
AN ANALYSIS OF SIMILE FIGURES OF SPEECH IN KATY PERRY'S SONG "FIREWORK"

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Abstract: *This study examines the employment of simile in Katy Perry's song "Firework" and its contribution to expressing themes of motivation and self-empowerment. This study emphasizes the significance of figures of speech as a stylistic device that enhances and reinforces meaning in literary works, including popular song lyrics. This study aims to identify similes included in the song, to comprehend the significance of these similes, and to investigate the moral and inspiring themes embedded in the song lyrics. The methodology employed is qualitative research utilizing a descriptive technique, wherein data is gathered through a comprehensive textual study of the lyrics of "Firework." Observation and note-taking procedures were used for data collection to identify and interpret the similes. The study's results demonstrate that similes successfully convey emotions of fragility and doubt alongside the resilience to rise and exhibit confidence. The employment of similes facilitates the creation of distinct visual imagery and elicits profound emotional responses, rendering the song's motivational and inspiring lyrics more vivid and accessible to the audience. Similes strengthen language and provide artistic worth and significance to songs. According to this study, similes are important expressive instruments in popular music, sending encouraging messages of courage and hope to listeners.*

Keyword: *figures of speech; simile; firework; katy perry; song lyrics.*

Abstrak: Penelitian ini mengkaji penggunaan majas simile dalam lagu Katy Perry "Firework" dan kontribusinya dalam mengekspresikan tema motivasi dan pemberdayaan diri. Penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya majas untuk memperkaya dan memperkuat makna dalam karya sastra, termasuk lirik lagu populer. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi majas simile yang terdapat dalam lagu, memahami makna majas tersebut, serta menganalisis tema moral dan inspiratif yang tertanam dalam lirik lagu. Metodologi yang digunakan adalah penelitian kualitatif dengan teknik deskriptif, di mana data dikumpulkan melalui studi teks komprehensif terhadap lirik "Firework." Prosedur pengamatan dan pencatatan digunakan untuk pengumpulan data guna mengidentifikasi dan menafsirkan majas simile. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa majas simile berhasil menyampaikan emosi kerentanan dan keraguan bersamaan dengan ketahanan untuk bangkit dan menunjukkan kepercayaan diri. Penggunaan simile memfasilitasi pembentukan gambaran visual yang unik dan memicu respons emosional yang mendalam, sehingga lirik lagu yang motivasional dan menginspirasi menjadi lebih hidup dan mudah dipahami oleh pendengar. Majas simile memperkuat bahasa dan memberikan nilai artistik serta makna pada lagu. Menurut penelitian ini, majas simile merupakan alat ekspresif yang penting dalam musik populer, menyampaikan pesan-pesan penyemangat tentang keberanian dan harapan kepada pendengar.

Kata kunci: majas; simile; firework; katy perry; lirik lagu.

INTRODUCTION

Definition of Figures of Speech and Similes

Literary works are products of creative ideas shaped by the author's imagination, experiences, and expertise, expressed through language in a manner that possesses aesthetic worth. Literary works possess aesthetic worth as well as social, cultural, and existential significance, as they are derived from representations of quotidian human experiences. Figures of speech, or stylistic elements, are integral to enhancing the aesthetic appeal of literary works. Figures of speech are literary devices wherein the poet juxtaposes or equates one entity with another to elucidate the latter.

Figures of speech, or stylistic devices, are eloquent expressions that amplify emphasis by juxtaposing particular entities with broader concepts. They are a crucial component of language that enhances and reinforces expressions in oral and written communication. Comparative figures of speech are figurative language frequently employed in literature to augment meaning and create artistic impact.

In comparative figures of speech, two disparate entities are linked through comparison or analogy. An analogy is a literary device juxtaposing disparate entities to create a semblance of similarity to elucidate an event. For instance, "Similar to the moon and the stars." A simile is a comparative figure of speech that enhances language by comparing two distinct entities using the terms 'like' or 'as.'

Similes enhance language and bolster readers' or listeners' imaginations, making the transmitted idea more vivid and emotionally resonant. By using similes, writers or presenters can articulate tangible and vivid imagery, enhancing the effectiveness and memorability of their intended meaning.

Distinctions between Figures of Speech and Similes

Figures of speech are rhetorical elements employed to enhance and fortify verbal and written communication phrases. They encompass diverse stylistic elements, including comparison, satirical, contrasted, and forceful figures, each with distinct functions and qualities. Figures of speech constitute a comprehensive category of many stylistic devices employed to articulate messages more expressively and artistically.

Similes are a form of a comparative figure of speech that explicitly compares two distinct entities using conjunctions such as "like," "as," "as if," "as though," and "as though." Similes explicitly convey comparisons, enabling readers or listeners to readily understand the similarities in nature or character between the two contrasted objects. The statement "Your face is like the moon shining at night" uses a simile to compare the attractiveness of a face to that of the moon.

