

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE IN THREE SONG LYRICS BY KANSAS, SARAH MC LACHLAN AND WESTLIFE**

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**ABSTRACT**

*Makalah ini berjudul **Figurative Language in three song Lyrics by Kansas, Sarah Mc Lachlan and Westlife**. Lagu pertama berjudul "Dust in Wind" dirilis pada tahun 2004. Yang kedua adalah "Angel" yang dirilis pada tahun 1998 di album **City of Angels** dan lagu terakhir adalah "I Lay My Love on You" dari album **Coast to Coast**. Saya memilih tiga lagu tersebut karena hampir di semua lirik lagu bahasa kiasan dapat ditemukan. Penelitian yang berkaitan dengan bahasa kiasan dalam lirik lagu oleh Kansas, Sarah McLachlan dan Westlife bertujuan untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis bahasa kiasan yang digunakan dalam lirik lagu dan menganalisis maknanya yang disampaikan oleh lirik lagu tersebut.*

*Metode dokumenter digunakan sebagai metode dalam pengumpulan data, data dianalisis dengan tahap sebagai berikut ; yang pertama memilih lirik lagu, mendengarkan liriknya berulang-ulang, mengunduh lagu-lagu tersebut, mencatat dan mengklasifikasikan. Teori utam diambil dari buku yang ditulis oleh Knickerbocker dan Reninger (1963) yang berjudul **Interpreting Literature**. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada lima macam kiasan ditemukan dalam empat lagu, yaitu personifikasi, hiperbola, simile, ironi, dan metafora. Di antara jenis kiasan disajikan dalam penelitian ini, hiperbola dan personifikasi yang paling sering muncul dalam empat dari lirik lagu oleh Kansas Band, Sarah McLachlan dan Westlife.*

**1. Background**

A song lyric is the same as a poem in terms of arranging the words of the lines. Now songs are very popular, not only for teenagers and children but also for adults and even the old ones love listening to songs. One of the important things of a song is the lyrics itself. A lyric is a set of words that accompany music, either by spoken word or singing. Lyric derives from the Greek word for a song sung by the lyre, "lyrikos". The word lyric came to be used for the "words of a song". Lyric of songs usually contain words which are difficult to understand and presented in various ways and full of figure of speech, beautiful words to represent the writer's feelings.

Creating song lyric is not an easy job to do. A writer uses his power of imagination which is combined by using the sense of figurative languages to create a song. Since the writer of the song lyric mostly uses his imagination combined by figurative languages to create the song lyric. The lyric would be interesting enough to be discussed. Kansas band, Sarah McLachlan and Westlife being recognized very much to use the figurative languages, almost in all of their song lyrics, the figurative languages can be found

## **2. Problems of the study**

The problems which can be formulated based on the phenomenon above are the following:

- 2.1 What kinds of figurative language are used in the song lyrics by Kansas band, Sarah McLachlan and Westlife?
- 2.2 What meanings are being conveyed in the song lyrics by Kansas band, Sarah McLachlan and Westlife?

## **3. Aims of the study**

The aims of this study are as follows:

- 3.1 To be able to find out the kinds of figurative language used in the song lyrics by Kansas band, Sarah McLachlan and Westlife.
- 3.2 To analyze the meaning conveyed by the song lyrics by Kansas band, Sarah McLachlan and Westlife.

## **4. Research Method**

To establish a scientific study, certain academic procedures must be followed. The procedures meant here refer not only to techniques by which the data can be collected but also to the method used in collecting the data. A method is the way how we solve problem. The methodology that is be used in this writing consists of three aspects, they are: data source, data collection (how to collect the data and tabulate from the source available) and data analysis (how to analyze the data collected).

### **4.1 Data source**

The data in this research was taken directly from three songs by Kansas band, Sarah McLachlan and Westlife as the data source.

Kansas is an American rock band which became popular in the 1970, with hit singles such as “Carry On Wayward Son” and “Dust in the Wind”. They have remained a classic rock radio staple and a popular touring act in North America and Europe. One song by Kansas in this study entitled : “Dust in the Wind” from the album *The Journey Within* .

Sarah Ann McLachlan is a Canadian musician, singer, and songwriter. She was born on January 28, 1968. There is one song that were analyzed; that were “Angel” from the Album *City of Angels* .In spring 1998“City of Angels” became the No. 1 album on the Billboard chart.

Westlife are an Irishboy band established on 3 July 1998. They are to disband in 2012 after their farewell tour. There is one song that were analyzed; that is “I lay my love on you” from the album *Coast to Coast*.

