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## Figurative Language Expressions in English Language Selected Videos Posted in TikTok Application

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### Abstract

The purpose of this study is to describes the types of figurative language found in English selected videos from TikTok application. And also, tried to find out the functions of figurative language in these selected videos. A descriptive qualitative was undertaken to investigate the research question in this study. The result of the study showed that there are eleven types of figurative language found in these videos. Including simile, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement and irony. Simile, synecdoche, symbol, allegory, and paradox are the dominant type found in the selected videos. Meanwhile there are five functions of figurative language discovered through the videos consist of referential function, expressive function, conative function, poetic function and phatic function. The poetic function is the most one used in the selected videos. The use of figurative language in some selected videos from TikTok application it might contains beatify meaning and also non literal meaning. Some creators of the videos used figurative language to share their opinion about love, live, daily life and also sensitive topic.

**Keywords:** Figurative Language, Selected videos, TikTok Applications.

**Introduction**

The meaning from language is used to communicate messages, ideas, and knowledge. Languages have two categories including written and spoken. Each language's speakers have their own unique linguistic expressions, which offer ascent to different linguistic characteristics. It describes the use of language in a specific situation, from specific persons and also specific goals. In real life, both spoken and written form using language style. To escape applying denotational language, the speaker or writer adopts the figurative language. Figurative language requires a thorough understanding in order to avoid miscommunication that the listeners or viewer accepts. Explicitly for published materials and communication languages, it is intended to clarify meanings.

Another option that can help learners in understanding figurative language is by using the TikTok application as a part of social media. TikTok applications can contain everyday speech, poetry, reviews of the novels, advertising, speeches, and even song lyrics. In order to make it enjoyable to watch and listen to the content video of the TikTok application, the content creators frequently used beautiful language. In addition, the videos that are produced frequently have meanings that differ from their intended meanings, particularly when figurative language is used. The data from the annual report of the TikTok application described that social media have changed how people interact with one another in society and how they communicate with one another. They have also changed the way people share information, trade knowledge, and learn (Mismara, 2019). It means that social media has many potentials to help people.

To elaborate the types and meanings from the figurative language in the videos that will be analyzed, this topic examines earlier research that is relevant to the current research. The author reviews earlier research that is related to this topic. In order to assess the originality of this research, the writer presents 3 prior investigations.

First, there is a study conducted by (Sihinte, 2016) she analysed the figurative language style in an English news broadcasting program on television. The study adopted a sociolinguistic approach. Second, the study conducted by (Syahrina, 2019) in her study, she analysed the figurative language in Katy Perry's Song. Third, the study conducted by (Jumiati, 2022) she analysed the figurative language in TikTok viral songs

Based on Some related study that already discussed figurative language that was found in the songs viral in TikTok applications, song's lyrics, and figurative language found in the television programs. Moreover, the difference of this research with the previous studies is that the writer not only focuses on a song's video on TikTok but also to find out the type of figurative language and its meaning of figurative languages contained in each selected video that related to the figurative language.

It's so important to do, since the TikTok application has become a famous application and frequently used in this era of technology but still there are a lot of negative sides faced by the users of TikTok. This study aims to give information about figurative language in a video posted in the TikTok application as a reference to study and know more about figurative languages as a positive side of TikTok to learn English.

**Research Methodology**

The researchers needs an appropriate approach and procedures to collect the data in order to conduct a research. based on Creswell & Creswell, (2018) investigating and comprehending the significance that individuals or groups attribute to social or human issues is the goal of qualitative research. Qualitative research focuses on phenomena that are based on people's experiences on a daily basis. Qualitative research is the study of social phenomena in their natural setting. Sugiyono (2013) stated that qualitative research is defined as research that is carried out naturally, in which the researchers herself serves as the main tool. As stated by Moleong (2007).

the instrument of this study is the researchers herself, along with her knowledge and other relevant references. In this study, the figurative languages used in Selected video are categorized using checklist table. The data presented here in the form of selected video, obtained via TikTok applications. In this study, the researchers also employed a coding technique to create identifiers for each data name, facilitating data analysis.

**Findings and Discussion****Findings**

This section presents the information related to the types of figurative language expressions and the functions of the figurative language on selected videos posted in TikTok application. Then the discussion section will be explained in general.

