

THE STYLE OF LANGUAGE IN 5SOS SONGS: *VOODOO DOLLS* AND *INVISIBLE*

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Abstract: This study aims to describe the figurative language and idioms which include the meaning of the figurative language and idioms that used by 5SOS on their songs: *Voodoo Dolls* and *Invisible*. To analyze the data, the stylistics approach that focuses on the lexical level of stylistics is used here. The lexical level is used to analyze the figurative language and the lexical meaning, while the theory that used in this study is following the Targian's theory to consider the figurative language in the data. The second purposes of this study, is to understand the lexical meaning which using the theory of Chaer. Meanwhile, Parera's theory about that there are three procedures to find the elements of the meaning of words as follows is also used here. As the result of this study, the language style of 5SOS by analyzing the data are describing youth problems, but not all of the figurative language elements as in Tarigan theory is contained in both of the song lyrics.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Song Lyrics, Lexical Level, Style of Language*

INTRODUCTION

Language style is an individual's way of expressing the contents of their thoughts through language specifically to show the soul and personality of the writer (Keraf, 2010). As the expression tools, language can be delivered in the form of anything. One of the forms of the language style as an expression tool is song. Song can be delivered by written or even spoken. Song lyric is the form of written expression included in literary works because the lyrics are written based on the expression or outpouring of the author's heart or mind. Song lyrics are written with a purpose, so it has the meaning to be conveyed and sometimes also functions as a tool to critic and remember a moment or event that is happening in the midst of the songwriter's

life or issues in the community (Pratiwi, 2018). Through a song, there is a meaning that is conveyed accurately and deeply, but still in an entertaining and not too serious forum.

Since the assessment of language style cannot be separated from the scope of the stylistics, so to analyse the song lyrics this study focuses on using the stylistics approach especially in the stylistic level. The stylistic study is used to make the song lyrics easier to enjoy, understand, and appreciate the sign system used in literary works which functions to find out the expressive expression the author wants to express (Sawerigading, 2011). There are several levels in the study of stylistics including the phonological level, grammatical level,

lexical level, and graphological level (Khan & Jabeen, 2015:128). From the description of levels in stylistics analysis, the lexical level is used in this study, which focuses on the style of language by analyzing the figurative language based on song lyrics as the data sources. Lexical level explains about the individual words and idioms but in a different context of linguistics. Lexical level involves the study of semantics, word formation, and phonology. According to Khan and Jabeen (2015:128), lexical level is the third level in the stylistics analyses. This level talks about the way in which individual words and idioms tend to be the pattern in various or different linguistics context.

This study try to describe the lexical level by determine whether there is a similarity in the style of language used by the writer in the two-song lyrics that are created. In addition, this study also aims to find the lexical meaning of each word or sentences in the lyrics. By looking for the lexical meaning of song lyrics, it can be seen how the structure or arrangement of words forms sentences in the form of lines and stanzas in song lyrics with a neat and beautiful aesthetic, both when read and heard by readers or listeners. Furthermore, from there the meaning of the written song lyrics as the expression tool by the songwriter can be described and reaches the listener well. This study is also aim to look at the figurative language style used by the Australian band, 5 Second of Summer, particularly in writing their songs, entitled *Voodoo Dolls* and *Invisible*. The figurative language is used to describe the meaning that contained in the lyrics that being the characteristic or the language style of the song-writer in express their feeling (Unryatantra, 1987). The existence of a language style from the song lyrics will be

describes the message which wanted to deliver by the song-writer.

This research is interesting and important to study because the first one, about the data used are song lyrics from a band that is quite well known and liked by many young people, namely a band called *5 Second of Summer*, or better known by its short name 5SOS. 5SOS is an Australian band that has become famous since their performance in the opening of the One Direction tour entitled *Take Me Home Tour*. Since its debut at that time until now, 5SOS has had a lot of fans and their songs have been selling well in the world music market. The second one, the data is interesting and important to study, is because the two song lyrics from 5SOS that become the data sources have the same pattern which talks about the youth generation problem and both of is about rejection. By studying this data, it can be known the different styles of problems faced by the youth generation, as well as the rejections discussed in the song whether they are the same or different.