The reason to choose these three songs was because there were so many figurative languages related to the topic of this study. These words give us chance to imagine about something, and then start to understand the meaning hidden in the song.

#### **4.2 Method and Technique of Collecting Data**

The data in the form of figurative languages were collected by documentation method. The first step is choosing the song lyrics and then listening to the song lyrics very carefully and downloading the lyrics from the internet. After that, the lyrics are read several times until they are understand what the songs were about. Finally note taking and classifying the lyrics or the words in the songs were done in figurative languages in the song lyrics under concern.

#### **4.3 Method and Technique of Analyzing Data**

The way how this method was applied to analyze the data was as follows:

1. Reading and learning the lyrics of the songs, marking the key words in the lyrics.
2. Learning the key words to find out the meaning of the lyrics.
3. Finally, describing the figurative languages based on the theory applied. The meaning of the lyrics was interpreted as poem.

All of the collected data was analyzed descriptively based on the theory of figurative language proposed by Knickerbocker and Willard Reninger (1964)

### **5. Analysis**

The way of analyzing the song lyrics that were mentioned above are as follows: The first step is listening to the song lyrics very carefully and downloading the lyrics from the internet and then reading the lyrics several times until we understand what the songs about. Finally note taking and classifying the lyrics or the words in the songs to have the classification of figurative language in the song lyrics themselves. They were analyzed based on what kinds of figurative language used such as: simile, metaphor, personification, synecdoche, metonymy, hyperbole, irony, paradox, dead metaphor, and allusion. Also the analysis was focused on the meaning conveyed in the song lyrics by Kansas band, Sarah McLachlan and Westlife.

#### **5.1 Kansas Band-Dust in the Wind**

*I close my eyes, only for a moment, and the moment's gone (1)*

It is about how sometimes we are overwhelmed with problems, responsibilities, and emotions when really it doesn't matter what we do. It's a comparison between time in our lives and time in the Earth's life

*All my dreams pass before my eyes, a curiosity (2)*

Looking back on life, one might think he was just another person and that nothing he did really mattered. Same old song- everyday was the same, he did nothing majorly accomplishing in his life. Just a drop of water.

*Dust in the wind (3)*

*All they are is dust in the wind (4)*

*Same old song, just a drop of water in an endless sea (5)*

The line "just a drop of water in an endless sea" is about the best and most realistic position on life that I have heard. It's simple, yet if you think about it, it's a microcosm for the huge country, planet, universe of ours

*All we do crumbles to the ground though we refuse to see (6)*

This is quoting that every human is just a smudge in the universe's plan. We feel ourselves as being this "higher life form" but the reality of it that we are of no difference to anything else. We live, we die. We are not Gods by nature; we have just mastered our own reality and not yet that of the universe.

*All we are is dust in the wind (8)*

*Now, don't hang on, nothing lasts forever but the earth and sky (9)*

In line (9) the so the dust (as individual particles) and the sky , it must put them together to get the big picture, to see the whole, and it lasts forever. Same thing with the wind and the sky. Kind of like saying that by ourselves we are nothing, but together we're invincible.

*It slips away, and all your money won't another minute buy (10)*

All the money in the world won't buy another minute. Don't waste your life worrying about material things, and don't spend your whole life trying to make more and more money, while forgetting about more important things like family and friends and being a good and honest person.

*Dust in the wind (11)*

*All we are is dust in the wind (12)*

Talking about how short life is, like the blink of an eye. Or about when a person is dying. For an example, His whole life passes before him and he closes his eyes for a minute and

remembers his life and then when he opens them has back in his hospital bed or wherever- and realizes his life went by so fast. He thinks of all his life's dreams and what he's accomplished.

*Dust in the wind*(13)

Everything that we have built will crumble, nothing that is man-made is perfect, nor will it ever be. Only what the universe builds will remain forever in the sands of time. And in the end, no matter what you have in your life such as money, education, wife, husband, and also kids.

## **5.2 Sarah Mc Lachlan-Angel**

*Spend all your time waiting* (1)

How some people spend all their time with a kindness thing and give a support to another people for bring a joy for all people in every place.

*for that second chance* (2)

In reality this is the kind of song that really has no specific or true meaning and can relate to most any situation, as it can be interpreted in so many different ways. They can touch the lives of every person in the world.

*for a break that would make it okay* (3)

*there's always one reason* (4)

*to feel not good enough* (5)

I myself never got involved in drug but they have affected me dramatically through out my life, however i have been on prescription drugs most of my life, to help keep me emotionally stable.