The primary distinction between figures of speech and similes is that figures of speech encompass a broad category of linguistic patterns. In contrast, similes represent a specialized subset that employs explicit parallels through connecting words. All similes are figures of speech, yet not all figures of speech qualify as similes. Figures of speech can manifest in several forms, including metaphors, personification, and hyperbole, each possessing distinct qualities and purposes in enhancing language.

Significance and Motivational Theme in Katy Perry's Song "Firework"

Katy Perry's "Firework," a pop song released in 2010, has emerged as one of her most emblematic tracks. The song conveys a notion of self-worth and resilience in overcoming adversity. Katy Perry's songs inspire listeners to acknowledge their intrinsic worth and potential, especially in moments of fragility or stress. The song employs the fireworks metaphor to symbolize the concealed strength and beauty inherent in

every individual poised to radiate brilliance.

In addition to its inspirational message, "Firework" possesses an invigorating and inspiring tune that can elevate the spirits of its audience. The song has emerged as an anthem for individuals confronting life's adversities, reminding them that each person harbors exceptional potential deserving of global acknowledgment. The song's success is assessed by its chart rankings and its emotional and inspirational influence on numerous individuals. "Firework" inspires listeners to uncover their intrinsic strength and beauty, urging them to illuminate and express themselves. The song conveys a positive message of courage, self-worth, and hope, ensuring its continued relevance and popularity among many individuals today.

Background

In literature and art, figures of speech are crucial to enhancing meaning and intensifying expression. A simile, a rhetorical device, clearly compares two entities using linking terms such as "like" or "as." Using simile generates a potent visual representation and articulates feelings and emotions more vividly and engagingly.

Songs, as a musical art form, crucially transmit emotional and inspirational messages to their audience. Lyrics are a potent medium for articulating concepts, experiences, and life principles. The song "Fireworks" by Katy Perry is notable for its extensive use of similes. This song is renowned for its engaging melody and lyrics, replete with figurative language conveying themes of drive and self-empowerment.

Examining the similes in the song "Fireworks" is essential for comprehending how this linguistic style shapes meaning and reinforces the transmitted message. Analyzing similes reveals how the analogies in the lyrics stimulate imagination and profound emotional resonance in the listener. This study can also offer insights into excellent

lyric writing techniques for producing meaningful and exciting musical compositions.

This study intends to provide a comprehensive analysis of the similes employed in Katy Perry's song "Firework." This analysis aims to enhance literary studies by elucidating the function and role of similes in song lyrics while also deepening our comprehension of how figurative language is employed in musical compositions to convey profound and emotive messages.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Figures of Speech

1. Definition of Figures of Speech

Figures of speech are a linguistic style frequently employed in literary compositions. The name derives from the Greek word "trope" and the English phrase "figure of speech," which signifies likeness or analogy (Ratna, 2009).

Nurdiyanto (2014) defines figures of speech as a linguistic technique or stylistic device whose significance is beyond the literal interpretation of the constituent words, instead conveying additional or inferred meanings. Consequently, figures of speech represent a linguistic style that manipulates meaning by indirectly alluding to the intended significance.

2. Categories of Figures of Speech

Waluyo (1991, p. 84) categorizes figures of speech into six types: metaphor, simile, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, and irony. Sudaryanto (2015) offers a comprehensive classification of figures of speech, dividing them into four categories: comparative figures of speech, comprising five types; contrasting figures of speech, encompassing seven types; connecting figures of speech, including seven types; and repetitive figures of speech, consisting of four types.

Figures of speech for comparison

Comparative figures of speech encompass five categories: simile,

metaphor, personification, allegory, and antithesis. Examples:

- Her smile was as bright as the morning sun.
- Time is a thief that steals our moments.
- The wind whispered secrets through the trees.
- It was the best of times; it was the worst of times.

Contrastive figures of speech

Contrastive figures of speech are categorized into seven types: exaggeration, litotes, irony, oxymoron, paronomasia, paralipsis, and zeugma.

Examples:

- The students were so hungry they could eat a horse.
- What a beautiful day, she said, as it poured rain heavily.
- It was a bittersweet moment.

Conjunctive Figures of Speech

Conjunctive figures can be categorized into seven types: metonymy, synecdoche, allusion, euphemism, ellipsis, inversion, and gradation.

Examples :

- The crown will decide the fate of the nation. All hands on deck!
- He passed away last night.
- Rarely have they seen such a beautiful sunset.

Repetitive figures

Figures of speech involving repetition can be categorized into four types: alliteration, antinomy, chiasmus, and repetition.

For instance,

- She sells seashells by the seashore.
- Her argument is sound, nothing but sound.
- Ask not what her country can do for her; ask what she can do for her country.
- He has a dream that one day, this nation will rise. He has a dream today!

