

ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN SONG'S LYRIC OF JUICY WORLD

Nur Ali Rohana

Universitas Sebelas April Sumedang

aliqrenztea@gmail.com

Received: 03-06-2024

Accepted: 20-06-2024

Published: 30-06-2024

Abstract

This study aimed to identify and analyze the figurative language in Juice Wrld's Wishing Well and Righteous song lyrics. This research also aimed to explain the meaning of the figurative language found in the song lyrics. The method of this research employed the descriptive qualitative method by Cresswell and data collection method by Moleong (2012) and the theory for examining data used by Kennedy (1979). The data analysis procedures included reading the lyrics, identifying, classifying, and explaining the meaning of each figurative language found in the song lyrics. The result of this research showed five types of figurative language were found in song lyrics, such as metaphor, simile, hyperbole, metonymy, and paradox. Nevertheless, metaphor is the most figurative language used appearing a countable total of 34 times, and the least figurative language used is hyperbole with a total of 1 time. Furthermore, four types do not appear in this research, there are metonymy, symbol, irony, and synecdoche.

Keywords: *figurative language, Song lyrics, Juice Wrld, Kennedy's theory*

INTRODUCTION

Song lyrics are part of literature; lyrics are the part of a song or the text of the whole song that is sung by the singer. According to Ramadhika (2022), a song's lyrics refer to the collection of words that make up the song. Nevertheless, lyrics are not exclusively confined to music; they also constitute a significant component of poetry. In lyrics, there is what is called stylistic text, which uses metaphor to enhance the aesthetic of the song. metaphor is a kind of figurative language. Abrams (1999, cited in Syafitri and Marlinton 2018) states that figurative language refers to the use of words in a non-literal way to create a certain impact or convey a particular meaning. In that song, there are a lot of metaphors, and they need to be analyzed to get the meaning of the text or the real meaning of the stylistic text that has been used in the lyrics of the song. According to Kennedy (2005, cited in Williyen et al., 2021), figurative language is similar to comparative definition.

Furthermore, Juice Wrld is a singer who released songs with a theme of desperation; other songs have employed desperation themes like "Righteous" and "Wishing Well." According to Genius., Released posthumously by his estate, "Righteous" is a poignant ballad that resonates with Juice WRLD listeners. With his customary focus on drugs and fashion, Juice explores themes of fear and moral decay related to addiction, and this song leaked on January 9, 2020. (<https://genius.com/Juice-wrld-righteous-lyrics>). According to Genius.com, in "Wishing Well," the deceased rapper Juice WRLD openly addresses the issues of substance misuse and the consequences of stardom, making explicit mentions of his preferred medication, Percocet. The first experimentation with drugs gradually developed into a severe dependency, which tragically resulted in his untimely demise at the youthful age of 21, and this song was released on July 10, 2020. (<https://genius.com/Juice-wrld-wishing-well-lyrics>).

Based on the explanation above, this research presented an analysis of "Righteous" and "Wishing Well" song lyrics in the scope of figurative language using Kennedy's theory, which has classified figurative language into nine types. Kennedy (1996) identifies nine distinct forms of figurative language: apostrophe, metaphor, metonymy, overstatement (hyperbole), paradox, personification, simile, synecdoche, and understatement. The focus of the research is to find the types of figurative

language that exist in the song's lyrics, "Righteous" and "Wishing Well," and to find the meaning of each figurative language found in that song.

