

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN INDONESIAN KIDS SONGS

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Abstract

The aim of this research is to find out kinds of figurative language in Indonesian kids songs (Burung Kutilang by Ibu Sud, Cicak di Dinding by AT Mahmud, Kasih Ibu by SM Mochtar, Naik Delman by Pak Kasur, Naik Kereta Api by Ibu Sud, Tik Tik Bunyi Hujan by Ibu Sud, Balonku by Pak Kasur, Kembang Apiku by Pak Kasur, Kring Kring Ada Sepeda by Pak Kasur, Si Kancil Nakal by Ibu Sud). Those songs were chosen because easy listening, the words are easy to understand, and those songs are very popular till now eventhough those are old songs. The author got the the song lyrics from website and YouTube. Descriptive qualitative method is used by the author in conducting this research. In this research, the author found five figurative languages in those songs, they are personification, onomatopoeia, simile, metaphore, and symbolism. The most dominant figurative language are personification and onomatopoeia. Those songs have seven personification and seven onomatopoeia. The reason why the song writers use figurative language in their songs because it is easier to remember and can increase children intelligence.

Keywords: *Figurative Language, Song Lyrics, Indonesian Kid Song*

1. INTRODUCTION

As human beings, people cannot live alone, they need to interact each other. Social interaction can be happened if there is language. Wibowo (2001:3), language is a system of symbols that are meaningful and articulate sound (generated by said tool) that are arbitrary and conventional, which is used as a means of communication by a group of men to give birth to feelings and thoughts. By language, they can deliver their thoughts, their feelings and their ideas through spoken or written. Language has important role in human life and it is unique and complex. For example, there are some tenses in English but it cannot be found in Bahasa. Because of that, there is scientific study about language called linguistics. Linguistics is the study of language. The language here means language in general, not a particular language. Linguistics divided into 2, namely macro-linguistics and micro-linguistics. One of studies in microlinguistics is semantics. According to Keith D. Foote (2016), Generally speaking, Semantics is the study of language and its meaning. For example, when people say the afternoon is so bright that the sun would have to wear sunglasses.it does not mean that it is possible for the sun wears sunglasses. He means that the day is so bright or even brighter than the sun. The sentence is the example of hyperbole, one of figurative language.

Figurative language can be found not only in daily spoken but also in literary works, such as in song. They want the meaning in the songs found in them to be felt by readers or listeners and interpreted. However, it is often difficult for the reader to grasp the meaning of the utterance since the lyrics typically interpret it indirectly while constructing the meaning of the utterance used by the composer (Setiawati & Maryani, 2018). Like in Indonesian kid song, Naik Delman by Pak Kasur, there is a lyric “Naik delman istimewa ku duduk di muka”. The word “ di muka” (on face) must be interpreted as “di depan” (in front). Therefore, in song lyrics, there is a hidden message. To construct their meaning, they use figurative language in the lyrics. According to M.H Abrams (1999:96) “Figurative Language is a conspicuous departure from what users of a language apprehend as the standard meaning of words, or else the standard order of words, in order to achieve some special meaning or effect”. Based on the background above, the writer wants analyze the use of figurative language in Indonesian kid songs. The writer focuces on 10 Indonesian kid songs, they are *Burung Kutilang* by Ibu Sud, *Cicak di Dinding* by AT Mahmud, *Kasih Ibu* by SM

Mochtar, *Naik Delman* by Pak Kasur, *Naik Kereta Api* by Ibu Sud, *Tik Tik Bunyi Hujan* by Ibu Sud, *Balonku* by Pak Kasur, *Kembang Apiku* by Pak Kasur, *Kring Kring Ada Sepeda* by Pak Kasur, *Si Kancil Nakal* by Ibu Sud. The reason why the writer chooses the songs because those songs are the best songs all the time. This research will concentrate on kind of figurative language will be found in Indonesian kid song, the dominant type of figurative language in it, and the reason why the song writers use figurative language in their songs.

2. IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

Figurative Language

Figurative language is part of semantics. Writers use figurative language to express their feeling in different way, not in literal interpretation. According to Groys Keraf, figurative language or style is a way of showing mind through a special language that shows the soul and the characteristic of the writer (language user). (Groys 2009:113). Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963) According to their book, there are various different categories of figurative language, including simile, metaphor, personification, symbolism, irony, hyperbole, synecdoche, and metonymy.

Metaphor

A metaphor is a figure of speech in which the words "like" or "as" are omitted in order to make an implied comparison between two items that are not the same.

Example : Him smile is the sunrise.

