AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN CONVEYING THEME OF DREAM THEATER: *THE ASTONISHING*

S-1 THESIS

Submitted as a Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for S-1 Thesis in English Education Study Program, Teacher Training and Education Faculty, University of Widya Dharma Klaten

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PRONOUNCEMENT

This used to certify that this is me who write this thesis entitled "**An analysis of figurative language in conveying theme of Dream Theater: The Astonishing"**. It is not a plagiarism or made by others. Anything related to others' work is written in quotation, the source of which is listed in bibliography. If then the pronouncement proves incorrect, I am ready to accept any kinds of punishment, including the withdrawal or cancellation of my academic degree.

Klaten, June 26th 2022

Galih Heru Purnomo

2011200012

MOTTO

Enter the void

Allah guides us

The Writer

In this fleeting time

We can sometimes lose our way

But night is always darkest

Just before, the new day

Dream Theater

PRESENTATION

This thesis is presented to:

1. Anybody who need this thesis for good
2. My mother, Bu Sri
3. My father, Pak Tis
4. My brother, Paijo Arkan
5. Myself
6. My wife, Hida
7. Dream Theater
8. My classmates
9. Library of Unwidha Klaten

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As a student, the researcher has been learning English for almost 15 years. He combines English along with his interests on music and ideologies in writing this thesis. This thesis is all that he can do, but still, it is neither good nor perfect. The researcher realizes that his thoughts and experiences are quite awful, rather be slow, but he made a promise to never stop in learning. Thus, it well much pleasured to anyone who willing to send some suggestions, criticisms, and corrections due the content in this thesis, as the next improvement to be better more. The researcher hopes that this research will be useful for anyone and inspires them who love English, ideologies, and music.

Klaten, June 26th 2022

Galih Heru Purnomo

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ABSTRACT

GALIH HERU PURNOMO, Student's Number. 2011200012, English Education Study Program, the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Widya Dharma University, Klaten, 2022. Thesis. ***AN ANALYSIS OF FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN CONVEYING THEME OF DREAM THEATER: THE ASTONISHING.***

This study aims are to describe the kinds of figurative language use in *The Astonishing* and to explain how Dream Theater convey theme in *The Astonishing* by using figurative language. The data of first aim are words, phrases, and sentences of lyric script in *The Astonishing.* The data of second aim are music, plot, character, and figurative language in *The Astonishing.* The data collection in this study is direct observation. The four major step of data analysis are data categorization, data reduction, data elaboration, and data conclusion.

The result of the research showed in two sections. First section is the kinds of figurative language. There are 186 total data of figurative language in *The Astonishing*. The data divided into some figurative languages, such as metaphor (38 data), personification (21 data), simile (15 data), apostrophe (6 data), allegory (8 data), metonym (35 data), symbol (25 data), synecdoche (18 data), hyperbole (13 data), and litotes (7 data). Second section is the way Dream Theater conveying theme in *The Astonishing.* The way Dream Theater conveyed the theme in *The Astonishing* album is by using figurative language: symbol. The theme in *The Astonishing* is faith. There are total 5 data of phrase *light* as a symbol of faith in *The Astonishing*. They are *light* as a symbol of faith for Ravenskill, *light* as a symbol of faith for Faythe, *light* as a symbol of faith for Gabriel, *light* as a symbol of faith for Nafaryus, and *light* a faith for Nafaryus.

Key Word: Figurative Language, Theme, Dream Theater, *The Astonishing*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of some points related to introduction, such as the background of the research, the reason for choosing the topic, the limitation of the research, the problem of the research, the aim of the research, the use of the research, the clarification of the key terms, and the organization of the research.

A. The Background of The Research

Nowadays, song grows popular and familiar. For some people, song is quite fun and entertaining. For some musician, song is highly effective in expressing thought. It is a tool to deliver message, to influence ideology, to tell what happens, to earn money or fame, and many more purposes depend on the intension. That purposes' appeal and effectiveness to the listener is depend on the quality of lyric. Hornby (2000: 802) says "the lyric is expressing a person's personal feeling and thoughts, connected with singing and written for a lyric poem in the words of a song." A word of song or lyric represents a language of people which offers the imaginative story or any factual information.

In the lyric, musician added such as idiom, figurative, slang, abbreviations, even switch language, in order to vivify their senses as well. In other hand, without aesthetics of language, literature becomes bland. Therefore, everybody freely flourishes their language, due to the fact that poetic words are unlimited in its usage. But unfortunately, those ornaments are containing non-literal meaning which needs to interpret.

