FIGURE OF SPEECH IN ENGLISH CHILDREN SONG LYRICS

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ABSTRACT

Figure of speech or Figurative language, which is usually used in poem, prose, song lyrics and other literary works is interesting because it has implied meaning behind the words. The researcher chooses this topic because it is very unique and tricky to know the meaning not only literally, but also non-literally. This research has two aims, they are to find out the figure of speech found in English Children Song Lyrics and to find out the most dominant the figure of speech found in English Children Song Lyrics. This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative method. In this research, the descriptive qualitative method was used to analyze figures of speech in English Children Song Lyrics. The sources of data in this research were taken from the lyrics of English Children songs. The results of this research are from the 10 English children song lyrics, there are 23 figures of speech which are found in the English children song lyrics. The figures of speech that are found are similes (3 data), metaphors (4 data), personification (9 data), symbols (2 data), and hyperbole (5 data). The most dominant figure of speech found in the English Children Song Lyrics is personification.

Keywords: Figure of Speech, English Children Songs, Lyrics

ABSTRAK

Figure of Speech atau Bahasa Kiasan, yang seringkali digunakan di dalam puisi, prosa, lirik lagu, dan karya sastra lainnya menjadi menarik karena terdapat makna tersirat di balik kata-kata yang digunakan. Peneliti memilih topik ini untuk dibahas karena topik ini sangat unik dan rumit untuk mengetahui maknanya tidak hanya secara literal, tetatp juga secara non literal. Penelitian ini memiliki dua tujuan, yaitu untuk mengetahui *figure of speech* yang ada pada lirik lagu anak berbahasa Inggris dan untuk mengetahui figure of speech yang paling sering digunakan pada lirik lagu anak berbahasa Inggris. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Di dalam penelitian ini, metode deskriptif kualitatif digunakan untuk menganalisis figure of speech pada lirik lagu anak berbahasa Inggris. Sumber data yang digunakan di dalam penelitian ini diambil dari liril lagu anak-anak berbahasa Inggris. Hasil yang didapatkan dari penelitian ini yaitu dari 10 lirik lagu anak-anak berbahasa Inggris, ada *23* figure of speech yang ditemukan. *Figure of speech* yang ditemukan adalah simile (3 data), metafora (4 data), personifikasi (9 data), simbol (2 data), dan hiperbola (5 data). Figure of speech yang paling dominan di pada lirik lagu anak berbahasa Inggris adalah personifikasi.

Kata Kunci: *Figure of speech*, Lagu anak berbahasa Inggris, Lirik

1. INTRODUCTION

Language is very important role in the communication. It uses to express people's feeling, ideas, and some information. Without language, it can be very difficult to interact with other people. That is why language has a crucial role in human life and social life. Linguistics is the study of the scientific language in any of its senses. There are many branches of linguistics such as morphology, syntactic, pragmatics, semantics, and semiotics. One of the branches of linguistics is semantics. Semantics is the study of the meaning. Meaning has an important role in communication, because it will influence people to understand about speaker's intention or how far some information can be received by listeners. Meaning can be delivered

as literally and non-literally. In the literary works, sometimes the meaning does not convey literally, but it can be non-literally meaning.

Figure of speech or Figurative language, which is used in poem, prose, song lyrics and other literary works is interesting because it has implied meaning behind the words.

The researcher chooses this topic because it is very unique and tricky to know the meaning not only literally, but also non-literally. There are many kinds of literary works such as poem, short story, novel, drama, movie script, and song lyrics used figure of speech to impress the people. Song is one of the popular arts because many people enjoy listening to the song, from children until senior citizens like listening to the song. Many song lyrics used figures of speech to make them interesting and the listeners wonder what the implied meaning and the intention of the song writer.

There are some previous researches that conducted the same topic of the research about figure of speech or figurative language. The first previous research was from Achmad Rifai (2010) State Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah, he wrote a research entitled *The Analysis of Figure of Speech in Rage Against The Machine Songs Lyric (Bullet in the Head, No Shelter)*. The aims of his research were to find out the kinds of figure of speech and their meaning of figure of speech in two songs, *Bullet in the Head* and *No Shelter*. Rifai used qualitative research with descriptive analysis method. The results of the research found seven types of figure of speech, simile, metaphor, personification, Metonymy, symbol, allegory and hyperbole.

