The Use of Figurative Language and Meaning in *Halu* and *Runtuh* Song Lyric

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Abstract

This article discusses and examines the use of figurative language and the meaning contained in the lyrics of the songs entitled *Runtuh* and *Usik* by Feby Putri. Feby Putri's songs are often considered a reflection of reality or facts, addressing problems commonly faced by teenagers and adults. Therefore, these things can be motivation and learning tools for the millennial generation to better understand and overcome the various challenges they face. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. Based on observations, the song *Runtuh* by Feby contains 4 comparative figurative meanings, while the song *Usik* uses 3 comparative figurative meanings and 1 example of metaphorical language. These songs are created poetically with meaningful symbolism. The song *Runtuh* reminds us not to deceive ourselves and to remain honest with our feelings even though it is difficult. This describes the feelings of someone who always looks happy but actually has a hurt heart. On the other hand, the song *Usik* conveys the message not to give up and continue to struggle to overcome challenges, to emerge as an individual who is stronger, more resilient, and believes in God's presence.

Keyword: figurative meaning, language style, song

Introduction

There are many genres of music that we listen to and enjoy, such as pop, jazz, rock, rock n' roll, hip hop, punk, rap, blues, heavy metal, hardcore, alternative, and many more. Trzcinski in Jati (2020) emphasized that music is an important aspect of youth culture, and the majority of teenagers listen to music for various reasons (Jati, 2020). Knobloch and Zillmann explained that the younger generation states that music can help them relax. They also noted that teens often have a collection of favorite songs to listen to when they feel stressed. Therefore, music can be considered as a part of human life, especially the younger generation, whatever the genre (Knobloch & Zillmann, 2002).

Recently, in the world of Indonesian music, many young musicians have emerged who have talents and characteristics in creating song lyrics. The lyrics they create are often expressions of their own hearts and feelings, conveyed through symbols and meaningful words. According to the Big Indonesian

Dictionary (KBBI), lyrics refer to literary works (poetry) which contain expressions of personal emotions or the arrangement of words in a song. A song consists of lyrics and music intended to be sung, aiming to evoke a specific emotion or sentiment related to a particular subject (Girsang et al., 2023). People comprehend the structure and significance of language or its expression when studying and interpreting literary works. This implies that they desire the meaning within these works to be perceived and interpreted by readers or listeners. However, readers often find it challenging to grasp the intended meaning of the text, as lyrics frequently convey it indirectly while constructing the composer's intended message (Setiawati & Maryani, 2018).

Usually, the songs created are an expression of the author's feelings and emotions that he wants to convey. This can be an expression of happiness, gratitude, disappointment, or even heartache that makes someone feel hurt. It cannot be denied that almost every generation enjoys listening to music because it can accompany us when we are happy, sad, or even in a happy mood. This is due to the combination of melodies and sounds which are arranged in such a way as to create rhythms a One of them is songs by Feby Putri Nilam Cahyani, or better known as Feby Putri songs that have harmony which can bring comfort to those who listen to them.

Feby Putri Nilam Cahyani's songs are a role model for the younger generation and really inspire the millennial generation. This is in line with Putri's research findings (2023) which show that Feby Putri's songs are very popular with the public, especially among teenagers. Feby received recognition starting from the single *Halu* which was released in 2019. Furthermore, she received wide recognition after releasing her sixth single entitled *Runtuh* in collaboration with singer Fiersa Besari in 2021. Feby Putri's songs are often considered a reflection of reality. or, overcome problems commonly faced by teenagers or adults. The lyrics are so poetic that they arouse the appetite to explore them to better understand the meaning contained. As a form of appreciation, the researcher aims to examine the use of figurative language and meaning in the songs *Usik* and *Runtuh* by Feby. The lyrics written by Feby Putri function to convey feelings, problems and acceptance of her will. In the lyrics of the song, words and figurative meanings are used symbolically as a means to convey these messages.

