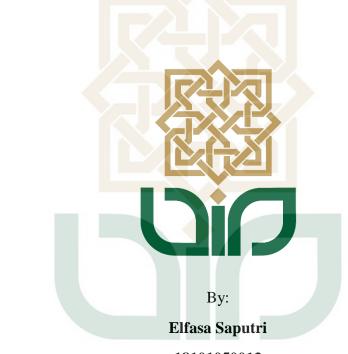
FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN MONA HAYDAR'S SELECTED SONG LYRICS

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for Gaining the Bachelor's Degree in English Department



STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY
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Y O G Y A K A R T A

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF ADAB AND CULTURAL SCIENCES

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KEMENTERIAN AGAMA UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN KALIJAGA FAKULTAS ADAB DAN ILMU BUDAYA

Jl. Marsda Adisucipto Telp. (0274) 513949 Fax. (0274) 552883 Yogyakarta 55281

PENGESAHAN TUGAS AKHIR

Nomor: B-1672/Un.02/DA/PP.00.9/08/2023

Tugas Akhir dengan judul : Figurative Language in Mona Haydar's Selected Song Lyrics

yang dipersiapkan dan disusun oleh:

Nama : ELFASA SAPUTRI

Nomor Induk Mahasiswa : 18101050013

Telah diujikan pada : Senin, 14 Agustus 2023

Nilai ujian Tugas Akhir : A-

dinyatakan telah diterima oleh Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta

TIM UJIAN TUGAS AKHIR



Ketua Sidang

Fuad Arif Fudiyartanto, S.Pd. M.Hum., M.Ed., Ph.D.

SIGNED

Valid ID: 64ef0772c3885



Penguji I

Dwi Margo Yuwono, M.Hum.



Penguji II

Aninda Aji Siwi, S.Pd., M.Pd. SIGNED

Valid ID: 64eea7e21577a



Yogyakarta, 14 Agustus 2023 UIN Sunan Kalijaga Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Wildan, M.A.

SIGNED

Valid ID: 64f00285ea413

1/1 31/08/2023

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I certify that this graduate paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this graduating paper. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research is quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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SCHWARD COMMANDER OF THE PERSONS AND THE PERSO

Elfasa Saputri NIM: 18101050013

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YOGYAKARTA



KEMENTRIAN AGAMA REPUBLIK INDONESIA UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SUNAN KALIJAGA FAKULTAS ADAB DAN ILMU BUDAYA

Jl. Marsda Adi Sucipto, Yogyakarta, 55281, Telp./Fax. (0274) 513949 Web: http://adab.uin-suka.ac.id Email: adab@uin-suka.ac.id

NOTA DINAS

Hal: Skripsi

a.n. Elfasa Saputri

Dekan Fakultas Adab dan Ilmu Budaya UIN Sunan Kalijaga Di Yogyakarta

Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb

Setelah memeriksa, meneliti, dan memberikan arahan untuk perbaikan atas skripsi saudara:

Nama

: Elfasa Saputri

NIM

: 18101050013 : Sastra Inggris

Prodi Fakultas

Judul

: Adab dan Ilmu Budaya

: Figurative Language in Mona Haydar Selected Song Lyrics

kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqosyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

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Yogyakarta,22 Mei 2023

embimbing

Fuad Arif Fudiyartanto, S.Pd. M.Hum., M.Ed., Ph.D.

NIP: 19720928 199903 1 002

MOTTO

"Life can be heavy, especially if you try to carry it all at once, part of growing up and moving into new chapters of your life is about catch or realese. Knowing what things to keep and what things to realese. Decide what is yours to hold and let the rest go." –Taylor Swift



DEDICATION

For my mom as my number one supporter, my beloved dad, and my future self.