Hyperbole

A figure of speech called hyperbole is an exaggeration employed for dramatic effect.

Example : The person next to me spoke very loudly, as if they were talking through loudspeaker.

Alliteration

Alliteration is a literary method in which a sequence of words has the same consonant sound.

It is used to highlight the point that the writer or speaker wants to convey.

Example : Claire, close your cluttered closet.

Irony

Irony is when a statement's implied meaning is totally different from its stated or apparent meaning.

Example : A pilot has a fear of heights. (This situation is ironic because airplane pilots spend most of their time at work high in the air.)

Personification

Personification is a form of metaphor in which an inanimate object, animal, or abstract notion is given human attributes in order to make it behave like a person. This gives life, vividness, and immediacy to objects that are generally thought of as impersonal and distanced from human matters.

Example : This city never sleeps.

Simile

The words "like" or "as" are used to initiate a simile, which is a comparison.

Example : My love for you is as deep as the ocean.

Symbolism

Symbolism in literature happens when a word has its own meaning yet stands in for something completely different.

Example : A wedding ring represents the union and commitment of two individuals.

Metonymy

The phrase for anything that is closely related to something else is used to describe the first using a metonymy.

Example : Heart (to refer to love or emotion)

Synecdoche

A piece of something is used to allude to something else entirely in a figure of speech known as a synecdoche.

Example : Wheels (signifies a vehicle)

Onomatopoeia

In its simplest form, onomatopoeia is produced by a single word that sounds like the thing it refers to

Example : "Six burgers were sizzling on the grill".

The Use of Figurative Language in Song

As people know that song has many benefit for them. Not only adult, but children also can feel enjoy when they listen to music. Songs and music are very easy to remember and help students memorize vocabulary and speech pattern (Yang, 2011). The relation between song and vocabulary is help the students easy to understand or memorize what they have study of vocabulary such as name of fruits, name of animal, etc. Memorize is a strategy to learn something that we can remember it exactly (Carlini et al., 2019).

Singing is a great way for children to explore their creativity and have fun. It is also a great way for educators, parents, and guardians to bond with childre. Here are four great benefits of singing in early childhood:

1. Singing can help children develop language skills
2. Singing can help children develop social skills
3. Singing can help children develop emotional skills
4. Singing can help children develop cognitive skills

<https://www.cela.org.au/publications/amplify!-blog/jan-2023/four-benefits-of-singing-in-early-childhood>

Method

Descriptive qualitative method is used by the writer in conducting this research. In collecting the data, the writer uses the library study. According to George (2008), library research requires identifying and locating sources that include objective information or personal/expert opinion on the research issue. The researchers collect data from several sources, i.e., journals, the internet, or other written sources. The first step is reading the lyrics. The second is the writer tries to identify words, phrases, and phrases that involved figurative language and catch each figurative language's context. The third is taking some notes about figurative language. Finally, the writer classifies and re-checks the details and analyzes them. The last step is drawing conclusions based on the report. Further, the research questions are: (1) What kind of figurative language can be found in Indonesian Kid Song? (2) What is the dominant type of figurative language in Indonesian Kid Song? and (3) Why do the song writers use figurative language in their songs?

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The writer focuses on 10 Indonesian kis songs, namely *Burung Kutilang*, *Cicak di Dinding*, *Kasih Ibu*, *Naik Delman*, *Naik Kereta Api*, *Tik Tik Bunyi Hujan*, *Balonku*, *Kembang Apiku*, *Kring Kring Ada Sepeda*, and *Si Kancil*. After reading the lyrics the writer can conclude that there are 20 figurative language in them. Here are the list :

Table 1. 20 Figurative Languages in 10 Indonesian Kis Songs

No	Song	lyric	Figurative Language
1.	Burung Kutilang	Burung kutilang bernyanyi	Personification
2.	Burung Kutilang	Bersiul-siul sepanjang hari	Personification
3.	Burung Kutilang	Mengangguk-angguk sambil berseru	Personification
4.	Burung Kutilang	Trilili lllllllll	Onomatopoeia
5.	Cicak di Dinding	Hap hap	Onomatopoeia
6.	Cicak di Dinding	Lalu ditangkap	Personification
7.	Kasih Ibu	Hanya memberi	Personification
8.	Kasih Ibu	Bagai sang surya menyinari dunia	Simile
9.	Naik Delman	Naik delman istimewa ku duduk di muka	Metaphore
10.	Naik Delman	Tuk-tik-tak-tik-tuk tik-tak suara s'patu kuda	Onomatopoeia
11.	Naik Kereta Api	Tut..tut..tut..	Onomatopoeia
12.	Tik Tik Bunyi Hujan	Tik tik tik	Onomatopoeia
14.	Balonku	Hatiku sangat kacau	Personification
15.	Kembang Apiku	Terang terang seperti lampu	Simile
16.	Kembang Apiku	Terang benderang seperti bintang	Simile
17.	Kring Kring Ada Sepeda	Kring Kring	Onomatopoeia
18.	Kring Kring Ada Sepeda	Tuk tuk tuk suara sepatu	Onomatopoeia
19.	SI Kancil Nakal	Si kancil anak nakal	Symbolism
20.	Si Kancil Nakal	Mencuri ketimun	Personification

