

FIGURATIVE AND IMAGERY WITHIN THE FIGHT SONG

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Abstract

This research is aimed at seeking and analyzing the building of imagery within the lyric of The Fight Song sung and popularized by a singer named Rachel Platten. This study is interested in uncovering further any imagery and patterns of figurative languages employed within the song to make it more powerful, motivating and inspirational to those already become the fans. The researchers chose a song for data source is due to the fact that song has become important part in our lives. We hear it everywhere, wherever we go, whatever we watch, simply in any places you find yourselves would be, song is always incorporated. To collect the data, we listened and read the lyric, trying to dive deep into the feeling of the song to pick some of the figures of speech and the imagery building blocks. All the data were all then analyzed using some theories from K.L. Knickerbocker and H. Willard Reninger (1963) in their book *Interpreting Literature*. To make the analysis clearer, all of examples are completed with explanation.

Keywords: Song, Popular, Imagery, Figurative Languages

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mencari dan menganalisis pembangunan pencitraan dan penggunaan majas dalam lirik Lagu *The Fight Song* yang dinyanyikan dan dipopulerkan oleh penyanyi bernama Rachel Platten. Penelitian ini tertarik untuk mengungkap lebih jauh setiap Citra/Imagery dan pola penggunaan majas yang digunakan dalam lagu untuk membuatnya lebih kuat, memotivasi dan menginspirasi orang-orang yang telah menjadi penggemar dari lagu ini. Peneliti memilih lagu untuk sumber data karena fakta bahwa lagutelah menjadi bagian penting dalam kehidupan kita. Kita mendengarnya di mana-mana, kemanapun kita pergi, apa pun yang kita tonton, di manapun anda berada, lagu selalu menjadi bagian yang tak terlupakan. Untuk mengumpulkan data, kami mendengarkan dan membaca lirik, mencoba menyelami perasaan lagu tersebut untuk memilih beberapa majas dan bangun citra/imagery yang ada dalam lagu ini. Semua data dianalisis dengan menggunakan beberapa teori dari K.L. Knickerbocker dan H. Willard Reninger (1963) dalam buku mereka yang berjudul *Interpreting Literature*. Untuk membuat analisis lebih jelas, semua contoh juga dilengkapi dengan penjelasan.

Kata kunci: Lagu, Populer, Citra, Majas

1. INTRODUCTION

Imagery can be defined as the representation through language of sense experience (Arp, 2011:58). It also means to use figurative language to represent objects, actions, and ideas in such a way that it appeals to our physical senses. Usually it is thought that imagery makes use of particular words that create visual representation of ideas in our minds. The word “imagery” is associated with mental pictures. However, this idea is but partially correct. Imagery, to be realistic, turns out to be more complex than just a picture.

The researcher chose a popular song “The Fight Song” by a singer named Rachel Platten to be data source for the research. It is because this song is about depression which peaked at number 6 on the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States, topped charts in the United Kingdom and peaked within the top ten of multiple charts worldwide. Platten won a Daytime Emmy Award for a live performance of the song on Good Morning America. Her major-label

debut studio album, *Wildfire* (2016), was certified gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

Based on preliminary data taken from song entitled “The Fight Song”, the researcher found a data that represented about an imagery such as *Like a small boat* on the ocean. Then, the researcher intended to analyze the whole lyrics of this song to achieve further any imagery and patterns of figurative languages employed within the song to make it more powerful, motivating and inspirational.

2. THEORIES AND RESEARCH METHOD

a. Theoretical Framework

1) The Nature of Figurative Language

Language carries meanings and messages. To deliver these contents, language utilizes its power through what we call figure of speech or figurative languages to emphasize, exaggerate, soften etc. ensuring this language could be easily understood and comprehended by the listeners.

a) The Definition of Figurative Language

In Literature, there are many perceptions about figurative language. McArthur (1992: 402) explained that figurative language is the language in which figures of speech such as metaphors freely occur. He also states that figures of speech are a rhetorical device using words in distinctive ways to achieve a special effect. Figurative language is sequences of standard words are used by the user of language, to achieve the meaning or special effects, Abrams (1999: 96). According to him, figures are sometimes described as a primarily poetic; it is to integrate the function of language and is necessary for the capital discourses. In addition, Figurative Language is also sometimes called metaphorical language or simply metaphor because its Greek ancestors *methaperein* means to carry meaning beyond its literal meaning (Knickerbocker and Reninger, 1963:367) while literal meaning based on Oxford Dictionary means the basic or usual meaning of the words and phrases, so the metaphorical meaning is beyond or not in the basic or usual meaning that is probably applied in our daily communication.

