of relationships, activities, circumstances, or

materials. Qualitative methods, such as in-depth interviews, observation of real-world settings, and analysis of documents, are employed to derive meaningful conclusions.

The focus of this research revolves around the artistry of song lyrics. The analysis delves into the intricate use of figurative language in the song of Joji. The selected song for analysis is Glimpse of Us, sourced from the reputable website www.azlyrics.com. The data analysis process consisted of identifying, classifying, and thoroughly examining the collected data.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After selecting a song titled “Glimpse of Us” from Joji, the researchers sought out the lyrics on the website of www.azlyrics.com. The lyrics of the song are available below.

**She'd take the world off my shoulders
If it was ever hard to move
She'd turn the rain to a rainbow
When I was living in the blue
Why then, if she is so perfect
Do I still wish that it was you?
Perfect don't mean that it's working
So what can I do? (Ooh)
**When you're out of sight
In my mind
***'Cause sometimes I look in her eyes
And that's where I find a glimpse of us
And I try to fall for her touch
But I'm thinking of the way it was
Said I'm fine and said I moved on
I'm only here passing time in her arms
Hoping I'll find
A glimpse of us
****Tell me he savors your glory
Does he laugh the way I did?
Is this a part of your story?
One that I had never lived
Maybe one day you'll feel lonely
And in his eyes, you'll get a glimpse
Maybe you'll start slipping slowly
And find me again
Back to **, ****

Through careful analysis, researchers discovered a delightful array of seven captivating literary devices within the lyrics. These figurative languages, including allegory, hyperbole, metaphor, apostrophe, symbol, repetition, and synecdoche, added enchanting depth to the lyrical artistry.

1. Allegory

According to [9], allegory is a captivating narrative that conceals its true meaning beneath its literal interpretation, thereby simultaneously encompassing two layers of significance. The surface-level meaning may deceive, as the true essence lies subtly concealed, awaiting the discerning eye to unravel its depths. Moreover, as [15] argues, allegory employs a tapestry of symbols to convey its message, constantly expanding their significance as they serve as vessels for representing objects or ideas.

Table 1. Allegory of Song “Glimpse of Us” by Joji”.

No.	Lyrics	Explanations
1	“She’d take the world off my shoulders if it was ever hard to move”	The meaning of these lyrics is that it represents someone who is a source of happiness for his lover. Even though problems arise, his partner remains loyal to accompany him.
2	“When I was livin’ in the blue”	Blue here is not a color, but blue here means sadness. So, the meaning of this lyric is someone who lives in sadness.
3	“Perfect don’t mean that it’s working”	These lyrics mean that other people’s perfection cannot replace the partner’s position attached to someone’s heart.
4	“I’m only here passin’ time in her arms”	These lyrics mean that a man having an affair with another woman only uses that woman as an outlet, in other words, the man still remembers the woman he loved before or his ex.
5	“Hopin’ I find, a glimpse of us”	These lyrics mean that someone often remembers her/his ex even though he/she already has a new lover.
6	“Maybe one day you’ll feel lonely”	These lyrics mean someone who wants his/her ex to remember him/her and come back to him/her even though that is impossible.
7	“Maybe you’ll start slippin’ slowly and find me again”	These lyrics mean someone who waits and hopes for the return of their ex-partner.

2. Hyperbole

According to [5], the figure of speech known as hyperbole entails using language that incorporates exaggerated statements, serving to emphasize a particular point. In alignment with this viewpoint, [8] asserts that hyperbole constitutes a linguistic style that amplifies how something is expressed, enhancing its intended meaning.

Table 2. The hyperbole of the Song “Glimpse of Us” by Joji”.

No.	Lyrics	Explanations
1	“She’d turn the rain to a rainbow”	This lyric has an exaggerated meaning because it is impossible for humans to change rain into a rainbow.
2	“Tell me he savors your glory”	These lyrics are exaggerated because glory cannot be enjoyed and humans are ordinary creatures.

3. Metaphor

According to [15], metaphor is a literary device that transcends literal meaning and utilizes compelling imagery derived from similarities or comparisons. It weaves concise analogies to evoke deeper layers of meaning. This aligns with the perspective of [9], who asserts that metaphor is a tool for drawing connections between disparate concepts, tangible objects, abstract ideas, defining traits, or subtle actions. The implicit relationship between these elements is subtly implied without the need for explicit verbal comparison indicators.

Table 3. Metaphor of the Song “Glimpse of Us” by Joji”.

No.	Lyrics	Explanations
1	“Why then, if she so perfect? Do I still wish that it was you? So what can I do?”	This lyric means a comparison between two women in a man’s mind. They are his new lover and his ex. The man still cannot find comfort in his new lover even though his new lover is considered better.
2	“And I try to fall for her touch but I’m thinkin’ of the way it was”	These lyrics mean there is a comparison of situations where the man tries to feel comfortable with his new lover but still remembers the memories with his ex.
3	“Does he laugh the way I did?”	This lyric compares situations where the man wonders whether his ex finds personality similarities between him and her new lover.