Nevertheless, there are a lot of researchers who have researched this topic, especially in figurative language. The first researcher to conduct this topic is Suliyasa et al. (2023), entitled "Figurative Language Used in Turnover's Song in Peripheral Vision Album" This research focused on analyzing the type and function of figurative language in the song Peripheral Vision Album using two theories. The first theory is from Knickerbocker and Reninger to classify the types of figurative language; the second theory is from Perrine to analyze the function of figurative language. The result of this research showed four types of figurative language, such as simile, hyperbole, irony, and metaphor. The second researcher is Gunawan et al. (2021), entitled "Figurative Language Used in Blackpink Featuring Selena Gomez's Song Lyric Ice Cream: A Discourse Analysis" This research focused on investigating how figurative language features carry and influence the meaning of the lyrics behind BlackPink feat. Selena Gomez's song Ice Cream. The results of this research revealed that metaphor (48%) is the most frequent figure in musical discourse, followed by simile (28%), hyperbole (12%), and repetition (12%). The third researcher to conduct this topic is Hanifah et al. (2023), entitled "An Anatomizing of Figurative Language Accustomed in Ed Sheeran Song Lyrics." This research employed figurative terminology. The goal of this research is to identify and describe the figures of speech used in Ed Sheeran's songs, as well as explain in detail the inferred implications of each figure of speech. The result of this research contains six figures of speech in that song.

Furthermore, the object of these songs has never been researched before. Researchers have searched a lot for the same object, but they have never found the same object in this research, especially in figurative language. To fill the gap, as mentioned above in this research, the researcher aims to find the types of figurative language that exist in the song's lyrics of "Righteous" and "Wishing Well" and to find the meaning of each figurative language found in those song lyrics. The reason why the researcher chose this object is that the singer died on December 8, 2019, and all the income from these songs, especially from this Juice World YouTube channel, is used to support young people in their battles with addiction, anxiety, and desperation against drugs. As explained above, the theory in this research employed theory from Kennedy, who has classified figurative language into nine types such as:

Simile

Kennedy (1983:482 cited in Situmeang 2022) defines simile as the comparison of two things, indicated by some connective, usually like, as, than, or verb such as resembles. Generally, a simile is defined as a sort of figurative language that is utilized to explain the similarities between two items (in shape, color, characteristic, etc.).

Metaphor

A metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which, in a literal sense, is not Kennedy (1979: 490, cited in Situmeang 2022). It does not employ connective terms such as like or as. It indicates that metaphor only senses when the parallels between the two objects become obvious or someone realizes the connection.

Personification

Personification is a figure of speech in which an object, an animal, or an abstract phrase (truth or nature) is made human (Kennedy, 1979:495, cited in Situmeang, 2022). Personification assigns human characteristics to inanimate objects, animals, or ideas. This can drastically alter the way the reader imagines things. This is utilized in children's novels, poetry, and fictional writing.

Irony

According to Kennedy (1983, cited in Situmeang, 2022), irony is a form of figurative language that includes a link between the facts described and the term used to describe them. The intended implications are often essentially a mockery of what is literally being conveyed. When a poet utilizes irony, he is playing with the reader, asking him to partake in a private joke.

Overstatement (Hyperbole)

According to Kennedy (1983:496, cited in Situmeang 2022) hyperbole is stressing a point with a statement including exaggeration. It can be ludicrous or funny. Hyperbole can be used in fiction to bring color and depth to a character. Hyperbole is a figure of speech that is an intentional exaggeration or overstatement, often for emphasis or vivid description.

Symbol

A symbol is the simplest sort of figurative language. According to DiYanni (2004:569, cited in Mukti and Nugraha, 2022), a symbol is any object or action that represents something beyond its literal existence. All around us, symbols are easy to find.

Synecdoche

Allusion is a sort of metaphorical language that, either overtly or implicitly, alludes to a well-known individual, place, or historical event. According to Kennedy (1979, cited in Mukti and Nugraha, 2022), allusion is figurative language that indirectly forwards a person or even that individuals have known together.

Paradox

Paradox comes from a remark that initially strikes us as self-contradictory but, on reflection, makes some sense (Kennedy, 1979:489, cited in Situmeang 2022).

Metonymy

According to Kennedy (1978:57, cited in Mukti and Nugraha, 2022), metonymy is the use of something closely comparable to what the item actually means. It is a figure of speech where one object's name is changed to another that is closely related to it.

