

AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THE SONG LYRICS

'MOCKINGBIRD' BY EMINEM

A THESIS

Submitted

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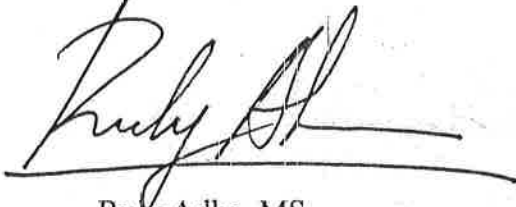
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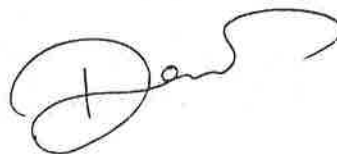
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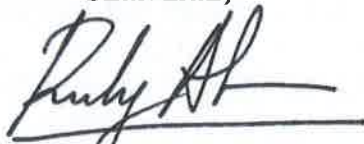
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Assalammualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

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Abstract

Suci Rahmayani. 2024. An Analysis Of Figurative Language In The Song Lyrics 'Mockingbird' By Eminem. *Skripsi* English Department, Tarbiyah and Teachers Training Faculty State Institute For Islamic Studies (IAIN) Langsa.

Supervisor (1). Ruly Adha, MS (2). Dessy Kurniasy, M.hum

The purposes of this research were to analyze the types of figurative language in the song lyrics 'Mockingbird' by Eminem and to determine the dominant types of figurative language found in the song lyrics 'Mockingbird' by Eminem. The research used the theory of Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) about various types of figurative language as the basic in analyzing the data. The researcher used qualitative method in the form of content analysis. The instrument used in this research was documentation. The results of the research showed that there were found 9 types of figurative language used in the song lyrics, like as metaphor, hyperbole, metonymy, symbolism, synecdoche, simile, personification, paradox also irony and the most dominant type is metaphor (12 examples). Eminem uses metaphor in his lyrics to add depth and imagery to the song, allowing him to transmit emotions and ideas clearly and efficiently. One explanation for Eminem's significant use of metaphor in 'Mockingbird' is his aim to portray universal and emotive parental experiences, particularly his sentiments for his daughter, Hailie. Eminem uses metaphor to make the lyrics more vivid and memorable, while also adding depth and complexity to the content of the song.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Mockingbird, Meaning*

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Language is a system of communication for expressing and sharing information, emotions, and ideas also arts. Language is used to communicate, interact, and gain knowledge both in written or spoken form¹. Every human being has a unique method of expressing the meaning of the language which personally reflects their experiences, cultural background and individual perspective. This diversity in expression enriches our communication, allowing us to connect and understand each other in profound and meaningful ways. Language is formed by several environmental processes. Languages differ based on culture, accent, symbols, location, and meaning. In addition to verbal communication, language can also be divulged in paint, explained in a paper, painted on walls, used as a mode of transportation, or even performed through song². Language is an artistic or symbolic form of expression that takes the shape of sound or voice. In language itself, the most crucial part of it is meaning to gain a good communication in order to the listener is unable to comprehend what the speaker is revealing. The term of meaning can be divided into 2 types, namely literal meaning and nonliteral meaning. Literal meaning is language that expresses precisely what it says. It follows dictionary meanings for terms, according to Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) LearningMedia. Literal meaning of a word or phrase refers to its

¹ Pikha Nusawan et al., "Figurative Language In Roth 's ' Allegiant '" 19 (2017): 157–64.

² Hasan Naimah, Marudut Bernadtua Simanjuntak, and Sutrisno, "Analysis of the Meaning of the Song Lyrics " Speechless " in the Film " Aladdin " .," *FORDETAK: Seminar Nasional Pendidikan: Inovasi Pendidikan Di Era Society 5.0*, 2022, 348–59.

straightforward, conventional, or surface-level meaning that usually based on the term or phrase's commonly accepted definition or application³, for example I will go to school which means the person is willing to go to school. Nonliteral meaning is words and phrases used to convey a different meaning than intended. It is often symbolic, metaphorical and employs figure of speech that widely known as figurative language.

