



# Figurative Language in Justin Bieber's Song Lyrics from Purpose Album

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## ABSTRACT

Figurative language is way communication to convey the speaker's through with meaningful sentences. The purpose of this study is to find the type of figurative language contained in the lyrics of Justin Bieber's song from Purpose Album. In analyzing the data qualitative and descriptive methods are used. The theory used in this research is Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963) to analyze the types of figurative language. According to him there are ten types of figurative language such as: simile, personification, metaphor, synecdoche, allusion, dead metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, paradox, and the last is irony. From the ten types of figurative language, there are six types found in Justin Bieber's songs in Purpose Album, there are: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, synecdoche, and metonymy. The most type used in this research is simile and hyperbole.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Language is very important for human. Language is a symbol of sound used to communicate by the user community. Language also has an arbitrary nature. Arbitrary or arbitrary which means that the sound conveyed does not have to have a certain meaning. According to [Hariyanto \(2017\)](#) language is utilized broadly for correspondence between individuals who don't have a similar first or even second language. It implies that language can be an essential need in human existence. With the existence of language, humans can communicate, convey messages, express thoughts and feelings. As a means of communication, language can also be a mechanism that determines how humans can relate to the world, to each other and to themselves. As long as there is interaction the language will continue to grow. In this world there are so many kinds of languages that are used to communicate by human beings. One of these languages is English.

English is also known as the international language. With this language we are free to express our feelings. Nowadays, many people like to listen to songs. Song is a form of means in which we channel our feelings. [\(Setiawati & Maryani, 2018\)](#) said that tune can be clarify as works of art in singing to instruments achievement. Usually in a song there must be song lyrics. According to [Pettijohn & Sacco \(2009\)](#) depict that lyric stories and speak with audience members in a way like how individuals have discussions with each other. In expressing his feelings, the writer definitely wants to make his work look beautiful and pleasing to the ears of many people. Therefore, writers often use figurative language in writing their songs. According to [Salwa & Liskinasih \(2016\)](#) figurative language will be language avoidance to make certain and explanatory impacts or extraordinary implications. Figurative language also mean is a sort of language that beginnings from language utilized the customary exacting methods of portraying people of article. Figurative language is a language that uses figures of speech, not using literal meaning (literally) and the meaning contained in it is not fully reflected in the words that compose it. According to [Peter \(2002:2\)](#) figurative language is a language which has figurative meaning and incorporates the speaker's desire to touch the emotions to cause shock and to persuade into action. Actually, figurative language is also widely used in writing poetry, novels, songs, fiction and nonfiction writing which will make their writing more beautiful and liked by readers or listeners.

In this case, the writer is interested in analyzing the figurative language in the lyrics of Justin Bieber's song in his album entitled Purpose. As we know that Justin Bieber's is a singer who has many fans around the world. This song was also chosen because there are many figurative languages contained in it.

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**2. METHODS**

The data taken from selected song lyrics in Justin Bieber song from purpose album. The reason of using this data source is because the songs in this album use many figurative languages. The data collection used observation and recording techniques. The theory of [Knickerbocker and Reninger \(1963\)](#) used to analyze the types of figurative language contained in the song. The data in the analysis were analyzed qualitatively and presented descriptively based on the theory adapted in this study.

**3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS**

The [Table 1](#) shows the finding of figurative language in Justin Bieber’s song lyrics. Based on these data, there are 42 song lyrics in Justin Bieber song lyrics. The writer finds similes with a total number of 19 or 45,2%. Then there is the metaphor with the number 2 or 4,7%. Then the personification with the number 3 or 7,1%. The writer also found hyperbole with a number of 16 or 38,0%. Synecdoche with a total amount of 1 or 2,3%. And finally, the writer found a metonymy with a number of 1 or 2,3%. From the data above, the writer does not find the type of figurative language that contains dead metaphors, allusion, paradox, and irony.

**Table 1.** Types of Figurative Language Found in Justin Bieber’s Song lyrics

No	Types of Figurative Language	Frequency	Percentage
1	Simile	19	45,2%
2	Metaphor	2	4,7%
3	Personification	3	7,1%
4	Hyperbole	16	38,0%
5	Synecdoche	1	2,3%
6	Metonymy	1	2,3%
<b>Total</b>		<b>42</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Simile**

According to [Knickerbocker and Reninger \(1963\)](#), simile is stated comparison of two similar things introduced by the words like or as.

**Data 1**

*“Like a permanent stain wishing I could just wash away” (Been you)*

The data mentioned above are included in the examples of types of figurative language simile. The data above is a simile because there is the word “like” as a characteristic type of simile in the description of the figurative language. In this lyric the songwriter wants to express that he hopes to erase or clean up all the memories with his lover but those memories cannot be erased and still continue to haunt him.

**Data 2**

*“When pressure’s coming down like lightning” (I’ll Show You)*

In this data it is called a simile because the songwriter compares pressure like lightning. The songwriter wants to describe here that he is experiencing pressure from the people around him. The pressure demanded that he be as perfect as possible, but it was the very opposite of his true desire. When he was trying to do something right, the people around him were unexpectedly quick to criticize and the slanderous words that came out of his mouth were shocking and repeated over and over that made him feel so much pressure. Under these circumstances the pressure can make a person despair and wants to give up.

**Metaphor**

According to [Knickerbocker and Reninger \(1963\)](#) metaphor is an implied comparison, or an expression that is used in a new sense, on the basis of similarity between its literal sense and the new thing or situation to which it is applied with “like” or “as” omitted.