METHOD

This research employed a descriptive-qualitative method. According to Creswell (1998, cited in Assyukorrihim, 2023), qualitative research is an inquiry method of understanding a social or human issue, focused on developing a comprehensive, holistic picture, produced with words, reflecting specific viewpoints of informants, and undertaken in a natural context. Furthermore, the focus of this research is to analyze the figurative language of Juice Wrld's song lyrics. The objects of the study are "Wishing Well" and "Righteous" from Juice Wrld. The data collection method of this research is the documentation method, which collects data from internet sources such as genius.com and transcripts from YouTube and writes it down in the form of a document. The data analysis procedures of this research use the method of Moleong (2012:248 cited in Tyas 2021), which are reading the lyrics of the songs, identifying, classifying, and giving an explanation of each figurative meaning found on the lyrics of the songs. Nevertheless, the examination of the data using Kennedy's theory (1979) has been noticed in the explanation above.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, this research presents the analysis of figurative language that exists on the Juice Wrld song's lyrics entitled "Wishing Well", and "Righteous", and the meaning of figurative language itself.

1. Simile***Data 1***

"The stress is on my shoulders like an anvil."

Data 1 above is from the song "Wishing Well," and this lyric is classified as a simile, which compares the word "stress" on the songwriter's shoulders to an anvil, in which the anvil is a tool for blacksmiths, using the word "like" to connect the meaning of the lyric with his shoulders. The anvil itself is a tool made from solid block iron, and it showed that the songwriter was extremely stressed.

Data 2

“Perky got me itching like an anthill.”

Data 2 above, from the song entitled “Wishing Well,” is classified as a simile, with the word “itching” compared with the word “anthill” using the connection word “like.” “Itching” in here means the songwriter’s sensation, like a home for an ant crawling in the songwriter’s body and suggesting an intense itching.

2. Metaphor**Data 3*****“Waiting for the exhale”***

Data 3 above is from the song “Wishing Well,” and this lyric is classified as a metaphor, in which the term “exhale” conveys a feeling of expectation and relief that accompanies the act of releasing a breath. This could represent the anticipation of experiencing a moment of solace, liberation, or tranquillity following a prolonged period of holding onto anxiety or pressure. The act of exhaling symbolizes the conclusion of a challenging or worrisome phase. In this data, the songwriter is waiting for something that is called a piece or has died.

Data 4***“I toss my pain with my wishes.”***

Data 4 above is from the song “Wishing Well,” and this line is categorized as a metaphor. Tossing something into a wishing well traditionally symbolizes making a wish in hopes that it will come true. In this example, the singer is not only tossing desires but also their anguish, expressing a desire to rid oneself of sorrow coupled with hope for their wishes to be granted. The wishing well depicts a place where one aspires to put aside their difficulties and desires for a better future.

Data 5***“Drugs killing me softly, Lauryn Hill”***

Data 5 provided above is derived from the song “Wishing Well.” In this lyric, the phrase “Drugs killing me softly” is classified as a metaphor, wherein the songwriter compares the impact of drugs to a peaceful yet deadly procedure. The term “killing me softly” emphasizes that the harm wrought by drugs is gradual and insidious, rather than immediate and violent. This metaphor shows the insidious, widespread damage that drug use inflicts on the songwriter.

Data 6***“Sometimes I don't know how to feel.”***

Data 6 provided above is drawn from the song “Wishing Well.” In this lyric, the line “don't know how to feel” is figurative. It indicates that the songwriter is experiencing emotional ambiguity or difficulty understanding their own feelings. This figurative word suggests a sense of inner turmoil or perplexity surrounding emotions.

Data 7***“You used my history and memories as weapons.”***

Data 7 supplied above is extracted from the song “Wishing Well.” In this lyric, the phrase “used my past and my memories as a weapon” exploits metaphor by likening prior events and memories to a weapon. This metaphor says that someone has taken things from the songwriter's life that are personal and potentially vulnerable (their past and recollections) and used them to damage or manipulate.

