

## Figurative Language Used In Nf Rap Songs Lyrics On The Album *The Search*

Wakhid Subekti<sup>1</sup>, Cicih Nuraeni<sup>2</sup>, Delis Meta Tiana<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2&3</sup> Universitas Bina Sarana Informatika

Jl. Kramat Raya No.98, RT.2/RW.9, Kwitang, Kecamatan Senen, Kota Jakarta Pusat, Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta 10450

E-mail: [Wakhidsbkt@gmail.com](mailto:Wakhidsbkt@gmail.com), [cicih@bsi.ac.id](mailto:cicih@bsi.ac.id), [delis.dna@bsi.ac.id](mailto:delis.dna@bsi.ac.id)

Received: September 26, 2023

Accepted: September 26, 2023

Published: September 27, 2023

### Abstract

#### Abstract

This writer discusses about an analysis of figurative language in NF rap songs on the album *The Search*. The purpose of this research to find the types of figurative language and the most dominant types of figurative language in NF songs on the album *The Search*. This research applied descriptive qualitative analysis as the research type. The data was taken from the lyrics of NF songs on the album *The Search*. The entire data is analyzed through describing object, collecting data, analyzing and then conclusion. The writer found sixty-two figurative languages used in eighteen songs on the album *The Search*. There are twenty hyperboles (32,26%), sixteen paradoxes (25,81%), ten personifications (16,13%), seven similes (11,29%), six metaphors (9,68%), one metonymy (1,61%) one symbolism (1,61%) and one irony (1,61%). The most dominant figurative language used in the eighteen songs is hyperbole with twenty (32,26%) used. The conclusion figurative language is another way of conveying meaning differently. hyperbole is the most used because NF uses a lot of exaggerated words to express what he feels. NF uses emotional and honest rapping to describe his feelings, giving listeners a strong and meaningful connection to his life story.

**Keywords:** *Figurative language; Song; Lyric; Rap, Hip-hop*

### 1.Introduction

Humans, as social beings, rely on communication for mutual understanding. Communication serves as a bridge, facilitating the exchange of information, ideas, thoughts, and messages between individuals. Language serves an important role in ensuring effective communication. Language is a human communication tool in the form of a sound produced from human speech, which is converted into a word or sentence whose main function is as a means of communication. According to Tiana & Lestari (2022), "Language is a system of communication which consists of a set of sounds and written symbols that include vocal and written forms, gestures, and body language".

Language is growing rapidly in its application, one example in literature. Language has an important role as an intermediary of meaning or messages that the creator of literature wants to convey. Many branches of literature are developing, one of which is song. Language and songs are two things that cannot be separated because good songs can convey the message of the meaning of the songs to the audience who listens to them. Besides that, songs can also help improve language skills and help connect better with other people Ficek-Tani & Habibi (2022).

Language is related to the lyrics; good lyrics make a song comes alive and can make the listener get into the song. There are several ways and techniques on how to make lyric interesting and good, one of which is by using figurative language. Hip hop rap is a genre of music that uses figurative language techniques in writing lyrics. Music rap is not only about speaking fast words through lyrics, a "rapper" is a term used to refer to someone who pursues rap music, uses figurative language to express a feeling, emotions and also to express ideas, thoughts, and imagination to the lyric to embellish a meaning, to make a lyric more interesting and not boring.

### Definition of Figurative Language

According to Potamias et al (2020) figurative language is a linguistic phenomenon that describes the contradiction between an expression's literal and non-literal meanings of an utterance. Thus, figurative language is a phenomenon that occurs in linguistics in which it is used to describe an actual meaning with an indirect meaning.

As stated by Alfiyani (2021), figurative language can convey new impressions and an unusual emphasis on the meaning of common terms. Convey meaning indirectly, enriching vocabulary, and beautifying sentences are functions of figurative language. Furthermore, figurative language is used in sentences to express a particular meaning, so that will give an unusual impression to sentences that are often found in general.

Based on Chakrabarty et al., (2021) figurative language is defined as figures of speech that rely on the non-literal meaning of some or all of the words used. In other words, it involves the use of words or expressions with other than literal meanings to create imaginative effects. The use of these words is meant to convey a deeper meaning than the literal meaning. Basically, figurative language is a way to express ideas, feelings, or concepts that are more complex or abstract than can be expressed with literal language.

### Types of Figurative Language

According to Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) figurative is divided into eight types of Similes, Metaphor, Metonymy, Paradox, Personification, Symbolism, Hyperbole, and Irony.

