

A Figurative Language Found in the Best Song of Imagine Dragons 2023

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Abstract

The objectives of this research are to find out the types of figurative language utilized in the best song of imagine dragons 2023 and to find the contextual meaning of the figurative language utilized in the best song of imagine dragons 2023. The method utilized is qualitative descriptive in which the researcher acts as the main and supporting instrument like documentation and tabulation which are utilized to collect all data from all the songs that have been collected in the best song of Imagine Dragons 2023. The results of this research shows that there are 9 types of figurative languages such as metaphors, similes, oxymoron, hyperbole, metonymy, synecdoche, personifications, rhetorical questions, anaphora in the best song of imagine dragons 2023. In this case, metaphor is the most dominant figurative language. Therefore, it can be concluded that the best song of imagine dragons 2023 has a lot of figurative language to enhance, beautify, and provide a more meaningful message for readers. Besides that, researcher also recommendation for lectures or teachers in learning related to figurative language which should provide the basics before analyzing songs such as identifying themes and messages to be conveying. Then, for students that want to study figurative language in song to be able comprehend or identify various types of figurative language such as hyperbole, simile, metaphor, personification and oxymoron. Lastly, for researcher who is interested or want to research this topic, suggestion to utilize an interdisciplinary approach for combining literary analysis and musicological studies to gain a deeper comprehending of the impact of figurative language in music.

Keywords: figurative language; imagine dragons 2023; the best song

INTRODUCTION

Speaking is a fundamental form of expertise in communication, aimed at conveying messages to others. According to BK (2020), speaking is a skill that allows individuals to communicate with their surroundings and express ideas and feelings through spoken language. This form of communication is essential in building social relationships, influencing others, and conveying emotions or information. One key aspect of speaking is the use of figurative language, which enhances the depth and expressiveness of communication.

Figurative language refers to the use of words or expressions that convey meanings different from their literal interpretation. Hulu et al. (2021) explain that figurative language plays a significant role in conveying complex ideas, emotions, or concepts in a more imaginative and impactful way. Dewi et al. (2020) further argue that the utilization of figurative language enriches social communication skills. A person proficient in figurative language can alter the listener's or reader's comprehension of a word or concept by drawing comparisons to other ideas or objects, thus deepening the meaning and emotional impact of the message.

One area where figurative language is commonly used is in songs. According to Irviani (2022), songs are a form of communication that utilizes tone and rhythm to express ideas and emotions. Music plays an integral role in this form of expression, as it is often accompanied by background music that enhances the emotional appeal of the lyrics. Within songs, figurative language is frequently used, making the meaning of the lyrics more nuanced and complex. However, the figurative expressions used in songs can sometimes confuse listeners, as the intended meaning is not always immediately clear.

An example of figurative language in song lyrics can be found in the song "Don't let them in, don't let them see" by Idina Menzel. This lyric utilizes repetition, which is a form of figurative language, to convey a deeper message. The phrase encourages the listener not to let others know the true side of themselves. It suggests an attempt to hide parts of one's identity due to reasons such as privacy, shame, or the desire to maintain a certain image in the eyes of others (Yunanda et al., 2021). Such lyrics exemplify how figurative language in songs can evoke emotions and provoke thought, often leaving listeners with a deeper understanding of the message.

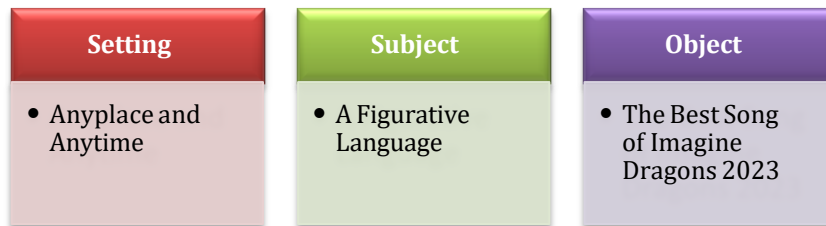
Given the importance of figurative language in song lyrics, this research aims to explore the types of figurative language found in the best song of Imagine Dragons in 2023 and to analyze the contextual meanings of these figurative expressions. This study will provide valuable insights into how figurative language shapes the listener's understanding and emotional response to the song, contributing to a better appreciation of the role of language in music and communication.

METHOD

Research Design

Research design is a strategies and the measures for research that cover the pronouncements from wide suppositions to thorough methods of analysis and data collection (Stadtländer, 2009). Research design is framework that utilizes to plan the analysis, data collection, and interpretation of data in a study. In this study, the researcher utilizes qualitative descriptive. According to Lahir (2023), qualitative research is a technique that investigates the intricate nature of social reality by analyzing cultures, attitudes, individual expressions, beliefs, and ideas.

Research Setting, Subject and Object



Research Instrument

Research instrument is which utilizes to collect data in research including interviews, observations, questionnaires, and researchable phenomena. (Islam, 2017) said that a research instrument is a tool created through stringent methodological processes to collect data research, ensuring the validity and reliability of scales, constructs, and then variables for replication. The researcher utilizes the main and supporting instrument in this research. The researcher utilizes herself as the main instrument, documentation, and tabulation utilizes to support the research conducted by the researcher.