3. Simile

Definition of simile

A simile is a rhetorical device that uses explicit comparable terms to compare two entities. The item being compared and the comparator differ in quality, character, nature, and other attributes. Their dissimilarity is the reason for comparison, which aims to render them appear identical. Similes typically employ specific phrases that indicate explicit comparison, including terms like as, comparable to, and as if.

Illustrations of similes

- Her smile was like the sunshine on a rainy day.
- He fought as brave as a lion.
- The water was as clear as crystal.
- She sings like an angel.
- His voice was as smooth as silk.
- The night was as dark as coal.
- The baby's skin is like soft velvet.
- The car moved as fast as lightning.
- Her eyes sparkled like stars in the sky.
- The wind howled like a wolf in the forest.

4. The song by Katy Perry

In daily life, songs are recognized as diverse rhythmic sounds, vocalizations, and musical forms and can serve as statements of beliefs that are antiquated or frequently reiterated by individuals. We can appreciate songs by listening to the melody or the composition. The words of a song communicate a message that the listener can appreciate, enabling them to comprehend the music's meaning. Individuals might select music that resonates with their emotions through lyrics. Griffie (1992) defines "song" as a musical composition featuring lyrics, particularly popular songs broadcast on the radio. Consequently, songs are classified as a form of poetry and music.

Katy Perry is one of the most renowned singers globally. She was born in Santa Barbara, California, on October 25, 1984. Every singer has performed a song, whether original or cover. Katy Perry is recognized for her songs, which

are abundant in figures of speech, including metaphors, similes, personification, and repetition. In the song "Roar," she employs metaphors such as "I got the eye of the tiger" to illustrate courage similes like "You held me down, but I got up, already brushing off the dust" to convey the essence of resilience, and personification in "You hear my voice, you hear that sound like thunder" to enhance the expression of strength. In the song "Firework," Perry employs similes such as "Do you ever feel like a plastic bag drifting through the wind" and metaphors like "Baby, you're a firework" to communicate a compelling and motivational message of self-empowerment.

Katy Perry's song "Firework" has emerged as one of the most analyzed pop songs in diverse literary and cultural studies. This song embodies self-empowerment, bravery, and acknowledgment of individual potential. Numerous studies indicate that this song is not only commercially successful but also possesses profound meaning, particularly through the adept use of metaphorical language to express motivational and inspirational themes.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The employed research design is qualitative research. Koentjaraningrat (1984) characterizes qualitative research as an inquiry within the humanities that employs scientific methodologies to gather, elucidate, analyze, and interpret data alongside the interconnections among natural phenomena, societal constructs, and human behavior to uncover novel insights. This research used a qualitative descriptive approach to examine the translation of similes in Katy Perry's song "Firework" from English to Indonesian. The utilized data comprises the original English lyrics and their Indonesian translations. The data collection methods employed are

observation and note-taking. After observation, the acquired data is documented for compilation. The analysis of this song involves identifying the similes employed in Katy Perry's "Firework" and their translation into Indonesian. Conclusions can be derived from the analysis of the questions in this study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Lyrics of "Firework" by Katy Perry

Katy Perry's song "Firework" conveys a powerful message of encouragement and self-empowerment. This song employs several figures of speech, especially similes, to convey emotions of fragility and doubt, with the resurgence of spirit and the audacity to illuminate the night sky like fireworks. The incorporation of similes in the lyrics not only enriches the language but also amplifies the intended meaning and emotions for the audience.

Examining the similes in the lyrics of "Firework" will elucidate how these figurative analogies construct imagery and transmit inspirational messages. The employed similes create profound imagination and emotional resonance, ensuring that the song is appreciated musically and offers listeners motivation and encouragement.

This analysis will elucidate the diverse similes in the lyrics of "Firework" and clarify their significance and role within the song's overarching theme. Consequently, a more profound comprehension of the function of style in enhancing expression and artistic value in popular music can be achieved. The subsequent text comprises the lyrics to "Firework" by Katy Perry:

Do you ever feel like a plastic bag
Drifting through the wind
Wanting to start again?
Do you ever feel, feel so paper-thin
Like a house of cards
One blow from caving in?
Do you ever feel already buried deep?

