

**A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE USE OF FIGURATIVE  
LANGUAGE IN ENGLISH SONG LYRICS  
BY WESTERN MUSICIANS**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for Bachelor Degree in English Department**

by

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MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

**2007**

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## **TESTIMONY**

Herewith, I testify that in this research paper, there is no plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain bachelor degree of a university, nor there are opinions or masterpiece which has been written or published by others, except those which the writing are referred in the manuscript and mentioned in literary review and bibliography. Therefore, if it is proved that there are some untrue statements in this testimony, I will hold fully responsible.

Surakarta, November 2007

The writer

Ismail Marzuki

MOTTO

***The best educated human is one who understand most about  
the life in which she/he is placed***




**(Helen Keller)**

***Time is sharp like a sword***

**(Napoleon Bonaparte)**

# DEDICATION

**From the deepest mind this simple work is  
dedicated to:**

-  My beloved parents, mom and dad,
-  My beloved sisters, Zayin and Itsna,
-  My dearest soul mate.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



**Assalamu`alaikum wr.wb.**

**Alhamdulillahirrobbil`alamiin**, praise is to **Allah SWT** who has given His divine direction and guidance so that the writer able to finish his research paper with the title **‘A Descriptive Study On The Use of Figurative Language In English Song Lyrics By Western Musicians.**

However, this success would not be achieved without the help, guidance, and support from others. Therefore, the researcher would like to express his great gratitude to:

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16. All of the people who cannot be mentioned one by one here.

Finally, the researcher realizes that this research paper is still far from being perfect. Therefore, the researcher accepts happily constructive comments and criticism from the readers to make this research paper better. The researcher



wishes that this research paper would be useful for all readers, especially students of English Department.

**Wassalamu`alaikum wr.wb.**

Surakarta,

2007

Ismail Marzuki

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## SUMMARY

Ismail Marzuki, A 320 990 075. A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON THE USE OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ENGLISH SONG LYRICS BY WESTERN MUSICIANS. Research Paper, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. 2007.

This research is conducted in the objective to observe and to describe the use of figurative language in English song lyrics by western musicians and the meaning. As it is assumed that song lyrics are one of several human's creativities in communicating all of what has kept in their mind through the medium of language use. This research takes the English song lyrics especially written by western musicians as the object of the study. Furthermore, the data for this research is figurative language taken from the English song lyrics written by western musicians.

Hence two major problems proposed, which are: (1) what are the types of figurative language used by western musicians in English song lyrics, (2) what are the meanings of figurative language used in English song lyrics by western musicians. In collecting the data, the writer applies the observation and documentation by studying carefully the English song lyrics written by western musicians. And then classifies the data based on the Perrine's Lawrence theory of figurative language and other scientists that support it. Whereas, in order to elaborate behind the meaning of figurative language utterance in English song lyrics written by western musicians, the writer applies the Leech's theory of meaning and the Levinson's theory of speech act and other scientist's theories that support it.

The result of the study indicates that in English song lyrics, western musicians use figurative language dominated by metaphor as their creativity of mind expressions. Besides, the writer also finds other type of figurative language namely; personification, apostrophe, hyperbole, metonymy, irony, symbol and simile. Closely related to the meaning of figurative language in English song lyrics by western musicians, here the writer finds that figuratively western musicians try to convey sharply, meaningfully, have a power, varitype, assertive of their ideas, meaning, feeling, truth, love, imagination expression by taking an object include abstract, concrete, death and live illustrated as they are compared implicitly or explicitly, or by making an overstatement. In addition it is the self-way of the western musician in giving the audience an imaginative pleasure and giving the extra dimension to the language of their mind expression through the song lyrics.

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