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Yogyakarta, May 22nd, 2023

The Researcher

Elfasa Saputri 18101050013



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FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN MONA HAYDAR'S SELECTED SONG LYRICS

By: Elfasa Saputri

ABSTRACT

This analysis conveys figurative language found in the five selected rap songs by Mona Haydar. The object of this analysis are five selected songs entitled American, Barbarian, Hijabi, Lifted, and Miss Me. There are various figurative languages in the linguistic field, but this research only focuses on the classification of figurative language by Laurence Perrine. Perrine classified figurative language into 12 types. There are simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, overstatement/ hyperbole, irony, and allusion. This analysis is important to explain the figurative language in the lyrics and represent what the singer wants to convey through her songs. The purpose of this analysis is to explain the types of figurative language found in the five selected Mona Haydar's rap songs. Additionally, this research was done using a descriptive qualitative method. As a result, only six types of figurative language, simile, metaphor, synecdoche, symbol, hyperbole, and allusion, are found in this analysis. There are 43 data in total found, with the detail of hyperbole in 19 data, simile with 10 data, allusion with 6 data, metaphor with 3 data, synecdoche with 3 data, and symbol with 2 data. In conclusion, Mona Haydar uses more hyperbole than five other types in her lyrics. The hyperbole helps to convey meaning in an impactful way and helps to create strong emotion between the songs and the listeners.

Keywords: figurative language, rap song, Mona Haydar, rapper



FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN MONA HAYDAR'S SELECTED SONG LYRICS

Oleh: Elfasa Saputri

ABSTRAK

Analisis ini dilakukan untuk membahas temuan bahasa kiasan atau majas pada lima lagu rap yang dinyanyikan oleh Mona Haydar. Objek dari analisis ini adalah kelima lagu rap Mona Haydar yang berjudul American, Barbarian, Hijabi, Lifted, dan Miss Me. Analisis ini dilakukan menggunakan metode penelitian deskriptif kualitatif. Pentingnya analisis ini dilakukan yakni untuk dapat memaparkan bahasa kiasan yang ada pada lima lagu Mona Haydar dan menjelaskan arti dari bahasa kiasannya sehingga apa yang hendak disampaikan penyanyi melalui lagu tersebut dapat dimengerti. Kemudian, pada analisis ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan klasifikasi bahasa kiasan atau majas dari Laurence Perrine. Perrine mengkategorikan majas menjadi 12 jenis, yaitu simile, metafora, personifikasi, apostrof, sinekdok, metonimi, simbol, alegori, paradoks, hiperbola, ironi, dan alusi. Dari keduabelas jenis majas yang dijabarkan oleh Perrine, penelitian ini hanya menemukan enam jenis majas, yaitu simile, metafora, sinekdok, simbol, hiperbola, dan alusi. Total temuan sebanyak 43 data, dengan rincian temuan hiperbola sebanyak 19 data, simile 10 data, alusi 6 data, metafora 3 data, sinekdok 3 data, dan simbol 2 data. Pada analisis ini dapat disimpulkan bahwa Mona Haydar menggunakan lebih banyak majas hiperbola dibandingkan jenis majas lainnya. Hiperbola merupakan majas yang dapat digunakan untuk menyampaikan makna dan dapat meninggalkan kesan secara lebih mendalam antara lirik lagu dan pendengarnya.

Kata kunci: majas, lagu rap, Mona Haydar, penyanyi rap



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Language is an important part of human life. It has a role as a medium to communicate with each other, and to transfer information. People can express their thoughts, such as ideas, experiences, or visions, through language. Kreidler (1998, p. 19) stated that language is a set of symbols people use to communicate. In other words, language is used by people to get interaction and information, which are the purposes of communication.

There are many forms to communicate in a language, including song. Song is one of the various ways that language can be expressed. Song is one of the literary works that serve the purposes of enjoyment, education, and amusement. Song has two components; they are lyrics and music. Hornby (1995, p. 687) describes any writing regarded as a work of art as literature, including fiction, drama, and poetry (in contrast with technical books and newspapers, magazines, etc.). Hence, a song is classified as one of the literary forms.

