

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN ALAN WALKER'S SONG
"LILY"**

THESIS



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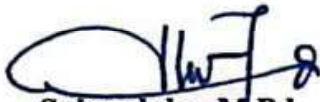
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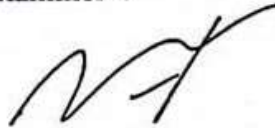
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word has a direct correlation with something outside the language. So, it is very important to understand the meaning contained in each lyric of the song lyrics to find the contents of the song written by the author. Songs equipped with music are a branch of entertainment that is present and much favorite by people ranging from children to adults. This happens because the song (music) contains aesthetic elements that are formed from the copyrighted work by the author or writer through his creativity in pouring out what is in his mind. "Music without words is poetry, only not in the generalised sense" (Putu Ayu, 2012). This means there is a special purpose or message that the author wants to convey to the audience of the song through the lyrics of the song that is written.

Figurative language is one of the features that can easily be found in poems or song lyrics. According to Abrams (1999, p.96), figurative language is an apparent departure from the standard meaning of a word or the standard order of words that users of a language understandable to achieve a particular meaning or effect. Figurative language not only functions as an aesthetic in a song but also contains certain meanings conveyed by the author. According to Peter (2002, p.12), figurative language is the language that involves the speaker's desire to touch emotion, cause shock, and persuade others to act.

Based on this statement, it can be understood that the poet uses figurative language to touch the reader and listener emotionally so that they feel compelled to take action. Sometimes it is difficult for people to understand the meaning of a song because the song uses figurative language that is difficult to understand. It can lead to a misunderstanding of the purpose or content of the song. It is

common for a poet to convey his idea implicitly in his work, so the readers need to understand the implied meaning in the poem or song. It is necessary to relate to the context of the literary piece work.

Many types of research on figurative language have been conducted, including those by Khoirul (2020), Laila (2020), and Buchori (2017). They analysed the types of figurative language found in the songs selected. Then, after analysing the type of figurative language, they determined the type of figurative language that is most dominant. From the results of their respective studies, the most dominant figurative language is hyperbole to produce images in the listener's mind and to explain ideas, emotions, and images expressed by the author in his work more efficiently than through ordinary language.

Anis (2019) analysed the types of figurative language found in Jalaluddin Rumi's poetry using qualitative and descriptive methods, then determined the most dominant type of figurative and the most influential on Sufism. From the results of his research, the most dominant figurative language used is the apostrophe type. An apostrophe is a way to mention something or someone whose existence does not look like a spirit, abstract, and inanimate objects, mentioning inanimate objects using quotation marks as a noble sign and serious. In the choice of words used in his poetry, Rumi uses figurative diction to explore a way of talking about divinity elegantly so that people know their God better.

Nurmaini (2018) analysed the types of figurative language in the Twilight film script, focused on the meaning conveyed using the descriptive method in her research, and then presented it in a qualitative form. Situational context theory is

used to find the meaning contained in the film. The research found that the characters in the film *Twilight* use irony to convey expressions contrary to what is intended and offend each other. Khoiriyah (2016) uses film as the object and library research method. Besides focusing on the type of figurative language contained in frozen films, she also analysed the meaning contained using contextual meaning theory. The research found that repetition is frequently used in frozen movies. According to the researcher, this film likes to intensify something that includes speech, expression, and action. Besides that, she also finds meaning based on context. She also found several moral messages in the film, including keeping our relationship with others, especially with family, reminding each other, and controlling our minds. However, we fall in love before something wrong happens, so think seriously first. Replicating Khoiriyah's library research, Yunitasari (2017) analysed the type of figurative language found in John Velsey's secondhand serenade's lyrics using a qualitative descriptive method with different research objects. The research found that hyperbole is frequently used in songs. Hyperbole is used to express the songwriter's damage. In addition to analysing the figurative language found, she also analysed the message contained in the song. She found several messages contained, including the composer wanting to ask the woman to stay with him no matter what. Although it is hard, the composer asks the woman to give him another chance or second chance to make everything alright. The composer invites the woman to solve their problem together without being apart or divorced.