**Data 1**

*“My life is a movie” (I’ll show you)*

In this case the lyrics above can be categorized as metaphor. There are two things that show to compared this is life and movie. Life is a gift that has been given by God. Being a human being is not easy, there are so many twists and turns of life that we have to live. Movie here is referred to as a live image that can move and make sound. The writer wants to describe his life as having been arranged in such a way. He cannot exercise freedom like other people. Can't be himself. He can only obey orders, cannot comment, and other people can only watch it.

**Data 2**

*“My heart’s a vacant house when you’re gone away”* (No Sense)

In this case it is called an example of the type figurative language metaphor. Here the songwriter compares his heart like a vacant house. The songwriter wants to describe himself as someone who when his lover leaves him, his heart feels empty and feels very lonely. When he is comfortable with someone he likes, he will feel that person should not leave him. He wants to always be with the person he loves. And if that person suddenly leaves his life, then his heart will be very broken and immediately feel very alone.

**Personification**

According to [Knickerbocker and Reninger \(1963\)](#) personification is a type of metaphor in which a lifeless object, an animal or abstract ideas made to act like a person and thereby gives animation, vividness and nearness those things which are normally thought of as impersonal and aloof from human affairs or giving human characteristics to an object, animal, or an abstract idea.

**Data 1**

*“Sometimes the heart is deceiving”* (The Feeling)

In the song’s lyrics it is said as personification. It is said to be personification because which assigns human quantities to non-human. In this lyric *“Sometimes the heart is deceiving”* refers to human behavior that can deceive you. People tend to listen to their hearts when they do something. Which is that once they listen to their hearts, their behavior can change. This will cause us to feel cheated of what they really want. The heart is as a place to store special feelings and then influence our minds in acting and making decisions. Sometimes when our hearts are hurt, we will act wrong.

**Data 2**

*“A simple melody, simple enough to make the world sing”* (All in It)

This is clearly an example of a figurative language personification type. This phrase gives human attributes to objects, namely the “world” that can “sing”. The singer wants to express himself where he is having a difficult problem, and is looking for a way out. Even though the efforts we do are not maximal, we must believe that we will be able to overcome these problems. It should be started with solving small problems first, then over time the big problems will be resolved, as long as we’ve tried to do our best and make everything come back fine.

**Synecdoche**

According to [Knickerbocker and Reninger \(1963\)](#) synecdoche is a metaphor for using a part of the whole. Synecdoche substitutes some significant detail or aspect of an experience for the experience itself.

**Data 1**

*“When you nod your head yes, but you wanna say no”* (What do you mean)

In the song lyrics above contain synecdoche because it is using the part for the whole is characteristics of synecdoche. Head is part the whole body. These lyrics want to express that the head can also function as a signal if we want to say no or yes. Usually if we want to say no without making a sound, just shake our head and vice versa, if we want to say yes, then just nod our heads, then people will understand what we are saying. The song writer here wants to show that there is a difference between heart and logic. When his heart or feelings have refused but, in his logic, he still wants to stay.

**Metonymy**

According to [Knickerbocker and Reninger \(1963\)](#) metonymy is a metaphor to describe something, using terms that are closely related to other things to describe it.

### Data 1

*"I hope I don't run out of time, could someone call a referee?"* (Sorry)

The term "referee" here is not refers to the people who is mediator or neutral party in a sporting event, but that term is refers to the third person referred to as the judge. Based on the lyrics, the songwriter describes himself as the guilty party who has disappointed his woman. Which is where the current party will provide an input and as a mediator on the problems currently being faced by the two partners. As an intermediary, he is expected to be able to convince women to be able to give a second chance for the man.

### Hyperbole

According to [Knickerbocker and Reninger \(1963\)](#) hyperbole is a figure of speech which employs an exaggeration that is used for special effect.

### Data 1

*"Be each other's paradise"* (Company)

In the lyrics, "Be each other's paradise" contains a hyperbole. This phrase is used by to create an exaggerating effect on the lyrics. Generally, paradise is a beautiful place on earth and peaceful as heaven. The fact is that we cannot give someone the pleasures of heaven. Songwriter use this statement to express themselves. This lyric is used by the writer to show that he wants to have a relationship that benefits each other. In this case the song writer wants when he is in a relationship, they can share with each other. When they feel a pleasure, happiness or beauty in a life that is so perfect without any more sorrow, without feeling misery and living freely like in heaven. They can understand each other, understand each other's shortcomings so that this reciprocal life will make their relationship harmonious.

### Data 2

*"I'm sinking faster and faster Between heaven and disaster"* (The Feeling)

In the lyrics of this song, of course, it is called a hyperbole. Because there is a meaning to exaggeration. The song writer described that he was sinking very fast and was on the border of heaven and disaster, but in fact he was not sinking and was fine. This lyric just an expression by the songwriter. We cannot imagine a second place between heaven and disaster. No one knows for sure what the conditions are like there. The writer wants to describe himself as trapped in a relationship. He is confused by the relationship he is in. Sometimes he was made very happy and sometimes made him sick. In love that feels alone or is one-sided, the uncertainty in a relationship that he feels does sometimes make him feel exaggerated when someone cares or is very kind to him and feels hurt when someone who was previously good then suddenly ignores him or ignores him. again.

## 4. CONCLUSION

From the explanation above, language plays a very important role, especially for communication. As time goes by, songs can help the song writer to convey the feeling. Figurative language can be used to express emotion, feeling or action in a song. As showed in the data, figurative language not just to be variant in the language used in the songs, but at the same time bring the intended meaning from the song writer. The types of figurative from the songs are simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, hyperbole, and the last is metonymy. Simile and hyperbole are the types of figurative language that are most widely used in Justin Bieber's song lyrics. This is because the songwriter expresses a lot of comparisons to the same object and exaggerates an object to make the song sound beautiful.

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