The song lyrics often have poetic, rhyming lyrics and sometimes contain religious verses or free poetry. Song lyrics are used to convey feelings, senses, experiences, ideas, emotions, and thoughts to the listeners. Sometimes song lyrics are difficult to understand because of the choice of words which are different from everyday conversation. To give a song greater aesthetic value, composers frequently utilize figurative language. It implies that the meaning will be conveyed

through ambiguous words or sentences. In reality, everyone has their perception of song lyrics. The listeners may use their imagination to get the meaning of a song. It is the semantics role that takes part in finding the correct meaning. Semantics is one of the linguistic branches which discusses words and sentences' meanings.

The use of figurative language in the song lyrics is based on the writer's modes of expression, reflection, and description. Figurative language, according to Reaske (1996, p. 27), is a language that uses variety number figures of speech. Perrine (1977, p. 61) added that figurative language is a figure of speech that gives language additional dimensions. The figurative language will provide an intriguing meaning, but it can occasionally be challenging to entirely and perfectly understand in a literary sense. Figurative language is frequently used in advertisements and literary works (novels, poems, poetry, and short stories) and only sometimes used in daily conversation.

Besides literary works, figurative language is also used in songs, including rap songs. According to the Oxford Dictionary (2008, p. 364), rap is a form of popular music with a quick beat and quickly uttered words. The rap song lyric is identical to protest, criticism, and violence, which appears in the black race, especially in America. This happens because they are usually from the lower class and thus very close to violence, criminals, drugs, and sometimes poverty. Rap songs usually express those issues.

One of the famous rappers is Mona Haydar. Mona Haydar is a Syrian-American Muslim woman who lives in America (Mona Haydar, n.d.). She is a famous hijabi rapper who released her debut song in 2017 called "Hijabi", followed by "Dog" in the same year. Mona Haydar is a rapper who brings cultural issues into her songs. She likes to speak about discrimination and reality and persuade people to deal with life positively. Mona Haydar's "Hijabi" was a success because it was one of the top protest songs in 2017 and reached first among the 25 top feminist anthems of all time (Mona Haydar, n.d.). Also, the music video has been watched six million times. It has proven that her song was accepted by society. Later, in 2018, Mona Haydar released her next song entitled "Barbarian", "Suicide Doors", "Lifted", "American", and "Miss Me", followed by "Bedrock" and "Good Body" in 2019, and her newest release is "See You Later" in 2021. Mona Haydar wrote those songs to deliver her criticism about colorism, white supremacy, and the beauty standards that she experienced. "American" song was inspired when American TV and newspapers only showed negative news about Islam.

Based on the explanation above, there are some reasons to conduct this analysis. First, Mona Haydar's songs use figurative language, which requires a deeper understanding of the song's meaning so that the listeners know what Mona Haydar wants to convey through her songs. Second, Mona Haydar involves Islamic values and positivity, unlike the regular rap song, which contains sarcastic and even frontal words. Third, Mona Haydar conveys Muslim identity while combining religious values and life lessons in the lyrics. Since some societies still see Islam negatively, the researcher found that Mona Haydar's songs could be seen as criticisms of this situation.

In this analysis, the researcher chooses Mona Haydar's songs because she

uses rap to convey Muslim identity, which is rare and uncommon. It is a unique

way to represent her criticism against the bad Islam stereotypes. Her songs also

contain positive messages and moral values to transform in real life. This analysis

uses five selected songs by Mona Haydar. The researcher is interested in analyzing

the songs "American", "Barbarian", "Hijabi", "Lifted", and "Miss Me". According

to the researcher's observation, the five selected songs share the same

characteristics. Those songs have similarities, such as in the form, which could be

seen as a criticism from the singer for the society, which always considered Islam

a bad religion. Mona Haydar's songs also present messages to convince Muslims

that societal discrimination should not sadden them. Moreover, Mona also adds

Islamic values in every song to encourage people, which is uncommon in the form

of a rap song.