The second previous research was from Khadijah Arifah (2016) Faculty of Letters Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang. Khadijah wrote a scientific research entitled *"Figurative Language Analysis in Five John Legend's Song"*. The problems in this study were to identify the types of figurative language, to analyze and to describe the contextual meaning of the figurative language used in song lyrics by John Legend. This study used a descriptive qualitative research. The findings of her research were many meanings and kinds of figurative language, and the dominant of figurative language that used on John Legend's song is Hyperbole.

The last previous research was from Winda Widya Lestari (2017) Gunadarma University, she wrote a research entitled *An Analysis of Figurative Language in Taylor Swift's Songs.* The objectives in her study were to identify the types of figurative language used in Taylor Swift's songs and to find out the dominant of figurative language used in Taylor Swift's songs. Qualitative method was used in this method. The result of her research was 70 data found about figurative language. From 70 data, there were 8 metaphors, 19 similes, 8 personifications, 33 hyperboles, and 2 symbolisms. The last is the dominant of figurative language that is used in Taylor Swift's albums "Fearless" and "Speak Now" is hyperbole.

Based on the previous researches, the position of this research has the same theme with the Rifai's research, Arifah's research, and Lestari's research that focuses on analyzing the figure of speech or figurative language. Besides the theme, the method of this research and the previous researches are also the same that is descriptive qualitative method. The differences between this research and the previous researches are: the sources of the data are taken from English children song lyrics, such as *(1) Twinkle-Twinkle Little Star ,(2) Here We Go Round the Mulberry, (3) Hickory Dickory Dock, (4) Hush, Little Baby,(5) I'm a Little Teapot,(6) Jack and Jill,(7) Mary had a Little Lamb, (8) Miss Polly Had A Dolly, (9) Rock-a-Bye Baby (10) Row, Row, Row Your Boat.*. This research also has same theory from Rifai's, using Perrine theory about figures of speech. Meanwhile, Arifah's research uses the theory of figurative from Sharndama & Suleiman, Lestari's research uses the theory of figurative language from Leech.

Themes of the song lyrics are varieties such as politics, social, Nationality, Love, Nature, Children, and so on. One of the themes of the song lyrics that is easy going to be heard is children songs, the lyrics is simple and easy to be understood by children. Besides that, the children song lyrics also have funny lyrics and rhymes. The common children songs are used in English as the International language. The researcher takes English Children songs as the source of the data to analyze for figures of speech because the lyrics are interesting and most parents play English Children songs to their children. It uses in many International or national schools to develop their study.

Based on the reasons above, the researcher focuses on analyzing figures of speech in English Children Songs Lyrics. The researcher will conduct a research entitled "Figure of Speech in English Children Songs Lyrics" with the problems of this research are what kinds of the figure of speech found in English Children Song Lyrics? and what is the most dominant the figure of speech found in English Children Song Lyrics?. The objectives of the research are to find out figures of speech are used in English Children Songs Lyrics and to find out the most dominant the figure of speech found in English Children Song Lyrics. The researcher hopes this research can be useful for the other researchers as the references about figure of speech. Besides that, the researcher hopes this research can enrich knowledge about figure of speech to the students, especially to English Literature students.

2.   THEORETICAL REVIEW
2.1.   Stylistics

Stylistics is very important and has important role in literary works such as poem, prose, song lyrics, and so on. Stylistics makes the literary works more alive because of the play of words and meaning beyond the words. There are some experts who stated about stylistics. First, According to Leech (1981, p.2) "stylistics as the one which most neutrally represents the field acting as a bridge between linguistic and literary studies". The second expert is Tom Mc Arthur (1996, p.914) as cited in Aminu Mode (2015, p.13) stated that, "stylistics is the branch of linguistics that studies style, especially in works of literature". So, from two definitions above, it can be concluded that stylistics is the study of style that commonly apply in literary works. One of stylistics or language style is figure of speech.

2.2.   Figure of Speech

Figure of speech usually appears in literary works. The function of figure of speech is to make the words more interesting because there is implied meaning. Perrine defines the figure of speech in the book of *Sound and Sense* as cited in Ahmad Rifai's Thesis (2010, p.8*)*, "Figure of Speech is any way of saying something other than the ordinary way". The usage of figure of speech is the special way to get special intention of something that said special, it means that the usage of literary work is not taken literally. Another definition about figure of speech is from Kennedy (1995) as cited in Lestari's research (2017, p.9), "A figure of speech may be said to occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotations of word" (p.677). There are kinds of figure of speech such as simile, metaphor, personification, symbol, and hyperbole.

