

# N ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN MAROON FIVE'S SONGS AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING POETRY

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# AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN MAROON FIVE'S SONGS AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO TEACHING POETRY

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## **Abstract:**

*Faristian, Faozi. 2020. "An Analysis Of Figurative Language In Maroon Five's Songs And Its Contribution To Teaching Poetry", The objectives of this research are (1) To find out the kinds of figurative languages used in Maroon Five's song lyrics. (2) To find out the most dominant of figurative language used in Maroon Five's song lyrics. The result of this research shows that (1) There are 14 different types of figurative language found in those songs, such as: assonance, symbolism, metaphor, repetition, consonance, simile, imagery, oxymoron, synecdoche, and paradox. Total lyrics that contain figurative language are 77 lyrics. There are 15 lyrics contains assonance, 12 lyrics contains symbolism, 21 lyrics contains metaphor, 15 lyrics contains repetition, 2 lyrics contains consonance, 1 lyric contain simile, 4 lyrics contains oxymoron, 2 lyrics contains synecdoche, 1 lyric contain paradox, 4 lyrics contain sarcasm, and 2 lyrics contain hyperbole figurative language. (2) the dominant figurative language in Maroon Five's Song lyrics is metaphor.*

**Keywords:** *Figurative Language, Maroon Five, Poetry*

## 1. Introduction

Language as a means of communication is the most important thing for human beings. It can express people's ideas, knowledge, and feelings in written or spoken. Language is a tool to communicate with others. People communicate with one and another to build a social relationship. Kreidler (2011) states that language is a system of symbols through which people communicate. The examples of symbols were spoken, written, or sign with the hands. Human being is a social and an individual person who always communicates with each other. There are lots of languages in this world and one of the languages is English. English has become an important popular language used for international communication and people always call it an international language. There are many English Language varieties which are used as a means of communication, including British English, American English, Australian or New Zealand English, South Asia English, etc. Obviously, one language may have terms that are not found in another language, but it is always possible to invent new terms to express what we mean: anything we can imagine or think, we can express in any human language.

Language is also commonly used in literary works such as poem, play performance script, and in song lyrics. Language is generally used to express ideas, feelings, and arguments. Lyrics are commonly used in a song to entertain the listeners. Nowadays, almost everyone listens to music or song, from the young till adult, especially the English ones. Most of them like to collect the English songs in their smartphone. They are also interested in improving their English ability through English songs.

The lyrics of a song also often use figurative language. It is quite common that figurative languages are often found in literary works such as poems and song lyrics. A song is articulated in specific ways through musical instruments in the background. Perrine (2011) states that poets use figurative languages as another way of adding extra dimensions to language. He also adds that by using figurative languages, "we can say more vividly and forcefully by figures than we can by saying it directly". Songs have the imaginative quality and specific characteristics of the language use. English songs are used to express human feelings. A song is identical with lyrics and lyrics are all the words which are used in a song. Heller (2011) also states that figurative languages refers to words and groups of words that are exaggerate or alter the usual meanings of the component words. Besides the poem, figurative languages are often found in song lyrics. A songwriter uses figurative language to attract the listeners and make the song interesting. Grice (2012) assumes that the listener has to do extra cognitive work to figure out the meaning of figurative language (as cited in

Jay, 2013). Analyzing song and album of the actress has been elaborated by Susanto (2017) about The interpersonal meaning realized in the lyrics of Christina Perri's album "love strong" and the contribution for teaching a modern English grammar.

Based on the explanation above the researcher wants to discuss the figurative languages found in Maroon Five's song. Figurative language is sometimes difficult to interpret for the general listeners. Moreover, not everyone is able to interpret the true meaning of figurative languages, especially in Maroon Five's song. As figurative languages are important to understand and the lyrics of the songs contain some figurative languages. Figurative language is important to be understood since it is useful to give more detailed and accurate description. Therefore, the researcher conducted the study in figurative languages which found in Maroon Five's songs.

## **2. Literature Review**

### **2.1 Figurative Language**

There are a lot of books that contain theories about figurative language and those books have a different explanation about figurative language. In order to have a clear explanation about figurative language, the researcher studied the figurative language based on X.J Kenedy (2011). Figurative language is the utterance produced when someone says or states something but the meaning is not literally the same as their statement. Figurative language is language that employs phrases or words that have a different meaning when they are interpreted literally. According to X.J Kenedy (2011), 'figure of speech maybe said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotations of words'. Risdianto (2011) also states that 'figurative language is wording that makes explicit comparisons between unlike things using figures of speech such as metaphors and similes'. Figurative language is 'broadly defined as any way of saying something other than ordinary way' (Perrine 2011). A songwriter uses figurative languages in a song lyric in order to make it 'more vividly and forcefully than saying it directly' (Perrine 2011). In other words, figurative languages are used to describe something that has a different meaning from the actual meaning.

### **2.2 Maroon Five**

Maroon five is an American pop rock band from Los Angeles, California. Maroon five formed in 1994 as Kara's Flower. by lead vocalist Adam Levine, Keyboardist and rhythm guitarist Jesse Carmichael, bassist Mickey Madden,

lead guitarist James Valentine, drummer Matt Flynn. In 1997 the record label disband the band and the members focus on college. In 2001, the band remerged as Maroon five. Maroon 5 has five hit studio records, a singles compilation album, and nine gigantic tours over the course of a dozen years. As of August 2017, they've sold 12.9 million total albums

### **3. Methodology**

This design of the research is descriptive research. the researcher used qualitative approach because this study focussed on the analysis or interpretation of the written material in context.