Figurative language is a method of conveying meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words. Figurative language, in general, communicates thoughts and elicits appropriate emotions in the reader⁴. Figurative language is utilized to give writing nuance, inventiveness, and depth, making it more intriguing, expressive, and memorable. People use them to emphasize emotion, create vivid imagery, enhance impact, and interest to their writing, speaking, and song since mostly figurative language is found in poetry, but also in other forms of literature, such as nonfiction and song lyrics⁵. If figurative language is used to enhance the beauty of words in writing and speech, then in the song lyrics, it is frequently used to convey specific themes, emotions, and narratives in a more imaginative, poetic, or descriptive manner in order to capture the essence of a song's meaning and create an emotional connection with listeners. The use of figurative language in music allows listeners to connect on a deeper level by allowing them to interpret the lyrics in ways that relate to their own

³ Key Terms: Sarah and Alex, "Literal and Nonliteral Language," n.d (2020): 6-12.

⁴ Karta Atmaja, "Internet Analysis of Figurative Language in Automotive Advertisement Slogans," *Journal of Pragmatics Research* 4, no. 1 (2022): 18 –28, <https://doi.org/10.18326/jopr.v4i1.18-28>.

⁵ Ardalinda Dewi, "An Analysis Of Figurative Language In Songs Lyric 'One' Album By Maher Zain" (2022) : 132-144.

experiences and emotions, since some singers choose to keep the meaning of their song a secret in order to inspire people to reflect more deeply on it since the lyrics may represent the writer's emotions⁶. As a result, these lyrics might reflect one's feelings in context. This is why people have varying interpretations of the song's meaning.

According to Merriam-Webster, many people enjoy listening to music or songs when they are sad, happy, bored, or have a lot of jobs or activities to accomplish⁷. Song is a popular kind of entertainment in today's society and even be one of tool for learning. The researcher expected that people enjoy listening to music could be a positive development as it creates a more enjoyable and memorable way compared to simply reading books in order to learn the English language. Frequently, songs are used as learning tool by listening and then interpreting the lyrics to enable students to think critically and gain more vocabulary. Particularly when repetition and actions are incorporated into the songs, they can aid in helping people speak, talk, move, listen, follow instructions, and retain new phrases. Regrettably, it has been observed that when listening to music, most individuals are accustomed to translating the lyrics word for word before combining them to produce a sentence. This is not entirely incorrect action, however most musicians, particularly Western musicians, frequently employ

⁶ Raymond W Gibbs Jr, "Evaluating Contemporary Models of Figurative Language Understanding," no. December 2014 (2011): 37–41, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10926488.2001.9678900>.

⁷ Ni Putu Dina Sinjiardita, I Made Budiarsa, and I Ketut Tika, "Figurative Language in the Song Lyrics of 5 Seconds of Summer and One Direction's Albums," *Humanis* 22 (2018): 689, <https://doi.org/10.24843/jh.2018.v22.i03.p18>.

figurative language to communicate the content of their songs⁸. Beginners who use songs as a learning medium will have a difficult time because they will undoubtedly be confused while translating the lyrics. Using various of types figurative language contained in a song just adds the difficulty level for listeners to understand the real meaning. This statement has been proven by Ardalinda Dewi in her thesis with the same title which Dewi said that many listeners like English music, yet most are unaware of the meanings and messages contained in the song lyrics because of the usage of figurative language in it⁹. As a result, understanding figurative language and its types are crucial before start to use English songs as learning tool.