**Types of Figurative Language**

The types of figurative language that appears in TikTok applications as follow:

**Table 1**

*Types of Figurative Language*

No	Types of Figurative Language	video					Total
		1	2	3	4	5	
1	Simile	0	2	2	2	2	8
2	Metaphor	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Personification	0	0	0	1	0	1
4	Apostrophe	0	1	0	2	2	5
5	Synecdoche	0	3	4	0	0	7
6	Metonymy	0	0	1	0	1	2
7	Symbol	1	2	3	1	0	7
8	Allegory	1	2	2	1	1	7
9	Paradox	0	3	1	2	1	7
10	Hyperbole	0	1	0	0	1	2
11	Understatement	0	0	0	0	1	1
12	Irony	2	1	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>50</b>

Table 1 shows there are 11 types of figurative language found in 5-selected videos posted in TikTok application. from the total data 50 figurative language expressions found in the video's language expressions were simile, synecdoche, symbol allegory and paradox each was found 7 times in the videos. Apostrophe was found 5 times in the videos. Understatement, personification, irony, metonymy, hyperbole was found in range 1-3.

**Simile**

Simile is a type of figurative language that compares a thing with other things by using a connector or a comparison word "like" or "as".

**Table 2**

*Figurative Language Simile Result*

No.	Language expressions	Sources
1.	But she's grown on me <u>like</u> a bok choy plant in rich loose soil	Video-2 in Line 3
2.	I felt her presence wrap around me <u>like</u> a kimchi dumpling	Video-2 Line 5

The sentence with the underlined indicates simile which compares two unrelated things with a similar characteristic. Two unrelated things that contain in the data simile found in the selected videos including "are she grown on me like a bokchoy plant (video 2 – Line 3), her presence around me like a kimchi dumpling (video 2 – Line 5). The example above, use "like" as the characteristic of simile to compare the characteristic of human with non-human characteristics for examples are the plant and also comparing human with the food. These are two unrelated things but the speakers want to say that they have the same characteristics.

**Personification**

Personification is defined as the process for imputing human characteristics to a concept, an animal, or an object. In a simple way it is defined as the process of absorbing an inanimate object or an abstract notion with human characteristics or emotions.

**Table 3**

Figurative Language Personification Result

No	Language Expressions	Source
1.	But when the world has stopped <u>shouting</u> fartoo loudly for us to hear our own voices	video 4 line 51

The sentences above belongs to the personifications because shouting is human characteristics but the speakers put it into the world which is not a human.

**Apostrophe**

Apostrophe is another figure of speech that is probably related to personification. It entails speaking to an absentee, a deceased person, or an inanimate object as if they were present and conscious. It may even respond to what is happening or what is being portrayed.

**Table 4**

Figurative Language Apostrophe Results

No.	Language Expressions	Source
1.	Koreatown, <u>my dear</u>	Video 2 Line 26
2.	Just to say six, I love <u>you</u> more than quiet trips to the <u>library</u>	Video 4 Line 48

From the example above the word "My Dear" is a represented for speaker's girlfriend in the past but actually she didn't stay beside the speaker and he didn't see for a long times ago by the speaker, but the word "My Dear" in this video use figurative language especially apostrophe to imagine that the girl present but it actually didn't. Next apostrophe is "You" which in this video the speaker wants to tells about her love to the girl who can't find at the present but he imagines that her girlfriend can hear see how the speakers love to the

girl.

### Synecdoche

Synecdoche is the use of a part from an entire thing or the use of a whole thing to represent a specific portion. using the larger groupings to refer to smaller ones or vice versa also known as synecdoche.

**Table 5**

*Figurative Language Synecdoche*

No.	Language Expressions	Source
1.	Her name is <u>Koreatown</u>	Video 2 Line 13
2.	Going up the only time I felt a connection with my Korean classmates	Video 2 Line 19

The speakers used some words including "Koreatown" and "Korean" and to explain some of the social majority in those places which is not all of the Korean and American but only some of the majority but he used The Korean and American to represent.

### Metonymy

Metonymy means the use of something nearly related to the thing that was originally supposed to be.

**Table 6**

*Figurative Language*

No	Language expressions	Source
1.	<u>A black teen</u> was shot in the head by the clerk	Video 3 Line 23
2	While on their journey home <u>Odysseus's men</u>  led their victory	Video 5 Line 3

From the example above "A black teen" is called Metonymy because it is nearly related to the majority of Africans with the black skins. While Odysseus's men are nearly related to a group of soldiers in a Trojan war.



