



# AN ANALYSIS TYPES OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES FOUND IN RICHARD MARX'S SONG LYRICS

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## ABSTRACT

*This research aims to identify the kinds of figurative languages used in the chosen song lyrics of Richard Marx and to examine the meanings of figurative languages in the song lyrics of Richard Marx. Several song lyrics from Richard Marx that were randomly taken are the data base of this analysis. In the analysis of data from this report, descriptive and qualitative methods were used. The theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) studied the types of figurative languages and also the accepted theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981: 16) will be analyzed in the selected song lyrics of Richard Marx to explain the meaning of figurative language. The researcher assumes, after the study has been finished, that the chosen song lyrics of Richard Marx consist of 20 lyrics that used figurative language. Therefore, it was found 7 types of figurative language, there are simile (16, 67%), metaphor (5, 56%), personification (19, 44%), irony (2, 78%), hyperbole (47, 22%), synecdoche (2, 78%) and metonymy (2, 78).*

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## INTRODUCTION

Language is a system of conventional spoken or written symbols that individuals use to communicate with others. To communicate, people need language that delivers meaning, knowledge and ideas. Therefore, people



cannot interact with each other without words. English has become a common language of great significance, and some still call it a world language. In various ways, the English language has another meaning. In this world, there are many languages that need an awfully important role in life. Therefore, to strengthen our bond with those who have different languages, we have a world language, namely English. Language can unite other people's thoughts, become a means of communicating ideas, history, social life, and much more. In every nation in this world, there are many languages that not all can comprehend what others say if they have a special language. In order to make the sentences sound lovely, figurative language is frequently used by individuals in their everyday conversation.

Figurative language is a strategy in which languages have more unique, distinctive and meaningful words. According to Knickerbocker (1963:367) that figurative language is usually called metaphor and figurative language mostly we always found in song lyrics and poetry. Simile, metaphor, paradox, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, and allusion are types of figurative language. It may be a language with a meaning that is different from the understanding that uses terms or phrases. In other hand, Abrams (1999:96) stated that figurative language is used as the indicator or utterance of word with purpose to gain special meaning of words. It means the words with figurative language cannot be understood and interpreted in literal form.

Figurative language is a kind of language which differs from conventional literal ways of representing individuals or objects. People have to consider the form and also the context while understanding and studying figurative language. In order to grasp and capture the sense of idea, people do many ways to deliver their idea to another person. The music is one of the ways that can be used to deliver the message or communicate the sensation. Additionally, the song is a sound composition carried out by a singer or unit. For others to remember, each musician composes a song in English, but often songwriters write in their own language to make it simpler and prepare to make songs wholeheartedly. With their emotions, musicians build a song such that the song lyrics deliver what the meaning communicated within the song lyrics. This indicates that songs can also interact with others in order to exchange opinions, emotions, and even arguments.

The song is the method by which individuals can articulate their opinions, emotions, and even arguments. A song may be a composition of a poem sung along with a musical instrument. During an album, there are several messages transmitted, such as a song with love, religious, political, and other themes. Through music, people can talk to others. When they are

unhappy, lonely or even while doing work, many people usually listen to music. With that, they'll feel satisfied and enjoy themselves. However, it is difficult for all of us to realize what the songwriters mean in their song, since the meaning cannot be actually discovered.

With the idea that figurative language is commonly employed in songs, this research discusses particularly the used of figurative language in Richard Noel Marx is an American contemporary and adult pop / rock singer, songwriter, musician, and record producer. One all told his songs is entitled Singles by Richard Marx Don't Mean Nothing " "Should've Known Better " "Have Mercy " "Endless Summer Nights " "Hold On to the Nights ." This study were focused about figurative languages. The researcher is fascinated by conducting the study of figurative language utilized in Richard Marx's songs.

Every songs have many hidden meaning and the messages therefore this research need to be analyzed to understand the hidden meaning in every songs. From the phenomena, the author is interested in conducting the research of figurative languages that use Richard Marx's selected song lyrics. To be more specific about what are types of figurative languages found in Richard Marx's song lyrics.

## RESEARCH METHOD

This research examined the interpretation of this knowledge using descriptive and qualitative approaches. Study Regarding Outline of Details and Observations In order to understand in the chosen song lyrics of Richard Marx the meaning of the forms of figurative words. By offering some explanation and definition, the analysis was completed. The types of figurative languages were analyzed by the theory from Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) and Leech (1981).

Data collection is the way to collecting the data. This study used observation method. This method applied 4 steps, such as: Listening to the song carefully and play it over and over again in order to understand the contents of the song, searching the internet for the lyrics of the selected song to copy and save, reading the lyrics and understand the contents of the song and taking a note to classify data based on the type of figurative language.



## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### RESULT

There were twenty song lyrics found from Richard Marx based on the types of figurative language, served in the table below, the data below shows seven types of figurative language from twenty song lyrics that included the title of songs used in each figurative language. The occurrence of the types of figurative used in the songs on the table.