Based on the scope of the study above, there are two big purposes that also become the two questions to be answered as stated in the following research questions, which are the first is to describe the figurative language and idioms which include the meaning of the figurative language and idioms that used by 5SOS on their songs: *Voodoo Dolls* and *Invisible*. To analyze the figurative language, it's using the theory of Targian about figurative language which divided into comparative style, connecting style, a contradiction style, and repetition style (2013:6). While the second and the last one is to understand the lexical meaning, this study is using the theory of Chaer (1990:63). According to him lexical meaning can be considered as the

meaning of word that contained in a dictionary (Chaer, 1990:63). Meanwhile, Parera's (2004:159) that said about there are three procedures to find the elements of the meaning of words as follows. From the two objectives above, the style of describing youth problems will be found by describing through the song lyrics based on the figurative language and idioms used by the songwriters.

There are also some previous researches, which also talk about the style of language in the song lyrics. But in here will be only explained about two (2) researches which also have the same data as this research. The first one of the researches that uses song lyrics as the data sources is a journal entitled "*Language Styles used in Whitney Houston's Songs.*" This research is using the Keraf's theory (2010) to get the focus on the types, meaning, and function of the figurative language that used in Whitney Houston's songs. By using the type of qualitative research, this study is focusing on the interpretation based on the material that written in context, which using song lyrics as the document text data. The text of the song lyrics was analyzed in descriptive qualitative by discovering the appearance of figurative language in the data source, after that there will be analyzing to identify the type of figurative language that has been found by using Knickerbocker and Renninger's theory (1963). While to understanding of the linguistic context of the song lyrics, the theory of Halliday (1978) is used in the research.

The second previous studies that has the same data is a thesis entitled "*Figurative Language Analysis in Letto's Song: Truth, Cry, and Lie Album.*" This research is a thesis research that written by Muh Masruri (2012) from State Institute for

Islamic Studies (STAIN) of Salatiga which discuss and analyse the figurative language in Letto's Song, especially in the Truth, Cry, and Lie Album. He finds kind of figurative language which used in Letto's song, that are comparative figurative language, contradictive figurative language, correlative figurative language, and repetitive or enforcement figurative language which are using the XJ. Kennedy's theory.

METHOD

This research is the type of qualitative research by identifying, collecting and analysing the style of language in the lyrics of 5SOS Songs titled *Voodoo Dolls* and *Invisible*. In qualitative research, the key instrument is the researcher who then describes the findings in a descriptive or narrative way (Yusuf, 2013: 333). So that this study uses a qualitative descriptive method, which discussion produces a description in the form of written words to explain and classify figurative language and its meaning in the data used. This research is using *5 Second of Summer Songs (5SOS) lyrics* entitled *Voodoo Dolls* and *Invisible* as data sources. The two 5SOS song lyrics that used in this research are two songs from different albums. *Voodoo Dolls* is one of the tracks from the *5 Second of Summer Deluxe Edition album (bonus track)*. Meanwhile, *Invisible* is one of the tracks from the *Sounds Good Feels Good album*.

The data collection techniques used by researchers in this study were reading and note taking techniques. The data source is in the form of a song lyric text document from <http://azlyrics.com>. After collecting the data, the researcher analyses the data by reading the lyrics for many times; sorting the data out into manageable units; synthesizing the data

by finding the pattern; analyzing the figurative language; and the last is decided, which part of the style of language and finding the lexical meaning, which is the style of language that used in the lyrics. To analyze the figurative language in the lyrics, the writer is using Tarigan's theory about language style that divided into comparative style, connecting style, a contradiction style, and repetition style (2013:6). By using the figurative theory of Tarigan it will be found which kind of figurative language that contained in the song lyrics of 5SOS. While to understand the lexical meaning, this study is using the theory of Chaer (1990:63). According to him lexical meaning can be considered as the meaning of word that contained in a dictionary (Chaer,

1990:63). Meanwhile, Parera's (2004;159) that said about there are three procedures to find the elements of the meaning of words as follows. First published in 2011.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Figurative Language in *Voodoo Doll* and *Invisible* Songs By 5SOS

In this chapter, the researcher identify and classify the figurative language that found in *Voodoo Doll* and *Invisible* by 5 SOS based on Tarigan's theory which shown on the table 1 and after that, the researcher explain the meaning by using Chaer (1990:63) and Parera's theory that have been mentioned before.

