

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter presents review related literature. It discusses about literature, song, lyric, figurative language and the song of Alec Benjamin “Pretending”, “Paper Crown”, and “My Mother’s Eyes”. The researcher hopes that the reader will easily understand every part of this song.

2.1 Figurative Language

Figurative language is a form of language used by the writer or speaker to convey something else rather than literal meaning (Tarigan, 2013). Figurative language is beautiful language that is used to enhance the effect by way of introducing and comparing an object or a particular thing with other things. In short, the use of a certain figure of speech may change and cause the value of a particular flavor or connotation.

Afriai (2014) states that figurative language is a type of language that a writer or speaker uses in a way that disguises the true meaning. Speaking figuratively is a way of conveying an idea or opinion by saying less than what is meant. It can also say more or disguise its main meaning. Using figurative language in order to communicate, the language that we use can make the writer or speaker more creatively express their thought, feeling, and ideas more beautifully and more attractive.

In this paper figurative language is a way to use language in a particular context. Figurative language can be used to convey an appropriate opinion, according to the context and target of the intended recipient, to attract the recipient's attention. On the other hand, if the use of figurative language is inappropriate, then the message the writer wants to convey will not be well received and will be in vain.

2.2 The Advantages of Figurative Language

Figurative language is an expression often used in works of art whose meaning exceeds its original meaning. Figurative language is used to provoke the reader's curiosity when interpreting a particular expression. The advantage of studying figurative language is that it strengthens reading comprehension, makes it easier for someone to draw conclusions from an expression, and clearly understands the meaning that is being conveyed. Another advantage is that it increases the writer's creativity in processing sentences. Studying figurative language makes a person better able to create and understand certain expressions and see them from a different perspective.

2.3 Types of Figurative Language

There are several types of figurative language that will be used to help analyze the songs here. Each type of figurative language has different characteristics for interpreting a message from the writer. The types of figurative language that will be used are simile, hyperbole, metaphor, onomatopoeia, personification, irony, idiom, repetition, symbolic, and paradox.

2.3.1 Simile

Nurgiyantoro (2017, p. 219) state that simile is a figure of speech that use explicit or direct comparison to compare something similar or the same as another meaning.

Example: *"As slippery as an eel."*

The phrase shows similarities between two different things, In the phrase above, it does not indicate directly telling someone to turn into an eel but asking them to have the same character as an eel, namely slippery. Simile quotes the same thing on two different things, giving something a more varied and interesting figurative meaning.

2.3.2 Hyperbole

Keraf (2006) state that hyperbole is a figure of speech that contains an exaggeration or overstatement (p. 135). In another words, hyperbole express

someone feeling with an overreaction response. It makes a phrase or sentence have a deeper meaning, making someone able to understand more about the meaning the author wants to convey.

Example: *"I have told you to stop a thousand times."*

The fact is impossible for someone to say the same thing thousands of times, but this sentence is deliberately used to emphasize that he has repeated the sentence many times, giving a clearer meaning to the recipient.

Hyperbole is a way to convey meaning with such things. Exaggerating something makes something have a much clearer and deeper meaning than if the sentence was said with the meaning it should have.

2.3.3 Metaphor

The phrase clarifies the meaning of someone's heart being as hard as stone, with the characteristics of the stone matching the description of the heart. Metaphors are about likening one thing to another thing, as if they were the same thing. Make both of them seem like the same thing so that they have a clearer meaning.

2.3.4 Onomatopoeia

Kridalaksana (1984:135) argues that onomatopoeia is the naming of objects or actions by imitating the sounds associated with the object or action, for example crowing, buzzing, roaring, squeaking and so on.

Onomatopoeia describes a sound from something so that when someone reads or hears it, they can easily understand that the sound has a meaning that refers to a certain action or object.

Example: *"Splat."*

The word indicates a sound from splashing water, or a sound like *"whoosh,"* which describes the sound of strong wind blowing due to a fast passing object.

2.3.5 Personification

Keraf (1988: 140), personification figure of speech is a kind of figure of speech that depicts inanimate objects or inanimate objects so that their characteristics are like humanity. This usually gives the impression that the world around is also following the atmosphere that is being built by the author.

Example: *"The flowers nodded."*

The sentence is able to provide many meanings to the atmosphere that occurs in that place, gives a deeper impression and clarifies the message to be conveyed. Personification is a form of figure of speech that helps writers to create a much more engaging atmosphere and makes the message they want to convey more memorable.

2.3.6 Irony

According to Abrams (2012), the term "irony" means of dissembling, or of hiding what is actually the case. Irony statements are untrue, based reasoning that is interpreted by the hearer from the speaker's meaning. Irony gives the opposite meaning to what the speaker says, such as a bad word being softened or vice versa.

Example: *"Your hand writing is so beautiful, I can't even read it,"* which gives the meaning that honestly the handwriting is bad, but the speaker conveys it with the opposite meaning.

2.3.7 Idiom

Idioms are a collection of words or expressions whose meaning cannot be equated with the actual meaning when the words are put together. (Lazar, 2003, p.3). Idioms have their own meaning when used, usually idioms are used in everyday life, creative writing such as song lyrics or poetry. Kridalaksana (2008: 90), said that idioms are constructions whose meaning is not the same as the actual combination of meanings.

Example: *"Piece of cake,"* which means, *"It is easy."*

the words in the idiom used and the actual meaning have nothing to do with each other, but the idiom has the meaning of a phrase that is much broader and uses imagination.

