

## FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES IN ARIANA GRANDE “POSITIONS” ALBUM

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### Abstract

*The study concerns the types of figurative language in the song lyrics found in 'Positions' album by Ariana Grande. The researcher assumed that the figure of speech in the song lyrics is interesting to analyze. Therefore, the study aims to analyze the types of figurative language in the song lyrics and the meaning conveyed in the song lyric that contains figurative language. This study used a qualitative method to conduct a clear and well-organized description of the identified problems. The data were taken from the song lyric and analyzed by applying theory types of figurative language by Knickerbocker and Renninger and the theory of meaning by Leech. The study concludes that the figurative language used in the song lyric delivers a message that the singers want to deliver to the listener of the song, and there are several meanings that conveyed due to understand what the figurative language in the song lyric means. In the Positions album by Ariana Grande found 10 data of figurative language, there are all 1 data of simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, paradox, dead metaphor and allusion.*

**Keywords:** *Figurative language, song lyrics, ariana grande*

### INTRODUCTION

According to Frawley (1953:1), semantics is the study of literal meaning or language meaning in particular. We use language as a communication medium and a tool to get information from another. Every language we use to communicate with each other must have a meaning behind it. We cannot understand all the meanings in the language because not all the meanings are explicitly there in the sentence we deliver. According to Leech (1981:29), the words have a complex meaning; each word we speak and hear has a meaning behind it. Leech (1981:9) gives primary importance to logical meaning by breaking down the meaning itself to the widest sense into seven different ingredients. He grouped the meanings into seven categories: conceptual, connotative, social, affective, reflected, collocative, and thematic. There is figurative language to analyze a meaning, which refers to using words in unconventional ways to convey complicated meanings, colorful writing, clarity, or evocative parallels.

Perrine (1977:61) says metaphorical language adds depth to language; it is more narrowly defined to mean one thing or another; figurative language is divided into several types. According to Knickerbocker and Reninger (1963:367), figurative languages are divided

into several kinds: Simile, Metaphor, Personification, Synecdoche, Metonymy, Hyperbole, Irony, Paradox, Dead Metaphor, And Allusion. In addition, figurative language can be found in most literary works such as dramas, poetry, and song lyrics.

A song is a musical composition performed by the human voice. Lyrics have a big power in the song because they express the song writer's messages and feelings. Lyrics can give the image of the song to the listener. If the listeners do not understand the meaning of the lyrics, they will find it hard to get the messages in the song lyrics. Knowing the lyrics of the song is really necessary because we will understand the meaning and the purpose of the song itself. The song usually consists of figurative language. Song lyrics are someone's expression of something that has been seen, heard or experienced. In the song, so much figurative language could be analyzed because every song has plenty of messages. That is why we need to analyze the lyrics to know the song's meaning. This study should be studied to help people better understand what they are trying to describe. Figurative language in song lyrics is chosen in this study because generally, some people do not think about figurative language itself, how to classify the type when they know the lyrics, they may find some difficulties to understand the meaning. This topic is very interesting for everyone, because when they read a source or something that consists of figurative language, they will be given a very good sense of imagination. We need to understand the lyrics' true meaning and avoid misunderstanding. A song containing figurative language will make the hearer feel the song deeply.

Ariana Grande is an American singer, songwriter and actress. So many people love to listen her songs, the lyrics of her songs are contains many figurative language, the lyrics of her songs mostly tell about the love story that suitable for young couples. The use of figurative language in her song lyrics make it more interesting, and it often used or quote by teenagers to put it in their social media to show the others about their feeling through the song lyrics.

This study analyzed the figurative languages on Ariana Grande "Positions" album. There are so many albums that can be analyzed. Still, the researcher chose this album among all albums from Ariana Grande because this album has won so many awards that, indicate many people love this song. Many people love to listen to the songs and the most important thing in the "Positions" album.

The example of figurative language above is found in *Positions* album of Ariana Grande, and it is metaphor, because it is implied a comparison. The meaning "medications" means a Drug is a substance or materials intended to be used in establishing a diagnosis, preventing, reducing, eliminating, curing disease or symptoms of illness, injury or physical and spiritual abnormalities in humans or animals. The man is not a drug as intended, but it is just an expression that describes or compares the man with a drug, that mentioning the man makes her feel calm when she is in a state of anxiety.