b) The Characteristics of Figurative Language

The most important characteristic of figurative language is making the poems easier to read. According to Perrine (1983: 118), there are four characteristics of figurative language. First, figurative language affords readers imaginative pleasure of literary works. Second, it is a way of bringing additional imagery into verse, making the abstract concrete, making literary works more sensuous. The third, figurative is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements and conveying attitudes along with information. And the last, it is a way of saying much in brief compass.

c) The Figures of Speech in Spoken Language

Based on many experts, there are many kinds of figurative language. In this study, the however, the writer only discuss some of them related to the spoken language. The description of the figurative expressions below is derived from Hotben D. Lingga (2006), Barnet, Berman, and Burto (1963), Giroux (1974), McArthur (1992), Keraf (2002), and Sylvan B. MB, WB (1963), will be presented in alphabetical order for some practicality.

1. Hyperbole/Overstatement

Hyperbole is an “inordinate exaggeration according to which a person, thing or Condition is depicted as being better or worse, or larger or smaller than is actually the case”, Murfin and Ray (2003: 205). For examples:

- 1) Let's have dinner, I am starving.
- 2) When she was in Paris, she spent ton of money.

2. Metaphor

A metaphor asserts the identity, without a connective such as “like” or a verb as “appears”, of terms that are literally incompatible Barnet,

Berman, and Burto (1963: 334).

For examples:

- 1) You are what you eat.
- 2) My home is heaven.

3. Personification

Personification is the assigning of human characteristics to nonhumans, Keraf (2002: 22).

For examples:

- 1) The trees are waving to the tiger.
- 2) The moon smiles at us.

4. Simile

Simile is a figure of speech, in which a more or less fanciful or unrealistic comparison is made, using like or as (McArthur, 1996:935).

For examples:

- 1) She is like a fish out of water.
- 2) You're not going to go storming in there like a bull in a china shop, aren't you?

2) The Imagery

Imagery can be defined as the representation through language of sense experience (Arp, 2011:58). Poetry appeals directly to our sense, and through its music, rhythm, which actually hear when it is read loudly. But indirectly it appeals to our sense through imagery, the representation to the imagination of sense experience. Thomas R. Arp and Greg Johnson in Perrine's Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry Thirteenth Edition classifies imagery into seven types namely; Visual Imagery evoking a picture of something that occurs most frequently in poetry, sometimes seen in the mind eye which called by sight effect. Auditory Imagery represents a sound like words “buzzing, tinkling, chimming” and others related to the sound.

The auditory imagery is not like auditory perception. It means, when the reader reads it, he only felt the sense of hearing but not really hearing in purpose. The Olfactory Imagery calls up the sense of smell to the reader like fragrant, unpleasant smell and the others related to the aroma. Gustatory imagery is an imagery which relates to the taste such as sweet and others related to the flavor. Tactile Imagery, this imagery relates to tactile sense such as hardness, softness, wetness or heat and cold. Organic imagery is an imagery which related to internal sensation such as hunger, thirst, fatigue, or nausea. Kinesthetic Imagery, the one conveys a sense of movement or tension in the muscles or joints.

3) Theme

Referring to the definition from Oxford Learner's Dictionary online, theme is an idea that recurs in or pervades a work of art or literature e.g. When we read a poem, especially when we read it so many times, the more we read the more we understand what is the theme of a poem or what is the poem all about. When we knew what is the poem told about, we will have more understanding and information about it. To know what the theme of a poem is, we need to clearly understand the meaning of each line and stanza and even word. Theme is an intrinsic value of a poem, a universal meaning of words in a poem.

b. Research Method

Research is one of the efforts involved to find and examine the truth of something. Method of research is a procedure required to do the research better. In this case, method of research covers data source, data collection and data analysis. The data of this research have been taken from a popular song "The Fight Song". The method that has been used in collecting data was the method of library research. They were collected by reading the lyric, by underlining and note taking. We would like to find out the data about imagery in the song lyric related to the presence of the figurative languages applied in the song, then being analyzed based on the theoretical framework prepared. The data analysis was the last step in this process of writing this research. The analysis was done by descriptive method.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The discussion section has been simplified to look deeper within each verse of the song to understand how the figurative is used and what imagery they have created to boost the theme of the song. Prior to the display of each verse, the theme and lyric would be presented as below;