In semantics, most of non-literal meaning or connotative meaning are written or spoken in figurative speech. Some people called it as figurative language. It frequently appears in the religion transcript, novel, folklore, poem, song, and etc. As mentioned before, some words used over there is not the factual meaning, and that is the focus on this research.

Figurative language is artistic language. It is a tool in both literature and casual communication to deliver speech beyond its usual. Through figurative language, people can share their ideas in poetic way which simply states facts. Elder (2004: 292) states "figurative language has connotative or implied meaning that could not find in the dictionary as a denotative meaning. It is non-literal ways of saying things: that is, the words have to be interpreted in order to understand the intended meaning".

In the field of lyric, they add figurative language to their paraphrases as much as they want, but retaining the message stays close with true meaning. However, the problem will emerge once people get confused and misunderstand of what being delivered. Their work is poetically good, but it does not make sense. Thus, someone require a clue of how to deal with them, a perspective which is able to think figuratively. The proper methodology to describe those misunderstanding of figurative usage is by employing an approach called discourse analysis.

A good song supposed to have at least three connected aspects. They are lyric, music, and theme. Lyric and music are made to emphasize the theme of a song. Lyric comes to be the main instrument in revealing the true

meaning. Moreover, music is set systematically by instrument, time signature, chord scaling, vocal set-up, and so many variables on there to present the senses of a theme. Music also commonly divides into some parts, such as intro, verse, bridge, pre-chorus, chorus, outro, and ending. The last aspect is theme, as a subliminal message of what being delivered.

To get the true meaning of the unusual song, the first step to do is by identifying a theme. It is because theme is a main concept of what will be conveyed, or known as the main idea. It keeps narrations and styles of language within boundaries of message. If there is no identified theme for some reason, it supposes to interpret only in lexically meaning, which unsure of brings much clarity. Stanton (1965:5) states about the position of a theme in something,

> "A central meaning of this sort corresponds to what, in a story, we call the "theme" or "central idea". Like the central meaning of our experience, the theme of a story is both particular and universal in its value: it lends force and unity to the events described, and it tells us something about life in general. A theme may take the form of a generalization about life in general. A theme may take the form of a generalization about life, a generalization that may or not imply a moral judgment."

Further step is by knowing about figurative language, knowing each characteristic, and understanding the differences among those variant. There are many characteristics of figurative language. Each of them has their form and specification which serves within Chapter II. Basically, based on Perrine theory (1977), the familiar form of figurative language is metaphor,

simile, personification, synecdoche, paradox, symbol, allegory, overstatement (hyperbole), apostrophe, understatement, and verbal irony.

In deciding the research data, the researcher had observes an album of a group band, known as Dream Theater. It is a group band with originally named Majesty. It formed by Berklee College of Music students John Pettruci, bassist John Myung, and drummer Mike Portnoy at 1986. Changing its name, the group agreed named the band as Dream Theater in late 1987 until today. After experience many world tour and member substitutions for almost 24 years, in eventually, this group nowadays consists of John Pettruci, John Myung, James LaBrie, Jordan Ruddes, and Mike Mangini.

So far, Dream Theater nominated bunch of awards around the world by their works. This huge group band has released fifteen studio albums. Each of them commonly consist more than twelve songs, and they used to link each song in some of albums. Those linked albums has described as an opera, just like attending a theater when listening to the whole songs. In the album *Metropolis Pt.2: Scene from a Memory* (1999), through lyrics they had linked each song as a story. Some other had linked by chords, just like they did in *Octavarium* (2005), even they have involves many musicians to playing as Octavarium Orchestra. *The Astonishing* (2015) is something similar with two elder concept, but this album set is about the fantasy. John Pettruci had written those lyrics about his ideas about music as a magical artifact in bring peace in the future. Therefore, *The Astonishing* is kind of

fantasy story which is rich of figurative language usage. Based on the observation for almost five months, the researcher expected that *The Astonishing* is a proper data as figurative language analysis.