It has been observed that the most western singers utilize figurative language in their songs on a frequent basis, including the American rapper, Marshall Bruce Mathers III or widely known as Eminem¹⁰. He is credited with popularizing hip hop in Middle America, and widely recognized as one of the greatest rappers ever. His global fame and praised works are largely considered as breaking down racial barriers to white rappers' acceptance in popular music. Most of his transgressive work in the late 1990s and early 2000s made him a controversial figure, He came to represent the popular anguish of the American underclass and has been regarded as an influence by and on many artists working in other genres. He is well-known for his detailed, often personal, lyrics. He

⁸ Literature Studies: Ahmad Riwalid Yahdian Syamsu And Sukardi Weda "Analysis Of Figurative Languages In The Songs Of Movie ' Spirit : Stallion Of The Cimarron '" 3, No. December (2023): 19–29.

⁹ Dewi, "An Analysis Of Figurative Language In Songs Lyric 'One' Album By Maher Zain. (2020) : 67-87"

¹⁰ Komala Dwi Syaputri And Robi Leonardo, "Figurative Language Used In Eminem ' s Songs," 1977, 45–55.

usually starts the songwriting process by brainstorming and penning down ideas and lyrics. He frequently incorporates humor, intricate rhyme schemes, and storytelling in his compositions and uses figurative language many times in his songs, which is why most of what he says is tongue-in-cheek. When he discusses other topics that may be contentious, he is attempting to elicit a reaction from the audience to get them to pause and consider why he's saying what he's saying. That is why, in order for listeners to appreciate the underlying meaning contained in Eminem songs, a thorough study of figurative language and its various forms is required.

When a song uses figurative language to enhance the beauty, mystery, or depth of their message, many individuals mistakenly classify song with hidden meanings or specific meanings as idioms or proverbs, but in reality, they are often created using figurative language, which is distinctly different from idioms and proverbs. Moreover, the diversity of figurative language types adds an additional layer of complexity to song lyrics, making it even more challenging for listeners to fully grasp the meaning and message of their favorite songs.

In this study, the researcher determined the types of figurative language used in Eminem's song 'Mockingbird' in order to provide a better understanding of this complex aspect of language. As some listeners may struggle to comprehend the meaning of the song due to the numerous types of figurative language used, this research aims to provide a clearer understanding of the different types of figurative language used in the song to improve listeners' comprehension, including simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole,

symbolism, irony, metonymy, allusion, paradox and synecdoche, as identified by Knickerbocker and Willard Reninger (1963)¹¹. Figurative language can be challenging to grasp, but using songs as a medium can be a fun and effective way to learn since songs incorporate various types of figurative language. Through repetition, songs provide a more natural and memorable learning experience. Moreover, music helps to enhance learning and makes it easier to apply what has been learned to real-world situations.

B. Research Question

The researcher formulated the research questions as follow:

1. What are the types of figurative language used in the song 'Mockingbird' by Eminem?
2. What are the dominant types of figurative language used in the song 'Mockingbird' by Eminem?

C. The Purpose of Study

The purposes of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the types of figurative language in the song 'Mockingbird' by Eminem
2. To determine the dominant types of figurative language in the song 'Mockingbird' by Eminem

¹¹ Dewi, "An Analysis Of Figurative Language In Songs Lyric 'One' Album By Maher Zain. (2020) : 165-180."

D. Significance of Study

Theoretically, figurative language analysis is important to enrich knowledge of how language is used to express meaning and emotion through songs. Furthermore, because it calls on the reader to actively interact with the text and draw connections between the literal and figurative meaning, studying figurative language can aid in the development of critical thinking abilities. The researcher anticipates that readers will learn more from this research about the many kinds of figurative language that may be found in song lyrics. The researcher further hopes that readers will comprehend the significance of metaphorical language in song lyrics, particularly in 'Mockingbird' song by Eminem.

