การวิเคราะห์ภาษาภาพพจน์ในเนื้อเพลงของละครเพลง เรื่อง "Into the Woods"

Analyzing the Figurative Language of the Lyrics of the Musical "Into the Woods"

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บทคัดย่อ

การศึกษานี้มีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อค้นหาภาษาภาพพจน์ และวิเคราะห์ความหมาย โดยเลือก 14 เพลง ในละคร
เพลง เรื่อง "Into the Woods" ซึ่งหนังสือประพันธ์โดย Jack Lapine และเพลงประพันธ์โดย Stephen Sondheim เป็น
ข้อมูลในการวิเคราะห์ ภาษาภาพพจน์ 11 ประเภท คือ สัญลักษณ์ อุปมา อุปลักษณ์ นามนัย สัมพจนัย บุคลาธิษฐาน
อติพจน์ ปฏิทรรศน์ การเกลื่อนคำ การแฝงนัย และสัทพจน์ ใช้เป็นกรอบการวิเคราะห์ ผลการศึกษาพบว่า ภาษา
ภาพพจน์ 95 ตัวอย่าง จาก 11 ชนิด พบใน 14 เพลง โดยพบอุปลักษณ์มากที่สุด จำนวน 34 ตัวอย่าง ใน 10 เพลง
นอกจากนี้ยังพบว่าเพลง "Act I: Prologue: Into the Woods" มีการใช้ภาษาภาพพจน์มากที่สุด รวม 7 ชนิด ได้แก่
สัญลักษณ์ อุปมา อุปลักษณ์ นามนัย สัมพจนัย การแฝงนัย และสัทพจน์ ซึ่งพบความหมายตรงมากกว่าความหมาย
โดยนัย

คำสำคัญ: ละครเพลง "Into the Woods" ภาษาภาพพจน์

Abstract

The objectives of this study are to identify the types of figurative language and analyze "the meanings of
them". Fourteen songs from the musical "Into the Woods", composed by Stephen Sondheim, and "book written" by

Jack Lapine, were selected as the data. Eleven types of figurative language: symbol, simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, personification, hyperbole, paradox, euphemism, irony and onomatopoeia were used as the framework of analyses. The findings showed that there are 95 samples of 11 types of figurative language in 14 songs. Thirty-four samples of metaphor were found in 10 songs. Seven types of figurative language were found the most in the song: "Act I: Prologue: Into the Woods". It includes symbol, simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, irony, and onomatopoeia. Denotative meaning was found more than connotative meaning.

Keywords: The Musical "Into The Woods", Figurative Language

1. Introduction

Roles of songs influence more on members of society. Brno (2007) has stated that songs can be used as a way of looking at a culture and comparing it with other cultures. They can be used as materials for practicing listening, reading, writing and speaking skills. They are also used for helping to create supportive atmosphere for learning languages (Rosova, 2007).

The song is a poem set to music, intended to be sung. It consists of a number of verses. The way to understand the meaning of a song or a poem is difficult because its meaning is beyond the texts. Rhythm is one of the important elements in both songs and poetry. Brno (2007) stated that songs contain the power of music as well as the power of lyrics. While music touches our hearts, the lyrics and their words flow into our minds and so they draw us into their own world.

The lyrics are words in a song derived from the Greek word "lyrikos" (Douglas, 2012 cited in Dinata, 2013). The meaning of the lyrics can either be explicit or implicit (Adi Wiryawan, 2013). Perrine (1963) classified the meaning into denotation and connotation. Denotation is the dictionary meaning. Beyond its denotative meaning, a word may also have connotative meaning. Connotative meaning is the implied meaning that a word might suggest.

The lyricists usually use figurative language and implicit or connotative meaning to make songs more artistic and good value (Lestari, 2009).

