

Figurative Language Applied In “The Show” Album By Niall Horan

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Abstract. *Songs and language are inseparable companions in the world of music. Language is the framework on which songs are constructed, allowing songwriters and performers to engage audiences intellectually and emotionally by sharing their thoughts, feelings, and tales in songs. Figurative language and songs share a deep and symbiotic relationship. In order to give their lyrics emotion, depth, and inventiveness, lyricists employ a variety of figurative language techniques. This helps listeners engage with the music on a visceral and emotional level. Figurative language is an effective tool for turning lyrics into an engaging and memorable storytelling experience. The objective is to find out the figurative language applied in ‘The Show’ Album by Niall Horan. The method used for this study is descriptive qualitative method and used Kennedy and Gioia (1995) figurative languages as the theory. Various sources such as undergraduate thesis, articles, books, and internet sources are used to provide further information. The findings of this article are seven songs on the album that contain figurative language. The result is that four data in simile is found, one data in metaphor, five data in hyperbole, four data in personification, three in metonymy, and one in synecdoche.*

Keywords: *Album, figurative language, language, Niall Horan, song.*

Abstrak. Lagu dan bahasa merupakan sahabat yang tidak dapat dipisahkan dalam dunia musik. Bahasa adalah kerangka di mana lagu dikonstruksi, memungkinkan penulis lagu dan pemain untuk melibatkan penonton secara intelektual dan emosional dengan berbagi pemikiran, perasaan, dan cerita mereka dalam lagu. Bahasa kiasan dan lagu memiliki hubungan yang mendalam dan simbiosis. Untuk memberikan emosi, kedalaman, dan daya cipta pada liriknya, penulis lirik menggunakan berbagai teknik bahasa kiasan. Hal ini membantu pendengar terlibat dengan musik pada tingkat yang mendalam dan emosional. Bahasa kiasan adalah alat yang efektif untuk mengubah lirik menjadi pengalaman bercerita yang menarik dan berkesan. Tujuannya adalah untuk mengetahui bahasa kiasan yang diterapkan dalam Album 'The Show' karya Niall Horan. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif dan menggunakan teori bahasa kiasan Kennedy dan Gioia (1995). Berbagai sumber seperti skripsi, artikel, buku, dan sumber internet digunakan untuk memberikan informasi lebih lanjut. Temuan artikel ini adalah tujuh lagu dalam album tersebut mengandung bahasa kiasan. Hasilnya ditemukan empat data simile, satu data metafora, lima data hiperbola, empat data personifikasi, tiga data metonimi, dan satu data sinekdoke.

Kata kunci: Album, bahasa kiasan, Bahasa, Niall Horan, lagu.

BACKGROUND

Language is a magnificent tool, able to construct vivid and imaginative pictures in the minds of those who use it in addition to delivering facts and information. The artistic vocabulary of words and expressions that goes beyond literal expression and imbues language with depth, color, and emotion is known as figurative language. It is the means through which authors, poets, presenters, and artists give life to their works, giving audiences a richer, more complex understanding of language.

Figurative language is a fascinating area where words acquire new meanings and dimensions and go beyond their usual use to elicit sensory perceptions, feelings, and insights. It includes a diverse range of literary techniques, each of which offers a special means of examining and articulating the intricacies of the human experience. Figurative language opens the door to creativity, allowing us to perceive the world through new perspectives and communicate with greater impact through metaphors, similes, personification, hyperbole, and more. Figurative language can be found in poetry, storytelling, or even song.

Music is something that can hardly be separated from human life at this time. Many people listen to music for various reasons, depending on the type of music itself. According to Albright (2009), music is the one universal language, a sort of Pentecostal tongue of fire, in that it behaves as a language not learned systematically but understood intuitively by everyone. Music is a language, whether in theory or in practice, the less tenable it appears. According to Merriam-Webster (2023), music is the science or art of ordering tones or sounds in succession, in combination, and in temporal relationships to produce a composition having unity and continuity. Meanwhile, song is a short musical composition of words and music and the act or art of singing. The composition of the words in song contains many figurative languages which improve the attractiveness of the meaning of the song.