## Function of Figurative Language

The following table is the summary from the data of Function in figurative language:

**Table 7**

*Function of Figurative Language*

No.	The Function of Figurative Language	Frequency
1.	Expressive Function (EF)	11
2.	Conative Function (CF)	1
3.	Referential Function (RF)	9
4.	Poetic Function (PF)	24
5.	Phatic Function (PHF)	6
<b>Total</b>		<b>51</b>

From the data analysis above, there are several types of function on figurative language found in the selected video from TikTok application. the following parts will be presented respectively.

### Expressive Function

Expressive function describes the emotions, impressions, feelings, opinions expressed. It concludes that expressive functions are related to expressing human feeling.

- 58 Yelling this is American but she's bleeding, no more
- 59 **White eyes on the news see the violence with fear**
- 60 **Black ears hear the sirens and hold loved ones near**
- 61 Korean hands hold on to weapons to fight it

The reasons why the sentences with the bold and italic ones belong to the expressive function is because it tells about human feeling. In this case the

speakers talk about fear, worried and scared supported with the word sirens and violence as a trigger.

### **Conative Function**

Conative function is to motivate others to behave and do something to influence others to engage in social activities.

- 1 **In the palms of our hands is a heart**
- 2 Blessed with the breath Black and abundant
- 3 The weather is porgy and Bess.

Based on the example above in the palms of our hands is a heart indicated as a Conative function because of this sentence, which symbolized the hand with a heart in every human life meaning about charity and to be kind to each other.

### **Referential Function**

Referential function is the reference of the message, used by a group of humans to discuss a problem with a particular topic.

- 1 you are in the roots of my hair embedded beneath my skin
- 2 **Before black lives matter**
- 3 **Trayvon and Mike Brown**
- 4 A man walked to lights flashing and filmed the man cornered by officers

Based on the example above the sentence in a Line one and two are referential functions because the speaker wants to communicate with another community a message about what exactly happened in a group of people who have black skin and got discriminated against by the majority.

**Poetic Function**

Poetic Function is to describe the principle of equality from one selection to another.

- 22 So, in order to get the ball rolling, we often have to resort
- 23 This means that a quick jog around the block will be a lot **like**
- 24 catching a cup of coffee with a friend
- 25 Just because I cannot commit the act of small talk does not mean I don't have huge things to say

The reason why the example above belongs to the poetic function is because the word with the bold and italic one compares something to another different thing but it has the same characteristic to describe non literal meaning.

**Phatic Function**

Phatic function is the function of figurative language that only focuses on making the language as a tool for communication or contact with humans.

- 42 And my senior prom was a little bit like running the iron man in the middle of August
- 43 Just because I cannot commit the act of small talk **does not mean** I don't have huge things to say
- 44 Just because I find peace within myself does not mean that I could ever stop wanting to **love** so hard
- 45 just to say six, I love you more than quiet trips to the library

The example given is a phatic function which is the aim of this function to focus on the connection for each human life. the bold and italic ones as a phatic function because the speakers tried to clarify some bad news to become good ones to keep the connection well with each other.

### **Discussion**

This research aimed to describe the types of figurative language used Perrine's perceptions (1982) and also to describe the function of figurative language found in selected videos posted in TikTok application using Jakobson's perceptions (1995). This discussion explains about the data that the researchers has found and analysed in previous chapter. There are two research questions in this research as stated. Firstly, the researchers focused on the first problem of the types of figurative language used in selected videos from the TikTok application. as explained in the results of data analysis there are eleven types of figurative language used in selected videos from TikTok application consists of simile, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole and understatement. the result of the types in figurative language found consist of seven simile, three metaphor, five personification, five apostrophe, seven synecdoche, two metonymy, seven symbol, seven allegory, seven paradox, two hyperbole, one understatement, and three irony.