*and it's hard at the end of the day* (6)

*I need some distraction* (7)

Every people needs to buildings a relation not only societies, nations, empires, but also cultures, and even religions have faltered and fallen between the cracks of human existence

*oh beautiful release* (8)

The release of emotions has come to the soul when I or somebody else felt lonely and sadness.

*memory seeps from my veins* (9)

metaphorically, when we sleep and start dreaming, all bad memories leave us.

*let me be empty* (10)

*and weightless and maybe* (11)

*I'll find some peace tonight* (12)

*In the arms of an angel* (13)

We all know that everybody cannot see the angel, but maybe some people imagined they can stay in the arms of angel, is about drug use and what not.

*fly away from here* (14)

Referring to how sad it is that something as sad as cutting. This glorious sadness that brings me to my knees" person feel so much better.

I could be completely wrong but this is what it means to me.

*from this dark cold hotel room* (15)

*of your silent reverie* (16)

The song gives me chills and makes me cry. It always makes me think of the silent night from the sad face and the sad faces of the animals, even though it's about drugs.

*may you find some comfort here* (17)

*So tired of the straight line* (18)

This line is about a girl who struggles with depression and. Even though she doesn't like herself and can't find a better way to get rid of bad memories she has parents who care about her and are willing to help.

*and everywhere you turn* (19)

This is the last one so better make it good. I just need it so bad. the thing with drug addiction is that it literally has the user on their knees begging to they don't want to be they need it.

### 5.3 Song Lyric 3 and the Analysis

#### Westlife-I lay my love on you

*Just a smile and the rain is gone*(1)

This sentence that shows the use of personification because it is impossible to smile and made the rain is gone. In this case, how is possible only with a smile we can make the rain stop? Commonly it is impossible for human. Here the authors probably mean that rain is a symbol of our tears, and when we smile then our tears will go away by itself.

Can hardly believe it (yeah) (2)

*There's an angel standing next to me*(3)

From the sentence in line 3, it is quite clear for us to see the use of hyperbole. Most people believe that we cannot see angels. It is therefore in all probability impossible that an angel

can suddenly appear. The author likens the angel to a woman who is standing next to him. Many people believe that there is a guardian angel in their lives that watches over them to keep them safe.

*Reaching for my heart(4)*

The use of personification again appears in this sentence above. Grabbing my heart here means that there is someone who has managed to make me fall in love with it. The liver is the organ of the human body that should not be taken because if it is taken then we can not live anymore. The author makes the heart as a symbol of love, and if our hearts are already achieved by others means we have had a lover who can make us happy every day.

*Just a smile and there's no way back(5)*

Of course, the sentence shows the use of personification. Just like the previous sentence, a smile is a form of expression we are against something that we like. A smile is not an object living or dead and lifeless. The author here meant that not enough with just a smile a couple relationship is again the same way again Can hardly believe it (yeah) (6)

*But there's an angel calling me(7)*

The sentence in line 7 shows the use of hyperbole because there was an exaggeration used for special effect. Just like the previous sentence, we cannot hear the voice of angels, see and do not know how to form the truth. How could an angel can speak and call us names? Perhaps the author wanted to say that the angel is a woman who was calling us. Many people believe that there is a guardian angel in their lives

*Reaching for my heart(8)*

I know that I'll be ok now, this time it's real (9)

*I lay my love on you* it's all I wanna do (10)

The sentence in line 10 above seems to show the use of personification. We can found it in the word *lay*. As we know *lay* is one way of expressing human emotions when we tired. Meaning of a sentence *I lay my love* to you is that my love will I trust entirely to you. You are the right person for my love and hold dear forever. The word *lie* here may only be used for humans when we are tired of doing for a moment then we will lay our bodies. The author here uses the word *lie* for love. That is already obvious that we give our love to our loved ones.

*Everytime I breathe I feel brand new(11)*

If we read the sentence in line 11 above, we also find a hyperbolic expression. This sentence is probably redundant if read carefully. Everytime I breathe I feel like living again. The authors would like to say here that everytime he breathes his life he felt better than ever. He felt every gust of his breath he will always be a new man who sought and preferred by all persons,

especially women. One thing that someone also should have to understand this kind of sentence is a good imagination.

*You open up my heart*(12)

The use of hyperbole again appears in the sentence in line 12. Perhaps there is a question in our mind. Can we open someone heart? The answer is, of course not. Therefore, it is a hyperbolic expression. The sentence seems to be exaggerated. The meaning of the sentence *you open up my heart* is that you have made my heart open to receive love from others back. For a long time I close my heart to myself and not dating anyone

Show me all your love, and *walk right through* (13)

This sentence shows the use of personification. *walk right through* that means still love me like this now do not ever change. Keep the person I love you never leave me. The author would like to say that we must be faithful to our spouses never turn away from him because we had entrusted our love completely to him.