Based on the phenomenon above, Ariana Grande songs are really interesting to be analyzed because many figurative languages contained in her song. It is also interesting to analyze the meanings that contain in each figurative language to know how the lyrics are so meaningful to people out there and we can understand the deeper meaning of each figurative language in the song lyrics. That is why this study analyzed Ariana Grande *Positions* album.

## **METHOD**

In this chapter, the writer presented the data source and data analysis used to conduct this study to make this study become a proper scientific writing. Research methodology is how we make efforts to obtain information and investigate data to gain or discover new knowledge. This help the reader to evaluate the validity and reliability of the study as a whole. The data source is the

source where the data to be analyzed is obtained to support the validity of the research. Sufficient data sources are the key to make it easier for researchers to analyze.

## DISCUSSIONS

This chapter analyzed the types of figurative language and the types of meaning contained in the figurative language found in the song lyrics of *Positions* album by Ariana Grande.

**Table 1. Types of Figurative Language Found in the Song Lyric of *Positions* album by Ariana Grande (2020)**

No	Song Lyric	Types of Figurative Language	Types of Meaning
1	You're like a whole constellation	Simile	Connotative
2	How you touch my soul from the outside?	Metaphor	Affective
3	I'm just gon' make you home	Personification	Connotative
4	How'd we get here so damn fast?	Synecdoche	Connotative
5	It's like you got superpowers	Metonymy	Connotative
6	Made of glass the way you see through me	Hyperbole	Connotative
7	That's the kind of shit I like	Irony	Affective
8	All my love, all my love is free	Paradox	Connotative
9	You're too good to be true	Dead metaphor	Thematic
10	I'm the Olympics way, I'm jumpin' through hoops	Allusion	Connotative

### **Simile**

Based on Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963:587) simile is a state of comparison with ‘like’ or ‘as’ in the sentence. In the *Positions* album by Ariana Grande found 1 simile in the song, and the types of meaning that contains in the simile that used in the song lyrics can be seen below:

Data 1 : **You’re like a whole constellation** (*Nasty*, line:26)

The word “like...like” in the selected lyric shows the use of kind of figurative language simile because “like” in the sentence compares two things. For example, the lyric of simile above compares ‘the man in the song’ and ‘how the man is like a whole constellation for her.

According to Leech's (1981:19) approach, the above lyrics carry connotative meaning since they mean more than dictionary. Connotative meaning, or the expressive worth a word has by what it alludes to, is conveyed by the lyrics "You're like a full constellation" above. A constellation, according to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, is an area on the celestial sphere in which a group of visible stars makes a perceived outline or pattern, generally depicting an animal, mythological theme, or inanimate object. The origins of the first constellations are most likely prehistoric. But, the lyrics above refer to the singer who felt that she and the man have a constellation together, which means that they are related to each other’.

The context of the situation can be interpreted as the environment of the text, in a cultural context, this refers to speakers and writers using a more specific language. From context of situation point of view, the field of this song lyrics is about the singer falling in love for someone and believing they are related to each other. The tenor of this song lyrics refers to who taking part on the song lyrics or takes the role. The participant in the song lyrics, there only the singer as the girl and anonymous man, and it is very clear that they are involved in a romantic relationship. And the mode or style of language used is spoken language, because the singer written song tried to express her feelings with the song.

### **Metaphor**

Based on Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963:367), metaphor is state of comparison as well but with ‘like’ or ‘as’ omitted in the sentence. This study found there are 1 lyrics that contain metaphor in the *Positions* album by Ariana Grande, the types of meaning that contain metaphor that found in the album are:

Data 2 : **How you touch my soul from the outside?** (*POV*, line:7)

Based on Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963:14), the lyrics above can be classified into metaphor, because the lyric is a statement of implied comparison. The lyrics above consider metaphor because the singer compares two things: "touch my soul" with “from the outside”.

Affective meanings reveal the speaker's emotions, such as his or her attitude toward the audience or the topic of the speech (Leech, 1981:19). The lyrics above classified into affective meaning, is to communicate the writer's feelings and attitudes. According to Oxford learner’s dictionary, soul is the spiritual or immaterial part of a human that regarded as immortal, and we cannot touch it even from the outside or seen in real form.