2.2.1   Simile

Simile as cited in Rifai's research (2010, p.8), is a figure of speech in which an explicit comparison is made between two things essentially unlike. The comparison is made explicit by the uses of some words or phrases as "like, as, than, similar, or resembles, or seems". The example of simile in Arifah's thesis (2016, p.34) as cited in Lestari (2017, p.12) is:

Her beauty is like a rose

The example above means the girl is beautiful like rose flower. Flower here is symbol of beautiful person, because rose flower is beautiful flower.

2.2.2   Metaphor

Unlike a simile or analogy, metaphor asserts that one thing is another thing, not just that one is like another and the emphasized laid on the quality between the comparative signifiers. The example of metaphor from Robert Herrick in Walidain's thesis (2012, p.19) as cited in Lestari (2017, p.11) is:

You are a tulip seen today
But, dearest, of so short to stay
That were you grew scarce man can say

In that example, the writer uses "tulip" for comparison to his lover, that known tulip flower is beautiful, but has a short life.

2.2.3   Personification

Personification consists in giving the attributes of a human being to an animal, an object, or a concept. It is a really subtype of metaphor, an implied comparison in which the figurative term of the comparison is always a human being. The example of personification in Walidain's thesis (2012, p.19) as cited in Lestari (2017, p.13) is:

Flame ate the house

From the example above, we know that the word "ate", just only use for human or animal, but in this sentence the image of flame is presented as the human being. And from the example, we know that flame cannot eat the house, because the flame is not a human or animal.

2.2.4 Symbol

Symbol is the representation of something, complex, general, or abstract that suggests some further meaning in addition to it. Symbol is a figure of speech that combines a literal and sensuous quality with an abstract or suggestive aspect. Perrine says that *"a symbol may be roughly defined as something that meansmore than what it is."* It is closely connected with denotation and connotation meaning. Symbol is the part of structure that could not be paid attention that is caused of its function in understanding the works meaning. The example of Symbolism in Walidain's thesis (2012, p.21) as cited in Lestari's writing (2017, p.14) is:

You cannot teach an old dog new trick

From the example above, the phrase "old dog" does not talk about dog itself, but about living creatures of any species and spoke symbolically. An old dog can be understood as an old man since in his age he cannot think as when he was young.

2.2.5 Hyperbole

Perrine stated that, Hyperbole or overstatement is *"simply exaggeration, but exaggeration in the service truth."* In hyperbole, the understatement passes beyond realistic and logical thinking, but actually has logical meaning, the speakers are overstating their statement and to emphasize something. Hyperbole is used with the redundantly pressure to get intensive effect. The example of hyperbole from Walidain's thesis (2012, p.23) as cited in Lestari's research (2017, p.12) is:

Why man, if the river were dry
I am able to fill it with tears

From the example, the writer said that when the river has no more water, so he will fill the river with his tears. From that sentence, we know that it is impossible to fill the river with tears.

3   RESEARCH METHOD

This research was conducted by using descriptive qualitative method. According to Nazir (2003, p.55), said that "Descriptive qualitative is one which uses to make descriptive of situation, event or accumulate the basic data. Descriptive qualitative design simply describes what is going on and what data shows". It means, this research does not intend to find a new theory but to find new evidence to prove the truth of certain theory in this research, the descriptive qualitative method was used to analyze figures of speech in English Children Song Lyrics.

The sources of data in this research were taken from the lyrics of English Children songs. There are 10 English children songs that were analyzed, such as: *(1) Twinkle-Twinkle Little Star ,(2) Here We Go Round the Mulberry, (3) Hickory Dickory Dock, (4) Hush, Little Baby,(5) I'm a Little Teapot,(6) Jack and Jill,(7) Mary had a Little Lamb, (8) Miss Polly Had A Dolly, (9) Rock-a-Bye Baby (10) Row, Row, Row Your Boat.* The researcher chose these songs because they are well-known and there are usually plays on YouTube channel for kids.