According to Recording Academy, one of the biggest world's leading society of music professionals, the nomination based on the music genres consist of Pop, Dance/Electronic, Rock, Alternative, R&B, Rap, Country, New Age, Jazz, Gospel/Contemporary Christian Music, Latin, American Roots Music, Reggae, Global Music, etc. Pop genre is one of the most popular genres.

There are many of famous pop music singers. Niall Horan is one of the most popular Pop singers who started his career by auditioning for The X-Factor and joining one of the UK boy bands in 2010, One Direction. According to Insider (2023) One Direction has been on hiatus since 2015. The four remaining members released a final album and announced an extended hiatus in August 2015. Since the announcement of the so-called hiatus, members have gone on to pursue solo interests, and Niall Horan signed a recording deal as a solo artist with Capitol records. Niall Horan is often included in the list of awards nominations in his musical career in various categories, even as the winner. He has released three albums in his solo career such as Flicker in 2017, Heartbreak Weather in 2020, and The Show in 2023.

Album *The Show* was released through Capitol Records on 9 June 2023. According to Evening Standard.co.uk (Roberts, 2023) the Official Charts Company said that *The Show* by Niall Horan has gone to number one on the UK albums chart. Billboard (Brandle, Billboard.com, 2023) also announced that *The Show* starts at No. 1 in Australia on the ARIA Chart. Billboard (Brandle, Billboard.com, 2023) announced again that *The Show* debuts at No. 1 in UK. According to the nomination, this album is the considerable to be analysed.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Kennedy and Gioia (1995:678) stated that figures of speech are not devices to state what is demonstrably untrue. In fact, they frequently express facts that more literal language is unable to do so; they draw attention to these truths; and they give each figurative language meaning added importance.

Every time a speaker or writer departs from the normal connotations of words for the sake of originality or emphasis, one can say that a figure of speech has arisen. Types of figurative language in this book consist of.

1. Metaphor

According to Kennedy and Gioia (1995:680) metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which, in a literal sense, it is not. Metaphor is not plainly limited in the number of resemblances it may indicate.

Example: Oh, my love is a red, red rose. (Kennedy and Gioia, 1995:681)

2. Simile

Simile is a contrast between two things, suggested by a connection, usually *like*, *as*, *than*, or a verb such as *resembles*. A simile expresses a similarity. It refers to only one characteristic that two things have in common.

Example: Oh, my love is like a red, red rose. (Kennedy and Gioia, 1995:681)

3. Personification

A figure of speech known as personification transforms an object, an animal, or an abstract concept (truth, nature) into a human.

Example: The wind stood up and gave a shout. (Kennedy and Gioia, 1995:686)

4. Metonymy

Metonymy is the name of a thing is substituted for that of another closely associated with it.

Example: Between the cradle and the grave. (Kennedy and Gioia, 1995:688)

(We recognize that cradle and grave signify birth and death.)

5. Hyperbole

We speak, then, not literal truth but use a figure of speech called overstatement (or hyperbole). It being fond of emphasis, often exaggerate for effect.

Example: Vaster than empires, and more slow. (Kennedy and Gioia, 1995:687)

6. Synecdoche

It occurs when a portion of anything is used to represent the entire thing, or vice versa.

Example: She lent a hand. (Kennedy and Gioia, 1995:688)

She lent a hand means that she lent her entire presence.

7. Paradox

It is made in a comment that at first glance seems to contradict itself but which, upon closer examination, really makes some sense. However, some inconsistencies go well beyond simple wordplay.

Example: lives in a larger world than the globe-trotter.(Kennedy and Gioia, 1995:688)

8. Apostrophe

Apostrophe is a method for dealing with unspoken-of or unobservable issues. Poetry can be about an inanimate object, a departed or missing person, an abstract concept, or a ghost. Apostrophes are frequently used by the poet to convey a lofty, solemn tone.

