

## **AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN DANIEL BEDINGFIELD SONG LYRICS: NEVER GONNA LEAVE YOUR SIDE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The problem of the research is what kinds of figurative language are found in Daniel Bedingfield song's, title Never Gonna Leave Your Side. The objective of the research is to find out the kinds of figurative language in Daniel Bedingfield's song, title Never Gonna Leave Your Side. This research used qualitative methods. By doing this research, the researcher used Perrine's theory about various of figurative language as the basic in analysing the data. The source of the data is Never Gonna Leave Your Side song lyrics by Daniel Bedingfield. The data of this research is figurative sentence which contained in the song lyrics by Daniel Bedingfield. After being analysed, the researcher found 4 Simile, 3 Personification, 1 Irony, 2 Hyperbole.

**Keywords:** Figurative Language, Various of Figurative Language, Qualitative Method, Song Lyrics.

### **ABSTRAK**

Masalah dalam penelitian ini adalah jenis bahasa kiasan apa yang ditemukan dalam lagu Daniel Bedingfield berjudul Never Gonna Leave Your Side. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui macam-macam bahasa kiasan dalam lagu Daniel Bedingfield berjudul Never Gonna Leave Your Side. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan teori Perrine tentang berbagai bahasa kiasan sebagai dasar dalam menganalisis data. Sumber data adalah lirik lagu Never Gonna Leave Your Side oleh Daniel Bedingfield. Data penelitian ini berupa kalimat kiasan yang terdapat dalam lirik lagu Daniel Bedingfield. Setelah dianalisis, ditemukan 4 Simile, 3 Personifikasi, 1 Ironi, 2 Hiperbola.

**Kata Kunci:** Bahasa Kiasan, Ragam Bahasa Kiasan, Metode Kualitatif, Lirik Lagu.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This article is based on song lyrics from Daniel Bedingfield Song "*Never Gonna Leave Your Side*". In daily life human beings need to communicate to each other by language to express our ideas, thoughts, feelings, and experiences. And by language we are able to make a conversation to each other, but sometimes even though we used language we find some difficulties to understand each other.

Both in speaking and writing we can use Figurative Language to make our communication more unique and aesthetic, moreover it can give visible description in human being's mind. Figurative language is a permeating phenomenon in daily or every day human communication. It includes a wide range of expressions on utterance type, such as idioms, metaphors, jokes, irony, sarcasm, hyperbole, indirect request, and stereotyped expressions such as cliches.

In accordance with X.J. Kennedy, (1979:187) "Figurative language is language that uses figures of speech. A figure of speech is a way of saying something other than the literal meaning of the world". Figure of speech may occur whenever a speaker or writer, for the sake of freshness or emphasis, departs from the usual denotations of words. Figurative language is used in kinds of communication, such as in daily conversation, articles in newspaper, advertisements, novels, songs, poems, etc.

In songs, figurative languages are used not only to make a song more interesting and concrete, but also to make a song more aesthetic and beautiful. Today, there are many songs we listened have a good lyric which is sung by the singer. One of them is Daniel Bedingfield's song. Daniel Bedingfield is a New Zealand-

British singer, song writer and record producer. He won the awards for his songs and albums in 2003, 2004, 2012, and 2013. His songs with the title "*If you are not the one*" gained the nominated in Billboard Music Awards as Record of the Year. The song is popular in 2003. But, in this article the writer would like to discuss about the old song from Daniel Bedingfield in 2002, the title "*Never Gonna Leave Your Side*" from album *Gotta Get Thru This*, and the genre is pop. The writer is interested to analyse the song because in this song the lyrics are unique words and interesting to be analysed. The researcher chooses Daniel Bedingfield's song because the lyrics contain figurative language. The importance of this research is we can know various kinds of figurative language which contained in song lyrics. Therefore, we can fully understand the meaning of the song that we listened.

Furthermore, figurative language research is not a newly model of research. Among the research, there are **Listiani, Henry (2015) An Analysis of Figurative Language Found on the Song Lyric by Taylor Swift's Speak Now" Album, other thesis, IAIN Salatiga**. This research concerns with the descriptive analysis of figurative language in The Song Lyric by Taylor Swift's "*Speak Now*" Album. The aim of the research is to find out the types of figurative languages that is used in The Song Lyric by Taylor Swift's "*Speak Now*" Album. The researcher uses a descriptive qualitative method to classify and analyse the sentences. After investigating the sentence in the song lyric, the researcher found several findings of figurative language on it. There are seven kinds of figurative languages that is used in the song lyric, they are simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, synecdoche, symbol and oxymoron. The last is the dominant of figurative languages that used is hyperbole.