#### **3.1 Method of Data Collection**

The method to collect the data is applied in this study. The researcher uses following steps to collect the data :

1. Library Research

The researcher read some books those are available in the library and bookstore. The information need is obtain by read books, magazine, e-book, and others references relate to the subject.

2. Observation

The researcher collected the lyric of the song from Maroon Five, and he read the whole lyric one by one in that album, repeatedly.

#### **3.2 Technique of Data Analysis**

The researcher described the messages of figurative language that find in songs lyric by Maroon Five. Then the researcher concluded the messages of figurative languages. There are steps of analyzing the data:

1. The researcher listened to the song one by one. There are 10 song by Maroon Five entitled: Girls Like You, She Will Be Loved, This Love, Daylight, Make Me Wonder, Wake Up Call, If I Never See Your Face Again, Never Gonna Leave This Bad, Sunday Morning, Won't Go Home Without You.
2. The researcher read the lyrics from Maroon Five's song repeatedly. By reading the lyrics of the song, the researcher can be more familiar and understand the words. If there any word the researcher had not known yet, the researcher can search the meaning of each words.
3. The researcher identified the lyrics to find out the kind of figurative language in Maroon Five's song.



4. The researcher categorized the data as figurative language and then classifies them into the types of figurative language
5. The researcher gave the depth description of implicit meaning of figurative language uses in song lyric by *Maroon Five*. From the description, the researcher draw the conclusions of the analysis.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

In this part, the researcher gave some explanation about research finding. After analyzing the data, the researcher found many figurative languages used in Maroon 5's songs. The researcher would like to presents how many figurative languages found, what are they, and what is the most dominan figurative language found, and what is the reason behind it.

The researcher found 77 lyrics that using figurative language. The kind of figurative languages that has been used in those lyrics are simile, metaphor, synecdoche, hyperbole, assonance, consonance, repetition, symbolism, paradox, oxymoron, and sarcasm. However the researcher didn't found personification, litotes, and metonymy. The most dominant figurative language which is used in Maroon 5's songs are repetition and metaphor. There are many repetition in every song because each song always has some repeated words in one lyrics and repeated lyrics in one song. There are many metaphor in Maroon 5's songs since Maroon 5 songs is a about romance, so using metaphor will make the song more romantic.

Song	Total Lyrics Contains Figurative Language
This Love	10
She Will Be Loved	10
Wake Up Call	9
Make Me Wonder	9
Daylight	7
Girls Like You	4
If I Never See Your Face Again	8
Never Gonna Leave This Bed	8
Won't Go Home Without You	4
Sunday Morning	8
Total	77

Many of Maroon 5's songs use symbolisms or metaphors to tell the story so it's easier for the researcher to tag the lyric which has figurative language. The researcher can easily find figurative language in songs *This Love* and *She Will Be Loved* because there are too many repetitions and metaphors in these songs. However, the researcher found only a few of figurative languages in songs *Girls Like You* and *Won't Go Home Without You* because these songs tell the story of the song writer in an explicit way so there are no metaphors or symbolisms found in these songs.

Basically Maroon 5's songs are about either of a romantic couple or two lovers that have been separated. There is a lyric that says "it's not always rainbows and butterflies" which means life is never "rainbows and butterflies", it is hard that no matter how perfect your lives are. This is generally what songs in Maroon 5 are about. Every song tells us about "roller coaster" in a relationship. There are both sweet and sour experiences when we have a relationship with someone. Maroon 5 deliver this message perfectly using metaphors in their every song.

The researcher concluded that there are some types of figurative language used in Maroon 5's songs. The figurative languages are used to express a message to the listener and make the song more beautiful. The teacher can use these songs as English teaching materials, especially material

about figures of speech. However, many Maroon 5's songs contain vulgar lyrics which are not suitable for kids. So the teacher can choose only some of Maroon 5 songs to be teaching materials.

One of Maroon 5's songs which contains many vulgar metaphors is a song with the title *This Love*. This song actually tells us about the song writer's relationship with a girl. The girl has a life problem and visits the song writer every night. After telling her problem to him, they always end up having sex. At the end, the song writer felt he has been used. Sex wasn't enough for him since whatever love-making they had wasn't really love.

In a learning poetry perspective, Maroon 5's album has some benefits. The benefit of using Maroon 5's album as learning poetry material is that students can know many types of figurative language. It's because Maroon 5's album has many types of figures of speech. The students can understand implicit meaning or hidden meaning of a sentence. This will enrich students' English language knowledge.

Learning a poem is not only through analyzing a poem but also through a song. There are many kinds of songs that can be used as sources of teaching poetry. A song that is used as a source of teaching poetry should involve all material of poetry teaching, a poem is an experience not information. So as listening to a song's lyric that

is way in teaching poetry, the students must be invited in teaching learning process. In order word, they are not simply recipient of information but makes knowledge out meaning of poetry.

## 5. Conclusions

In this research the researcher already answer some statments of problems. After collecting data and analyzing the song lyrics, the researcher made some conclusions.

The conclusion of this research is some song lyrics by Maroon five uses some figurative language. There are simile, metaphor, assonance, symbolism, repetition, oxymorn, synecdoche, sarcasm, paradox, and hyperbole. The researcher found 77 lyrics that using figurative language. However the researcher didn't found personification, litotes, and metonymy. The most dominant figurative language which is used in Maroon 5's songs are repetition and metaphor. There are 15 repetition found in this research, many repetition in every song because each song always has some repeated words in one lyrics and repeated lyrics in one song. There are 21 metaphor found in this research, many metaphor in Maroon 5's songs since Maroon 5 songs is a about romance, so using metaphor will make the song more romantic.

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