Figurative language is defined as a certain literary device which has special characteristics to gain strength and freshness of their literary works for expressing the writers' feeling and thought (Adi Wiryawan, 2013). There are some reasons for the effectiveness of figurative use. First, figurative language allows the pleasure of imagination to the audiences. It's fun to imagine likenesses between unlike things. Second, it is a way of making the abstract concrete. Third, it is a way of adding emotional intensity and attitudes to information. Fourth, it is a means of saying a lot in a short time (Walidain, 2013). Therefore, analyzing figurative language in song lyrics is important for some reasons (Dinata, 2013). First, singing a song and knowing the meaning of the lyricist are better than singing without an adequate understanding. We can also gain some

lesson learning and fruitful information when we understand the non-literal meaning contained in song lyrics. Second, analyzing figurative language provides us more practices to better understand non-literal expressions.

The musical "*Into the Woods*", *composed by Stephen Sondheim*, and "*book written*" *by Jack Lapine* is based on the four classic fairy tales of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack and the Bean Stalk, and Rapunzel. Most of these song lyrics contain figurative language and they have both denotative and connotative meanings. In this study, there are 11 types of figurative language: symbol, simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, personification, hyperbole, paradox, euphemism, irony, and onomatopoeia, used for the framework of analyses.

The definitions of these types of figurative language and the related literature are as follows:

Symbol means what it is (which is like the image) and something other than what it is (which is like the metaphor).

The simile is an explicit comparison between two unlike things by the use of some words such as like, as, than, similar to, or resembles.

Metaphor is an implicit comparison between two unlike things without the use of some words such as like, as, than, similar to, or resembles.

Metonymy is a comparison between two unlike things in such a way that one is.

Synecdoche is a comparison between two unlike things in such a way that part is considered as a whole thing.

Personification is a figure of speech in which human attributes are given to an animal, an object or a concept.

Hyperbole is an exaggeration on the basis of some truthful analogy. It may be used to evoke strong feelings or to create a strong impression.

Paradox is a statement that appears to be self-contradictory or silly, but may include a latent truth.

Euphemism is the substitution of a mild and pleasant expression of a harsh and blunt one.

Irony is a figure of speech in which a literal meaning is contrary to its intended effect.

Onomatopoeia is one of sound devices that suggest its meanings. Examples: pop, fizz, snap, hiss, bang.

Rahayu (2010) studied about figures of speech and their connotative meaning in the song's lyrics Killing Me Softly with His Song. The purpose of this study was to analyze the connotative meaning of the figure of speech used in the lyrics. The results showed that some figures of speech are metaphor, personification, symbol, synecdoche, and hyperbole. Metaphor is mostly used in the song's lyrics and connotative meaning in the song's lyrics was found.

Rini (2011) studied about "Killing Me Softly with His Song": Its Cohesion and Language Features. The purpose of this study was to analysis of cohesion and the language features of the song. The composers employ alliteration, euphemism, hyperbole, rhythm, simile, and rhyme which characterize a poem text. There are not any metaphor and personification in the song lyric.

Puigderajols (2001) studied about "A Linguistic Study of The Magic in Disney Lyrics". The objective of the study was to find out the linguistic instruments and techniques that in the word and pen of Disney lyricists made their song immortal. One part of this thesis was about staging that consisted of tropes (metaphor, simile, symbol, allegory, metonymy, synecdoche, hyperbole, litotes, irony, sarcasm and antonomasia) and figures of thought (paradox, oxymoron, pleonasm, periphrasis, rhetorical question and apostrophe or personification). The result showed that from 47 Disney song lyrics, there were 42 song lyrics used tropes and 15 song lyrics used figures of thought.

Retnayanthi (2012) studied about "The Analysis of Figurative Languages in Adele's Song Lyrics". The objectives of the study were to identify the types of figurative language found in the song lyrics by Adele and analyze and describe the contextual meaning of the figurative language used in the song lyrics by Adele. The result showed that there are eight kinds of figurative languages found in four songs by Adele such as: personification, metaphor, synecdoche, hyperbole, allusion, paradox, symbols and dead metaphor. The use of the contextual meaning in this study also opens up all the meanings and the purposes from four song lyrics by Adele.

Suwarso (2013) studied about Figurative Language Used in "Acquainted with the Night". The objectives of the study were to analyze the figurative language used by the poet to express the message and the meaning of the poem in figurative language. The result showed that, Based on Knickerbocker &

Reninger theory, there were six figurative of language that found in *Acquainted with the Night* poem. Those were irony, symbol, metaphor, hyperbole, paradox, and personification. Metaphor was the most dominant figurative language in this poem, it appeared in every stanza.