Afterwards, there is **Fitria, Tira Nur (2018) Figurative Language Used in One Direction's Album Entitled Up All Night. STIE AAS Surakarta**. The aims of this research are to know the types of figurative language and to know the most dominant figurative language used in lyrics One Direction's album song entitled *Up All Night*. The research is qualitative descriptive to describe the analysis factually, accurately and systematically. The data in this research include the phrases or the sentences which are found in lyric album song entitled *Up All Night* by One Direction. Based on research finding, there are some figurative languages in One Direction's album *Up All Night*. There are 13 songs in this album, they are: 1) Everything About You, 2) Gotta Be You, 3) I Want, 4) I Wish, 5) More Than This, 6) One Thing, 7) Same Mistakes, 8) Save You Tonight, 9) Stole My Heart, 10) Taken, 11) Tell Me a Lie, 12) *Up All Night* and 13) What Makes You Beautiful. Based on the result of this research, it is found six types of figurative language in One Direction's album entitled *Up All Night*, that were repetition, parallelism, personification, metaphor, simile, and hyperbole. The most dominant type of figurative language used is repetition in 50 lyrics both anaphora and epiphora.

And then, there is **AZIZ, ABDUL (2011) A STUDY OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USED IN JAMES BLUNT'S SONG LYRICS IN "BACK TO BEDLAM ALBUM". Other thesis, University of Muhammadiyah Malang** This research focused on figurative languages used in James Blunt song in a *Back to Bedlam* album which released in 2003. There were three statements of the problems. Those were: 1) What kinds of figurative language are used in James Blunt's song lyrics?, 2) What are the meanings of those figurative languages used in James Blunt's song lyrics?, 3) What is the most dominant figurative language found in James Blunt's song lyric?. This research used descriptive qualitative because there is no treatment as an experimental research and just attempted to present the information concerning with the study on figurative language and meaning at "*James Blunt*" song's lyrics. Moreover, expressive approach employed because the thesis researcher attempts to investigate the expression of the writer's feeling and emotion to analyse the figurative language. Based on the data analysis it is found figurative languages which used in James Blunt song lyrics are symbol, personification, hyperbole and metaphor. The symbols in *High* song represent beautiful girl and the age. Personifications in *High* song explain how much the song writer love his girl, and in "*Goodbye My lover*" explain how deep the girl influence the song writer's life. Hyperbole in "*High*" song express how hard his effort to be with the girl, in "*Goodbye My Lover*" song express the song writer so infatuated with his girl. Metaphor used in "*You're Beautiful*" tells how interested the song writer's life and how pure his love. The most dominant figurative language used in James Blunt song is personification.

The similarities between those previous research and this research is the researchers study and find out the figurative language which contain in song lyrics, and some differences between this research and those research are song which will be analysed. In this research, the researcher analysis figurative language in Daniel Bedingfield' song, title *Never Gonna Leave Your Side*.

The result in this research is that the researcher will focus on finding out figurative language in song *Never Gonna Leave Your Side* using Perrine's theory. Problem of the research is what kinds of figurative language are found in Daniel Bedingfield song's, title *Never Gonna Leave Your Side* and the objective of the research is to find out the kinds of figurative language in Daniel Bedingfield song's, title *Never Gonna Leave Your Side*.

The significance of the research is we can know the figurative language which is contained in the song lyric which we listen in our daily life or activity. And also, we can learn what is the figurative language and kinds of figurative language.

## 2. METHODS

According to Creswell (1998), he said “qualitative research in an inquiry process of understanding based on distinct methodological traditions of inquiry that explore a social or human problem.” (p.15) Research method is method which is used to collect and analyse the data in research. In this research, the researcher used qualitative research. Qualitative research method is a type of research method about descriptive research and tends to use analysis. Furthermore, qualitative research is a type of social science research that collects the data non numerical and more focus to the meanings, concepts definitions, characteristics, metaphors, symbols, and description of things. The researcher would like to find out the type of figurative language which is often used in the song lyrics.