The Astonishing is portrait of a solid concept, lyric, music, and visual aspect. The themes in *The Astonishing* are associated with specific character appearances. Thus, there are many characters speak in *The Astonishing.* Each verses in there are belonging to characters speech. The lyrics have flourished uncommonly, tend to use repetitive meaning in difference words, but still understandable to follow the main story. The music arrangement is masterpiece. Dream Theater officially divided and named *The Astonishing* musical theme as *Brother Theme, Faythe's Theme,* and *Musical Theme*. Dream Theater knows exact how to deliver the feeling of each musical theme as cinematic experience. That information has taken from the official website of Dream Theater. There also says about this album,

> "*The Astonishing* is the thirteenth studio album by Dream Theater, released on January 29, 2016. *The Astonishing* is set in a dystopian future United States and follows the Ravenskill Rebel Militia in their efforts to defy the Great Northern Empire of the Americas using the magical power of music. It was inspired by contemporary fantasy and science fiction franchises such as Game of Thrones and Star Wars, as well as John Petrucci's observations on the ubiquity of technological automation in modern-day society".

The Astonishing divided in two acts. The first act consists of 20 tracks and the second act consists of 14 tracks. Those total tracks clocks in at over two hours in length. In order to makes this research scoped properly, it

limits only in analyzing the meaning of figurative language based on conveyed theme. Hopefully, that limitation will help to make this research focuses at the main problem.

To give visualization about this research, the following one is the examples of data analysis. This research employs a code in the process of organize the data, and as the further steps which occur to discourse analysis. The arrangement of the code is Song Number/Figurative Word Number/Character. The sequence of act and track number is based on the official data by Dream Theater. The examples are as follow.

Song number	: 6
Song title	: Lord Nafaryus
Theme of verse	: Nafaryus' family
Who is deliver the speech	: EN / Emperor Nafaryus
Figurative Word Number	: 29, 30, 31
Quoted verse	:

...
*Arabele, who meant **the world** to me*
A loyal son, my heir, your future king
*And Faythe, I **treasure** more than all the **diamonds in my crown**.*
....

Codes arrangement:

S6/FL29/EN is a code for Lord Nafaryus/the world/Emperor Nafaryus.

S6/FL30/EN is a code for Lord Nafaryus/treasure/Emperor Nafaryus.

S6/FL31/EN is a code for Lord Nafaryus/diamonds in my crown/Emperor Nafaryus

Quality of data:

S6/FL29/EN is classified into metaphor. It means very important.

S6/FL30/EN is classified into metaphor. It refers to protect Faythe.

S6/FL31/EN is classified into symbol. It refers to Nafaryus's superiority.

The researcher expected that first, this research process became a starter which helps growing the interpreting sense. Second, the research is expected to give positive contribution either English academic aspect or in non-academic aspect, and for anyone who have interest to the literature works, especially in the field of theme and figurative language. Based on the explanation above, this research is entitled *"*An Analysis of Figurative Language in Conveying Theme of Dream Theater: *The Astonishing".*

B. The Reason for Choosing the Topic

There are three reasons in conducting this research. They are as follow:

1. to increase the researcher's knowledge about language use through figurative language analysis,
2. to increase the researcher's knowledge about literature works through theme analysis, and
3. to increase the researcher's interpreting sense of discovering theme through figurative language analysis.

C. The Limitation of the Research

In order to make this research discusses properly and effectively, it focuses on analyzing figurative language of conveyed theme in *The Astonishing*. Otherwise, the researcher focuses on employing qualitative research as the research methodology.

D. The Problem of the Research

The problems in this research are divided into two questions. They are as follow.

1. What are the kinds of figurative languages used in *The Astonishing*?
2. How does Dream Theater convey the theme in *The Astonishing?*

E. The Aim of the Research

The aims of this research are as follow:

1. to describe the kinds of figurative language used in *The Astonishing* and
2. to explain how Dream Theater convey the theme in *The Astonishing*.

F. The Use of the Research

The result of this research is expected to be useful both theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretical Use

   Theoretically, the results of the research are expected:

   a. to enrich the repertoire of English academic, especially the study of figurative language,

b. to enrich non-official reference for the band, the musician, the composer, and anybody in flourishing lyric, and

c. to support either previous or next researchers in the field of literature.

2. Practical Use

Practically, the results of the research are expected:

a. as a content for comparison, discussion, and reference in English academic, especially in the field of figurative language, and

b. to give an optional perspective, meaning, and theme in *The Astonishing*.

G. The Clarification of the Key Terms

To clarify the meaning of the title, the researcher would like to describe the key terms as follows.

1. Analysis

Analysis is a study of a topic in order to gain better understanding about it. The basic activities in analysis process are identifying problem, collecting data, and exploring data. Hornby (2000: 41) says that analysis is the detailed study or examination of something in order to understand more about it.