This analysis uses the classification of figurative language by Laurence

Perrine (1969, p. 65). Although there are many theories about figurative language,

the researcher only focuses on Perrine's theory to support this analysis. Perrine's

theory is more suitable for this research than similar theories and has a simple

classification without any subchapters added. Perrine proposes 12 types of

figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche,

metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, overstatement/ hyperbole, understatement,

and irony. This is an example of figurative language found in Mona Haydar's song

lyrics:

Title

: American

Lyric: Why they gotta treat me like I'm alien? (Song 1, Line 9)

There is a simile in this line. According to Kennedy (1979, p. 490), a simile compares two things usually conveyed by a connective, such as *like*, *as*, *than*, or a verb like resembles. In short, a simile is a form of figurative language used to describe how two objects are similar (in terms of their shape, color, characteristics, etc.). Mona Haydar compares herself with *an alien* to express how she feels to be treated like a stranger or a foreigner who is particularly not a citizen of a country. In contrast with this line, Mona Haydar was raised in America and used to receive treatment like she was an alien in her own country.

In addition, this research focuses on figurative language found in the five selected Mona Haydar rap songs. The object is rap songs because rap songs are uncommon, especially Islamic rap songs, and also it is different from Islamic songs in general. The researcher examines five selected rap songs using Laurence Perrine's theory. By analyzing each type of figurative language found in the lyric, the researcher will explain the meaning of each line that includes figurative language to explore Mona Haydar's songs more deeply.

1.2 Research Ouestions

Based on the background explained above, the researcher formulated problems as follows:

- 1. What types of figurative language were used in Mona Haydar's song lyrics?
- 2. What is the meaning of figurative language found in Mona Haydar's song lyrics?

1.3 Objectives of Study

The researcher will explain the purpose of this research to find the answer to the research question.

- To identify the types of figurative language used in Mona Haydar's song lyrics.
- 2. To find the meaning of figurative language found in Mona Haydar's song lyrics.

1.4 Scope of Study

The scope of this research is semantic. Semantic is known as the study of the meaning of words and sentences. Griffiths (2006, p. 15) explain that semantic is the study of word and sentence meanings that are separated from their context of use. It is different from pragmatic which connect the meaning and its context. Semantics explores how symbols, codes, and other representations are understood. Semantics focuses more specifically on word, phrase, and sentence meanings. The researcher emphasizes the types of figurative language in the song "American", "Barbarian", "Hijabi", "Lifted", and "Miss Me" by Mona Haydar. Furthermore, the researcher also focuses on analyzing the meaning of each figurative language found in the lyrics.

1.5 Significances of Study

This study aimed to identify the figurative language in Mona Haydar's song lyrics by the title "American", "Barbarian", "Hijabi", "Lifted", and "Miss Me". As the result, this research is expected to be useful for the readers, especially in

semantic research. Hopefully, this research is also beneficial to the readers to understand the types of figurative language and how to analyze the meaning of the song lyrics. Moreover, this research may being an alternative reference for the reader to understand the song more deeply.

Practically this research will give contributions such as; (1) for students, this research will be the reference for the readers in the related thesis for their research; (2) for the lectures, it would give more information about figurative language on the songs and also the meaning; (3) this research can be helpful to as the references for the future research.

1.6 Literature Review

There are some previous studies related to this research. The researcher found some similarities and differences in those earlier works. Some researchers have analyzed figurative language in song lyrics using different objects of study, methods, and theories. The following recent studies are relevant to this research to support this proposal.

The first previous study was written by Laila Alviana Dewi in 2020, entitled Figurative Language in Maher Zain's Song Lyrics. This study aimed to identify the types of figurative language found in the selected song from Maher Zain's album and to find the most dominant one. There are five songs the writer uses as the object of the research: Hold My Hand, For The Rest of My Life, Number One For Me, Open Your Eyes, and Awaken. The writer used the theory by Perrine, including the theory by Abrams, Keraf, and Reaske. Finally, there are some figurative language

found in the song lyrics. From 5 selected songs, only 42 lines of lyrics have 8 types of figurative language. These are the percentages of each figurative language: simile and personification 14%, metaphor and irony 5%, synecdoche and understatement 2%, paradox 7%, and lastly, hyperbole 51%.

