

# IMAGERY AND FIGURATIVE LANGUAGES IN THE SONG LYRIC OF

## SECONDHAND SERENADE “Like a Knife”

Kadek Mahardika Saputra

0718351143

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF LETTERSUDAYANA UNIVERSITY

### 1. Abstrak

*Topik penelitian saat ini adalah Imagery and Figurative Language in the song lyric of Secondhand Serenade “Like a Knife”. Laporan penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis bahasa citra dan bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu “Like a Knife” dalam album Secondhand serenade dan serta mengetahui fungsi dari citra dan bahasa kiasan dalam lirik lagu “Like a Knife” jenis teori yang akan digunakan adalah dari buku KL Knickersbocker dan H. Willard Reninger, Setelah data dianalisis dan dibahas, ditemukan bahwa ada beberapa citra dan bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam kedua lirik lagu tersebut, contoh teori citra adalah; citra Visual dan Kinesthesia. Selain bahwa citra itu juga didukung dengan penggunaan bahasa kiasan diantaranya : simile dan metafora. Lagu “Like a Knife” menceritakan tentang kisah cinta yang buruk.*

### 2. Background of study

Song is a kind of art, either in the form of poetry or song lyric that expresses many aspects of life. Song lyric are the same as poetry in terms of arranging the words of the lines, and song lyrics have stanzas and lines like poems do.

Creating song lyric is not an easy job to do. The writer needs imagination and figurative sense to create the lyrics of the song to make somebody listens to it, feel interested in it. One song that is recognized to have used very much using imagery and figurative is the group Secondhand Serenade, Almost in all of their songs lyrics imagery and figurative could be found.

Since Secondhand Serenade songs are very interesting to hear, it is considered important to know what actually the meaning in hidden within the

song. It will be useless if just listening to the song without understanding what actually the song wants to convey to us as the listeners. That is the reason for the study to analyze it more deeply.

### **3. Problems of the Study**

- 1) Types of imagery being employed in the song lyric of “*Like a Knife*” in Secondhand Serenade?
- 2) The functions imagery and figurative languages in the song lyric in relation to the meaning or theme of the lyric?

### **4. Aims of the Study**

Regarding the background and the problem above, the aims of the study can be stated as follows:

- 1) To find out the type of imagery and figurative language employed in the song lyrics “*Like a Knife*” in Secondhand Serenade.
- 2) To find out functions of imageries and figurative language in the song lyrics “*Like a Knife*” in Secondhand Serenade.

### **5. Research Method**

Research based on Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary is a careful study to discover new facts or information. While on the other hand, method that is based on Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary means the way of doing something. Here the research method means the way of doing such a careful study to find the new facts or information, research method itself includes data sources, method and technique of collecting data and the last one is method and technique of analyzing data.

### **6. The Use of Imagery and Figurative languages in the Lyric “Like a Knife”**

The song lyric which were analyzed is "Like a Knife". This lyric consists of three stanzas with second repeated lyrics. Imageries and Figurative Languages can be found in these lyrics. However, before going further to the analysis, the lyrics can be presented as follow.

### **"Like A Knife"**

I dream a lot, I know you say  
I've got to get away  
The world is not yours for the taking  
Is all you ever say? I know I'm not the best for you,  
But promise that you'll stay  
Cause if I watch you go,  
You'll see me wasting; you'll see me wasting away

Cause today, you walked out of my life  
Cause today, your words felt like a knife  
I'm not living this life.

Goodbyes are meant for lonely people standing in the rain  
And no matter where I go it's always pouring all the same.  
These streets are filled with memories  
Both perfect and in pain And all I wanna do is love you  
But I'm the only one to blame

Cause today, you walked out of my life  
Cause today, your words felt like a knife  
I'm not living this life but what do I know, if you're leaving  
All you did was stop the bleeding.  
But these scars will stay forever,  
these scars will stay forever

and these words they have no meaning  
if we cannot find the feeling  
that we held on to together  
try your hardest to remember

Stay with me,  
Or watch me bleed,  
I need you just to breathe.

Cause today, you walked out of my life  
(Stay with me, or watch me bleed)  
Cause today, your words felt like a knife  
I need you just to breathe, I'm not living this life

#### 6.1 Kind of Imagery languages:

- **Visual Imagery** is based on the theory taken from Gallaudet University; it states that by visual imagery someone can see something in his mind. For example :

*The **world** is not yours for the taking”*

*“Goodbyes are meant for lonely people standing in **the rain**”*

In these lines there are some words which can stimulate our sense of sight, namely the word “**world**”, in the first line, we can imagine the planet that we live in. the third planet in the galaxy. The second phrase is “**the rain**” which can be imagined as water droplets from warm air. It is a water vapor which collects together, we see them as clouds, which when have enough water droplets, and the droplets bang together and fall as rain.

- **Kinesthesia** is based on the theory stated, there is word which can be considered as kinesthesia in the song lyric under study. For example:

*“Goodbyes are meant for lonely people **standing** in the rain”*

The word “**standing**” in this line can stimulate our physical senses of which can be described as a human position in which the body is held upright and supported only by the feet. This position usually appears when people are waiting for someone, tired of sitting, or a position which is usually done by the army in their daily practice activity.

## 6.2 Kind of figurative languages:

- **Metaphor**

According to Knickerbocker and Reniger (1963:367), metaphor is a means of comparing things that are essentially unlike. Two or more different objects are though similar, the similarities may be in this forms, attitudes of features.

*Stay with me,  
“I need you just to breathe”*

In Metaphor, example the word “ I need you just to breathe” is something needs of each person in the life so the writers have special purposes to analyze a certain metaphor in his poem, and one of purposes are make a good lyrics for remember when the readers read the poem. A metaphor that is commonly used may lose in our minds the element of similarity that originally prompts it.

- **Hyperbole**

According to Knickerbocker and Reniger (1963:367), Hyperbole is a figure of speech which employs an exaggeration that is used for special effect.

For example:

*Stay with me, or watch me bleed*

The above example shows that “stay with me or watch me bleed” is hyperbola because a person is not possible to sacrifice of himself for the one he loves even though it dangerous and should die. He tries to tell her that if she is not with him,

he will suffer from losing her. So we should not be selfish if someone who is in a relationship of love wants to leave.

## **7. CONCLUSION**

After all the discussion and analysis in the six sections, the following are some important things that can be taken as the conclusion of this study.

First, in lyrics "Like a Knife" there are several types of imagery used: they really help us to imagine something. Such an imagination can really support the idea being conveyed through the song. The imageries which are employed in the song are mostly visual imagery but there are also other types of imagery such as: Visual imagery and Kinesthesia. The use of imageries is profound in the lyrics, in addition such a figurative language is important in these two lyrics "Like a Knife" there are several figurative language employed to assist the imageries in delivering the idea of the song to the listener. Those figurative languages are Simile, Metaphor and Hyperbole.

Second, all the imageries and figurative language are functioning to boost the idea of the song. Here the figurative languages and imageries that are related to each other in the lyric to boost the idea so that the song becomes full of pain and feeling of love.

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