Adi Wiryawan (2013) studied about "Figurative Languages Used in the Beatle's Song Lyrics Composed by Two Different Song Writers (John Lennon and Paul McCartney)". The aim of the study is to identify and analyze the differences between the use of figurative languages composed by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. It is also aimed to make the reader to understand about the songs which written using figurative languages that are contained hidden meanings which conveyed by the writers. The results showed that there are nine kinds of figurative language which John Lennon used to express his feeling in the song lyrics; they are simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, metonymy, irony, dead metaphor, allusion, and paradox. There are total 36 figurative languages found in three lyrics of John Lennon. Besides that, there are six kinds of figurative language and total 18 figurative languages used by Paul McCartney in three of his song lyrics.

Types of figurative languages which are found frequently in the literature are symbolic, simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, personification, hyperbole, paradox, and irony but metaphor and personification are not found in one study. The types of songs which is found frequently in the literature are popular songs. Disney lyrics with magic is presented in only one study. "Killing Me Softly with His Song"

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is found in two studies, however, euphemism in one study is reported. Onomatopoeia is also found in only one study. Therefore, this current study aims to analyze these types of figurative language in the musical songs that its story is related to the magic in fairy tales.

2. Objectives

1. The first one is to identify the types of figurative language of the musical "Into the Woods" song lyrics.

2. The second one is to analyze the meanings of the figurative language used in the musical "Into the Woods" song lyrics.

3. Materials and Method

This study is a qualitative descriptive research which has been done by describing the facts, and then continued by analysis and giving reasons. The data have been taken from twenty five the musical "*Into the Wood" songs, composed by Stephen Sondheim, and "book written" by Jack Lapine*. Purposive sampling has been used for selecting fourteen songs (56% of all) for analysis. The only one song is selected if the lyrics of two songs are similar and the songs without the figurative language are not selected for analysis. The selected songs are *Act I: Prologue: Into the Woods, Hello, Little Girl, I Guess This Is Goodbye, I Know Things Now, First Midnight, Giants in the Sky, Agony, Stay With Me, Ever After, Act II Prologue: So Happy, Agony: Reprise, Moments In the Woods, Last Midnight, and Finale: Children Will Listen*.
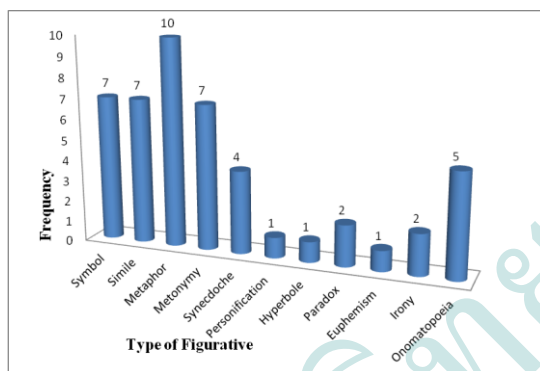
Eleven types of figurative language have been selected for the framework of analyses, namely symbol, simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, personification, hyperbole, paradox, euphemism, irony, and onomatopoeia because all of them are used frequently in song analysis and they are the figures of thought (symbol, simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, personification, hyperbole, paradox, irony), figures of substitution (euphemism) and figures of sound or sound device (onomatopoeia).