The second previous study, entitled *Figurative Language In Selected Shawn Mendes Album Song Lyrics*, was written by Nur Annisa Safira and published in 2020. This research focuses on analyzing figurative language in the 9 out of 14 songs from the *Shawn Mendes*' album, there are *In My Blood*, *Lost in Japan*, *Like to be You*, *Fallin' All in You*, *Particular Taste*, *Why*, *Perfectly Wrong*, and *When You're Ready*. In this study, the writer uses the theory from Reaske and a qualitative research method to acquire the best analysis result of the types and meanings in the figurative language of the song lyrics. As a result, there are 24 figurative languages with the details found; 4 metaphor, 11 hyperbole, 3 personafication, 1 simile, 5 repetition. In addition, the most type of figurative language is hyperbole, and simile is the least common type.

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The third study is An Analysis of Figurative Language in The Song of "A Whole New World" by Tim Rice (Study of Content Analysis), written by Uun Hunayah in 2021. This analysis has two objectives, they are to identify the types of figurative language in the song "A Whole New World" and to find the contextual meaning of the figurative language. The writer analyzes the object using the figurative language types proposed by Reaske. This study used a qualitative descriptive with content analysis method in analyzing the data. In collecting the data, the writer used documentation study. In conclusion, there are 5 types of

figurative language which found in the "A Whole New World" song lyrics, including hyperbole, alliteration, metaphor, simile, and personification. The contextual meaning of the song "A Whole New World" is about Aladdin telling Princess Jasmine that she can join him on his magic carpet to go outside, and see the world. Princess Jasmine agreed, and she was amazed seeing the details of the lovely world because she had never before noticed how marvelous it was.

The fourth previous research was written in 2022 by Rizqiani Azizaturrohmah, a State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta student, entitled *Figurative Language Analysis on Mewlana Jalaluddin Rumi's Selected Poems*. In this research, figurative language by Perrine is used to analyze the 10 selected poems. There is 12 types of figurative language proposed by Perrine; (1) metaphor; (2) simile; (3) personification; (4) apostrophe; (5) metonymy; (6) symbol; (7) allegory; (8) paradox; (9) hyperbole; (10) understatement; (11) irony; (12) synecdoche. The writer focuses on analyzing the poem's contextual meaning, which contains figurative language. The writer using a qualitative descriptive method analysis. As a result, the writer found 10 types of figurative language in 76 lines of Rumi's poem. They are metaphor, simile, personification, apostrophe, metonymy, synecdoche, paradox, hyperbole, understatement, and irony. There are 3 lines from the poem most related to the verse of the Al-Quran.

After mentioning some points from those earlier studies, the researcher noticed similarities and differences between those earlier studies and this research. There are similarities with the objects used in the first to third previous studies, they are using songs, but this is still different because rap songs are used in this research.

The first previous study is using Maher Zain's songs, the second is using Shawn Mendes songs, and the third is using *A Whole New World* soundtrack, meanwhile this research uses Mona Haydar's rap songs. Rap songs are different from regular songs, especially in diction. In this case, the songs used are also different, only the first previous study used Islamic songs, and the rest were not. Then in the second and third previous studies, the difference is the theory used to analyze is Reaske's theory, while this research uses Perrine's theory. Reaske's theory has fewer figurative language types, it has seven types, and there are 12 types in Perrine's theory, which is more proper than Reaske's. Then the last previous study used the same approach but what is different is the object, which is El Jalaluddin Rumi's poems.

1.7 Theoretical Approach

Typically, theories are used to develop a research topic, manage the selection of essential data, evaluate the findings, and give explanations of the underlying causes or effects of observational data. First, we need to understand the lyrics in order to comprehend the song's meaning. Semantics is the study of language's meaning in linguistics. Yule (2020, p. 129) added semantics is the study of word, phrase, and sentence meaning. Semantics' function is to interpret words or sentences more broadly by comprehending the precise meaning the author is trying to convey. Sometimes, a word or sentence can have more than one meaning (Cann, 1993, p. 1).