Data 8***“Speaking of the devil, all the drugs, I miss them.”***

Data 8 above is derived from the song "Wishing Well." In this lyric, the phrase "all the drugs, I miss them" uses metaphor, equating drugs to something or someone the songwriter misses. This metaphorical expression suggests that the songwriter feels a longing or nostalgia for drug experiences or effects.

Data 9

"This can't be real; is it fiction?"

Data 9 provided above is from the song "Wishing Well." In this lyric, the line "This can't be real" is figurative. It implies that the songwriter is questioning the authenticity or realism of a situation. This metaphorical word expresses a sense of doubt or incredulity over the situation they are confronting.

Data 10

"I cry out for help; do they listen?"

Data 10 provided above is from the song "Wishing Well." In this lyric, the term "cry out for help" is figurative. It uses the act of crying out verbally to depict a desperate appeal or request for assistance. This metaphor signifies that the songwriter is conveying a strong emotional desire or anguish.

Data 11

"I'm a be alone until it's finished."

Data 11 provided above is from the song "Wishing Well." In this lyric, the expression "until it's finished" is figurative. It means that the songwriter will remain lonely or solitary until a specified job, event, or period of time reaches completion. This figurative word denotes a temporary state of solitude with a defined endpoint.

Data 12

"This is the part where I take all my feelings and hide 'em "

Data 12 provided above is from the song "Wishing Well." In this lyric, the expression "take all my feelings and hide 'em" exploits metaphor by likening feelings to something physical that can be collected and concealed. This figurative statement denotes that the speaker is intentionally repressing or masking their feelings.

Data 13

"All-white Gucci suit; I'm feeling righteous, yeah."

Data 13 provided above is from the song "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "all-white Gucci suit" can be interpreted as a metaphor. The suit itself is not physically Gucci; rather, it signifies luxury, sophistication, and status associated with the Gucci brand. This metaphor promotes the idea of the songwriter feeling wealthy, rich, and stylish.

Data 14

"I know that the truth is hard to digest, yeah."

Data 14 provided above is from the song "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "the truth is hard to digest" can be understood metaphorically. The songwriter accepting or realizing the truth might be emotionally or mentally tough, likening the process to physically digesting food.

Data 15

"Five or six pills in my right hand, yeah."

Data 15 from the song "Righteous" is provided above. The line was literal, but it symbolically represents an abundance or excess of something. Pills can indicate medication, escape, or addiction, implying that the songwriter is coping with an issue of excess or dependency.

Data 16

"Codeine runneth over on my nightstand."

Data 16 from the song "Righteous" is provided above. In this lyric, the term "codeine runneth over" utilizes figurative language. Codeine, an analgesic medicine frequently linked to its euphoric effects when misused, is symbolically employed in this context to symbolize surplus or overflow.

Data 17

"Takin' medicine to fix all of the damage"

Data 17 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "medicine to fix all of the damage" is symbolically interpreted as something to fix the broken thing or the damaged thing. In this context, medicine encompasses not only tangible remedies but also attempts to address emotional or psychological traumas. It suggests that the speaker is actively working to rectify and repair the outcomes of previous actions or experiences.

Data 18

"Holes in my skull, over time."

Data 18 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "holes in my skull" is a metaphorical expression. It indicates that the speaker has endured substantial psychological or emotional harm over a period of time. The "holes" symbolize the impact of persistent stress, trauma, or unfavorable encounters on the speaker's mental state.

Data 19

"My heart's over ice."

Data 19 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "holes in my skull" is a metaphorical figure of speech. It implies that the speaker has endured substantial psychological or emotional harm over a period of time. The "holes" symbolize the impact of persistent stress, trauma, or unfavorable encounters on the speaker's psyche.

Data 20

"Over ice, I'm freezing."

Data 20 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, while the statement can be understood literally as referring to physical coldness, it can also be construed metaphorically. The terms "ice" and "freezing" can serve as symbols for emotional apathy, seclusion, or the sensation of being trapped in a challenging, unresponsive condition.