#### 1. Simile

According to Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) simile is a type of figurative meaning that compares two things that are not essentially the same thing. A simile expresses a direct comparison between two things, which have one or more similarities and can be recognized by the use of the words 'like' and 'as'. As said by Aryawan et al., (2019), simile is a kind of figurative language that is used to poetically describe how things are like other things by using the word "as" or "like"

#### 2. Metaphor

According to on Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) Metaphor is the process of comparing two unlike things as if they are one. a word or expression that in literal use indicates one kind of thing is applied to a distinctly different kind of thing, without emphasizing the comparison. This happens because metaphor does not have connective words such as like, as, than, similar to, and seems that determine it as a figurative language.

#### 3. Personification

Based on Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) Personification is a type of figurative expression in which inanimate or abstract objects are given human qualities, attributes, or feelings. As stated by Fata & Aprilya (2021), personification is a type of figurative language that describes inanimate objects or non-living things as if they have a humanistic attitude.

#### 4. Metonymy

According to Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) Metonymy is a change of name, the use of one word for another, and the use of ideas by using terms that involve associations. Based on Khishigsuren (2022) metonymy is considered a figurative language in which one meaning of a word serves as a reference to another meaning of the same word.

#### 5. Paradox

As stated by Ketaren et al., (2021) paradox is a figurative language that states something contradictory or contradictory. so, the meaning of one with another is opposite. Based on Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) paradox means contrary to expectations existing beliefs, or perceived opinions. A paradox is a statement that seems contradictory or ridiculous but contains a hidden truth. Paradoxes are often used to get the reader or listener to think about an idea in an innovative way.

#### 6. Hyperbole

As said by Astina et al., (2021) hyperbole is the use of exaggerated statements, intended to create strong feelings, as well as to arouse or show strong feelings. According to Syafitri & Marlinton (2018), hyperbole is an exaggerated statement, or an exaggeration of facts or possibilities. Frequently relates to personal values and sentiments; that is, by making subjective claims that are, after all, exaggerated.

#### 7. Symbolism

According to Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) Symbolism is applied only to words or phrases that signify an object or that in turn signify something, or have a reference, beyond itself. Based on Shavkatovna & G'ulomovna (2021) The symbol in the semiotic definition is a sign that implies its use of the main component as a form of another object.

#### 8. Irony

According to Khamdamovna (2021) Irony is the utilization of language that conveys a meaning opposite to its literal interpretation, often accompanied by sarcasm. based on Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) Irony is a way of speaking or writing by saying something while meaning something else. It refers to a situation where reality differs from appearance. Irony appears in sentences or words that imply contrasting or opposite meaning.

Based on the explanation above, the writer interested to analyze eighteen songs of NF's rap songs on the album the search as the object: "Only", "Change", "Hate Myself", "When I grow up", "Time" "Let Me Go", "No Excuses", "Nate", "Why", "Options", "Thinking", "Like This", "My stress", "Return", "Trauma", "I Miss the Day", "The Search",

"Leave Me Alone" to find out the types of the figurative language used and what the dominant figurative language used in NF's Rap songs because sometimes people listen to the songs without understanding the meaning of the technique

of writing the lyrics, how the lyrics are made use figurative language, how to use it to embellish a lyrical meaning and how to convey messages through figurative language. Therefore, the waiter chooses a title Figurative Language used in NF's Rap song lyrics on the album The Search.

## 2. Method

The writer uses descriptive qualitative method in this research. The purposes of descriptive qualitative can be seen from: describing object, exploring meaning behind the phenomena, explaining object by collecting data, analyzing, and then interpreted, Fadli (2021). The detailed analysis process is as follows. First, data preparation. describing object from the data is collected in Album the Search by NF, there were eighteen song lyrics of NF. Second exploring the data, the writer listens and read the lyrics carefully in order to find and identify the types of figurative language in the song lyrics.

Third, the writer gives a mark to the lyrics contained figurative language. After all the data are found, it is collected in order to be classified into a table. After finding the data in the table, it continues by analyzing and explaining what figurative types are in each song and finding which types are more dominantly used in each song on the Album The search. Then, the writer identified the messages and meanings expressed by NF through his songs in The Search album. Therefore, the writer uses descriptive qualitative method to analyze the use figurative language in the NF's rap lyrics songs on the album The Search.