Some of the studies above focus on analysing the types of figurative language used and what figurative language type dominates the lyrics of the song. However, little research on figurative language in songs and their meanings in context has been conducted, especially in popular songs lyric. Western songs are in great demand by the public, especially among Indonesian teenagers. Alan Walker is one of the most famous English songwriters among Indonesian youth or millennial. He is one of the world's most famous record producers and music DJs. His quiet and mysterious figure is his trademark. The public can recognise him by his black mask and hoodie. The songs he produces are a bit nuanced and energetic, so they are fun and not boring to listen to. Many YouTube channels use his songs as cover songs, for example, Hanin Dhiyah, an artist who started her career through a talent search event, Rising Star Indonesia. Alan Walker's song is also the soundtrack for the online game PUBG. Besides, his songs have always been top hits on billboards since 2015. This news was obtained from <https://www.billboard.com/music/music-news/alan-walker-songs-best-hits-list>.

Mulyati (2021) analysed the transitivity in Alan Walker's song, and Sugeng (2021) and Insani (2021) analysed Satanism in Alan Walker's song. Tantri (2021) analysed associative meaning in Alan Walker's song. However, there has been no research on analysing figurative language and contextual meaning in Alan Walker's song lyrics entitled "Lily." Lily's single is part of Alan Walker's studio album Different World that was released in last December 2018. The song Lily was written by Alan Walker, Lars Kristian Rosness, Magnus Bertelsen, K-391, Didrik Handlykken, and Marcus Ambekk. As for vocal matters,

Emelie Hollow is trusted to sing it. It has become 5 top hits songs 2019 in Indonesia, the news obtained from <https://www.mainmain.id/r/4615/trending-google-2019-lagu-lily-alan-walker>.

Indonesian youth enjoy listening to English songs. On the one hand, showing interest in English as an international language, and on the other hand, requiring them to understand the meaning of the song to capture the message in the song. In Indonesia's top 50 hits song 2022 on spotify.com, more English songs occupy this ranking. It can be concluded that young Indonesians often play western songs. Not all songs contain positive messages, and some songs contain negative messages. These messages are not always conveyed explicitly; sometimes they are also conveyed implicitly using figurative language. Therefore, an analysis of the figurative meaning in the songs is needed.

Context is part of a description or sentence that can support or clearly add to the meaning of a situation related to an event. "A contextual meaning refers to a meaning of words, phrases, or sentences based on the situations applied through the language used in which the different situations also make different meaning as the interpretation used" (Leech 1969, in Saputri 2014). So, can be concluded that the context in question is a global context, global context is a context that describes a situation, atmosphere, time, people, place, and maybe the influence of the environment when an event occurs, but the context in this study refers to the phrase context, which refers to the immediate locale (rarely separate or isolated) in which a particular word occurs. Since it is not always explicit, it can be hidden in adjacent elements of words used in the text (Dash, 2008, p. 22). Contextual

from the author wants to be conveyed to readers in general or it could be for a particular community. So, this context can only be known through the author directly.

2.3 Local Context

The local context refers to the immediate environment of the KW (key word) in a sentence where it has occurred, encompassing its immediately preceding and succeeding words. Conceptually, the immediately preceding left word (LW1), the key word (KW), and the immediately succeeding right word (RW1) (= LW1 + KW + RW1) constitute a lexical block, where the KW is the main member while the LW1 and the RW1 are supporting members (Dash, 2008, p.23). The systematic interpretation of lexical blocks provides the necessary information for retrieving the contextual meaning of KW. The members of the lexical block create a semantic network. The relationship of the expected meaning of KW is derived by integrating the meanings of LW1 and RW1. This local context is very helpful in getting the true meaning of KW. Therefore, in most cases, the correct meaning of the local context helps us understand what KW actually means.