This research is strengthened by several similar studies, including research by Nugraha and Pamungkas (Nugraha & Pamungkas, 2018), Eliastuti (Eliastuti, 2023), and Hartini (Hartini et al., 2021). The first research was conducted by Nugraha and Pamungkas*, Nasionalisme dalam Lagu Iwan Fals Tahun 1979 - 1985 (Analisis Semiotika)*. This research produced climax, antithesis, repetition and rhetorical language styles. However, our research focuses more on the formal and informal language styles contained in the song. The second research conducted by Eliastuti Maguna et al, the research analyzed the language style using the hermeneutical study. Hermeneutics itself in the etymological sense is a theory of interpretation, whether related to all forms of linguistic expression or not (B.S. Wachid, 2022). The aim of hermeneutics is to understand the meaning and messages contained in thoughts and words (Martono, 2019).

Language is the main method of communication and can be expressed through speech, visuals, or writing. It comes in many forms, including a writing system that represents sounds or symbols (Fitria, 2018). Language plays a crucial role in human life. Within language learning, figurative language adds uniqueness and value to a language (Swarniti, 2021). Figurative language is crucial in communicating with listeners through song lyrics. Songwriters use figurative language to convey ideas in a way that captivates the audience. It also serves to "beautify" or enhance the song's aesthetic quality (Hanisfi et al., 2022). According to Kalandadze et al. (2018), learning figurative language can improve social communication skills by using comparisons to alter the meaning of words or ideas (Kalandadze et al., 2018).

The aim of figurative language is to enrich the beauty of literary works and evoke specific atmospheres and emotions (Khairunnisa & Iskandar, 2022). Figurative language can stimulate readers' imaginations, allowing them to vividly envision events or situations. There has been extensive research conducted on figurative language, with a focus on identifying its various types and meanings being a common theme. (Astuti & Astuti, 2020). Figurative language is the use of language that deviates from its literal meaning to create rhetorical effects or convey special meanings. It is present in various forms of literature including short stories, poems, and songs. The purpose of figurative language is to add depth and meaning to literature, encouraging readers or listeners to visualize and interpret the intended message of the writer or songwriter (Nuraeni et al., 2020).

Figurative language is commonly used in literature such as poems, short stories, and novels, enabling authors to creatively convey their ideas (Allo, 2022). This type of language goes beyond literal meanings, prompting readers to use their imagination to grasp deeper meanings within the text (Kasma et al., 2021).

In this research, the language styles of personification, antitension, metaphor, hyperbole, simile, anaphora, assonance, allegory and euphemism were obtained. The third research conducted by Hartini Sri et al, the language style of the song lyrics in the album *Aku Sebentar Saja*. This research contained several language styles, namely anaphora, epipora, repetition, alliteration, assonation, litotes, hyperbole, pleonasm, allegory, metaphor, personification, cynicism, climax and irony. Based on the analysis of various figurative language styles in song lyrics, such as personification and metaphor, how does the use of various figurative language styles in the lyrics of "Halu" and "Runtuh" convey meaningful messages that resonate with and motivate the younger generation in addressing real-life problems?

Research Methodology

This article uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Qualitative research aims to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects. Qualitative research is used to investigate matters related to the research behavior, attitudes, motivation, perceptions and actions of subjects (Moleong, 2022). Descriptive research is a research method that describes the characteristics of a population or phenomenon being studied, thus the main focus of this research is to explain what events or phenomena occur in the research. In the context of qualitative research, Spradley in Sugiyono emphasized that the focus refers to the single and multiple domains involved in social situations. In qualitative research, the research direction should be based on the latest level of information from the field or social situation (Sugiyono, 2021).