Example: O moon! (Kennedy and Gioia, 1995:687)

RESEARCH METHOD

According to Kothari (1990) the research method is all those methods/techniques that are used for conduction of research, which means it refers to the behaviour and instruments used in selecting and constructing research technique. There are four sections divide the research method of this paper, those are data source, method and technique of collecting data, method and technique of analysing data, method and technique of presenting analysis.

1. Data Source

The data source of this study used primary data because the data were taken from Niall Horan's Album called The Show. It is the third album by Irish singer-songwriter Niall Horan that was released on 9 June 2023. The album is containing 10 tracks of the song. This album was taken as the data source of this research since this is a new album this year that has reached No. 1 in several countries, including United Kingdom and Australia.

2. Method and technique of collecting data

The method of collecting data used in this study was documentation method. Documentation method was used to collect the data from the Niall Horan's third album. Note taking technique was applied in order to mark down the relevant data for the study.

There are several steps used to collect the data. Firstly, the song was chosen by open the Spotify apps and open The Show Album by Niall Horan, and download the lyrics from the internet. Secondly, listen carefully the song that had been opened from the album playlist while read the lyrics to find out the types of figurative language. Thirdly, the song lyrics on the print out was marked and the figurative languages and their meanings were noted down to make them easier to be analysed. The data were analysed based on the theories adopted in this study.

3. Method and technique of analysing data

The data of the study were qualitatively analysed. All of the expressions focused on types of figurative language contained in every song of The Show album by Niall Horan were identified by using the theory from Kennedy and Gioia, which identified and classified based on the types of figurative language, interpreted and discussed the results of the data. Open the lyrics on the internet while listen to the music to avoid misinterpreting meaning, as the data source of this study. Figurative language which applied in songs of The Show album is classified in form of sentence, and the explanation is attached.

4. Method and technique of presenting data

This study used an informal method for presenting the data. The data consisting of the figurative language found in each title of the song in a table. After classified based on the title, classified it based on the types of figurative language with the explanation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The songs list in The Show Album were the object of this research. The song lyrics in this album is analyzed. This album consists of ten songs as the playlist.

The researchers classified the figurative language of the songs in The Show Album by Niall Horan into a table based on the songs. This step is created to simplify the readers to find out and understand which song titles have figurative language in this study. The lists of the songs are *Heaven*, *If You Leave Me*, *Meltdown*, *Never Grow Up*, *The Show*, *You Could Start A Cult*, *Save My Life*, *On A Night Like Tonight*, *Science*, and *Must Be Love*.

NO	TITLE	TYPES OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE	SONG LYRICS
1	Heaven	Metonymy	And you and me go up in flames
		Hyperbole	I could die in your kiss
		Synecdoche	Your touch is made of something
2	Meltdown	Metonymy	When it all melts down, I'll be there
		Hyperbole	When you're hitting a wall and every star falls
3	If You Leave Me	Metonymy	These feelings, they would just be so foreign
		Hyperbole	Moonlight is on your face
4	The Show	Simile	Life is like a board game some of the time
		Personification	But there's a lot creepin' through under the broken skies
		Personification	Dancing with the stars, oh, every night
		Personification	And gravity comes and wraps her arms around you again
		Simile	Life is like a dancefloor some of the time
5	Never Grow Up	-	-
6	You Could Start A Cult	Hyperbole	Kingdoms fighting over you
7	Save My Life	-	-
8	On A Night Like Tonight	Metaphor	Are we just two stars passing by?
		Simile	Wanting your summer skin pressed on mine, fallin' like rain, ripplin on by
		Personification	Supermoon, watch it dance in your eyes
9	Science	-	-
10	Must Be Love	Simile	Until I feel as empty as this bottle of wine
		Hyperbole	I got a first degree in being my worst enemy, I got a PhD in always running away

From the data above, the results of the figurative language which has been found in Niall Horan's The Show Album are classified below.