Context of situation refers to the environment, time and place. From context of situation point of view, the field of this song lyrics is about how the girl felt impress about the boy who can touch her soul from the outside, which means the boy doing something good that makes the girl fall in love with him. The tenor of this song lyrics refers to who taking part on the song lyrics or takes the role. The participant in the song lyrics, there only the singer as the girl and anonymous man, and it is very clear that they are involved in a romantic relationship. And the

mode or style of language used is spoken language, because the singer written song tried to express her feelings with the song.

### **Personification**

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1936:367), personification is figurative language that gives human characteristics to objects, animals, or abstract ideas. In the Positions album by Ariana Grande there are 1 data of personification in the songs to analyze. The types of meaning of the lyrics can be seen below:

Data 3: **I'm just gon' make you home** (*Love Language*, line:52)

The lyric contains personification because it gives human characteristic to an event. The writer give human attributes to “*make you home*” and this case makes the lyrics seen as personification.

The lyrics above classified into connotative meaning, is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what its refers to. According to Oxford learner's dictionary, home is where one lives permanently, especially as a family member or household member. So the lyrics “I'm just gon' make you home” here means that the girl will stay forever with the boy she fell in love with.

Context of situation also saw that it was necessary to provide information not only about what was happening at the time but also about the total culture background because it is important in interpreting meaning. From the context of situation point of view, the field of this song lyrics is about the girl who already feels comfortable living with the man and decides to stay forever. The tenor of this song lyrics refers to who taking part on the song lyrics or takes the role. The participant in the song lyrics, there only the singer as the girl and anonymous man, and it is very clear that they are involved in a romantic relationship. And the mode or style of language used is spoken language, because the singer written song tried to express her feelings with the song.

### **Synecdoche**

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963), a synecdoche is a figure of speech that illustrates the usage of the portion for the whole or the whole for the part. There is 1 data of synecdoche found in the Positions album by Ariana Grande, and the analyzed of those data can be seen below:

Data 4 : **How'd we get here so damn fast?** (*Safety Net*, line:2)

The lyric “How'd we get *here* so damn fast?” above considered as synecdoche because it shows the use part for the whole.

Connotative meaning is the meaning that explain more than its conceptual meaning in the lyric. The lyrics above classified into connotative meaning, is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what its refers to. According to Oxford learner's dictionary, the word “here” used when indicating a time, point, or situation that has arrived or is happening, means that both of them in this situation where they already through ups and downs together.

Context of the situation are environmental conditions in which a text is born and the overall situation in which a communication takes place. From context of situation point of view, the field of this song lyrics is about the girl so proud for the both for how they can through ups and downs until now. The tenor of this song lyrics refers to who taking part on the song lyrics or takes the role. The participant in the song lyrics, there only the singer as the girl and anonymous man, and it is very clear that they are involved in a romantic relationship. And the

mode or style of language used is spoken language, because the singer written song tried to express her feelings with the song.

### **Metonymy**

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963:400), metonymy is a figure of speech used to describe one item by employing the term for a closely related thing. In *Positions* album by Ariana Grande found 1 metonymy that used in the song lyric. The analysis of meaning of the lyric that uses metonymy in the album can be seen below.

Data 5 : **It's like you got superpowers** (*POV*, line:1)

In the lyrics above, the word “superpowers” is classified into metonymy because is closely related for the thing actually meant.

Connotative meaning is what the lyric above is trying to communicate. According to Leech (1981:19), Connotative meaning is the expression's communication value above and beyond its strictly intellectual substance. The connotative meaning of the lyrics listed above is the value an expression has because of what it alludes to. According to Oxford learner's dictionary, superpower (in fiction) an exceptional or extraordinary power or ability. But what the writer trying to say it is the boy like having a power that makes it change quickly.

The context of the organized situation can be determined by me; namely field, tenor, and mode. From context of situation point of view, the field of this song lyrics is about the girl felt like the man have superpowers because he can change the girl though quickly. The tenor of this song lyrics refers to who taking part on the song lyrics or takes the role. The participant in the song lyrics, there only the singer as the girl and anonymous man, and it is very clear that they are involved in a romantic relationship. And the mode or style of language used is spoken language, because the singer written song tried to express her feelings with the song.