Practically, this study has several benefits for:

a. Lecturers

One of the most significant advantages is that it may support educators in developing more interesting and productive lessons as well as helping them differentiate education to better suit the requirements of various students and better understand the knowledge and skills required for success in college and beyond. In order to provide students a deeper comprehension of the text and enable them to recognize the author's intention, lecturers should educate them how to recognize and evaluate figurative language. Lessons and classroom discussions may become richer and more interesting as a result.

b. Students

By improving their knowledge of the various forms of figurative language, students can enhance their language proficiency. This is especially beneficial for those learning a new language, as it helps them grasp the subtleties of the language they are studying. Secondly, pupils' critical thinking abilities can be enhanced by examining figurative language. Through the analysis of figures of speech found in texts, students can develop a deeper understanding of language and its meaning-giving abilities. Then, it aids pupils in recognizing Eminem's song and comprehending figurative language in particular. It facilitates the understanding of the message of Eminem's song by the students who evaluated it. It assists English department students in examining the many forms of figurative language found in song lyrics and serves as a resource for anyone interested in linguistics as advice or a point of comparison while writing theses on related topics.

c. Readers

It facilitates a thorough understanding of the figurative language of Eminem's song for readers with an interest in music. Through close examination of the language employed in song lyrics, readers can enhance their comprehension of the songs' content on a deeper level, leading to improved comprehension and retention of the material.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. Research Finding

1. The types of figurative language in the song lyrics 'Mockingbird' by Eminem

The focus of this thesis was to found the various types of figurative language in the song lyrics 'Mockingbird' by Eminem. According to the researcher's examination of the lyrics, there are several forms of figurative language present, like as:

a. Simile

1. To see how much you both have grown, it's almost like
you're sisters now (verse 2, line 68)

b. Metaphor

1. Straighten up, little soldier (intro, line 4)
2. Stiffen up that upper lip (intro, line 5)
3. When I'm gone, but I'm tryna give you the life that I never
had (intro 1, line 9)
4. Daddy's with you in your prayers (verse 1, line 12)
5. When it spins, when it whirls (verse 1, line 16)
6. Daddy's always on the move, Momma's always on the news
(verse 1, line 19)
7. You see just as much as he did (verse 1, line 23)

8. Maybe one day we'll wake up and this'll all just be a dream
(verse 1, line 31)
9. Now hush, little baby, don't you cry (chorus 1, line 32)
10. We fear how we feel inside (chorus 1, line 38)
11. Every house that we lived in either kept gettin' broken into
and robbed or shot up on the block (verse 2, line 47 and 48)
12. Papa was a rolling stone, Momma developed a habit (verse
2, line 62)

c. Personification

1. And if that mockingbird don't sing, and that ring don't shine
(chorus2, line 85)

d. Synecdoche

1. Things have got so bad between us (verse 1, line 25)

e. Hyperbole

1. Uncle's crazy, ain't he? (verse 1, line 15)
2. Daddy's here to hold ya through the night (chorus 1, line
35)
3. I sat up the whole night cryin' (verse 2, line 44)
4. Daddy felt like a bum (verse 2, line 45)
5. And if you ask me to, Daddy's gonna buy you a
mockingbird (chorus 2, line 82)
6. I'ma give you the world (chorus 2, line 83)

7. I'ma sing for you, I'll do anything for you to see you smile
(chorus 2, line 84)
8. I'ma break that birdie's neck (chorus 2, line 86)
9. And make him eat every carat (chorus 2, line 88)
10. Don't fuck with Dad! (chorus 2, line 89)

f. Metonymy

1. You got me (verse 1, line 6)
2. Momma moved back on to Chalmers in the flat, one-
bedroom apartment (verse 2, line 55)
3. Dad moved back to the other side of 8 Mile on Novara
(verse 2, line 56)
4. Papa went to California with his CD (verse 2, line 57)

g. Paradox

1. I can see you're sad, even when you smile, even when you
laugh (verse 1, line 10)

h. Irony

1. Heh, it's funny I remember back one year when Daddy had
no money (verse 2, line 41)

i. Symbolism

1. Pretty baby (chorus 1, line 39)
2. Now I'm sittin' in this empty house just reminiscing (verse
2, line 66)
3. Mockingbird (verse 2, line 82)