The Lyric of The Song

<p>Like a small boat on the ocean Sending big waves into motion like how a single word can make a heart open I might only have one match but I can make an explosion</p> <p>And all those things I didn't say</p>	<p>And all those things I didn't say Wrecking balls inside my brain I will scream them loud tonight Can you hear my voice this time?</p> <p>This is my fight song Take back my life song Prove I'm alright song My power's turned on Starting right now I'll be strong</p>
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<p>Wrecking balls inside my brain I will scream them loud tonight Can you hear my voice this time?</p> <p>This is my fight song Take back my life song Prove I'm alright song My power's turned on Starting right now I'll be strong I'll play my fight song And I don't really care if nobody else believes Cause I've still got a lot of fight left in me</p> <p>Losing friends and I'm chasing sleep Everybody's worried about me In too deep Say I'm in too deep (in too deep) And it's been two years I miss my home But there's a fire burning in my bones Still believe Yeah, I still believe</p>	<p>I'll play my fight song And I don't really care if nobody else believes cause I've still got a lot of fight left in me A lot of fight left in me</p> <p>Like a small boat on the ocean Sending big waves into motion like how a single word can make a heart open I might only have one match but I can make an explosion</p> <p>This is my fight song Take back my life song Prove I'm alright song My power's turned on Starting right now I'll be strong (I'll be strong) I'll play my fight song And I don't really care if nobody else believes cause I've still got a lot of fight left in me Know I've still got a lot of fight left in me</p>
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The Theme of the Song

This song is totally the expression of inner power the singer has or has awakened within her. She is telling us how she is fighting herself or her ego of staying in a comfort zone, her comfort zone is telling her to stay hidden and mute, but all these emotions and feelings within her are just burning in huge flames waiting to explode even acting like wrecking ball crushing her from inside. Therefore, in this fight of her versus herself, she needs to be strong and keeping herself moving forward since she still has lots of fight within herself to make her become better and better. To keep fighting, she needs this inner power though it is probably as small as a small boat on the vast ocean of fear but if she keeps moving this small boat, it will send waves constantly in motions.

The Verses, Figurative Languages and Imagery

1. The first verse

Like a small boat

on the ocean
Sending big waves
into motion

like how a single word

can make a heart open
I might only have ***one match***

but I can make an explosion

Table 3.1 Imagery and Figurative in the First Verse

Sentences	Figures of speech	Imageries
<i>Like a small boat</i> on the ocean	Simile	Visualization of small boat sailing on the vast ocean.
<i>like how a single word</i> can make a heart open	Simile	Visualization of a small single word can be the key to open a heart that seems to be a locked door for ages.
I might only have <i>one match but I can make an explosion</i>	Hyperbole	Visualization a single match, small thing can make huge explosion.
No matter how small your power or motivation is, if you constantly use it, it will bring huge changes or improvements.		

2. The Second Verse

And ***all those things I didn't say***
Wrecking balls inside my brain
I will scream them loud tonight
Can you hear my voice this time?

Table 3.2 Imagery and Figurative in the Second Verse

Sentences	Figures of speech	Imageries
<i>all those things I didn't say</i> <i>Wrecking balls inside my brain</i>	Simile	Visualization of some wrecking balls Tactile something hard crushes you, the feeling of hurt and bleeding.
She needs to say all her feelings, ideas and emotions or else she will suffer like being crushed by lots of wrecking balls.		

3. The Third Verse

Losing friends and I'm chasing sleep
Everybody's worried about me
In too deep
Say I'm in too deep (in too deep)
And it's been two years I miss my home
But there's a fire burning in my bones
Still believe
Yeah, I still believe

Table 3.3 Imagery and Figurative in the Third Verse

Sentences	Figures of speech	Imageries
<i>there's a fire burning in my bones</i>	Hyperbole	Visualization of burning fire and the feeling of heat or hot as delivered by the tactile imagery through this sentence.
She feels this power, this heat to speak up and do something to step out of her comfort zone.		

The other verses are the repetition of these previous verses all with the same uses of figurative and imagery to exaggerate the main theme of the song. These figures of speech as well as the imagery are giving vivid images to the listener while they are listening and singing this song. Both the listeners and singers can dive deep into the song by the help of these figures of speech and imagery applied within this Fight Song.

4. CONCLUSION

From the foregoing analysis it can be concluded that this song is applying some uses of figurative language to exaggerate the images or imageries in helping the theme getting its enormous power to deliver the values of the song. Those figures of speech are mainly simile and hyperbole since the song is about power and fight, therefore, most of the simile and hyperbole are used to give the vivid images about something related to power and fight like matches, explosion, wrecking ball etc.

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