### **Hyperbole**

According to Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963:548), hyperbole is an exaggeration used for special effect in the sentence. In *Positions* album there are 1 hyperbole used in the songs. Here is the analysis of some lyrics that contains hyperbole in the album:

Data 6 : **Made of glass the way you see through me** (*POV*, line: 4)

In a written sentence or conversation, hyperbole is used to strengthen the impression by exaggerating. This exaggeration of hyperbole results often makes sentences read or sound funny or unnecessarily taken seriously or “big”. The lyrics “Made of glass the way you see through me” above considered as a hyperbole because it has illogical exaggeration effect in the lyrics.

Based on the theory of Leech (1981:19) the lyrics above convey connotative meaning because it has a meaning more than dictionary meaning. The lyrics above classified into connotative meaning; is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what its refers to. The writer explained about “made of glass the way you see through me” its mean the man are very clear about women's characters, such as glass, in other words lenses, or optical instruments that contain transparent or clear lenses (Oxford learner's dictionary).

The context of organized situation can be specified through the use of field, tenor, and mode. From context of situation point of view, the field of this song lyrics is about the boy who made like a glass because he can see all the things from the girl, and make the girl surprise. The tenor of this song lyrics refers to who taking part on the song lyrics or takes the role. The participant in the song lyrics, there only the singer as the girl and anonymous man, and it is very clear that they are involved in a romantic relationship. And the mode or style of language

used is spoken language, because the singer written song tried to express her feelings with the song.

### **Irony**

Knickerbocker and Reningger (1963:367) defined irony as a statement in which the real meaning is completely opposed to its professed or surface meaning. According to LiteraryDevices.net (2015), irony is a figure of speech in which words are used so that their intended meaning is different from the actual meaning (sarcasm). It appears that appearance and reality are different. Irony was discovered in one data point on Ariana Grande's Positions album.

Data 7 : **That's the kind of shit I like** (*Love Language*, line:12)

Irony is usually used to emphasize something, mock or even just to be funny which usually contains sarcasm. The lyric "That's the kind of shit I like" above considered as irony because the actual meaning of the lyric above is completely opposed to its surface meaning.

The lyrics above classified into affective meaning, is to communicate the writer's feelings and attitudes. According to Oxford learner's dictionary, the word "shit" is a contemptible or worthless person addressed to the man, but she likes it.

The context of the situation describes the reasons why something happened, and the existence of appropriate behavior or actions related to the situation. From context of situation point of view, the field of this song lyrics is about how the girl found something interesting for her and made her love it. The tenor of this song lyrics refers to who taking part on the song lyrics or takes the role. The participant in the song lyrics, there only the singer. And the mode or style of language used is spoken language, because the singer written song tried to express her feelings with the song.

### **Paradox**

Based on the theory of Knickerbocker and Reningger (1963:367), A paradox is a statement put forward on a clear meaning that seems illogical, even illogical, but makes sense upon closer inspection. In Positions album by Ariana Grande found 1 data of Paradox.

Data 8 : **All my love, all my love is free** (*Obvious*, line:14)

The lyrics above are classified as a paradox because they state two things that seem contradictory, but both are true. The lyrics explains two different circumstances at the same time, those are compared two different situations between unpleasant things and positive moments. The lyrics "All my love, all my love is free" above are classified as a paradox because they state two things that seem contradictory, but both are true.

The lyrics above classified into connotative meaning; is the communicative value an expression has by virtue of what it refers to. According to Oxford learner's dictionary, love is an intense feeling of deep affection for someone and no charge of that.

The context of the situation describes the reasons why something happened, and the existence of appropriate behavior or actions related to the situation. From context of situation point of view, the field of this song lyrics is about the girl who telling the boy that all her love is for him and it is free of charge. The tenor of this song lyrics refers to who taking part on the song lyrics or takes the role. The participant in the song lyrics, there only the singer as the girl and anonymous man, and it is very clear that they are involved in a romantic relationship. And the mode or style of language used is spoken language, because the singer written song tried to express her feelings with the song.