Data 21

"Beautiful eyes, deceiving"

Data 21 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "eyes" is often figuratively associated with perception and reality. By describing the eyes as "deceiving," the word emphasizes that what is seen or perceived (the beauty) hides a deeper, dishonest reality. We may perish this evening, coughing, wheezing, and bleeding.

Data 22

"Blood moons in my eyes; stay low."

Data 22 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "blood moons in my eyes" is a metaphor. It means that the speaker's eyes, typically considered as windows to the soul, reflect something exceptional and possibly unnerving. The red moon might signify heightened emotions, inner conflict, or a sense of foreboding.

Data 23

"Red and black; they glow."

Data 23 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "red and black" means blazing, which implies they are producing light or are extremely brilliant or striking in

appearance. The metaphorical use of "glow" gives the hues red and black a characteristic of light or brilliance, boosting their visual impact.

Data 24

"Under attack, in my soul"

Data 24 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "under attack" is figuratively called a metaphor because it describes a condition of being or feeling as if one's soul is under assault or facing severe strain. This denotes a significant emotional or spiritual struggle, rather than a direct bodily attack.

Data 25

"When it's my time, I'll know."

Data 25 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "when it's my time" might be read symbolically. It signifies a period in the future when the speaker's life or mission will attain its natural conclusion or fulfillment, frequently associated with death. This figurative expression denotes a belief in fate or a planned sequence of events.

Data 26

"Yeah, we'll make it out. I know."

Data 26 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "make it out" is figuratively called a metaphor. It signifies overcoming or effectively navigating through a difficult or demanding circumstance, analogous to emerging from a severe situation or setting. This metaphorical expression denotes resilience, determination, and final success.

Data 27

"We'll run right through the flames; let's go."

Data 27 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "run right through the flames" is figurative. It signifies embracing danger or difficulty head-on, analogous to running through physical flames. This metaphor conveys bravery, resilience, and a desire to approach challenges squarely.

Data 28

"I'm in too deep."

Data 28 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "in too deep" is figuratively called a metaphor. It compares a situation or commitment to being submerged or immersed in deep water. This metaphor implies that the speaker has been strongly immersed or invested in something to the extent that it may be difficult to extract themselves from it or that it carries substantial repercussions.

Data 29

"can't swim like me."

Data 29 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "can't swim like me" employs swimming ability as a metaphor for competency or capability in handling a situation or conquering problems. It signifies that the speaker possesses a certain expertise or capability that others do not have in a different situation.

Data 30

"We're drowning, so I will sink."

Data 30 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "we're drowning" is figuratively called a metaphor. It signifies that the speaker and potentially others are experiencing a

scenario where they feel overwhelmed, helpless, or trying to manage. Drowning here is used figuratively to imply a feeling of being overwhelmed by obstacles or hardships.

Data 31

“My demons ten feet under me.”

Data 31 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "my demons" is figuratively called a metaphor. It refers to internal problems, personal issues, or undesirable characteristics of one's self that cause distress or hardship. These "demons" symbolize psychological or emotional challenges that the speaker experiences.

Data 32

“Inhale, exhale, but I can't breathe.”

Data 32 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "but I can't breathe" is figuratively called a metaphor. It uses the physical act of breathing to reflect the speaker's emotional or psychological state. It means that despite the literal ability to breathe and exhale (which are vital for physical survival), the speaker feels emotionally overwhelmed, confined, or unable to cope.

Data 33

“Too busy drinking codeine, doin' high speeds.”

Data 33 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "drinking codeine" is literal but also functions symbolically as a metaphor to describe a lifetime of substance addiction. "Doin' high speeds" is both literal (relating to rapid driving) and metaphorical (suggesting a fast-paced, dangerous lifestyle).

Data 34

“Take a pill for the thrill; have a relapse.”

Data 34 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "Take a pill for the thrill" employs a figurative term called metaphor to describe the act of using drugs or medication to seek excitement or a short high. It implies that the drug's purpose is to provide a thrill or rush, which is why it is used.