According to Dash (2008, p. 24), native Bengali speakers can understand the contextual meaning of KW if in one construction it is equipped with a five-word lexical block. In that case, the contextual meaning of KW is clear. So, that the informant does not need to look for the meaning of the whole sentence. The local context can also solve the problem of translation. In a machine translation, may also take the meaning of the word from a local context. For example: *he is*

doing his job really. The sentence is composed of five constructions. So, the meaning or purpose of the sentence can be clearly understood.

2.4 Sentential Context

This sentential context refers to a sentence where the KW occurs. The context of this sentence is used to find information about the explicit or implicit meaning of continuous sentences. Getting the meaning in a poem, rhyme, or song lyrics is not enough just to use the local context because sometimes there is a continuity of meaning in words located in several sentences.

The relationship between sentences can also be long distances, so to find the meaning it is necessary to refer to sentences containing KW. According to Dash (2008, p.26), two or three words maintain a special relationship, even if they are used in distant places in the sentence. It occurs most often in hyphenation, forming verbs, idiomatic expressions, and sentence phrases, where the two components, although having an idiomatic or phrasal relationship, are placed farther apart in the sentence. In these cases, the sentence context allows us to examine whether there is any change in the meaning of KW due to its relationship to other distant members. However, the most complex task is identifying of members that maintain are certain semantics with KW context in the sentence.

Because the computer system is not able to detect such cases so, extra linguistic knowledge is needed, especially in sentential context, to avoid ambiguity of meaning in a word or sentence.

other”, and “world means the earth, with all its countries, peoples, and natural features.” So literally, the meaning of the word is a world that is very large and wide size. In this song, what is meant by big and wide is not real this world. In the context of the sentence, the lyrics are continuous with the first line lyrics “Lily was a little girl” and the third line “she grew up within’ her castle walls.” Because Lily has a character like a child, she is afraid of the big and wide world. Moreover, she grew up within the walls of a castle which makes her not know what was outside the walls of the castle. Usually, that use castle walls in a story are palaces.

Life in the palace is a life of luxury and elegance for high social strata, while for low social strata, their lives tend to be was slaves or servants. Especially everything becomes special for a princess, from a young age to adulthood and after marriage. But in a palace there are many rules, to a princess is required to be women perfect in every way because she is in the spotlight there, besides that, a princess has a very big responsibility to makes the people around proud of her.

However, based on the context, in the big and wide world are many burdens or trials of life, especially for adults, there are many challenges in life that must pass. What big, wide world means there is a burden or a big challenge in life. That is, Lily is afraid of all the burdens and challenges of her life. The author equates the burdens or big challenges of a life with a big and wide world but not explicitly, without words “as”, “like”, “than”, and “similar to.” Therefore, the lyrics contain a metaphor.

According to Perrine (1992, p.61), figurative language is broadly defined as any expression other than the usual. Figurative language is the use of the richness of language, giving a certain variety to give certain effects to the audience of literary works to make literary works more alive. Figurative language is also the language used to convey messages in a literary work by the author to the reader using language that is not in a true sense.

According to Chaer (2012, p. 290), contextual meaning is the meaning of a lexeme or word inside a context. Context is a state that occurs depending on whether a phrase or sentence appears. So, contextual meaning is not only seen from the dictionary but also from the context of a text or situation. In this study, focuses on local context and sentential context. Local context is a meaning that refers to a word (keyword) in a sentence. Sentential context is a context that refers to the sentence occupied by keywords. This context is used to look for an explicit or implicit meaning in a sentence that is continuous with each other, to find the meaning of a sentence that is far away and continuous, a sentential context is needed.

With regards to the first research question, what figurative language is used in Alan Walker's song lyrics, this research found that in Lily's song lyrics there are 5 types of figurative language used by the songwriter are metaphor, symbol, paradox, synecdoche, and hyperbole. The author uses a lot of figurative language types of metaphor.