Source of the data from this research is the songs from Daniel Bedingfield with the title *Never Gonna Leave Your Side*. The song is about love song and it describes about someone who will stay in his / her side in every conditions. The researcher chose this song lyrics because this song has a sweet meaning because this is a love song. The data which is used in this research is figurative sentence that contained in Daniel Bedingfield’s song.

Daniel Bedingfield is a New Zealand-British singer, song writer and record producer. He won the awards for his songs and albums in 2003, 2004, 2012, and 2013. His songs with the title “*If you are not the one*” gained the nominated in Billboard Music Awards as Record of the Year. The song is popular in 2003. The researcher listened Daniel Bedingfield’s song in application Spotify and read the lyrics in [Musixmatch](#).

The first step before the researcher analyses data is the researcher will collect the data. The steps in collecting data; the first the researcher listen Daniel Bedingfield’s song. Second, the writer listened Daniel Bedingfield’s song in other to get the chosen song which contained the figurative language. Third, the researcher reads the lyrics to understand and figure out the figurative language in this song lyrics. Fourth, the researcher identified figurative language which used in this song lyrics by underlining lyrics.

And the next step after collecting the data is the researcher analysed the data. The steps in analysing the data; first the researcher classified the data which have found into kinds of figurative language. The researcher found out 4 Simile, 3 Personification, 1 Irony, 2 Hyperbole.

No.	Figurative Language	Data
1.	Simile	4
2	Personification	3
3.	Irony	1
4.	Hyperbole	2
	<b>Total</b>	10

And after that, the researcher make conclusion after analysing the data.

## 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In analysing the data, the researcher used Perrine’s theory about kinds of figurative language as the basic. Perrine (1992) divided types of figurative language, such as:

### Simile

Simile means of comparing things that are essentially unlike. In simile, the comparison is expressed by the use of some words or phrases, such as like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems (Perrine, 1992, p.61)

### Examples:

1. They were as brave as lion.
2. They fought like cats and dogs.

The first example is the word “brave” and “lion”, it expresses that lion is a strong and brave animal and as we know lion is a king of jungle. For the second example, the word “cats and dogs”, this is comparison two things between cats and dogs that have different character. The conclusion from those sentences is using “like” and “as” which show that type of figurative language is Simile.

### Personification

Personification is giving the attributes of human being to an animal, an object, or a concept (Perrine 1992, p.64). Personification is a figurative that gives object, animal, idea or abstraction with human character

of sensibility. One of the most familiar kinds of comparison is personification that is speaking something which is not human as human abilities. Personification is representing a thing, quality, or ideas as a person.

**Examples:**

1. My flowers were begging for water.
2. Time flies when you are having fun.

The first sentence is begging for water. We know that flowers cannot beg because it is not alive, it means that the flowers need water. The second sentence, the word “flies” means that the time goes so fast when you are having fun. So, personification describes the inanimate object as if they are alive.

**Irony**

According to Perrine (1992), “Verbal irony is saying the opposite of what one means. In a simple form, verbal irony means the opposite of what is being said” (p.104). irony has a meaning that extends beyond its use merely as a figure of speech, Irony, on the other hand, is a literary device or that may be used in the service of sarcasm or ridicule or may not.

**Example:**

1. You are genius to tell her that you lie.
2. This crowded place is empty, I cannot hear people talking.

The meaning of the first sentence is silly or stupid, it should not tell her if you are lying. The second sentence means the place is crowded but when you walk, it feels empty. Those statements above are contrast between what happens and what has been expected to happen.

**Hyperbole**

Overstatement or hyperbole is simply exaggeration but exaggeration in the service of truth (Perrine, 1992, p.101). overstatement may be used with a variety of effects. It may be humorous or grave, fanciful or restrained, convincing or unconvincing.

**Examples:**

1. That boy is as tall as the house.
2. I have read this novel a hundred times.

The first sentence contained exaggeration or overstatement, because the speaker did not mean say that boy is as tall as the house, it is impossible that human being as tall as the house. And for the second sentence is the same as the first sentence, it contained overstatement or exaggeration, if human being can really read novel a hundred times, our eyes will be ill. So, both statements above are expression of overstatement and exaggeration.