Burung Kutilang

In this song, there are 2 types of figurative language can be found, namely personification and onomatopoeia. *Burung Kutilang* or Sooty-headed Bulbul is one of animal. He cannot do any movement such as *bernyanyi*, *bersiul*, and *mengangguk sambil berseru* (singing, whistling, nodding and exclaiming) like in the song, only human can do the things. So, the phrases are the example of personification. For the phrase *trilililili* is the example of onomatopoeia that can be found in this song. it is impossible for bird produces that sound.

Cicak di Dinding

In this song, there are 2 types of figurative language can be found, namely personification and onomatopoeia. *Cicak* or house lizard is one of reptile. He cannot do any action such as *menangkap* (catch) which is normally do by hand. For the phrase *hap hap*, it is the example of onomatopoeia because it sounds which is normally produced when people catch something by hand.

Kasih Ibu

In this song, there are 2 types of figurative language can be found, namely personification and simile. Phrase *hanya memberi* (just giving) is the example of personification. *Kasih ibu* or mother's love is something abstract or cannot be seen. So, it is impossible do something like human does. For the clause *bagai sang surya menyinari dunia* (like the sun shines the world) is the example of simile. There is a word "like" which means comparison between *kasih ibu* and *sang surya* (mother's love and the sun).

Naik Delman

In this song, there are 2 types of figurative language can be found, namely metaphore and onomatopoeia. Phrase *ku duduk di muka* (i sit on face) is the example of metaphore. The phrase is supposed to be interpreted as *aku duduk di depan* (i sit on the front). *Muka* and *depan* (face and front) are two unlike things which are compared. For the phrase *Tuk-tik-tak-tik-tuk-tik-tak* is the example of onomatopoeia that can be found in this song. it is impossible for *delman* (carriage) produces that sound.

Naik Kereta Api

In this song, there is only one figurative language can be found, it is onomatopoeia. The phrase *tut..tut..tut..* is the example of onomatopoeia because it is cannot be described well how the exactly sound of *kereta api* (train) produced.

Tik Tik Bunyi Hujan

In this song, there is 1 type of figurative language can be found, namely onomatopoeia. The phrase *tik..tik..* is the example of onomatopoeia because it is cannot be described well how the exactly sound of *hujan* (rain) produced.

Balonku

In this song, there is only 1 type of figurative language can be found, it is personification. The phrase *kacau* (messy) is the example of personification because it can be interpreted that I am very shocked. Heart is inside the body, so it is impossible people can see it and it is can be messy by something.

Kembang Apiku

In this song, there is only one type of figurative language, it is simile. There are 2 phrases that the examples of simile. *Terang terang seperti lampu* and *terang benderang seperti bintang* (bright like lamp and bright like star) are the example of simile because there is word *seperti* (like) means there are 2 things are compared.

Kring Kring Ada Sepeda

In this song, there is only 1 type of figurative language, it is onomatopoeia. The phrases *kring..kring..kring..* and *tuk..tuk..tuk..* are the examples of onomatopoeia because people cannot describe well how the exactly sound of *bell dan sepatu* (bell and shoes) produced. *Si Kancil Nakal*. In this song, there are 2 types of figurative language, there are symbolism and personification. The phrases *si kancil anak nakal* (bratty child) is the example of symbolism because in Indonesian fairytale, *kancil* is bratty character. He always does bad things, like stealing and fooling other characters. The second type is personification. The phrase *suka mencuri* is the example of personification because he is described can do something as human does. The fact is animal has no brain so it cannot be said that *kancil suka mencuri*.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the finding and discussion above, it can be concluded that there are some type of figurative language can be found some figurative language, they are personification, onomatopoeia, simile, metaphore, and symbolism. The most dominat is personification and onomatopoeia. The writer found 7 words for each of them. The use of personification and onomatopoeia in these songs because the song writers want children can remember the songs easily and can develop their language, social, emotional, and cognitive skills.

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