To make it clear, it could be seen on the diagram below:

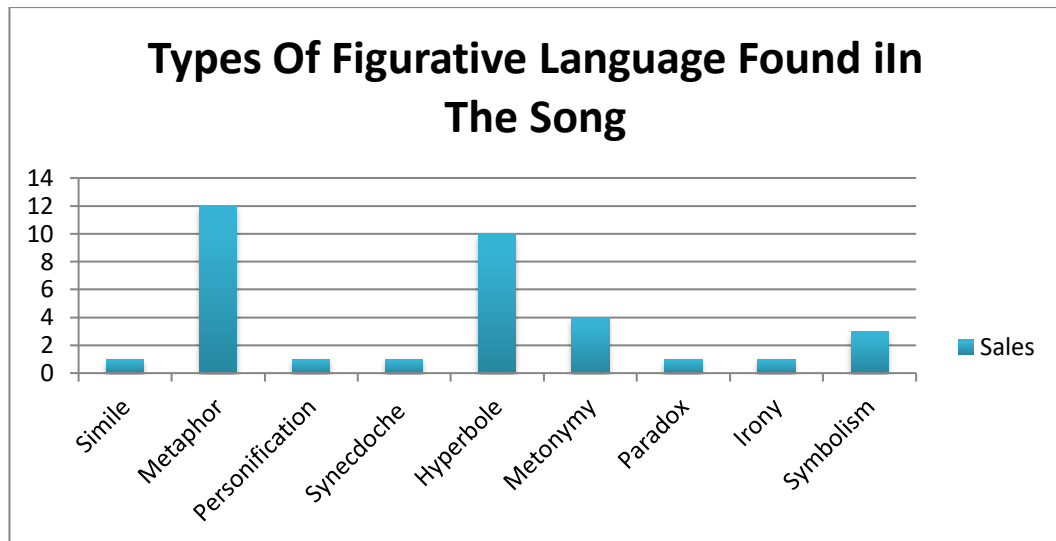


Image 1. Types Of Figurative Language Found in The Song

2. Dominant types of figurative language in the song lyrics 'Mockingbird' by Eminem

Within the lyrics of the song 'Mockingbird' by Eminem, there are nine different types of figurative language found. The most dominant type is metaphor which has 12 examples. Metaphor is a strong literary element that may be utilized to give depth and imagery to a song. Lyricists frequently employ metaphor to produce rich and inventive images. Metaphors enable writers to communicate complicated emotions or ideas in a clear and efficient manner by contrasting two objects that are not actually identical. The researcher concluded that one possible explanation for Eminem's significant usage of metaphor in 'Mockingbird' include wanting to portray a universal and emotive experience as a parent to explain his sentiments for his daughters, Hailie and Lainie throughout the song. Eminem constructs a symbolic depiction of his love and commitment to her. This use of

metaphor helps to make the lyrics more vivid and memorable, while also adding depth and complexity to the song's meaning.

B. Discussion

According to the finding above, there are 9 forms of figurative language discovered, namely:

A. Simile

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger, simile is a comparison of two distinct types of goods that share at least one characteristic. A simile is a literary device that contrasts two distinct objects and emphasizes a common characteristic by utilizing the words 'like' or 'as', 'than', 'similar to' or 'resemble'⁴⁹. There is only one simile-containing statement in the song's lyrics, namely:

To see how much you both have grown, it's almost like you're sisters now (verse 2, line 68)

In the line 'almost like you're sisters now', Eminem talks about how his daughter now almost as big as her sister as if she is already a sister

B. Metaphor

Knickerbocker and Reninger stated that a metaphor is an implied comparison that does not use the words 'like' or 'as'⁵⁰. Metaphor is a sort of figurative language in which two different things are compared by asserting that

⁴⁹ Literature Studies: Muh.Rochmat Muchson Santoso and Iskandar, "An Analysis Of Figurative Language In The Picture Of Dorian Gray By Oscar Wilde" 2, No. 2 (2022):42-47