As I lay my love on you (14)

*I was lost in a lonely place*(15)

In this case, the place in the sentence above is given the human characteristic such as emotions and this is use a personification sentence. Of course place which is a lifeless object cannot do something that human can do. Place here refers to the human's heart that is lonely and longing with her boyfriend. The author has not found the right place to lay his love for other people and he felt this loneliness.

Could hardly even believe it (yeah) (16)

*Holding on to yesterday*(17)

The sentence in line 17 seems to show the use of personification. Yesterday was a day when the day is passed. Days can not be held or touched because it was not an object. Holding on to yesterday's have come back again to see the meaning of the experience is past

Far, far too long (18)

Now I believe it's ok cause this time it's real (19)

*I lay my love on you* it's all I wanna do (20)

*Everytime I breathe I feel brand new*(21)

*You open up my heart*(22)



Show me all your love, and *walk right through* (23)

As I lay my love on you (24)

I never knew that love could feel so good (25)

Like once in a lifetime, *you change my world*(26)

If we read the sentence in line 26, it seems that the sentence is highly hyperbole. It is an impossible thing. How can the people change my world? In this sentence, the writer of the song wants to describe that there are someone that could change our world. Change here means we become a new life as there are lovers who are always there with us. Before there she probably lives lonely, empty and no one noticed. Now everything is changed since he is there because there is a notice of our lives and made us more spirit left to live. The world here symbolizes our daily lives and our world become happier than before.

*I lay my love on you*(27)

*You make me feel brand new*(28)

If we read in line 28 above, we also find a hyperbolic expression. In this case, the song writer seems to convey that the person in the song has a great imagination to give a special feeling or taste to the listener or the reader of the lyric of this song. Sentence *You make me feel brand new* with the previous sentence is our lovers make our lives better than ever. We feel like new after being with him. We also feel the change very much in our lives and it was he who had made it all new again. The writer of the song seems to show that the person in this song was falling in love with someone. He used many romantic sentences that make the song more beautiful. It is in this way that the songwriter presents his imagination which is unique and exaggerated words in his song.

Show me all your love, and *walk right through* (oh yeah) (29)

As I lay my love on you (30)

*I lay my love on you* it's all I wanna do (31)

*Everytime I breathe I feel brand new*(32)

*You open up my heart*(33)

Show me all your love, and *walk right through* (34)

As I lay my love (35)

*I lay my love on you*(36)

*I lay my love on you*(37)

*You make me feel brand new*(38)

*You open up my heart*(39)

Show me all your love, *and walk right through* (oh yeah) (40)

As I lay my love on you (41)

As I lay my love on you (42)

A quick paraphrase of this song shows us about being in love with someone who makes life better in every way and makes the bad go away. It makes the writer feel he is protected and allows him to be refreshingly honest. So, this song is about a love that is empowering, refreshing, protective and life changing. To “lay my love” can be seen as trusting someone with your love.

## 6. CONCLUSION

This study has analyzed and discussed about the figurative language in three song lyrics that were one song lyric by *Kansas* band entitled “Dust in the Wind”, one song lyric by *Sarah Mc Lachlan* entitled “Angel” and also one song lyric by *Westlife* entitled “I lay my love on you”. Based on the analysis, there are several conclusions that can be drawn.

In the first song entitled “Dust in the Wind” of which the theme is about missing, i.e. the singer missing someone they love. This yearning for their love to be with them is very strong in the evenings and night times. In this song we found three kinds of figurative language such as personification, metonymy and hyperbole.

In the second song entitled “Angel” the figurative language such as personification, hyperbole, simile and dead metaphor describe about spending the day doing strange and unreal (fairytale) things. From the kinds of figures of speech used in the lyric, there are four kinds of figures of speech found in the song; they are personification, hyperbole, simile, and irony for example: “*in the arms of the angel*”.

One “boy band” being recognized very much to use the figurative language is Westlife. In the third song entitled “I lay my love on you” the writer uses some figures of speech; they are personification, hyperbole, and irony for example: “*just a smile and the rain is gone*”, “*there’s an angel standing next to me*”, “*i’ve got sunshine on a cloudy day*”. Since the songs of Westlife are very interesting to be listened to, it is considered important to know what actually is the meaning hidden within the lyric of the song. It will be useless if just listening to the song without understanding what actually the song is meant to convey to us as the listeners.