The data of this research are the words, phrase, and clauses which contain figure of speech. There are some steps that the researcher has done in collecting the data. First, the researcher collected the 10 English children song lyrics from *the internet*. Second, the researcher listens to the songs many times on you-Tube to gets the meaning literally and non-literally. Then, the researcher reads the song lyrics thoroughly. The next step is the researcher highlight the figure of speech in the lyrics. The last, the researcher put the figure of speech found in the lyric to the table.

After all of the data have been collected, the researcher analyzed the data based on the following steps. First, the researcher classified the data based on the theory of figure of speech which is proposed by Perrine. Second, the researcher analyzed the data of the research. Third, the researcher rechecks the data on the song lyrics. Finally, the researcher draws conclusion from the data analysis.

4   RESULT AND ANALYSIS
4.1   Data Findings

The researcher would like to present the data found. After analyzing the data from the 10 English song lyrics, there are 23 figures of speech which are found in the English children song lyrics. The figures of speech that are found are similes (3 data), metaphors (4 data), personification (9 data), symbols (2 data), and hyperbole (5 data). The following will be explained further in the tables below:

Table 1. Figures of Speech

No.	Figures of Speech	Data	Percentage
1.	Simile	3	13%
2.	Metaphor	4	17%
3.	Personification	9	39%
4.	Symbol	2	9%
5	Hyperbole	5	22%
	Total	23	100%

Besides that, there is also the most dominant figure of speech found in English children song lyrics that will be presented in the diagram below:
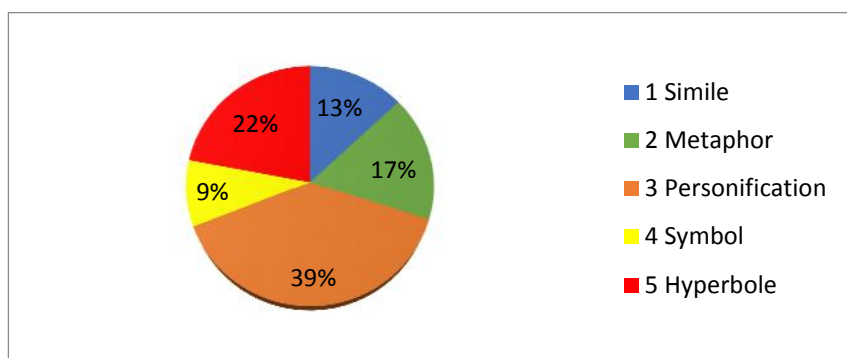

Figure 1. The most dominant figure of speech

From the diagram above, the researcher found the most dominant of figure of speech from the five figures of speech, namely similes, metaphors, personification, symbols, and hyperbole which is used in the English children song lyrics. The most dominant figurative language that is used in the songs is personification.

4.2   Data Analysis

The theory is used to analyze the data is from Perrine as cited in Rifai (2010, p.8-12) about figures of speech. Here are the discussions of the data:

Simile

Simile is part of figure of speech, it is used to compare two things and mostly it used the words as and like.

No.	Figures of Speech	Title of Song	Explanation
1.	Up above the world so high, **Like a diamond in the sky.**	*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*	In the song lyrics, the word "star" in this case is compared to "a diamond", and used the keyword "like" to compare between two unlike things.
2.	**As your bright and tiny spark**, Lights the traveller in the dark	*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*	In the song lyrics, the word "star" in this case is compared to "bright and tiny spark", and used the keyword "as" to compare between two unlike things.

3.	Mary had a little lamb, **Its fleece was white as snow.**	*Mary had a little lamb*	In the song lyrics, the word "fleece" in this case is compared to "snow", and used the keyword "as" to compare between two unlike things.

Metaphor

Metaphor is kind of figures of speech that are used to compare two things which have different characteristics.

No.	Lyrics	Title of Song	Explanation
1.	Till **the sun is in the sky**	*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*	The statement compares two things that are different. The word sun is indicated to a bright in the sky. So, the meaning sun relates to the sky.
2.	And if that **diamond ring turn brass**	*Hush, Little Baby*	The statement compares two things that are different. The word diamond ring related to the word brass. Diamond ring is a jewelry which included to brass.
3.	**I am a little teapot**	*I'm a Little Teapot*	The statement compares two things that are different. It compares the word I with the word teapot, it is interesting in the lyrics to attract children' attention.
4.	**Life is but a dream**	*Row, Row, Row Your Boat*	The statement compares two things that are different. The word life is compared to dream because sometimes there is a happy moment in life like in a dream.