**Table 1. Types of Figurative language**

| No.   | Types           | Frequency | Percentage |
|-------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| 1     | Simile          | 6         | 16,67%     |
| 2     | Metaphor        | 2         | 5,56%      |
| 3     | Personification | 7         | 19,44%     |
| 4     | Irony           | 1         | 2,78%      |
| 5     | Hyperbole       | 17        | 47,22%     |
| 6     | Synecdoche      | 1         | 2,78%      |
| 7     | Metonymy        | 2         | 5,56%      |
| Total |                 | 158       | 100%       |

Table above shows the occurrence of each types, there are seven types of figurative language displayed on the table. The seven types of figurative language in the table above are simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, synecdoche, irony and hyperbole. The total of figurative language found in twenty selected song lyrics of Richard Marx are 36 data. It shows that hyperbole become most dominant types 17 data or (47, 22%). The second is simile are 6 data or (16, 67%). The third is personification with the total 7 data or (9, 44%). Metaphor with total 2 data or (5, 56%), irony with the total 1 data or (2, 78%), synecdoche with total 1 or (2, 78%) and metonymy with total 2 data or (2, 78). Therefore, the figurative language used most widely is hyperbole with the total 17 sentences or (47, 22%) followed by simile and personification for the second position. The composer is really imaginative because he can interpret all expression into different types of figurative language.

### DISCUSSION

This sub-chapter discussed about the types and meaning of figurative language used in Richard Marx song lyrics. The discussion were analyzed based on the theory proposed by Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963: 367) and also supported theory of meaning proposed by Leech (1981: 16) to explain the meaning of figurative language.

## 1. Simile

### Data 1:

I'm tied up, like a slave to a chain  
(Heart on the line-line 17)

The lyrics above is classified as a simile, because the singer is comparing two different things. As we can see, the singer compared with a chain slave. The topic of this simile is a human being who is not given the freedom to do anything such as being tied in chains. The conjunction that connects these two different things is 'like'. The two things must be different: I am a human. A chain slave is someone who is bound in chains and abused cruelly. In this expression it means a human being who is not given the freedom to do something.

Based on Leech theory, the lyrics above has a connotative meaning. The occurrence of the connotative meaning can be seen from indirect words such as the sentence "I am in a chain slave" means a human being who is not given the freedom to do anything.

## 2. Metaphor

### Data 2:

We are the children of the night  
(Children of the Night-line 7)

Based on Knickerbocker and Reninger theory, the data above can be classified as metaphor because indicates someone story life. It shows how people do hard life, full of struggle and never giving up. They compares themselves like the creatures that come out and roam during the night, learned on the street without any luxury.

Based on theory proposed by Leech, this lyrics categorized as social meaning. According to the lyrics "I have learned on the street, no magic carpet, no genie, no shoes on my feet, we are the children of the night, we will not go down without a fight", which represents struggling social conditions.

## 3. Personification

### Data 3:

Has come back to haunt, like a restless wind  
(Too late to say goodbye – Line 3)

This data above categorized as personification because wind cannot restless. Restless here refers to human feeling that come back to haunt again. Restless defined as feeling does not enjoy and feeling worried. It usually expressed by hand

or feet that are constantly moving. The wind cannot feel like that, so it can be categorized as personification.

The affective meaning can be seen in the lyrics above because contains the emotions. This sentence categorized as affective meaning, because the lyrics showing a restless feels which kind of the emotions. The song implies a feeling of anxiety that is not calm because it is affected by something.

#### 4. Irony

**Data 4:**

Everything's written in black and white  
(Living in the real world- line 10)

The lyrics above categorized as irony because just realized how the world really is. Everything in this world is inseparable from the good or bad of something. In this context the singer uses black and white to change good or bad. In this world, we can not only do well but sometimes we do things that are not good.

Based on theory proposed by Leech, this lyrics classified as connotative meaning because it has implicit meaning. It because, the occurrence of the connotative meaning can be seen from indirect phrase "black and white" to change good or bad something in this real world.

#### 5. Hyperbole

**Data 5:**

I've got to get you off my mind  
(Angelia-line 37)

This lyrics is categorized as hyperbole because it exaggerates the word forgetting, so from the above we can conclude that get you off my mind "means forgetting something from our minds.

This sentence categorized as affective meaning, because the lyrics showing a context of forgetting which kind of the emotions. The lyrics imply the meaning of how someone who is always on his mind, and never forgotten, but he has tried hard to forget it and does not remember it anymore.

#### 6. Synecdoche

**Data 6:**

Left by my father with only this scar on my face  
(Children Of The Night-Line 13)

Based on the theory of synecdoche, it is a figurative word used to represent everything. The synecdoche of this statement was identified when the speaker said that "This scar" which means pains. This data can be classified as synecdoche because the word "scar" represent all of the sadness and suffering that have been

experienced of his life.

The connotative meaning can be seen since the occurrence lyrics of the connotative meaning can be seen from indirect words such as the sentence "Left By My Father With Only This Scar On My Face" means someone remembers all his suffering like violence with scar that was given by his father.

## 7. Metonymy

### Data 7:

We've grown into the children of the night  
(Children of the night-line 24)

Metonymy used to describes one thing by using terms for other things that are strongly related to it. The replacement of an object's naming term that is closely related to the word, it thinks of for itself is called metonymy. From the example above, "night" is identical with "darkness" because the dark is a symbol of the situation when all things cannot be seen.

Based on Leech theory, this lyrics has a connotative meaning. The occurrence of the connotative meaning can be seen from indirect words such as the sentence " We've grown into the children of the night" means children who grows out of darkness and suffering which they have no definite purpose in their future life.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the result and discussion, it was found 7 types of figurative language, there are simile (16, 67%), metaphor (5, 56%), personification (19, 44%), irony (2, 78%), hyperbole (47, 22%), synecdoche (2, 78%) and metonymy (2, 78). It can be seen that the dominant types of figurative language in the song lyrics is hyperbole. The meanings contained in the figurative language expressions found in this study are as follows, 17 of connotative meaning, 1 of conceptual meaning, 13 of affective meaning and 5 of social meaning. The used of the hyperbole become the most dominant types of figurative language and the connotative meaning is become the most dominant meaning that used in the 20 songs by Richard Marx.

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