⁵⁰ Literature Studies: Muh.Rochmat Muchson Santoso and Iskandar, "An Analysis Of Figurative Language In The Picture Of Dorian Gray By Oscar Wilde" 2, No. 2 (2022): 48—54.

one thing is another thing. This song's lyrics contain twelve instances of metaphors, including:

1. Straighten up, little soldier (intro, line 4)

In the phrase little soldier; he implies his daughter to be a soldier to remain strong and resilient in the face of difficulty. The metaphor 'soldier' serves as if his daughters were a soldier who has to stay focus and not give up.

2. Stiffen up that upper lip (intro, line 5)

He suggests his daughter to hold back tears to show her resilience because stiffen up upper lip is as same as be able to control emotion by not showing weakness.

3. When I'm gone, but I'm tryna give you the life that I never had
(intro 1, line 9)

In the phrase 'life I never had', Eminem compares his old life to his daughter's life where he is trying to provide her a better life than one he had growing up.

4. Daddy's with you in your prayers (verse 1, line 12)

He talks about his constant presence and support in his daughter's life even in difficult times. In the phrase 'in your prayers', he compares his presence with prayer.

5. When it spins, when it whirls (verse 1, line 16)

This is a metaphor, in the phrase 'spins', that compares the chaos and uncertainty of life to the spinning movement of a wheel, the phrase 'swirls' compares the chaos of life to a whirlpool, which is a swirling flow of water.

6. Daddy's always on the move, Momma's always on the news (verse
1, line 19)

The word 'move' implies that Eminem always on the travel to each places on his tours or record new songs and he is barely at home meanwhile the part the mother 'on the news' implies the mother's involvement in current events to the news media because of her controversy.

7. You see just as much as he did (verse 1, line 23)

Eminem talks about his daughter has to face the same situation as he is, here he compares the situation to something else, in this case, his experience.

8. Maybe one day we'll wake up and this'll all just be a dream (verse 1, line 31)

In this sentence Eminem is comparing the current situation to a dream, implying that the current situation is not real and it will disappear like a dream when they wake up.

9. Now hush, little baby, don't you cry (chorus 1, line 32)

The words 'little baby', Eminem compares the little baby which is his daughter to a crying baby

10. We fear how we feel inside (chorus 1, line 38)

The phrase 'we feel inside' is where he compares his daughter's fear to a challenging experience. The 'fear' is a metaphor for the difficulty of understanding and navigating emotions.

11. Every house that we lived in either kept gettin' broken into and robbed or shot up on the block (verse 2, line 47 and 48)

He is comparing his life experiences to a battle-scarred city or war-torn battlefield, implying that it was a difficult and dangerous place to live.

12. Papa was a rolling stone, Momma developed a habit (verse 2, line 62)

Eminem is compared to a rolling stone means that the Eminem was distant and unavailable, while his wife is compared to the habit of developing a drug addiction.

C. Personification

Knickerbocker and Reninger stated that the process of viewing an object as a person is referred to as personification. Personification is a literary method that allows an inanimate object, animal, or abstract idea to have human traits⁵¹. Personification is a metaphor in this particular circumstance. There is only one personification-containing statement in the song's lyrics, namely:

And if that mockingbird don't sing, and that ring don't shine (chorus2, line 85)

Eminem implies that the ring and mockingbird possess human-like qualities, such as singing and shining.

D. Synecdoche

⁵¹ Komang Dian And Puspita Candra, "Figurative Language Found In The Life Support Album," Denpasar: Foreign Language Faculty Of Mahasaraswati University. Apollo Pro (2023): 91 –98.

Knickerbocker and Reninger defined a synecdoche is a figure that replaces one element with another. Synecdoche mentions a special feature of a thing to refer to it, or vice versa⁵². There is a single synecdoche statement in the song's lyrics, namely:

Things have got so bad between us (verse 1, line 25)

The phrase 'things' represents the relationship between Eminem and his ex-wife.