The data source in this research consists of two song lyrics, namely *Runtuh* and *Usik* by Feby Putri. Feby Putri has created ten songs, including *Rantau*, *Halu*, *Alih*, *Cahaya*, *Usik*, *Dera*, *Liar Angin*, *Awal*, *Diri*, and *Berbesar*. Feby Putri is a well-known indie musician who is known for her unique lyrics and delivery. He started work in 2019 with his first song entitled *Halu* Feby also collaborated with Fiersa Besari to produce a song entitled *Runtuh* This song gained popularity among

listeners who had similar feelings, thus contributing to the increasing popularity of Feby Putri. *Runtuh* which was released on October 1, 2021 entered the Top 50 songs on the Spotify platform with around 27 million streams within two months of its release. The officially uploaded audio received around 24 million views within two months of its release, earning Feby Putri the "Best Folk/Country/Ballad Production Work" award from the Indonesian Music Awards for the song *Runtuh* which she performed with Fiersa Besari. Furthermore, through the digital music platform Spotify, Feby Putri has attracted 4,491,002 listeners every month. Finally, he became famous and created an album entitled *Riuh* (Putri & Hidayatullah, 2023).

The data collection technique used includes several stages, namely listening to the song lyrics and then recording each lyric one by one. The steps or stages in preparing this research are as follows. The first stage marks every lyric that contains figurative language. The second stage is to make a list of figurative language words based on the style obtained in each song lyric and group them. The third stage is describing the lyrics in Feby Putri's songs and understanding the meaning contained in the author. The fourth stage is drawing conclusions from the data described. The final stage is interpreting the meanings contained in the song lyrics.

Findings and Discussion

Finding

Based on the results and data findings described in this research, there are 4 comparative language styles in the song *Runtuh*, using metaphor. Then there are 3 comparative language styles in the song *Usik*, namely 3 personification language styles and 1 metaphorical language style. The song *Runtuh* by Feby Putri is the result of a collaboration with Fiersa Besari in 2021. The song *Runtuh* tells the story of someone who always appears happy even though his heart is hurt. The song *Usik* was released in 2022 on the album 'Riuh' by Feby Putri. The song *Usik* tells the story of someone who feels judged by the world but manages to rise above the turmoil of problems.

RUNTUH

I woke up again

Among the silence
Just a busy mind
Cursing myself
Can't go back
To change the storyline

When they ask for laughter
Turns out that willing is not as easy as saying it

No need to worry, I'm just hurt
Got used to pretending to laugh
But can I cry just this once?
Before I go back lying to myself

When you're tired
Take a break
Give space, give time

They say, 'just be thankful'
Even though willing is not as easy as saying it

No need to worry, I'm just hurt
Got used to pretending to laugh
But can I cry just this once?
Before I go back lying to myself

Ha, ha, ha-ah
Ha, ha, ha-ah

Ha, ha, ha-ah-oh

We are only humans who are hurt
Got used to pretending to laugh
But can I just cry once?
I don't want to lie to myself anymore

I want to learn to accept myself

The song entitled 'Collapse' describes a deep feeling of regret. However, as humans, we definitely have limitations because we cannot change the past. However, when we listen to this song, we will be motivated to become stronger individuals.

"No need to worry, I'm just hurt
Got used to pretending to laugh
But can I cry just this once?
Before I go back lying to myself"

The lyrics of this song illustrate that humans experience various kinds of emotions, be it heartache, disappointment or sadness, but they tend to hide

these emotions by deceiving themselves, pretending to keep laughing and happy. However, the lyrics of the song "Runtuh" remind us not to deceive ourselves and to remain honest with our feelings even though it may be difficult to do so. The song entitled 'Runtuh' is based on research findings which contain four styles of metaphorical comparison, as follows:

1. **Metaphor**

Only a busy mind

The song lyrics above contain a metaphorical figurative meaning because the song lyrics include similarities. The figurative meaning above is worry about something that is not yet known for certain.

Cursing yourself cannot bring back the past to change the course of the story

The song lyrics above contain a metaphorical meaning because the lyrics include similarities. The meaning of this metaphor means blaming yourself for not being able to plan your future well.

Give it space, give it time

The song lyrics above include a metaphorical figurative meaning because they have similarities. Why is that because the meaning of the word Give space shows a way to let people develop without excessive pressure or intervention.

But can I just cry once??