## 3. Findings and Discussion

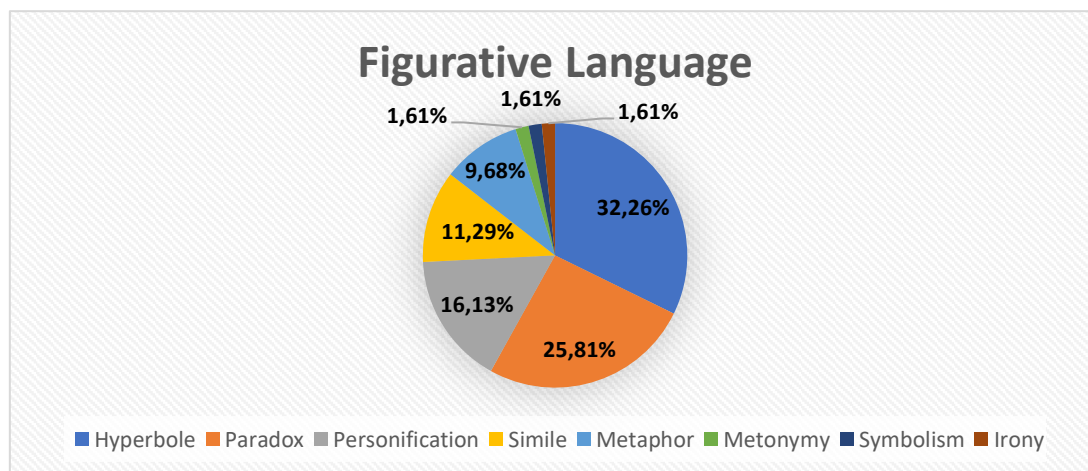
The writer uses data from NF's song lyrics on the album The Search to describe the types of figurative language from the analysis, eight types of figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, metonymy, paradox, hyperbole, irony, symbolism from the data above, the writer can identify figurative language used and the Most Dominant Types of Figurative Language in a song lyric that the writer analyzes in eighteen song lyrics

**Table.1 Types of figurative language used.**

No.	Types of Figurative Language	Frequency	Percentage %
1	Hyperbole	20	32,26%
2	Paradox	16	25,81%
3	Personification	10	16,13%
4	Simile	7	11,29%
5	Metaphor	6	9,68%
6	Metonymy	1	1,61%
7	Symbolism	1	1,61%
8	Irony	1	1,61%
<b>Total</b>		62	100,00%

*Source: (the writer, 2023)*

Figure. I The Most Dominant Types of Figurative Language



Source: (the writer, 2023)

Based on the table above, the writer found sixty-two figurative languages used in eighteen songs on the album *The Search*. There are twenty hyperboles (32,26%), sixteen paradoxes (25,81%), ten personifications (16,13%), seven similes (11,29%), six metaphors (9,68%), one metonymy (1,61%), one symbolism (1,61%), and one irony (1,61%). The most dominant figurative language which is used in the song lyrics in eighteen songs is hyperbole with twenty (32,26%) used. In this section, the writer will explain about the kind of Figurative Language mostly used in the NF album *The Search* song lyrics. The writer will discuss and give examples of the figurative language found in the NF album *The Search* song lyrics.

#### 1. Hyperbole in song lyric TIME

That's not what I meant to do, **you know I love you to death** even if (line 47)

The lyric contains exaggerated meaning, I love you to death contains an exaggerated. It is related to the explanation of hyperbole by Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) The word death functions as an emphasis of the previous word. It can be interpreted with the word "forever". It has the same meaning; the use is giving exaggerated emphasis and dramatic effects. Thus, listeners can feel the deep meaning of a lyric.

#### 2. Paradox in Song lyric: Like This

**Like the more I get to know you, I just know you less** (Yeah) (line 11)

the sentence "I just know you less" indicates that the more you get to know someone, the less you know about them. The sentences contain opposite meanings it is correlated with Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) theory of the paradox

#### 3. Personification in song lyric: Hate myself

What else can **the world sell me?** Tell me (line 25)

described "the world" as if it was alive and selling something to him. This means "the world" has human characteristics. It is correlated with Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) theory of personification, giving human characteristics to non-living things.

#### 4. Simile in song lyric: Hate Myself

Suicide thoughts come and go **like a guest to me** (line 38)

This sentence contains similes characterized by the use of conjunctions. As the lyrics above "like" is used to connect two things. "Suicide thoughts come and go" and "like a guest to me" it is related to Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) theory of the simile.

#### 5. Metaphor in Song lyric: Hate Myself

I am not a spokesman, **I'm a broken record** (line 42)

It is related to Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) theory of the Metaphor, which is comparing two different things without conjunction but to the same or close meaning. "I am a broken record" can be interpreted as a broken record (broken cassette), which if the cassette is broken, it can be played back or will not be able to make a sound.

## 6. Metonymy in Song lyric: Option

**Don't Google** my name tryna find my crib (line 23)

The word "Google" replaces the word "search" which has the same meaning relationship. As in the example above, the word "Google" is a technology brand that is identical to a search engine so the meaning of "don't google my name" means "don't search my name." It is related to Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) theory of metonymy, it changes name use of one word for another, and the use of ideas by using terms that involve associations.