E. Hyperbole

Knickerbocker and Reninger defined hyperbole as an overblown term or phrase used for dramatic effect. Hyperbole is an exaggerated word used for special effects that is commonly employed to demonstrate impressions and influence with excessive use of words⁵³. There are 10 examples of hyperbole in the song's lyrics, namely:

1. Uncle's crazy, ain't he? (verse 1, line 15)

Eminem says that the uncle is 'crazy' not because he is indeed insane but his behavior is unpredictable and adventurous, and Eminem exaggerates by assuming that the uncle's behavior is silly or crazy.

2. Daddy's here to hold ya through the night (chorus 1, line 35)

⁵² Literature Studies: Muh.Rochmat Muchson Santoso and Iskandar, "An Analysis Of Figurative Language In The Picture Of Dorian Gray By Oscar Wilde" 2, No. 2 (2022): 75—98.

⁵³ Zain, "An Analysis Of Figurative Language In The Song Lyrics Submitted To The English Eductaion Department Of Tarbiyah Faculty Of Syekh Nurjati State Institute For Islamic Studies In Partial Fulfillment (2013): 27."

It implies that Eminem is willing to stay up all night with his daughter to support her. Eminem just expanded the phrase 'hold you through the night' to add dramatic effect and intense sentiments.

3. I sat up the whole night cryin' (verse 2, line 44)

He suggests that he was experiencing intense emotional distress and cried throughout the entire night which in reality, Eminem didn't really cry all night.

4. Daddy felt like a bum (verse 2, line 45)

This is an example of hyperbole, which is the exaggeration of the truth to create a stronger emotional impact. It suggests that Eminem felt like a failure and was unable to provide for the family in the words 'bum'.

5. And if you ask me to, Daddy's gonna buy you a mockingbird
(chorus 2, line 82)

Eminem makes an unrealistically large promise in the form of 'buying his daughter a mockingbird' that is representative of a valuable and beautiful thing to express his love and commitment to her.

6. I'ma give you the world (chorus 2, line 83)

Eminem promises an unrealistically large gift in the form of the 'world' which is impossible to be realized.

7. I'ma sing for you, I'll do anything for you to see you smile
(chorus 2, line 84)

Eminem exaggerates his willingness to do anything to make his daughter smile.

8. I'ma break that birdie's neck (chorus 2, line 86)

Eminem uses hyperbole to express his severity of his response to the bird if it did not sing not literally threatening to break the neck of the bird.

9. And make him eat every carat (chorus 2, line 88)

Eminem is too exaggerated in threatening the jeweler by making him eat every jewellery he sold which is impossible to be true

10. Don't fuck with Dad! (chorus 2, line 89)

It is over-emphasize his resolve to protect his daughter by threatening everyone who mess with him and ensure their well-being in order to make everyone scared of him.

F. Metonymy

According to Knickerbocker and Reninger, metonymy is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is used to represent something else with which it is closely associated. For example, the name of a feature or the name of a thing is linked to another person, thing, or thing as a substitute⁵⁴. There are four metonymy in this song's lyrics, namely:

1. You got me (verse 1, line 6)

The phrase 'me' means the father or Eminem. Eminem is emphasizing the idea that Hailie can rely on him to be her support and comfort, using the phrase 'you got me' to represent his presence and support.

⁵⁴ Literature Studies: Muh.Rochmat Muchson Santoso and Iskandar, "An Analysis Of Figurative Language In The Picture Of Dorian Gray By Oscar Wilde" 2, No. 2 (2022): 58–76.

2. Momma moved back on to Chalmers in the flat, one-bedroom apartment (verse 2, line 55)

In this case, 'the flat, one-bedroom apartment' stands for the mother's new residence.

3. Dad moved back to the other side of 8 Mile on Novara (verse 2, line 56)

In this case, the phrase 'side of 8 Mile on Novara' stands for Eminem's new residence after he argued with his ex-wife.