Data collection techniques

Data collection techniques are which employing to collect data in a study. Boyle (2022) said that data collection is the act of gathering and analyzing data on precise variables in a system to efficiently answered inquiries. The following paces for data collection, such as:

Documentation

- Identify relevant documentation sources that discuss figurative language including encyclopedias, journal articles, credible websites, and academic papers.
- Search and assemble the best song of Imagine Dragons 2023.
- Listen to all the best song of Imagine Dragons 2023.
- Read the lyrics of the best song of Imagine Dragons 2023.
- Create a list of lyrics from the best song of Imagine Dragons 2023 that hold figurative language.

Tabulation

- Build a tabulate in excel or spreadsheet to document the lyrics and the related figurative language.
- Categorize the figurative language in the best song of Imagine Dragons 2023.
- Fill in each tabulation column with the appropriate data from the sources that was been found so that it is easy to comprehend.
- Analyze the results and conclude the use of figurative language in the best song of Imagine Dragons 2023.
- Interpret the upshots of the data found through tabulation.

Data Analysis Technique

(Abdul-jabbar & Farhan, 2022) said that data analysis is an extensive, complex and dynamic ground for the reason that data comes in diverse types and develops significantly. Moreover, data analysis can involve examining data or information to find trends, patterns, and uncover anomalies that exist so it can embrace hypothesis formulation, application of appropriate statistical techniques and presentation of hypotheses.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this study, the researcher analyzed several songs by Imagine Dragons from their best 2023 releases, including *Children of the Sky*, *Symphony*, *Crushed*, *Sharks*, *I Don't Like Myself*, *I Wish*, *Waves*, *Peace of Mind*, *I Am Happy*, *Tied*, *Take It Easy*, *They Don't Know You Like I Do*, and *Sirens*. After carefully examining the lyrics, the researcher identified 82 instances of figurative language. The breakdown of these figurative language types includes 25 metaphors, 6 similes, 13 oxymorons, 3 hyperboles, 5 metonymies, 3 synecdoches, 7 personifications, 9 rhetorical questions, and 11 instances of anaphora.

To make the data more accessible, a pie chart has been created to visually represent the most commonly used figurative language in the best songs of Imagine Dragons 2023. Below is the pie chart summarizing the findings.

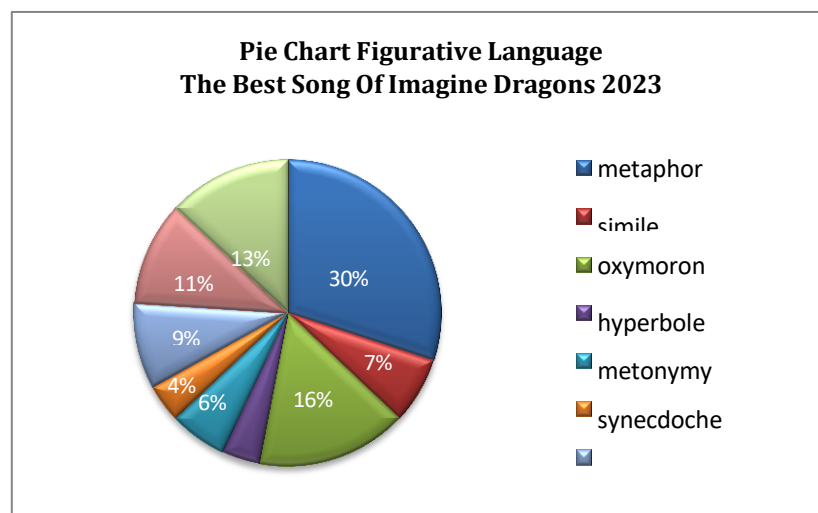


Figure 1. Pie Chart Figurative Language The Best Song of Imagine Dragons 2023

Upon reviewing the pie chart, it is clear that metaphor is the most frequently used type of figurative language, accounting for 30% of the total figurative language found across all the songs. There are 25 metaphorical expressions in the song lyrics. Following metaphor, oxymoron holds the second position, with 16% of the figurative language (13 instances across all songs). Anaphora ranks third, with 13% of the total figurative language (11 occurrences). Rhetorical questions are the fourth most common, appearing in 11% of the lyrics (9 times).

Personification takes the fifth spot, contributing 9% (7 occurrences), while similes appear in 7% of the lyrics, containing 6 instances. Metonymy also makes up 6% of the figurative

language usage (5 instances), placing it alongside similes. Finally, hyperbole and synecdoche account for the smallest proportion of figurative language, each contributing 4% (3 instances) of the total.

The findings of this study reveal important insights into the use of figurative language in the lyrics of Imagine Dragons' best songs from 2023. A variety of figurative language types are used throughout their music, with metaphor being the dominant form, reflecting its significant role in enhancing emotional expression and the thematic depth of the lyrics. The high frequency of metaphors suggests that Imagine Dragons often use this figurative device to convey abstract emotions, complex ideas, and imagery in a more vivid and engaging manner. This aligns with the broader trend in contemporary music where metaphor is frequently used to communicate nuanced messages, such as themes of self-discovery, emotional struggle, and personal growth.