Words or expressions that convey more than their literal meaning are referred to as figurative language (Stanford, 2003, p. 48). Perrine (1969, p. 65)

added figurative language is any language that conveys non-literal meaning. Figurative language is typically employed in song lyrics to enhance the beauty and make the music more captivating, alluring, and enjoyable. Because the song's message cannot be taken literally, it enhances its beauty and attractiveness. Figurative language is frequently used to convey a different message than what is intended by the speaker. Based on Perrine's theory, there are 12 types of figurative language, they are simile, metaphor, personification, apostrophe, synecdoche, metonymy, symbol, allegory, paradox, overstatement/ hyperbole, irony, and allusion. (Perrine, 1969, p. 65).

1.8 Method of Research

1.8.1 Type of Research

This research uses descriptive qualitative method in analyzing the Mona Haydar song lyrics. Qualitative research method is a research method without collecting samples and only using word, phrases, or sentences as the data (Tanzeh, 2009, p. 107). The qualitative research method is used because the researcher want to analyze the types of figurative language in the Mona Haydar song lyrics. This qualitative study approach aims to produce acceptable analytical findings by determining the kind and significance of figure speech for the readers. This research is also descriptive because it creates an organized, factual, and accurate picture of the facts, characteristics, and connections between the studied phenomena (Nazir, 1988, p. 63). The descriptive qualitative technique uses a variety of data, including observations of the problems being studied in the field, to analyze, characterize, and sum up various variables and situations. According to Sandelowski (as cited in

Seixas et al., 2018, pp. 778-781) compared to other forms of qualitative research, descriptive qualitative focuses more on the descriptive than the interpretive. The outcome is typically a thorough summarization because it concentrates on data analysis.

1.8.2 Data Sources

This research uses primary data and secondary data. The primary data are the five music videos of Mona Haydar's rap songs on the Youtube channel named Mona Haydar (@themostmona), which are "American", "Barbarian", "Hijabi", "Lifted", and "Miss Me". The secondary data is the song lyric taken from the description box of each selected song on Mona Haydar's Youtube channel (@themostmona). The data source was taken from the song lyrics. The words and phrases from the "American", "Barbarian", "Hijabi", "Lifted", and "Miss Me". Mona Haydar's selected song lyrics were used as the data for this research. In this case, Mona Haydar's songs were chosen because rap songs rarely talk about Islam. It is interesting because Mona Haydar wrote her song lyrics based on her experiences and used many unique words and phrases.

1.8.3 Data Collection Technique

The researcher uses collection technique in collecting the data. According to Brink (1993, pp. 35-38) there are no numerical data, statistical analysis, or empirical analysis in this qualitative study. The research produced data in the form of words as transcripted song lyrics. Concentrating on the essential data while following specific criteria or qualities is the best technique to collect data. Because the information in this study is collected from textual sources that are closely

relevant to the subject, library research is used to get the data. The procedures for gathering data are explained as follows:

- Searching some videos of Mona Haydar's selected songs on Youtube, named Mona Haydar channel (@themostmona).
- 2. Reading the lyrics of the five selected songs.
- 3. Identifying the words, phrases, and sentences which contain the figurative language in each lyric.
- 4. Collecting the data into tables to convey information.

1.8.4 Data Analysis Technique

In this research there are several procedures to analyze the data of study. The researcher tries to analyze the types of figurative language found in the lyrics and to find the meaning of the figurative language used in the song "American", "Barbarian", "Hijabi", "Lifted", and "Miss Me" by Mona Haydar. To analyze the data, the researcher used content analysis, a model analysis by Miles and Huberman (1994, p. 10), and there are three activities:

1. Data reduction contains classifying, organizing, and modifying the data in written-up field notes or transcriptions. Following fieldwork, the data reduction and transformation process is continued until a final report is produced. By choosing primary data, it was possible to limit the amount of information on figurative language or song lyrics that were gathered through the documentation for this study. The data that was chosen specifically is