The first findings indicate that the videos expressions use 11 types of figurative language. Simile is one of the mostly found in the videos, simile is frequently said in the same contexts with metaphor but it's actually different since simile were indeed significant terms for comparison (Perrine,1982). Next there is Synecdoche is the use of

a part from an entire thing or the use of a whole thing to represent a specific portion. using the larger groupings to refer to smaller ones or vice versa also known as synecdoche (Sihintje, 2016). Then in several times symbol is found in the video. Generally, a symbol is something that represents more than it actually does. In other words, when a sign appears in a statement, it has two interpretations: one that is literal and the other has a suggestive element (Perrine, 1982). Also, there is allegory which found mostly in the video. allegory is as a sustained metaphor or occasionally as a collection of connected symbols (Perrine, 1982). And the last frequently found is paradox. Paradox defined as an apparent contradiction that is yet accurate in some way. A paradox is a statement that is in opposition to itself. A paradox is when two words in a sentence contradict one another. These two words are typically antonyms (Perrine, 1982).

The second findings is the type of the function of figurative languages. generally, the function of language divided into five arts; expressive function, referential function, poetic function, phatic function and conative function. In the result findings there are five types in the selected videos from TikTok application. Poetic function found 25 times in the videos. Furthermore, a referential function was found 10 times in these videos.

The most frequent function of figurative language used in the selected videos is poetic function. In addition, poetic features are part of figurative language, so the researchers summed up all the types of figurative languages that found in these videos included in poetic features. According to Jakobson (1995) the poetic function relates to changing text into an aesthetic message. Thus, the aesthetic function is the use of language for beauty or can be said to be related to the value of a message. Poetic function is an element expressive

which is characteristic in a work of art that is rely on figurative language, the opposite of literal language, figurative language is language of imagination, and that explains the reader to understand the meaning contained in it. The findings of this research are contrast with the previous study from Syahrina (2019) who said that metaphor is the type of figurative language mostly found in her research. While in this research the researchers didn't find any metaphor types at the videos of TikTok application. the factors that influenced the differences is the object of the analysis itself. At the previous study the researchers conducts in a song while in this research the researchers conducted in a selected video posted in TikTok applications. Then, another previous study which is in contrast with the previous studyis from Shinte (2016) she said that personification is frequently used in her study whilein this research the dominant type was simile, synecdoche, allegory and paradox. The influenced factors of the differences are same with the contexts first previous studies stated before. From the last previous studies conducted by Jumiati (2022) she said that she found variety of figurative language in each song as an object analysis. This research also found all of the type of figurative language based on Perrine's perceptions.

In the present study, the researchers sees that the creators of several vidoes of TikTok application that have selected use figurative language to express her feeling and deliver a message. It can see from the videos that the theme was love creators use figurative language for express her feelings to anybody, the videos with the theme sociality she used figurative language to spread the motivation and charity. While some videos with the theme personality it used figurative language to explain a message as a tips and tricks to communicate each other without worried with the personality. And also, some videos recreate about the war and violence they used figurative

language to describe a situation, spread love and peace and reduce hate.

## **Conclusion and Suggestion**

### **Conclusion**

After doing the research and identifying the types of figurative language and the functions of figurative language in selected videos posted in TikTok applications, the researchers found two conclusions.

First, the data indicate from 12 types of figurative language proposed by the theory explained in the previous study there are 11 types of figurative language found in selected videos posted in TikTok applications, they are simile, metaphor, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony. The types of figurative language found including simile, synecdoche, allegory and paradox found 7 times in the videos; apostrophe was found 5 times in the videos. Also, understatement, irony, metonymy, hyperbole was found in range 1-

3. Simile, synecdoche, symbol, allegory, and paradox is the dominant type found in the selected videos. While the researchers didn't find any personification in each video.

Second, based on the figurative language found in selected videos posted in TikTok applications, they have functions to give expressive, conative, referential, poetic and phatic function. Most of the types of figurative languages have functions to give a poetic function. The least functions found in figurative languages in these selected videos is to give conative meaning.

Figurative language expressions may contain in TikTok videos post to input hidden meaning and make it as poetic function that's

make the words more interested. The findings of this study can be a reference for the learner to know figurative language better.

### **Suggestion**

This research analyzes about the types of Figurative Language used in selected videos in TikTok applications. This research is still far from perfect. However, researchers offer some suggestions for the lecturer, readers of the research, and future researchers. Hopefully this research can be material in learning about Figurative Language. Furthermore, there are many types that can also be studied from Figurative Language such as kinds, forms, and function. For future researchers hopefully this study expected to help the future researchers as reference for relevant studies about Figurative Language in different topic and medium. Besides, researchers hope that the readers specially for TikTok uses to follow the rules in Figurative Language words in Figurative Language so the words can be more understandable.

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