The lyrics above are metaphors because they have similarities; the meaning conveyed is about expressing oneself honestly and authentically. In addition, the lyrics reflect doubts and the desire to express emotions that may have been buried for a long time. They not only contain literal questions about whether crying is acceptable but also convey a desire to escape pressure and expectations. In the context of these words, crying can be seen as the first step towards healing and liberation. This shows that sometimes, through weakness and vulnerability, we discover deeper strength and honesty about ourselves. The lyrics invite listeners to reflect on the true meaning of courage and freedom of expression.

USIK

Suffocated covered in fog
Reveals things that have dissolved
In the warmth of this room I'm cornered
Crashing memories that have been disheveled

Drifting in my world
Perish gloomy dim dim
Slowly screaming at what I received
From people who don't umderstand

I live through my days
I hope there is meaning

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Please give me back my smile that left
As soon as being born again

No one asked like this
But I think God is good
Arranging my story as good as this
Still waiting with an open heart
Survive in a variety of life paths
Until can meet the light

But I think God is good
But I think God is good

The song Usik above has the meaning of not giving up and always trying to get through all the problems that come your way and rise as a person who is stronger, tougher, and confident that God exists.

"Survive in a variety of life paths
Until can meet the light
But I think God is good
But I think God is good"

The song Usik above has a comparative language style, namely 3 personification language styles and 1 metaphorical language style.

1. Personification
Choked by the fog

The lyrics of the words above are a comparative language style, namely a personification language style. Personifies fog that can feel distress or difficulty.

Breaking through tangled memories

The lyrics of the words above are a comparative language style, namely a personification language style because the words *Menerjang* lyrics include personification. The word lunge in the KBBI is to kick, while the figurative meaning of this word is not a living object but an inanimate object that seems to be alive. However, the meaning of these lyrics is able to overcome every problem faced.

Lost in my world

The lyrics above are a type of comparative language style. However, in the lyrics of this song, drifting in my world has the meaning of being carried away by the current itself.

2. Metaphor
Nobody asked for something like this

The lyrics above are a metaphorical language style because the meaning of the lyrics describes someone who does not want to be in the position he is in. But he still accepted it because it was fate or a predestined decision.

Discussion

Comparative language style is a figurative language style that express a comparison between an object or objects and other objects or things that are considered the same (Tarigan, 2019). The comparison stylistic device has a distinct purpose, enabling the likening of two entities (Kirana et al., 2024). Some comparative language that used in this paper is metaphor and personification.

A metaphor is a comparative language style. Metaphors do not explicitly state the words of comparison. Understanding a metaphor requires grasping its deeper meaning, as the comparison is implied rather than directly stated, urging readers to interpret it themselves. Metaphors offer concise comparisons. In essence, metaphor is a crucial element of literary language, demonstrating how language can create a powerful effect. Metaphors are a type of figurative language that convey equivalence or similarity without using direct comparison words. They often go beyond the limitations of literal language, creating relationships that transcend everyday communication norms (Kirana et al., 2024).

Personification is a type of figurative language where human attributes are given to animals, objects, or concepts. It is a form of metaphor often used to create an emotional connection between the audience and the described subject. By attributing human qualities to non-human entities, personification helps make them more memorable and emotionally relatable. This literary tool allows writers to animate non-human things, making them come alive with human characteristics. For example, describing "poor words" as if they were capable of human action, like conveying a message, is a use of personification. Here, "conveying" usually refers to a human action involving speech, but it is applied to words to evoke an emotional response, illustrating personification (Pamungkas & Yuskar, 2024).

Figurative language is a literary device used to express something indirectly. Figurative language is often also called figures of speech. Figures of speech are part of literary style (Anisa & Puspa, 2023). The purpose of figurative language is to evoke specific images, enhancing the aesthetic quality of both spoken and written communication. It allows the expression of thoughts, feelings, and perceptions that literal language cannot fully convey. For instance, personification is used when describing stars and a cold night as if they were humans capable of actions like touching and dancing. Figurative language frequently appears in the form of an object, which is the focus of this study: a

song. Songs are considered literary works. They are crafted to articulate the songwriters' ideas and communicate messages—whether personal, social, cultural, or ideological—to the audience (Damayanti & Agung, 2022).