Six feet under screams,
 but no one seems to hear a thing
 Do you know that there is still a chance
 for you
 Because there is a spark in you
 You just have to ignite the light and let it
 shine
 Just own the night, like the 4th of July
 Because, baby, you are a firework
 Come on, show them what you are worth
 Make them go, "Oh, oh, oh."
 As you shoot across the sky
 Baby, you are a firework.
 Come on, let your colors burst.
 Make them go, "Oh, oh, oh."
 You are going to leave them all in awe,
 awe, awe
 You do not have to feel like a waste of
 space
 You are original cannot be replaced
 If you only knew what the future holds
 After a hurricane comes a rainbow
 Maybe that is a reason why all the doors
 are closed
 So you could open one that leads you to
 the perfect road
 Like a lightning bolt, your heart will blow
 And when it is time, you will know
 You just have to ignite the light and let it
 shine
 Just own the night, like the 4th of July
 Because, baby, you are a firework
 Come on, show them what you are worth
 Make them go, "Oh, oh, oh."
 As you shoot across the sky
 Baby, you are a firework.
 Come on, make your colors burst.
 Make them go, "Oh, oh, oh."
 You are going to leave them all in awe,
 awe, awe
 Boom, boom, boom
 Even brighter than the moon, moon,
 moon
 Boom, boom, boom
 Even brighter than the moon, moon,
 moon

Analysis of Simile

1. English Lyric:

**"Do you ever feel like a plastic
 bag, drifting through the wind, wanting
 to start again?"**

Analysis:

The lyrics compared an individual's emotions to a plastic bag adrift in the wind. This analogy illustrates the state of an individual who feels impotent, aimless, and readily influenced by external factors. Plastic bags are lightweight entities that lack autonomy, merely adhering to the direction of the wind. This analogy highlights the fragility and impotence of an individual when they forfeit their life's purpose and their motivation to begin over.

2. English Lyric:

**"Do you ever feel, feel so paper
 thin / Like a house of cards / One blow
 from caving in?"**

Analysis:

The lyrics include two similes: "paper thin" and "like a house of cards." Paper is highly susceptible to tearing, akin to a house of cards that can readily collapse with a mere gust of wind. This simile underscores an individual's vulnerability when confronted with pressure or challenges, illustrating that while one may seem robust externally, one is inherently frail and susceptible to being readily undermined by minor issues.

3. English Lyric:

**"Like a lightning bolt, your heart
 will glow."**

Analysis:

This section equates an individual's bravery and self-assurance to the vibrant and exuberant fireworks displays characteristic of the Fourth of July celebrations in the United States. This simile urges listeners to be audacious and take the spotlight, radiating with fervor and pride, much to a sky illuminated by fireworks on Independence Day. This comparison offers affirmative motivation to embrace their potential and distinctiveness without fear.

4. English Lyric:

"Just own the night, like the Fourth of July. / Cause, baby, you're a firework."

Analysis:

This section compares an individual's courage and confidence to the vibrant and colorful fireworks displays characteristic of the Fourth of July celebrations in the United States. This analogy urges listeners to be audacious and take the spotlight, radiating with fervor and pride, much to a sky illuminated by fireworks during an independence celebration. This comparison inspires individuals to embrace their potential and uniqueness without fear.

The words "Cause, baby, you are a firework" are frequently classified as a metaphor; however, they can also be interpreted as a simile, comparing an individual to fireworks—symbols of beauty, strength, and enchantment when they burst into the night sky. This analogy suggests that each individual possesses a remarkable potential to illuminate and motivate others. Katy Perry aims to convey that each human possesses intrinsic worth and the potential to effectuate good transformations in their lives and environments.

The employment of similes in Katy Perry's song "Firework" is highly effective in communicating a message of motivation and self-empowerment. The simile "like a plastic bag" effectively conveys hopelessness and the need for a new direction in life. This contrast is comprehensible and highly applicable to numerous individuals who have experienced feelings of disorientation.

The similes "like a house of cards" and "paper thin" emphasize the notions of vulnerability and fragility in the context of life's challenges. This comparative picture elucidates that experiencing fragility is a universal human condition. Consequently, these similes underscore the necessity of help and the chance for recovery for all individuals.

The simile "like the 4th of July" conveys encouragement and positive

motivation to exhibit bravery and realize one's potential. The analogy to a vibrant fireworks show enhances the song's theme, rendering it uplifting and positive for the audience. This simile emphasizes recognizing one's victories and accomplishments to appreciate the effort invested.

The simile "you're a firework" asserts that each individual possesses distinct and remarkable abilities. This comparison enhances the lyrics and supports the song's central theme regarding the significance of self-confidence and the courage to excel throughout life's adversities. Consequently, the similes in the song "Firework" effectively construct meaning, enhance emotions, and offer profound inspiration to the audience.

CONCLUSION

The similes in Katy Perry's song "Firework" effectively convey the emotions of fragility and doubt, illustrating the aspiration to ascend and exhibit confidence. Utilizing explicit parallels aids listeners in comprehending and experiencing the feelings expressed in the song, reinforcing the message of inspiration and self-empowerment and making it more readily accepted.

Similes enrich the song's language, reinforcing its overall meaning and aesthetic appeal. Similes generate vivid imagery and elicit good emotions, making the song amusing and motivating for numerous individuals. Consequently, similes are crucial in communicating the song's themes of courage and optimism.

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