1. Simile

- a. "Life is like a board game some of the time." [*The Show*]

This lyric was identified as simile because there was comparison by using the word 'like' in the sentence. By this simile, life is compared to a board game some of the time.

- b. "Life is like a dancefloor some of the time." [*The Show*]

This lyric was identified as simile because there was comparison by using the word 'like' in the sentence. By this simile, life is compared to a dancefloor some of the time.

- c. "Wanting your summer skin pressed on mine, fallin' like rain, ripplin on by." [*On A Night Like Tonight*]

This lyric was identified as simile because there was comparison by using the word 'like' in the sentence. By this simile, summer skin is compared to a rain that falling and rippling on by.

- d. "Until I feel as empty as this bottle of wine." [*Must Be Love*]

This lyric was identified as simile because there was comparison by using the word 'as' in the sentence. By this simile, the feeling of the writer is compared to bottle of wine.

2. Metaphor

- a. "Are we just two stars passing by?" [*On A Night Like Tonight*]

This lyric was identified as metaphor because 'we' in the sentence is compared to two stars which passing by. Two stars means two people, which means the writer and his partner. The writer asks if they will continue to be together or just temporarily.

3. Hyperbole

- a. "I could die in your kiss." [*Heaven*]

This lyric was identified as hyperbole because the meaning of the lyric is that because of someone's kiss so the writer could die because of the happiness and pleasure.

- b. "When you're hitting a wall and every star falls" [*Meltdown*]

The lyric was identified as hyperbole because the meaning of the lyric is the anger of someone can make something even worse.

- c. “Moonlight is on your face” [*If You Leave Me*]
The lyric was identified as hyperbole because the meaning of the lyric is that someone’s face is very bright like a moonlight.
- d. “Kingdoms fighting over you” [*You Could Start A Cult*]
The lyric was identified as hyperbole because the meaning of the lyric is that everyone trying to get her, even the kingdom or the best person.
- e. “I got a first degree in being my worst enemy, I got a PhD in always running away” [*Must Be Love*]
This lyric was identified as hyperbole because the meaning of the lyric is that he is the winner of doing something bad behavior and used the phrase ‘first degree’ and ‘PhD’.

4. Personification

- a. “But there’s a lot creepin’ through under the broken skies” [*The Show*]
The lyric was identified as personification because skies are transformed into human character that can be broken.
- b. “Dancing with the stars, oh, every night” [*The Show*]
The lyric was identified as personification because stars are transformed into human character that can dancing.
- c. “And gravity comes and wraps her arms around you again” [*The Show*]
The lyric was identified as personification because gravity is transformed into human character that can comes and wraps someone.
- d. “Supermoon, watch it dance in your eyes” [*On A Night Like Tonight*]
The lyric was identified as personification because supermoon is transformed into human that can dance in someone’s eyes.

5. Metonymy

- a. “And you and me go up in flames” [*Heaven*]
The lyric was identified as metonymy because flames in this context closely associated with the end.
- b. “When it all melts down, I’ll be there” [*Meltdown*]
The lyric was identified as metonymy because meltdown in this song closely associated with anger and frustration.
- c. “These feelings, they would just be so foreign” [*If You Leave Me*]
The lyric was identified as metonymy because foreign in this song closely associated with no longer familiar.

6. Synecdoche
 - a. "Your touch is made of something" [*Heaven*]

The lyric was identified as synecdoche because touch in this song means the entire presence of someone.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Based on the analysis, it can be concluded that there are seven songs on the album that contain figurative language. The seven songs are *Heaven*, *Meltdown*, *If You Leave Me*, *The Show*, *You Could Start A Cult*, *On A Night Like Tonight*, and *Must Be Love*. The result is that four data in simile is found, one data in metaphor, five data in hyperbole, four data in personification, three in metonymy, and one in synecdoche.

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