There have been several steps taken in analyzing the data. First, the fourteen song lyrics have been thoroughly read and comprehended in order to summarize the story of the songs. Second, the underlined verses of song lyrics have been analyzed based on the types of figurative language, figurative expressions and types of their meanings in each song. Third, the table has been drawn to the types of figurative language, figurative expressions and types of their meanings. Fourth, the explanations and reasons have been provided in descriptive sentences. Finally, the conclusion has been drawn from the whole analysis to find out the answer of the study questions. The frequency of the figurative language in each song and of each type of figurative language are presented.
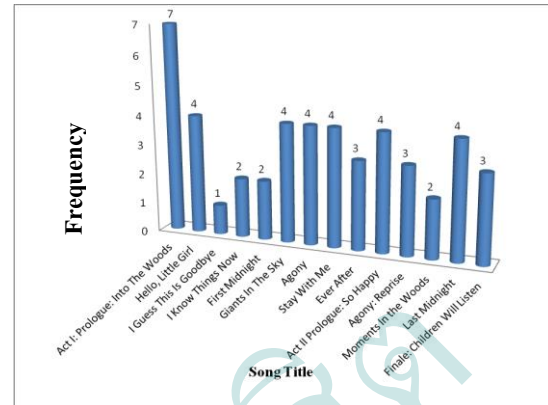
4. Results

There are total 95 samples of 11 types of figurative language in 14 songs. There are 34 samples of metaphor. However, personification, hyperbole and euphemism are found one sample, three samples, one sample, respectively. Seven types of figurative

language are found in the song: *Act I: Prologue*. It includes symbol, simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, irony, and onomatopoeia. One type of figurative language was found in the song: *I Guess This Is Goodbye*. It covered only a euphemism. The frequency of each type of figurative language in fourteen songs and total types of figurative language in each song is presented in figure 1 and 2, respectively.

Figure 2 Frequency of total types of figurative language in each song

Figure 1 Frequency of each type of figurative language in fourteen songs

As shown in figure 1, metaphor is the most dominant figurative languages found in fourteen songs of the musical "*Into the Woods*". It is found in 10 songs. Symbol, simile and metonymy are found in 7 songs. Onomatopoeia is found in 5 songs. Synecdoche is found in 4 songs. Paradox and irony are found in 2 songs. Personification, Hyperbole and Euphemism are found in only 1 song in this study.

As shown in figure 2, *Act I Prologue: Into the Woods* contained 7 types of figurative language. There are six songs which possessed 4 types of figurative language. They covered *Hello Little Girl, Giant in the Sky, Agony, Stay with me, Act II Prologue: So Happy, and Last Midnight*. There are three songs which possess 3 types of figurative language. They included *Ever After, Agony: Reprise, and Finale: Children will listen*. The song containing only one type of figurative language is *I Guess This Is Goodbye*.

The samples of 11 types of figurative language are as follows:

1. Symbol in *Prologue: Into the Woods*

"Wife: I know you are fearful of the woods at night."

"Night" is a symbol. There is the darkness at night. Hence, it symbolizes the Baker's depression or loneliness or bad things, evil and death when he is in the woods. Connotative meaning is found.

2. Similes in *Prologue: Into the Woods*

"One: *the cow* <u>as white as</u> *milk*,

Two: *the cape* <u>as red as</u> *blood*,

Three: *the hair* <u>as yellow as</u> *corn*,

Four: *the slipper* <u>as pure as</u> *gold*.   "

In these verses, two things are compared with the explicit words "as…as". The cow is being compared with milk in white color. The cape is being compared with blood in red color. The hair is being compared with corn in yellow color. The slipper is being compared with gold in pure element. So, they are similes. The topics are the cow, the cape, the hair, and the slipper, respectively. The illustrations are milk, blood, corn, and gold, respectively. The points of similarity are their colors. Connotative meaning is found.

3. Metaphor in *Prologue: Into the Woods*

"Witch: It's not what I wish. It's what you wish. (Points to <u>Wife's belly</u>) Nothing cooking in <u>there</u> now, is there?"

From the Witch's verses, "there" means Wife's belly. It refers to literal stomach, but in this situation, the belly means a utensil for cooking. Denotative meaning is found.

4. Metonymy in *Prologue: Into the Woods*

"Jack (Overlapping): I wish you'd give us some <u>milk</u> or even <u>cheese</u>.."

Milk and cheese are made to represent foods. Denotative meaning is found.

5. Synecdoche in *Prologue: Into the Woods*

"Florinda: Look at your <u>nails</u>!"

"Nails" are the parts that represent the hand as the whole. Denotative meaning is found.

6. Irony in *Prologue: Into the Woods*

"Jack's Mother: Someday you'll have a real pet, Jack.