- the data that, in this instance, will only be examined in Mona Haydar's songs.
- 2. Data display is the second important aspect of analysis activity. It is the systematic arrangement of the primary data or the creation of simple but informative data. The design and use of displays is an essential element of analysis, much like data reduction is. Data display is presented in the narrative text so researchers can deliver it more easily. At this point, the researcher describes and evaluates the evidence in light of the chosen theory. In this study, figurative language from the song lyrics by Mona Haydar, which were collected from the data discovered utilizing the linked theory, will be analyzed and identified.
- 3. Drawing conclusions involves continuously analyzing the data during or after the data collection to arrive at the research's conclusion. This thesis's data were gathered from Mona Haydar's five selected songs. The study's data analysis is divided into the following steps: reading five selected songs, finding the figurative language in Mona Haydar's songs through selection and analysis allowed for the subsequent, and the last is concluding.

1.9 Paper Organization

This research is arranged into four chapters. The first chapter is the introduction, which is divided into sub-chapter, there are the background of the study, research questions, the objective of the study, the scope of the study, significance of the study, literature review, theoretical approach, research method, and paper organization. The second chapter is the theoretical background,

presenting the theory analysis, semantic theory, and how to analyze figurative language in the song lyrics. The third chapter is finding and discussion. This chapter explains the result of analyzing the types of figurative language found in the song lyrics. The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestions



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

4.1 Conclusion

This chapter summarizes the research findings based on the earlier chapter's analysis and discussion. The researcher presents the conclusion based on the two objectives of the research. The first is to identify the types of figurative language used in Mona Haydar's five selected songs. The second is to explain the meaning of each figurative language found in Mona Haydar's five selected songs. The researcher focuses on the figurative language revealed in Mona Haydar's five selected song lyrics. Because this study is based on a linguistic field, the researcher analyses figurative language in Mona Haydar's song using a semantic approach to find and analyze each figurative language.

Based on the discussion, this research has 6 out of 12 types of figurative language from the selected songs *American*, *Barbarian*, *Hijabi*, *Lifted*, and *Miss Me*. There are simile, metaphor, synecdoche, symbol, hyperbole, and allusion. The researcher found total of 43 data of figurative language and analysed the meaning of each figurative language in five selected Mona Haydar songs. The most dominant figurative language in Mona Haydar's five selected songs is hyperbole, with 19 data. Along with 10 data of simile, 6 data of allusion, 3 data of metaphor, 3 data of synecdoche, and 2 data of symbol. Furthermore, it can be concluded from all the figurative findings in the five selected songs that Mona Haydar uses figurative

language to give the listeners a better image or illustration to understand the message that Mona Haydar wants to convey through her songs.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that Mona Haydar's songs mostly use hyperbole in her song lyrics. Hyperbole is figurative language that exaggerates the truth to draw attention, create humor, and impact the reader more deeply. Mona Haydar uses hyperbole in her song lyrics to help conveys meaning impactful way and helps to create strong emotion between the songs and the listeners.

4.2 Suggestions

The researcher would like to provide some suggestions that may be helpful to everyone who reads this research. The researcher hopes this research could help the listener or student to understand the types and meaning of figurative language in the linguistic field through this analysis of song lyrics. For English Department students, the researcher hopes they can analyze another object, such as a novel, film, poetry, etc. Since this research only focuses on analyzing the types of figurative language in the selected songs, the following research could combine with another analysis to find the theme or moral value from the object analysis. Hopefully, this research could be a reference in future research. For song listeners, it is necessary to find and understand the meaning of a song. Analyzing song lyrics could be challenging, especially regarding literary works and examining figurative language in songs. Therefore, looking for lyrics that use figurative language and examining the real meaning is important.

Moreover, learning figurative language has many advantages, such as increasing vocabulary and sentence structures, it helps construct imagination more significantly, and strengthening the sense in literary works. As a result, learning about linguistics, specifically figurative language, is important because it is primarily found in literary works and daily speech.



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