## 7. Symbolism in Song lyric: Only

Am I the only one that has a **loaded gun** (line48)

That's full of doubts and memories to overcome? (line49)

The use of the term "loaded gun" does not refer to a physical weapon, but rather symbolizes emotional and mental burdens. It is related to Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) theory of symbolism. NF reflects on his complicated feelings to the symbol like having a "loaded gun" full of doubts and memories that he has to deal with.

## 8. Irony in Song lyric: Nate

You'll **make up a slogan, call it "Real,"** but feel like **you're the fakest** (line 23)

It is related to Syafitri & Marlinton (2018) theory of Irony because there is a contrast between the words used and the meaning actually intended. In this sentence, someone makes up the slogan or phrase "Real" to describe themselves. However, they are the opposite. they are fake, this is an example of the use of irony where the words used contradict the actual feeling or situation.

## 4. Conclusion

After analyzing and presenting the lyrics of NF rap songs on the album *The Search* which contains figurative language, the writer found eight types of figurative language used in NF rap songs on the album *The Search* there are hyperbole, paradox, personification, metaphor, simile, and metonymy, symbolism, irony. The writer found sixty-two figurative languages in this album consist twenty hyperboles (32,26%), sixteen paradoxes (25,81%), ten personifications (16,13%), seven similes (11,29%), six metaphors (9,68%), one metonymy (1,61%) one symbolism (1,61%) and one irony (1,61%). The most dominant figurative language which is used in the song lyrics in eighteen songs is hyperbole with twenty (32,26%) used. In the search album, hyperbole is the most used because NF uses a lot of exaggerated words to express what he feels. Therefore, the figurative language of hyperbole is suitable to be used in describing these things. NF uses emotional and honest rapping to describe his feelings, giving listeners a strong and meaningful connection to his life story.

## 5. References

- Alfiyani, W. (2021). Type and Meaning of the Figurative Language Found in Niki'S Selected Songs' Lyrics. *Jurnal CULTURE (Culture, Language, and Literature Review)*, 8(2), 156–169. <https://doi.org/10.53873/culture.v8i2.271>
- Aryawan, L. P. K. F., Suarnajaya, I. W., & Swandana, I. W. (2019). *A Semantic Analysis of Figurative Language Found in Eminem's song*. 26(2), 95–105.
- Astina, R., Ayu, I. G., Widiadnya, V., Agung, I. G., & Rwa, S. (2021). *An Analysis Of Hyperbole In Album " The Chainsmoker ."* 1(1).
- Chakrabarty, T., Ghosh, D., Poliak, A., & Muresan, S. (2021). Figurative Language in Recognizing Textual Entailment. *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL-IJCNLP 2021*, 3354–3361. <https://doi.org/10.18653/v1/2021.findings-acl.297>
- Fadli, M. R. (2021). Memahami desain metode penelitian kualitatif. *Humanika*, 21(1), 33–54. <https://doi.org/10.21831/hum.v21i1.38075>
- Fata, I. A., & Aprilya, A. (2021). Examining personification in songs as one of the English teaching materials. *Englisia: Journal of Language, Education, and Humanities*, 8(2), 1. <https://doi.org/10.22373/ej.v8i2.7186>
- Ficek-Tani, B., & Habibi, A. (2022). Why Should I Learn Music? It Can Be Good for Your Brain! *Frontiers for Young Minds*, 10. <https://doi.org/10.3389/frym.2022.691255>
- Ketaren, S. V., Sipahutar, S. R., & Marpaung, E. M. (2021). *FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE USE IN SONG LYRICS IN ENGLISH TEXTBOOK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL*. 4(2015), 300–305. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.31539/leea.v4i2.1997>
- Khamdamovna, M. U. (2021). *The use of Irony in Uzbek Poems as a Speech Decoration*. 02(November), 17–20.
- Khishigsuren, T. (2022). *Proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Metonymy as a Universal Cognitive Phenomenon : Evidence from Multilingual Lexicons*.
- Potamias, R. A., Siolas, G., & Stafylopatis, A. G. (2020). A transformer-based approach to irony and sarcasm detection. *Neural Computing and Applications*, 32(23), 17309–17320. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00521-020-05102-3>

- Syafitri, D., & Marlinton, M. (2018). An Analysis of Figurative Language Used in Edgar Allan Poe's Poems. *Linguistic, English Education and Art (LEEA) Journal*, 2(1), 43–59. <https://doi.org/10.31539/leea.v2i1.453>
- Tiana, D. M., & Lestari, R. (2022). *JOTE Volume 4 Nomor 1 Tahun 2022 Halaman 413-422 JOURNAL ON TEACHER EDUCATION Research & Learning in Faculty of Education Cognitive Engagement and Writing Skill : A Correlational Study At 12 th Grade Students in Vocational High School Jakarta*. 4, 413–422.