So, these are the results of figurative language which contained in song lyrics Daniel Bedingfield “*Never Gonna Leave Your Side*”:

**Data Findings**

The researcher found 4 figurative languages which found in song lyrics “*Never Gonna Leave Your Side*”, Danie Bedingfield’s song. The first figurative language is simile, second is personification, third is irony, and fourth figurative language is hyperbole. Each of them has different data, they are, simile has 4 data, personification has 3 data, irony has 1 data, and hyperbole has 2 data. The total of the data which the researcher found is 10 data. It is shown in the table below:

No.	Figurative Language	Data
1.	Simile	4
2	Personification	3
3.	Irony	1
4.	Hyperbole	2
	<b>Total</b>	10

After finding 10 data, the researcher classified the data which has been contained based on Perrine’s theory chosen by the researcher as follows:

**Never Gonna Leave Your Side Lyrics**

No.	Data	Figurative Language
1.	I feel like a song without the words	Simile

2.	I feel like a knight without a sword	Simile
3.	I feel like a ship beneath the waves	Simile
4.	I feel like a breath without the air	Simile
5.	Recalling times gone by	Personification
6.	And crying in the rain	Personification
7.	I know I am home	Personification
8.	Living in the pain	Irony
9.	I lay my head against your heart	Hyperbole
10.	There are no words that could describe how I miss you	Hyperbole

**Data no. 1**

**I feel like a song without the words**, it expresses resembles to what if the song without the words it is impossible, because a song must have good lyrics and we can express the lyrics by words. The conclusion from the lyric is using “like” which show that type of figurative language is simile.

**Data no.2**

**I feel like a knight without a sword**, it expresses resembles to a knight without a sword. In old times, we know that a knight always has a sword to fight. From the lyric is using “like” we can know which show that type of figurative language is simile.

**Data no.3**

**I feel like a ship beneath the waves**, it expresses that the author of the song feels that as if he is in a ship under the waves. He felt tossed around thought about the one he loved. So, from the lyric is using “like” we can know which show that type of figurative language is simile.

**Data no.4**

**I feel like a breath without the air**, it also expresses that he wanted to die because he did not want to lose the one that he loved. It is the same explanation from the lyric we can know that using “like” shows that type of figurative language is simile.

**Data no.5**

**Recalling times gone by**, it means that we know that the time can not recall or bring. Time is not alive thing. So, the personification describes the in animate object as if they are alive and it is representing a thing as a person.

**Data no. 6**

**And crying in the rain**, as we know the rain is not alive thing. It describes someone is crying. From the lyric we know that it is personification because it is representing a thing as a person.

**Data no. 7**

**I know I am home** it does not mean that we are a home (the place where one lives permanently, especially as a member of a family or household). It means that the author feels like he is home, comfortable when the one that he loved is always right by his sides.

**Data no. 8**

**Living in the pain**. In this lyric has a meaning that it is a sarcasm. It is not always we live in the pain forever. So, from the lyric we know that it is irony because it has a meaning that extends beyond its use merely as a figure of speech and it is the service of sarcasm.

**Data no.9**

**I lay my head against your heart**. The lyric contained exaggeration or overstatement, because the author of the song did not mean say that his head can against the heart. So, from this lyric we can know that it is hyperbole.

**Data no. 10**

There are no words that could describe how I miss you. The lyric describes an overstatement or exaggeration. So, we know that it is hyperbole because it is an overstatement.

**4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

**4.1. Conclusion**

The researcher can conclude that in song Daniel Bedingfield with the title Never Gonna Leave Your Side, the researcher found four kinds of figurative language. There are simile, personification, irony, and hyperbole. The total of the data which has been collected by the researcher is 10 data. From 10 data, the researcher classified the data into 4 simile, 3 personification, 1 irony, and 2 hyperbole.

#### 4.2. Suggestion

Derived from the conclusion above, the researcher expects and hopes this research can be useful for everyone and anyone who would like to know or do a research based on figurative language in song lyrics. Because by this research, the researcher knows the types of figurative languages which contained in song lyrics and also by this research the researcher knows many figurative languages which also contained in song lyrics and we can know and more understand about the meaning and the message which is delivered by the song writer. For the following research, the researcher suggests to find more figurative languages in various song lyrics. Therefore, there will be many kinds of figurative languages which can be studied.

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