No.	Type of Figurative Language	Data	Song Title
1.	Hyperbole(7)	I can feel you watching, even when you're nowhere to be seen	Voodoo Doll
		I can feel you touching even when you're far away from me	Voodoo Doll
		Won't you please stop loving me to death?	Voodoo Doll
		Every time I leave, I don't know why my heart begins to break	Voodoo Doll
		And it hurts in my head and my heart and my chest	Voodoo Doll
		Every time you're near me, suddenly my heart begins to race	Voodoo Doll
		I don't wanna stay, wanna run away but I'm trapped under your spell.	Voodoo Doll
2.	Metaphor(5)	Tell me where you're hiding your voodoo doll 'cause I can't control myself	Voodoo Doll

		I don't wanna stay, wanna run away but I'm trapped under your spell .	Voodoo Doll
		The walls are built to keep me safe	Invisible
		As all of life's colors seem to fade to grey	Invisible
		As all of life's colors seem to fade to grey	Invisible
3.	Personification (2)	Every time you're near me, suddenly my heart begins to race	Voodoo Doll
		The walls are built to keep me safe	Invisible
4.	Euphemism(2)	No one sees me	Invisible
		Dreaming of the times I know I can't get back	Invisible
5.	Idiom (2)	It seems I just lost track	Invisible
		And I'm having trouble catching my breath	Voodoo Doll
6.	Antithesis (2)	I can feel you watching , even when you're nowhere to be seen	Voodoo Doll
		I can feel you touching , even when you're far away from me	Voodoo Doll

TABLE 1. FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE WHICH FOUND ON THE DATA

Based on Tarigan's theory (2013:6), the figurative language that found in 5SOS's songs, *Voodoo Doll* and *Invisible* are Figure Of Comparison Or Comparative Language Style which consist of personification, metaphor, and antithesis.

There also Figure of Contradiction Or Contradiction Language Style which found in both of the data which is hyperbole, and the last Figure Of Correlation Or Connecting Language Style is also found in the data, which consist of euphemism. The researcher also found one idiom in each songs but there's no repetition that appear in the

both of the data. So, based on the table it can be found in *Voodoo Doll* and *Invisible*, the researcher finds 7 hyperboles, 5 metaphors, 2 personification, 2 antitheses, 2 euphemisms, and 2 idioms.

From the table, it can be described that the figurative languages which often used by 5SOS are **hyperbole** and **metaphor** which both of this figurative language can also describe the songwriter style in express their feeling.

In *Voodoo Doll* they use so many hyperboles to express how much the love they get and their feeling toward it. For

example, the lyric “ *Won't you please stop loving me to death?* ” tries to convey how much *she* loves him and she loves him so bad, but it doesn't mean she would loving him until the end of her life. He extragerates the way she loving him by using the *death*. The other hyperboles in *Voodoo Doll* show the feeling of the boy who get too much love which are “ *I can feel you watching, even when you're nowhere to be seen* ” and “ *I can feel you touching even when you're far away from me.* ” It doesn't mean that the girl becomes invisible and always watching him around, they use hyperboles to conveys the uneasy and uncomfortable feeling because get too much love. It's linked with the reason why the next dominant figurative language in this song is metaphor which are *voodoo doll* and *spell*. By using *voodoo doll* and *spell* makes the atmosphere of the song kinda creepy and mystical. Meanwhile, in *Invisible*, they use the *the walls* and “ *As all of life's colors seem to fade to grey* ” to convey the lonely, lose, and empty feeling. The hyperbole and metaphor that used by 5SOS in the songs can convey the whole meaning of their songs and make the atmospher more alive and deep.

B. The Lexical And Contextual Meaning Of The Figurative Language And Idiom In *Voodoo Doll* And *Invisible* By 5SOS

Lexical meaning is the smallest meaning unit In the meaning language system, lexical meaning is the smallest meaning. Lexical meaning also referes to the real meaning of word. According to Chaer, lexical meaning can be considered as the meaning of word that contained in a disctionary (1990:63). Meanwhile, Contextual meaning is regarded as a situational meaning that arises as a

result of the relationship between speech and context.

In this section, the researcher focuses on the lyrics that contain metaphor, personification, euphemism, and idiom only to find out the lexical and its contextual meaning.

First, in the *Voodoo Doll* by 5SOS, the lyrics that would be analyze are :

- *Won't you please stop loving me to death?*

The lexical meaning : “the end of life”

Contextual meaning : loving someone “so much”/ “so bad”/ “too much”

- *Every time I leave, I don't know why my heart begins to break*

The lexical meaning : “to fracture, crack, or separate into a piece parts”

Contextual meaning : he starts feeling “uneasy” when he is separate from her.

- *Every time you're near me, suddenly my heart begins to race*

Lexical meaning : to go, move, or function at top speed or out of control

Contextual meaning : beating so fast or feeling nervous

- *I don't wanna stay, wanna run away but I'm trapped under your spell.*

Lexical meaning : a spoken word or form of words held to have magic power

Contextual meaning : charming

In this lyrics, spell can has contextual meaning as charming of

someone that can trapped the other.