2.3.8 Repetition

According to Keraf (2009:127), repetition is a phrase or sentence written repeatedly by the author to clarify the meaning. Writing like this often appears in song lyrics, fictional stories, or poetry to give a deeper impression of the situation at hand.

Example: *"Time after time"*

That explains the time continues to pass repeatedly to emphasize to the recipient that time never stops, gives a clearer and deeper meaning about time.

2.3.9 Symbolic

Brittan (2003) states that symbolic constitute sign that is understood to stand for something else (p.110). Symbolic is usually found in colors, objects, or other abstract things that have various meanings.

Example: *"Red is brave."*

The statement above, an example is given that the color red has a certain meaning. Symbolic is something that describes a word or sentence.

2.3.10 Paradox

Keraf (2006) states that paradox is a figure speech that contains real contradiction with a real fact or something true (p.136). Paradox has a complex meaning because it is written using deeper assumptions about its true meaning.

Example: *"His ears have become deaf to the cries of the people."*

A sentence above explains that honestly he is not deaf, but he makes his ears deaf specifically when someone cries. This makes paradox a figurative language that not only has a clear contradiction, but is also complex enough to be written in a concise sentence.

2.4 Lyric

Lyrics are words or a series of sentences used by songwriters to convey their message in the song. Music provides a sound that makes the listener feel comfortable with the song being played, and the lyrics are usually used as a tool to convey a message to the listener.

According to Awe (2003) lyric is such as vocal play, language style and word meaning deviation are language games in creating song lyrics (p.51). In addition, musical notation and melodies adapted to the lyrics are used to amplify the lyrics, so that listeners get carried away with what the writers want to say. Lyrics are usually made to convey and express the feelings you want to convey in a beautiful way and language. With a combination of feelings and figurative words that are made, the meaning conveyed feels more profound and meaningful.

The lyrics usually can also be in the form of poetry or rhymes which are then added with instruments to become a song, Rchmat Djoko Pradopo (1990). The lyrics have rhymes like poetry but are put together with a beautiful tone so that it is pleasant for the listener to hear. Lyrics provide perfection in a song in conveying a message.

2.5 Song

According to Akporobaro in Sharndama and Suleiman (2013), songs have various forms. Some of the songs are rich, imaginative, and complex in wordplay, rhythm, and melody. Songs have many genres, such as pop, metal, rock, and many more. The grouping of these songs also makes them have different characteristics, giving the impression of an atmosphere in the song.

According to Hariyanto (2017), a song is a sound composition performed by a singer or musical instrument that contains many messages, ideas, and expressions of feelings. Music is a tool that humans use to convey messages or express feelings in various ways. Sometimes, music is also used as a tool for protest media.

Music is part of human life; without music, life would feel very empty. Therefore, many people make music that can describe the feelings they want to convey and want to make the listener immersed in the song. Music allows us to convey various feelings that cannot be expressed directly.

2.6 Alec Benjamin Biography

American singer-songwriter-musician Alec Shane Benjamin rose to success in 2018 with his song "Let Me Down Slowly," which has 1.7 billion Spotify plays and peaked at number 40 in 25 countries. He started learning guitar in high school, and released his first extended play (EP) *America* in 2013.

Benjamin enrolled at the University of Southern California and got a contract with Columbia Records. However, a few weeks after he submitted his record, Columbia Records terminated their collaboration. Following the breakup with Columbia Records, he embarked on a self-financed European tour, opening for Lea in Germany and Marina Kaye in France. He gave out business cards to people as he performed in parking lots outside of concert venues to promote his music.

On November 16, 2018, Benjamin's mixtape *Narrated for You* was made available. The tracks "Water Fountain," "Annabelle's Homework," "If We Have Each Other," and "Let Me Down Slowly" are included. Alessia Cara and I later re-released "Let Me Down Slowly" as a single. He began making the "Can I Sing for You?" videos on YouTube, where he sings his songs aloud to strangers, while he was marketing the mixtape.

These Two Windows, Benjamin's first studio album, was released on May 29, 2020. On the Top Album Sales chart of Billboard, it peaked at number eight. On April 15, 2022, his second album, *(Un)Commentary*, was released.

He supported John Mayer on a portion of Mayer's North American tour in 2023. He also sang a parody of his song "Let Me Down Slowly" using terms from the Minecraft game universe during the yearly Minecraft Live. He also started dropping singles from his next album. "Different Kind of Beautiful," "I Sent My Therapist to Therapy," and "Pick Me" are among the recently released songs. He put out a new album, on May 10, 2024, which included songs like "Sacrifice Tomorrow," "Pick Me," "In a Little," and "By now," among others.

Alec is a storyteller as well as a singer, and it's immediately clear after listening to his most recent song. He makes excellent use of this talent to write songs and to put himself in the background of his music videos.

The reason why researchers prefer Alec Benjamin over the others is because the songs sung by Alec Benjamin are different from the others. The songs he creates are like telling stories; he acts as a narrator. On the other hand, many of Alec Benjamin's songs represent events that occur in everyday life; for example, we always pretend to be good even though we don't pretend to be in the song, or the story of a mother whose love will never go away, even if the child does something to hurt him. The songs created by Alec Benjamin are very related to everyday life, including my own life, and these songs have a deep impression on me personally. Therefore, I am very interested and prefer Alec Benjamin's songs as material for my thesis compared to other artists.