Oxymorons also play a crucial role in the songs, with 13 instances found in the lyrics. An oxymoron, which combines contradictory terms, serves to create contrast and provoke thought. This may reflect the dualities often explored in the music of Imagine Dragons, such as internal conflict, hope versus despair, or the tension between personal desires and external expectations. The use of oxymorons helps to convey complexity in the emotional experience of the listener, making the song's message both thought-provoking and multifaceted.

The presence of anaphora, a rhetorical device involving the repetition of words or phrases, demonstrates the band's attempt to create a sense of emphasis and emotional resonance within the lyrics. Anaphora enhances the rhythm and flow of the song while reinforcing central themes, particularly those related to empowerment, struggle, or persistence. The repetition helps to create a sense of unity in the song's message, binding the lyrics together and making the central idea more memorable.

Rhetorical questions also appear frequently, which is a device used to engage the listener by prompting them to reflect on the questions posed, even though they are not meant to be answered directly. This technique encourages introspection and personal connection to the themes discussed in the song. The use of rhetorical questions aligns with the band's style of encouraging deep thought and emotional reflection through their music.

Personification, where human qualities are attributed to non-human entities, is another figurative language type that appears in the lyrics. This can be seen as a way of giving life and emotional depth to abstract concepts such as time, fate, or nature, making them more relatable to the listener. By attributing human characteristics to non-human elements, the songs deepen the emotional connection between the listener and the themes being explored.

In terms of similes and metonymy, these devices offer clear comparisons that help make the lyrics more relatable and tangible. Similes create more direct connections between the familiar and the unfamiliar, which makes abstract ideas easier to understand. Metonymy, on the other hand, relies on the substitution of one concept for another, enhancing the symbolism in the lyrics and allowing the songwriter to communicate complex ideas more succinctly.

Interestingly, hyperbole and synecdoche are among the least used figurative devices in the songs, with only a few instances each. Hyperbole is often used for dramatic effect, exaggerating emotions or scenarios for emphasis, but in this case, it seems to be employed more sparingly. Synecdoche, which involves using a part to represent a whole or vice versa, also appears less frequently, possibly because the songs rely more on other figurative devices like metaphor and personification to convey their messages.

The study also reveals some differences between the types of figurative language discussed by Bagir & Wiwoho (2022) and those found in this research. Bagir & Wiwoho identified 12 types of figurative language, including pun, apostrophe, and polyptoton, none of which were found in this study. This discrepancy could be attributed to the specific nature of the songs analyzed, as well as the context in which they were written. While puns, apostrophes, and polyptoton can be common in certain genres of music, they were not prominent in the Imagine Dragons tracks analyzed in this study.

Despite these differences, the figurative language theory by Bagir & Wiwoho remains relevant, as it provides a solid framework for understanding the different types of figurative expressions in language. The findings from this study confirm that figurative language plays a central role in shaping the emotional and thematic content of song lyrics, allowing listeners to engage more deeply with the music and its message.

In conclusion, the extensive use of various figurative language types in the best songs of Imagine Dragons 2023 reveals the band's reliance on these literary devices to convey complex emotions and ideas. Through metaphors, oxymorons, anaphora, and other figurative forms, the songs resonate deeply with their audience, encouraging emotional reflection and connection. Future research could explore the relationship between figurative language in song lyrics and listener perception, expanding our understanding of how figurative expressions influence music consumption and interpretation.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis and results of the data, the researcher concludes that the best songs of Imagine Dragons in 2023 contain various types of figurative language that enhance the listener's or reader's experience, beautify the lyrics, and provide more meaningful messages. In the 13 song titles analyzed, including Children of the Sky, Symphony, Crushed, Sharks, I Don't Like Myself, I Wish, Waves, Peace of Mind, I Am Happy, Tied, Take It Easy, They Don't Know You Like I Do, and Sirens, the researcher identified 9 types of figurative language such as metaphors, similes, oxymorons, hyperboles, metonymies, synecdoches, personifications, rhetorical questions, and anaphora. These figurative devices significantly contribute to the depth and emotional resonance of the songs.

The suggestions for this research are as follows: For lecturers and teachers, it is important to provide the foundational knowledge of figurative language before diving into song lyric analysis. Utilizing visual or audio media, such as playing Imagine Dragons songs and inviting students to analyze the lyrics together, can enhance student engagement. Additionally, providing additional resources like readings on literary theory and song lyric analysis, followed by group discussions, can facilitate deeper understanding. For students, it is recommended to study various types of figurative language, such as hyperbole, simile,

metaphor, personification, and oxymoron, to improve their comprehension of figurative expressions in songs. Lastly, for future researchers, it is suggested to use an interdisciplinary approach that combines literary analysis and musicological studies to gain a deeper understanding of the impact of figurative language in music.

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