4. Apostrophe

Apostrophe embodies a refined linguistic approach, employing an endearing salutation towards individuals or non-human entities as if imbuing them with vitality [7]. This artful technique, utilized in the present context, can respond to the very essence of what is expressed.

Table 4. Apostrophe of Song “Glimpse of Us” by Joji”.

No.	Lyrics	Explanations
1	“When you’re out of sight, in my mind”	These lyrics mean someone remembers their ex whose whereabouts they no longer know.

5. Symbol

A symbol can be described as an entity transcending its literal representation (Perrine in [14]). Each symbol possesses its unique significance. Within this particular source of information, symbols emerged as the predominant form of figurative language explored in this research.

Table 5. Symbol of Song “Glimpse of Us” by Joji”.

No.	Lyrics	Explanations
1	“Cause sometimes I look in her eyes, and that’s where I find, a glimpse of us”	In this lyric, the symbol is eyes, where with eyes, we can see everything that happens in our lives. In the context of these lyrics, the man sees the reflection of his ex in the eyes of his new lover.
2	“And in his eyes, you’ll get a glimpse.”	In this lyric, the symbol is eyes, where with eyes, we can see everything that happens in our lives. In the context of these lyrics, a man hopes that her ex can see the memory of himself in the woman’s new lover with her eyes.

6. Repetition

Repetition, in language, employs the art of repeating words to affirm and effectively convey a specific meaning. This skillful use of repetition is a powerful tool, gracefully confirming and reinforcing one’s intended message [7].

Table 6. Repetition of the Song “Glimpse of Us” by Joji”.

No.	Lyrics	Explanations
1	“Said I’m fine and said I moved on”	The repetition of meaning in these lyrics is found in the word “said,” which emphasizes the validity of someone saying something.

7. Synecdoche

Synecdoche, the artful technique of representing something by referring to a part of it, possesses an innate ability to refine and clarify our language [7]. By selectively highlighting the most consequential components, we are able to convey complex ideas with remarkable simplicity and precision.

Table 7. Synecdoche of Song “Glimpse of Us” by Joji”.

No.	Lyrics	Explanations
1	“Is this a part of your story? One that I had never lived”	One in these lyrics means one part of the story in someone’s life.

The song possessed a unique assortment of figurative language, creating a sense of artistic diversity. To visually showcase the various types of figurative language employed, please refer to the table below.

Table 8. Figurative Language of Song “Glimpse of Us” by Joji”.

No.	Figurative Language	Frequency	Percentage
1	Allegory	7	41%
2	Hyperbole	2	12%
3	Metaphor	3	18%
4	Apostrophe	1	6%
5	Symbol	2	12%
6	Repetition	1	6%
7	Synecdoche	1	6%
Total		17	100%

Based on the data presented in the table above, a comprehensive analysis reveals the presence of seven distinct forms of figurative language within the composition “Glimpse of Us” by Joji. These include the captivating elements of allegory, hyperbole, metaphor, apostrophe, symbol, repetition, and synecdoche. Among these seven forms, allegory notably emerges as the most prominently employed, making a striking appearance on seven occasions. The evocative usage of metaphor is followed closely behind, observed three times throughout the composition. Additionally, both hyperbole and symbol make their impact twice. Moreover, apostrophe, repetition, and synecdoche grace the composition, each being utilized once to enhance its artistic allure. When considering the overall occurrence in percentage, allegory astonishingly claims the leading position, commanding 41% of the figurative language employed. Metaphor, in its own right, occupies a noteworthy 18%, while hyperbole and symbol contribute a commendable 12%. Finally, apostrophe, repetition, and synecdoche contribute 6% of the figurative language.

Thus, in the song Glimpse of Us by Joji, most of the lyrics use figurative language in allegory, a tapestry of symbols to convey its message, constantly expanding their significance as they serve as vessels for representing objects or ideas. This means this song uses more figurative lyrics with an implied meaning in each word in the lyrics.

4. CONCLUSION

Berdasarkan hasil penemuan dalam penelitian ini, beberapa kesimpulan yang dapat peneliti kemukakan antara lain :

1. Researchers discovered a delightful array of seven captivating literary devices within the lyrics from the song Glimpse of Us by Joji. These figurative languages, including allegory, hyperbole, metaphor, apostrophe, symbol, repetition, and synecdoche, added enchanting depth to the lyrical artistry.
2. Among seven forms of figurative language contained in the song Glimpse of Us by Joji (including allegory, hyperbole, metaphor, apostrophe, symbol, repetition, and synecdoche), allegory notably emerges as the most prominently employed, making a striking appearance on seven occasions. The evocative usage of metaphor is followed closely behind, observed three times throughout the composition. Additionally, both hyperbole and symbol make their impact twice. Moreover, the presence of apostrophe, repetition, and synecdoche is utilized once.
3. The percentage of each form of language figurative contained in the song of Glimpse of Us by Joji is allegory (41%), metaphor (18%), hyperbole (12%), symbol (12%), apostrophe (6%), repetition (6%), and synecdoche (6%).

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