### **Dead Metaphor**

Based on the theory of Knickerbocker and Reningger (1963:367), Dead metaphors are metaphors with endless figures of speech, so they lose their meaning but we do not recognize as a figurative language because we often used in our daily life as a media for communication. In Positions album by Ariana Grande found 1 data of Dead Metaphor.

Data 9: **You're too good to be true** (*Positions*, line:13)

The lyrics above considers as a Dead metaphor. Dead metaphors are marked by a very clear resemblance. So, in dead metaphors people will be able to understand it faster, because it is already close to the use of everyday language. The lyrics "You're too good to be true" above classified as a Dead metaphor because it is a metaphor with endless figures of speech, so they lose their meaning.

The lyrics above classified into Thematic meaning, is communicated by the way in which a speaker or writer organizes the message. The words "You're too good to be true" we usually found in daily life. If you say that something seems too good to be true, you are suspicious of it because it seems better than you had expected, and you think there may be something wrong with it that you have not noticed.

There is a dynamic relationship between the text and the context of the situation. The context of the situation consists of three components: Field, namely the occurrence of the total event, about what happened, and the nature of the social interaction that took place. The tenor, the interaction of the actors, who takes part, and the participants' social roles. Mode, the function of the text in events including channels (oral, written-monologue, dialogue-phone, computer-mediated communication). From context of situation point of view, the field of this song lyrics is about the girl thinking that the man is better than she expected from their first met. The tenor of this song lyrics refers to who taking part on the song lyrics or takes the role. The participant in the song lyrics, there only the singer as the girl and anonymous man, and it is very clear that they are involved in a romantic relationship. And the mode or style of language used is spoken language, because the singer written song tried to express her feelings with the song.

### **Allusion**

Knickerbocker and Renninger (1963:367) define allusion as a reference to a well-known place, event, or individual. It is not a comparison in the precise sense, but rather a figure in the suggested sense. There is 1 data of allusion found in the *Positions* album by Ariana Grande. The meaning of the lyric can be seen below.

Data 10: **I'm the Olympics way, I'm jumpin' through hoops** (*Positions*, line:26)

The above lyric is regarded to be an allusion because it references a well-known place, event, or person. The song "I'm the Olympics way, I'm jumpin' through hoops" is an allusion to a well-known event.

The above lyrics have connotative meaning, which is the communicative value of an utterance based on what it alludes to. As is common knowledge, the lyric addressed the Olympics, which are the premier international sporting events featuring summer and winter sports competitions in which thousands of individuals from around the globe compete in a range of categories.

Another meaning of context is a situation that has to do with an event. Example: The person must be seen as a complete human being in the context of his personal life and society. From context of situation point of view, the field of this song lyrics is about the singer will do anything for the man, even she is in Olympics right now, she will do anything that make them



both can meet each other. The tenor of this song lyrics refers to who taking part on the song lyrics or takes the role. The participant in the song lyrics, there only the singer as the girl and anonymous man, and it is very clear that they are involved in a romantic relationship. And the mode or style of language used is spoken language, because the singer written song tried to express her feelings with the song.

## CONCLUSION

After analyzing the data, there are ten figurative language found in the album and there are 10 lyrics that expresses figurative language in the Positions album by Ariana Grande. there are 1 data of simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, paradox, dead metaphor and allusion.

The purpose of using figurative language in the song lyric by the singer is to make the lyric more effective, persuasive and impactful for the listener to listen or read it. In their album, they can build our imagination and our feeling through figurative language in the lyric. The use of figurative language also makes the songs more alive and the listener could feel what the singer wants to share in the lyric.

The meaning that conveyed from the song lyric that use figurative are connotative meaning, affective meaning, and thematic meaning. The use of connotative meaning is to open up the meaning from the word or the lyric that firstly looks complicated but then can be better understood because connotative meaning could convey the meaning of a sentence that has a meaning more than its conceptual meaning. The second one is affective meaning, the use of affective meaning is to convey what the singer wants the listener to feel about the feeling that the singer put on the lyric. And the last one is thematic meaning, this meaning is focusing and ordering the word.

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