Jack: <u>A piggy?</u> [Mother shakes her head in disbelief]"

"A piggy?" shows irony. Jack does not really mean that a piggy will be his real pet. Denotative meaning is found.

7. Onomatopoeia in *Prologue: Into the Woods*

"And then <u>bang!</u> <u>Crash!</u>"

"Bang!" is used to imitate the loud noise and "Crash!" is loud noise made by a violent fall, blow or breakage. Denotative meaning is found.

8. Euphemism in *I Guess This Is Goodbye*

"Someday I'll buy you back.

I'll see you soon again.

I hope that when I do,

<u>It won't be on a plate</u>."

These verses mean Jack's cow will not die as Jack comes back to buy it. The last verse refers to a pleasant replacement for an objectionable word "to die". Connotative meaning is found.

9. Personification in *Act II Prologue: So Happy*

"All: That <u>fortune smiled</u>.."

We can see that fortune is treated like a human being. It is clear that the above line belongs to personification because fortune, an abstract idea, smiled, which is described as if it is human. Connotative meaning is found.

10. Paradox in *Act II Prologue: So Happy*

"Stepmother, Lucinda, Florinda: We had to lose a lot to win."

"To lose" and "to win" are the opposite meanings, but they can be used at the same time to tell the truth of something. When someone would like to win, they have to lose many things. Denotative meaning is found.

11. Hyperbole in *Last Midnight*

"Soon you'll see the sky fall!"

In this phrase, "the sky fall!", it is an exaggeration because the sky is only the space. So, it has never fallen. Connotative meaning is found.

Both denotative and connotative meanings are found in this study. For symbol, simile, and metaphor, the frequency of denotative and connotative meaning is quite balanced. The denotative meaning is the most prominent in metonymy, synecdoche, hyperbole, and onomatopoeia.

5. Discussion

The types of figurative language in the musical "Into the Woods" songs are classified into symbol, simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, personification, hyperbole, paradox, euphemism, irony and onomatopoeia. The result shows that metaphor is mostly used. It may be because these songs were written for adults who can connect the connotation meaning or implicit comparison in the songs to their personal experiences and backgrounds both aesthetic and moral consequences. Moreover, these lyrics are based on the fairy tales and they can make more interesting comparisons. The same results

are found as in the study of Suwarso (2013) and Rahayu (2010). However, this result is different from Rini's study (2011). Metaphor is not found in "Killing Me Softly with His Song" because this song is not based on the fairy tales.

For personification, the amount of its use is only once and so is for hyperbole. The musical "Into the Woods" are loosely based on the four classic fairy tales so the Hazel tree, the Wolf and birds can act like human beings. The story is also about the magic such as magic beans, the curse of the Witch but, in this study, they are not classified in personification and hyperbole for their actions. Therefore, it is found only one time in one song. However, in other studies such as the study of Rahayu (2010), Puigderajols (2001), Retnayanthi (2012) and Suwarso (2013), personification and hyperbole can be found more than once while personification is not found in Rini' s study (2011).

For euphemism, the amount of its use is only once that is found in Jack's verses. He does not want his cow, Milky White, to die before he comes back to buy it. So the writer avoids using the harsh words because Jack has sensitive feeling. However, in the other songs, the writer uses the direct meaning of death. Euphemism in Rini' s study (2011) is used more than once because the lyrics are about the killing as its name: "Killing Me Softly with His Song".

6. Conclusion

The eleven types of figurative language used in this study are symbol, simile, metaphor, metonymy, synecdoche, personification, hyperbole, paradox,

euphemism, irony and onomatopoeia. Metaphor is the most but personification, hyperbole, and euphemism are found the least.

Denotative meaning is used more than connotative meaning because every word and phrase in these songs have the direct meanings as in the dictionary, while some words or phrases are intended to give the connotative meaning for more understanding and interest.

7. Suggestions for Further Studies

1. The students can learn figurative language from songs and other sources of speech like advertisements, and movie scripts, etc. This study can lead students to understand about figurative language.

2. This study can be as a beginning reference for the following researchers. Then, they should study more about figurative language in different opinions and ways in the analyses and perception.

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