2. Figurative Language

Figurative language uses words in a way that deviates from the conventionally accepted definitions in order to convey either imaginative meaning or heightened effect of meaning. Hornby (2000:

494) states that figurative language is language or words phrase which is used in a way that is different from the usual meaning, in order to create a particular mental image.

The primary function of figurative language is to give certain imagination of what a writer wants to express. Figurative language is not meant to convey literal meanings. It is often use between two things, to make the first thing substituted as exact as the second thing effect. Furthermore, it in consciously use in order to create the art of literature.

Many song writers use this technique to flourish their lyric. It vivifies the senses of factual meaning, instead of saying it directly. It bring out vary emotions and help the audiences form their self-interpretation inside their mind.

3. Theme

Theme includes in element of literature, which contains the central idea. The work of literature is often formed as a novel, drama, short story, or song. In the context of song, ideas are not as obvious as character or setting. Theme can be determined when someone consider the meaning of what song as a whole. It is general message or direct statement about song which provided by music and lyric. Theme has function as an essential ingredient to make a song meaningful, leaves a lasting impression on the audience. Without a

unifying theme, a meaning of song may stand only as arbitrary concept which hard to understand.

Jones (1968:82) states that theme is it is underlying idea or wisdom that the author is presenting. His definition taught clearly that theme is defined as the underlying idea that comprehensible conveyed in the whole song. Kind of theme such as politic, experience, live, death, reality, afterlife, faith, fate, madness, sanity, love, society, individual, and other are popular examples of the most authors in reflecting their ideas. In brief, it is synonymous of the central idea or the central purpose. It is something that represents the whole of part of literary works.

4. Dream Theater: *The Astonishing*

The Astonishing is 13th studio album of Dream Theater. The kind of musical on this album is something different than Dream Theater used to be. If they tend to plays progressive metal before, this album sounds so much easy listen.

The Astonishing constructed with theme, characters, plots, settings, and etc. This album is like a novel. It designed and organized well in order to give an imagination when listen to the whole. They had arranged lyrics in songs based on theme, even instrumentals added to amplify that senses. They also draw a visualization of the characters, and a narration about characters who own those lyrics.

H. The Organization of the Research

The organization of research is given to help readers understand the arrangement of research. It consists of five chapters as follow.

Chapter I is introduction. It consists of the background of the research, the reason for choosing the topic, the limitation of the research, the problem of the research, the aim of the research, the use of the research, the clarification of the key terms, and the organization of the research.

Chapter II is the review of related literature. It consists of previous researches, semantics, figurative language, the song, the lyric, and Dream Theater: *The Astonishing*.

Chapter III is the method of research. It consists of research methodology, research place and time, research data source, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data.

Chapter IV is the result of research. It consists of data finding and data discussion.

Chapter V is conclusion. It consists of conclusion and suggestion.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion. Conclusion displays the summary of the study. Suggestion is addressed to students, university, and musicians.

A. Conclusion

This section displays two conclusions. First is the kind of figurative language used in *The Astonishing* album. Second is how Dream Theater conveyed theme in *The Astonishing* album by using figurative language. Through the processes of conducting, analyzing, and elaborating, the conclusions are as follow.

1. The researcher concludes that there are 184 figurative languages in *The Astonishing* album. It classified into 10 types of figurative language. Those data are 38 data of metaphor, 21 data of personification, 15 data of simile, 6 data of apostrophe, 8 data of allegory, 33 data of metonym, 23 data of symbol, 18 data of synecdoche, 13 data of hyperbole, and 7 data of litotes.
2. The researcher concludes that theme in *The Astonishing* is faith. The way Dream Theater conveyed the theme in *The Astonishing* album is by using figurative language: symbol. The finding data is phrase *light* and has meaning *light* as a faith for people. The researcher finds phrase *light* as faith for people has repeated 5 times in 4 different songs.

Those songs are *The Answer, When Your Time Has Come, Chosen* and *Losing Faythe.*

B. Suggestion

After finished in conducting this research, the researcher would like to present some suggestions.

1. The researcher suggested to English student that identifying figurative language and theme is highly effective to strengthen the sense of understanding the literature works.
2. This is dedicated to University of Widya Dharma Klaten, to lead the students in diversity of choosing their final thesis. There is difficult to find literature' theses in the campus library.
3. The researcher suggested to musicians who active in producing music, to follow on what Dream Theater's did in building concept and writing song in *The Astonishing.* Their work is astonishing.

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