In general, a good literary style contains at least three elements: honesty, politeness, and attractiveness. Literary style also has a close or reciprocal relationship with vocabulary. The richer a person's vocabulary, the more diverse the literary styles he uses (Tiah, 2023). Figurative language styles have the following types: metaphor, personification, simile, hyperbole, association, metonymy, allegory, and euphemism. Anggraini in Kasmi explains that metaphor means figurative language that describes an object with connotative expressions (Kasmi, 2020). Metaphorical language and other figurative devices are essential in capturing the complex dimensions of emotions, providing a succinct way to convey their depth and intensity (Haq et al., 2024).

Yono in Hendra defines personification as figurative language where inanimate objects are depicted as humans, where in this depiction inanimate objects can behave, take shape and act like humans, as well as living creatures (Kasmi, 2020). Simile is described as figurative language using words such as 'like', 'as', 'as if', and so on (Kasmi, 2020). Figurative language hyperbole means exaggerating something (Kasmi, 2020). Association is figurative language that compares two different objects.

Metonymy is figurative language that exaggerates something for commercial purposes. Allegory is figurative language in which words are compared to something with a figurative expression. And euphemism is figurative language that makes a statement polite and subtle (Kasmi, 2020). In everyday life, the use of figurative terms is different from their actual meaning. Therefore, all forms of language (whether words, expressions, or sentences) that do not refer to the actual meaning (lexical meaning, conceptual meaning, or denotative meaning) are said to have figurative meaning (Sinaga et al., 2021).

Learning figurative language is essential for students to use it effectively when expressing their ideas in English. Figurative language involves using words in non-literal ways to explain or convey complex meanings, making them easier to visualize. It often employs comparisons to clearly convey meanings or descriptions (Azmi et al., 2023). Figurative language is a branch of semantics that conveys meaning beyond the literal definition of words. Although it is commonly

used, many people struggle to understand it due to its non-literal nature. Figurative language can be applied in daily conversations and various situations, with people often adjusting their speech based on the context or their audience (Riyuda & Oktaviandry, 2024)

This comparative language style will give an impression and influence the reader or listener. Feby Putri's song, *Usik* and *Runtuh* is a captivating piece that shows off his great songwriting skills and the importance of figurative language. By using vivid imagery, metaphors, and personification, Feby Putri creates a powerful story that connects deeply with listeners. In this paper, we will look at how figurative language improves the lyrics and makes *Usik* and *Runtuh* more impactful. One of the main ways figurative languages is used in the song is to stir up strong emotions.

By using metaphors and personification that connect with basic human experiences, the song expresses emotions that resonate with all listeners. The vivid imagery created through this figurative language goes beyond personal boundaries, making the song relatable and accessible to a wide audience (Bora & Agung, 2023). Indeed, using metaphors and personification that relate to basic human experiences helps the song express feelings that everyone can understand. The clear imagery created by this figurative language goes beyond personal differences, making the song easy to relate to for many people. This not only strengthens the song's emotional impact but also helps it connect with listeners from various backgrounds, showing how powerful figurative language can be in music.

Conclusion and Suggestion

Feby's song with the title *Runtuh* has 4 comparative language styles, while the song entitled *Usik* uses 3 comparative language styles and 1 metaphorical language style. This song is packaged poetically and has symbolic meaning. The song *Runtuh* reminds us not to lie to ourselves and to remain honest with our feelings even though it is difficult to do. means the feeling of someone who always looks happy even though their heart is actually hurt, while the song *Usik* means not giving up and always trying to overcome all the problems they face and rise as a person who is stronger, tougher, and confident that God exists.

Based on the songs, *Runtuh* and *Usik are* suitable as research and learning material, especially for the younger generation. This is because the meanings

contained in these songs often reflect reality or facts, addressing problems commonly faced by teenagers or adults. As a message and motivation to provide enthusiasm and empowerment, especially the millennial generation, to be better and wiser in facing and dealing with every life problem they face. It is hoped that this research will be able to provide inspiration to other researchers to research forms of literary works such as songs which are full of meaning and valuable learning.

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