Data 35

“Devil in my head, tryna run gym laps”

Data 35 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "devil in my head" is figuratively called a metaphor. It indicates intrusive thoughts, unpleasant urges, or inner demons that bother the speaker's psyche. The devil signifies temptation, evil, or inner turmoil.

Data 36

“I ain't tryna race; he don't even know me like that”

Data 36 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "I ain't tryna race" is figuratively called a metaphor. It employs the concept of racing to depict competition or rivalry. This means that the speaker is not interested in competing in or participating in a contest, whether real or imaginary.

3. Metonymy

Data 37

Crash, pour a four, sip it slow, make the time pass.

Data 37 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "pour a four" uses metonymy, where "four" refers to a specified quantity or measure of the drink (typically a 4-ounce

amount), rather than mentioning the exact ingredients or brand. It's a shorthand term within the culture that refers to a specific practice.

4. Personification

Data 38

"I toss my pain with my wishes in a wishing well"

Data 38 provided above is from the song "Wishing Well." In this lyric, the term "pain" is personified to the extent that it can be metaphorically thrown into a well. Pain is conceptualized as a palpable entity that may be physically discarded, emphasizing the strong inclination to eliminate it.

Data 39

"Ring-ring, phone call from depression"

Data 39 provided above is from the song "Wishing Well." In this lyric, the term "phone call from depression" anthropomorphizes depression, attributing human characteristics to it. Despair does not possess the ability to initiate a phone call. This statement implies that the speaker perceives despair as encroaching on their life, like a person making a phone call.

Data 40

"On the other line, I talk to addiction, huh?"

Data 40 provided above is from the song "Wishing Well." In this lyric, the term "addiction" is embodied in this context by ascribing to it the capacity to participate in a telephone conversation. The personification of addiction imbues it with human qualities, creating a perception of a separate entity that the speaker engages with.

5. Paradox

Data 41

"This is the part where I tell you I'm fine, but I'm lying."

Data 41 provided above is from the song "Wishing Well." In this lyric, the phrase exhibits a paradoxical character as it combines two contradictory ideas: the claim of being fine and the acknowledgment of deceit over one's well-being. This engenders a state of unease and uncertainty regarding the intended significance.

Data 42

"High, I'm an anxious soul."

Data 42 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "high, I'm an anxious soul" poses a paradox. "High" usually denotes a state of exhilaration or escape, which contrasts dramatically with having an "anxious soul," meaning persistent concern or unhappiness. This juxtaposition illustrates the depth of the speaker's emotional state.

Data 43

"Never seen a hell so cold."

Data 43 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "never seen a hell so cold" presents a paradox. Hell is generally pictured as a place of great heat and fire, so characterizing it as "cold" generates a contradictory image. This contradiction underlines the odd and surprising aspect of the scenario being presented.

6. Hyperbole

Data 44**“My anxiety the size of a planet.”**

Data 44 provided above is from the song entitled "Righteous." In this lyric, the term "the size of a planet" is hyperbole, which exaggerates the speaker's worry to an incredible and nearly unfathomable magnitude. This exaggeration underlines the overpowering and all-encompassing magnitude of the speaker's fear.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, two conclusions can be drawn. First, songs known as "Wishing Well" and "Righteous" contain five of Kennedy's nine figurative language concepts (1979): metaphor, personification, hyperbole, simile, and paradox. Second, the most dominant figurative language used in songs is a metaphor with a total of 34 times, which has been utilized in two songs of the Juice Wrlld. The use of metaphor in two songs by Juice Wrlld here is a comparison between his life and his death. Furthermore, the least use of figurative language in this research is hyperbole; it appears only once. Nevertheless, two of these songs do not contain synecdoche, irony, metonymy, or symbolism; this song does not refer to any fiction or folklore or something like a country, an accident, etc. This is truly made by the experiences of the songwriter itself. This is also relevant to Kennedy's (1979) concept that metaphor is popular in terms of song lyrics.

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