- *Tell me where you're hiding your voodoo doll 'cause I can't control myself*

Lexical meaning : cursed doll or witchcraft doll

Contextual meaning : in this lyric voodoo doll has contextual meaning as “unhappy love” also represents as “something that makes someone fall in love in unhappy way”. In this lyric, she makes him fall in love but he doesn't want that love and keeps denial it.

Second, *Invisible* by 5SOS, the lyrics that would be analyze are:

- *The walls are built to keep me safe*

Lexical meaning : a material layer enclosing space

Contextual meaning : the self-defense to make “himself” feels comfortable and safe.

- *As all of life's colors seem to fade to grey*

Lexical meaning : color is a phenomenon of light (such as red, brown, pink, or gray), grey's lexical meaning is part of color.

Contextual meaning : the color's contextual meaning is the happiness in life, meanwhile the grey's contextual meaning is the happiness that is gone and become nothing.

- *No one sees me*

Lexical meaning : to perceive by the eye or detect as if by sight

Contextual meaning : pay attention or care

In this lyric, the contextual meaning of *sees* is no one cares of “me”.

- *Dreaming of the times I know I can't get back*

Lexical meaning : to have a series of thoughts, images, or emotions while sleeping

Contextual meaning : hoping, a regret

Dreaming in this lyric has a contextual meaning as hoping for the past times, he's hoping he can can his past times, yet, he knows, he won't get it back. This also means he's regretting what happens in his life now.

- *It seems I just lost track*

Lexical meaning : to stop being aware of something or someone

Contextual meaning : the contextual meaning of “lost track” is I lose his purpose and desire to life .

From the lexical and contextual meaning it can be seen the theme of songs that used by 5SOS in the *Voodoo Dolls* and *Invisible* it can be seen how the whole meaning is based on the context of the *Voodoo Dolls* song, using a fairly unique choice of words to describe the love theme of a young person who is bewitched by the beauty of a woman, but he tries to reject feelings of liking for the girl because he doesn't feel ready and doesn't want to be in the business of love first. Meanwhile, in the context of the song *Invisible*, the theme is still around the lives of young people, but here it talks more about the rejection experienced by the male character in the song which makes him invisible in the environment he is in. As if he needed recognition from his environment.

If both of the data compared, it can be seen the themes of the songs. There is a similarity in describing the feelings conveyed by the songwriters in both songs. Where the obvious equation lies is the expression of a youth generation that is expressed clearly and as it is tend to be full of freedom and honesty but in different circumstances. The song background of *Voodoo Dolls* is a young man with his love story while *Invisible* is a story of a young man with his identity problems. The two themes have an implicit meaning that the writer wants to convey about his anxiety.

So that can be taken from the discussion above, that in the two data in this study, the songwriter, 5SOS, brought the themes of anxiety in the lives of youth generation, especially around the rejection of love and rejection between self and its environment. The problems were voiced through their songs while racing against the diction more or less exaggerate (hyperbole) and likened (metaphor) to get the aesthetics of a work that is rich in the language style so that it can blend well with the ears of the youth generation who listen to it.

CONCLUSION

From the result and discussion above, it can be concluded that the 5SOS songs' *Voodoo Dolls* and *Invisible* have so many kinds of language style in their songs except for repetition language style. In *Voodoo Doll* they use so many hyperboles to express the love they get and their feeling about it and also metaphor to build the mood and the tone of their song. Also in *Invisible*, It gives a kinda creepy feeling as well. They use metaphor to give the lonely and empty feeling of the youth

generation in the context of the lyrics. The songs can give the mood and feeling toward the listeners which are same as how the listener's feelings. Furthermore, in *Voodoo Doll* and *Invisible*, the researcher finds 7 hyperboles, 5 metaphors, 2 personification, 2 antitheses, 2 euphemisms, and 2 idioms.

So it can be concluded that the style of language from 5SOS based on the analysis of the two lyrics of the *Voodoo Dolls* and *Invisible* songs that they created, contains such a lot of figurative language, where the most and most frequently used are metaphors and hyperbole, while in the title of the two data analyzed also obtained or found the use of language styles that are metaphor and personification. The language style that characterizes the writer is the diction that is able to describe the anxiety of the youth generation, especially in these two data, the songwriter, 5SOS, brought the themes of anxiety in the lives of the youth generation, especially around the rejection of love and rejection between self and its environment.

The choice of word expressions is not only used to build mood and tone in song lyrics, but also to convey anxieties which can represent the voice of the youth generation with their underlying problems. The choice of word expressions is also getting the aesthetics of a work that is rich in the language style so that it can blend well with the ears of the youth generation who listen to it.

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