4. Papa went to California with his CD (verse 2, line 57)

The phrase 'his CD' refers to the Eminem's song or his career in music.

G. Paradox

A paradox, according to Knickerbocker and Reninger is a claim that at first glance, appears irrational or even ridiculous but, upon deeper inspection, makes perfect sense⁵⁵. The lyrics of this song contain one example of paradox, namely:

I can see you're sad, even when you smile, even when you laugh
(verse 1, line 10)

It's a contradiction of the situation when his daughter laughs or smile actually she is feeling sad not happy.

H. Irony

⁵⁵ Fang Yang, "Wilde's Language Style in The Picture of Dorian Gray," *English Linguistics Research* 7, no. 2 (2018): 1, <https://doi.org/10.5430/elr.v7n2p1>.

A figure of speech that includes references to anything that differs between what is spoken and what is meant is called irony, according to Knickerbocker and Reninger⁵⁶. There is one example of irony, namely:

Heh, it's funny I remember back one year when Daddy had no
money (verse 2, line 41)

Eminem satirizes his past by using the term 'funny' as if what he was going through at the time was hilarious, despite the fact that he was really unhappy.

I. Symbolism

Knickerbocker and Reninger defined symbolism as a figure of speech that uses things, acts, or occasions to symbolize or explain something more profound⁵⁷. It uses images of animals, plants or inanimate objects as symbols. The lyrics of this song have 3 examples of symbolism, namely:

1. Pretty baby (chorus 1, line 39)

Eminem implies his daughter as a symbol of something precious, small and beautiful.

2. Now I'm sittin' in this empty house just reminiscing (verse 2, line 66)

⁵⁶ Igam Agung And J T Bora, "Figurative Language Used In Ed Sheeran's Song" Give Me Love", ... Journal Of Education, Language, And ... 3, No. 2 (2023): 67 –76, <https://Journal.Unesa.Ac.Id/Index.Php/Elite/Article/View/21796%0ahttps://Journal.Unesa.Ac.Id/Index.Php/Elite/Article/Download/21796/9470>.

⁵⁷Komang Dian And Puspita Candra, "Figurative Language Found In The Life Support Album," *Denpasar: Foreign Language Faculty Of Mahasaraswati University*. Apollo Pro (2023): 90 –95

The phrase 'empty house' is a symbol to represent a larger emotional state of feeling lost, lonely, nostalgia, lack of companionship and reminiscent.

3. Mockingbird (verse 2, line 82)

It's a symbol or represent of a valuable and beautiful thing.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

The researcher draws some conclusions as follows:

1. There are nine types of figurative language in the song lyrics 'Mockingbird' by Eminem, namely simile (1 example), metaphor (12 examples), personification (1 example), synecdoche (1 example), hyperbole (10 examples), metonymy (4 examples), paradox (1 example), irony (1 example) and symbolism (3 examples).
2. The most dominant type of figurative language in song lyrics 'Mockingbird' by Eminem is metaphor which has 12 examples. Metaphor is a strong literary element that may be utilized to give depth and imagery to a song. Lyricists frequently employ metaphor to produce rich and inventive images. Metaphors enable writers to communicate complicated emotions or ideas in a clear and efficient manner by contrasting two objects that are not actually identical. The researcher concluded that one explanation for Eminem's significant usage of metaphor in 'Mockingbird' include wanting to portray a universal and emotive experience as a parent to explain his sentiments for his daughters Hailie and Lainie, throughout the song. Eminem constructs a symbolic depiction of his love and commitment to her. This use of metaphor helps to make the lyrics more vivid and memorable, while also adding depth complexity to the song's meaning.

B. Suggestion

The researcher provides some suggestions as follows:

1. The lecturers, especially who taught literature, should help the students to comprehend the concept of figurative language.
2. The English Department Students, should learn more about figurative language and should enhance their proficiency understanding figurative language
3. The other researchers should do some research related to figurative language

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