According to Kennedy (1979, p.490), affirms that metaphor is a statement that one thing is something else, which in a literal sense, it is not. It doesn't use

connective words such as like or as. Metaphor is a type of language style used for parables by comparing two different things, metaphor is the same as simile, but in the delivery, it is not explicit without words as, like, than, and similar to. The researchers found 5 data in Lily's song lyrics that use metaphors are "little girl", "big, wide world", "castle walls", "top over the mountain and valley low", "cold thin ice." The songwriter uses a metaphor to liken something that happened to Lily in the song, different with the research by Nurhamidah (2021), which interprets these words with their literal meaning because she analyses them using different theories that employ psychological and social context of discourse analysis, Nurhamidah said that "little girl" and "castle walls" are little girls who grew up in a palace, then "big, wide world" is the world outside the palace. She also argues that "cold thin ice" is a symbol to describe about Lily's difficulty when she comes to her conscience, it means that she has difficulty finding herself when she has been hypnotised by the satan.

The second most common finding is paradox and hyperbole which are the same number in the lyrics of Alan Walker's song. According to Kennedy (1979, p.497), paradox occurs in a statement that at first strikes us as self-contradictory but that on reflection makes some sense. In the lyrics of the Lily song, there are 2 data that use the paradox are "woods away" and "hypnotised." Songwriters use a paradox to convey a point with contradicting sentences or words, making it more intense.

Hyperbole is a figurative language in which the use of words or sentences is excessive and even impossible to happen. Heni (2015), argues that hyperboles

can be added to fiction to add color and depth to a character. Hyperbole is a figurative language that is an intentional exaggeration or overstating, often for emphasis or clearly description. Hyperboles can be added to fiction to add color and depth to a character. In the lyrics of this song, there are 2 data that uses hyperbole are “everything” and “magic story.”

The fewest findings are synecdoche and symbol with the same number in the lyrics of Alan Walker’s song. Synecdoche is the use of the part for the whole (Perrine, 1992, p.615). Synecdoche is a figurative language that is used to express a thing as a whole (pars pro toto) or to express the whole to represent a part (totem pro parte). In the lyrics of the Lily song, the researcher found 1 data that used the pars pro toto type of synecdoche is “creatures”, which is different from the results of Nurhamidah’s (2021) research, she says that the creatures are people, and the people it cannot be predicted by anyone who is hiding behind the darkness.

Furthermore, symbol is a style of language in which the sentence describes something by using signs or symbols to express the meaning. Laila (2020) argues that a symbol uses a word or phrase which is familiar in society and has one meaning. Symbol may be best understood as an implied metaphor. A symbol is a character, an action, a setting, or an object representing something else. A symbol is something that is itself and also stands for a particular objective reality. In a literal sense a symbol combines a literal and sensuous quality with an abstract as suggestive aspect. In the lyrics of the Lily song, there is 1 data that uses a symbol is “setting sun.” Different from Nurhamidah (2021), she is found symbols in the word “everything”, she argues that everything in Alan Walker’s song Lily means

a sign of values that do not exist in the castle. And “cold thin ice” is symbol to describe a difficulty of Lily to findings her-self.

With regards to the second research question, what are the meanings in the context described in the figurative language in Alan Walker’s song lyrics. The study found that Alan Walker’s song entitled Lily intends to tell that the burden of life and adult responsibilities is heavy so that people who are not mentally strong will be a mental illness when they are confused and really do not know what to do, they will daydream more, and the mind will be empty, while in an empty mind, the satan will more easily interfere with humans to enter a dark world and invite them to a negative direction.

According to Perrine’s theory to analysed about figurative language found and used Dash’s theory to analysed contextual meaning that contained in the Lily Alan Walker’s song, the researcher does not agree with the issue that this song contains about Satanists (Nurhamidah (2021), Sugeng (2021), and Insani (2021)) because from the result of this study, the meaning contained in Lily’s song is not about worshipping satan. Instead, this song is about a reminder in life so that we do not give up easily and do not fall into negative things that make us forget ourselves. In the song also reminds us that an adult must be strong in all things about life, especially in terms of mental. When adults are indeed required to control themselves, it means that they keep themselves from negative things and useless acts. Even lead themselves to success and make a family proud with them, which was called life’s challenges and responsibilities.

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