Personification

Personification is kind of figure of speech which compare something not human as if has human characteristics.

No.	Lyrics	Title of Song	Explanation
1.	**Twinkle Twinkle Little Star**	*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*	In the song lyrics, the word star is able to do the twinkle as humans do. Meanwhile, humans or living creatures those have eyes to twinkle.
2.	When the blazing **sun is gone**	*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*	The lyrics sun is gone is like a human or living creature doing, namely go. Meanwhile, humans or living creatures that have feet capable to moving.
3.	When the blazing sun is gone, When **he nothing shines upon**	*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*	In the song lyrics, the word he refers to the sun that described that thought is able to something as humans do. Meanwhile the sun always shines.
4.	In the **dark blue sky you keep**	*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*	In the song lyrics, the word you refers to the star, that described that thought is able to something as humans do that is keep. Meanwhile the star always in the blue sky.
5.	For you **never shut your eye**	*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*	In the song lyrics, the word you refers to the star, that described that thought is able to something as humans do that is shut your eyes. Meanwhile the star does not have eyes.
6.	When I get all steamed up, **hear me shout**	*I'm a Little Teapot*	In the song lyrics, the word me refers to the little teapot which is capable to shout like the humans. Meanwhile, humans or living creature that has mouth capable to catch shout something.

No.		Title of Song	Explanation
7.	When **the wind blows** the cradle will rock	*Rock-a-Bye-Baby*	The lyrics the wind blows as if the wind capable to blow. Meanwhile blow is the ability from human.
8.	When **the bough breaks** the cradle will fall	*Rock-a-Bye-Baby*	The lyrics the bough breaks… as if the bough capable to break something. Meanwhile the humans are able to break something with their hands.
9.	**Gently down the stream**	*Row ,Row, Row Your Boat*	The lyrics gently down the stream as if the human or living creature capable to do. The meaning from those lyrics is to face the life.

Symbol
Symbol is kind of figure of speech which the part of structure that could not be paid attention that is caused of its function in understanding the works meaning.

No.	Lyrics	Title of Song	Explanation
1.	Hush little baby, don't say **a word**	*Rock-a-Bye-Baby*	The lyrics do not say a word mean to cry because little baby does not capable to say a word except crying. So a word is as a symbol cry in the lyrics.
2.	Rock a bye baby, on the **tree top**.	*Rock-a-Bye-Baby*	The lyrics on the tree top mean a bed because it is impossible for a baby sleeps on the tree top. So tree top is as a symbol comfortable place for baby to sleep.

Hyperbole
Hyperbole is kind of figure of speech which uses extreme exaggeration to make or show an emphasis. It is extravagant and overstatements not meant to be taken literally.

No.	Lyrics	Title of Song	Explanation
1.	**Up above the world so high**	*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*	The phrase "up above" sounds an expression of over-statement. In the lyrics, the song writer wants to describe about the star which is in the sky.
2.	Then you show your **little light**	*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*	The phrase "little light" sounds an expression of over-statement. In the lyrics, the song writer wants to describe about the star which still can give a light to people in the world at night.
3.	Thank you for your **tiny spark**	*Twinkle Twinkle Little Star*	The phrase "tiny spark" sounds an expression of over-statement. In the lyrics, the song writer wants to describe about the star which is tiny but still sparking at night.
4.	On a **cold and frosty morning**	*Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush*	The phrase "cold and frosty morning" sounds an expression of over-statement. In the lyrics, the song writer wants to describe about the situation in the morning.
5.	Well you'll still be **the sweetest little baby in town**	*Hush, Little Baby*	The phrase "the sweetest little baby in town" sounds an expression of over-statement. In the lyrics, the song writer wants to describe about how sweet his baby.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

From the discussion, it can be concluded that there are figures of speech in English song lyrics. After analyzing and discussing the figurative languages in the 10 English Children song lyrics, the researcher concludes that most of the songs using figure of speech, but there are not all kinds of figures of speech used. The researcher found that there are 23 data about figures of speech. From 23 data figures of speech that are found, they are similes (3 data), metaphors (4 data), personification (9 data), symbols (2 data), and hyperbole (5 data). The most dominant of figure of speech found is personification.

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